

Schools' Forum Meeting

18 June 2014

Attendees:

Members

Andy Brown (ABr) (Larger Primary Deprived Schools)
Anne Malcolm (AM) (Secondary Schools)
Chris Hargreaves (CH) (Trade Unions)
Colin Reid (CR) (Secondary Schools) Chair
Danielle Swainston (DS) (Early Years)
Jan Brough (JB) (Small Deprived Primary with High Mobility)
John Hardy (JH) (VA Primary Schools)
Julie Deville (JD) (Academies)
Julie Thomas (JT) Representative for ABr
Lynne Pawley (LP) (Middle Primary 250 – 349)
Marian Fairley (MF) (Multi-ethnic Primary Mobility Deprived)
Mark Tilling (MT) (Secondary Schools)
Michael Lee (ML) (Diocese)
Peter Cornforth (PC) (Larger Primaries > 350)
Peter McMahon (PM) (Pupil Referral Unit)
Sue Sharpe (SS) (Small Primary Schools <249)

Local Authority Officers

Christine Lowson (CL) (Administrator)
Dean Jackson (DJ) (Child & Adult Services)
Joanne Smith (JS) (Children's Finance)
Sandra Shears (SSh) (Children's Finance)
Wally Stagg (WS) (HR)
Karen Oliver (KO) Regeneration & Neighbourhoods
Lynne Bell (LB) (Regeneration & Neighbourhoods)

Observer

Joseph O'Connell (Education Funding Agency)

Apologies:

Amanda Baines (ABa) (Diocese)
Karl Telfer (KT) (Special Schools)
Andrew Jordon (AJ) (Academies)
Maria Mekins (MM) (Governors Secondary)
Mark Atkinson (MA) (Governors Primary)
Suzi Yeniceri (SY) (Early Years PVI)
Alison Swann (AS) (HR Business Partner)
Tom Argument (TA) (School Improvement)

Agenda Item	Action
<p>1 Minutes of the Last Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting held on 2 April 2014 were accepted as a true and accurate record with the following matters arising.</p>	

<p>2</p>	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p><u>Universal School Meals</u> KO explained that the amounts of funding allocated to Greatham and Hart Primary Schools was to cover the costs of dishwashers and the replacement of flight trays. This would bring these two schools up to the same standard as other schools.</p> <p>KO also reported that the Government are allocating an extra £3k of funding to small schools (less than 150 pupils) however this extra funding has to be applied for. It was noted that there are five schools across the town that would be eligible to apply.</p> <p><u>Space to Learn</u> DJ reported that an external consultant is to be appointed to produce the business case for Space to Learn.</p> <p><u>Forum Constitution and Membership</u> DJ is to write a letter of thanks to Maria Meakins for her help and support with Schools Forum following the deletion of the Governors post on 1 September 2014.</p> <p>The 16 – 19 Representative is to be Alex Fau-Goodwin (Hartlepool Sixth Form College).</p> <p>Some discussion took place around academy representatives. It was noted that a further academy rep will be needed from 1 September. It was further noted that if West View Primary School transfers to Academy status a further academy representative will be required which will necessitate a primary representative stepping down.</p> <p>SSh is to provide a clarification document on the changes to membership and issue to Forum members.</p> <p>It was agreed that as CR is to retire at the end of August, SS will chair future meetings. A discussion is to take place 19 June with Headteachers, around Penny Barker replacing CR as a secondary school representative.</p> <p>PM reported that Tony Armstrong is to be the substitute for PRU representation</p> <p>It was noted that a new Diocese substitute for ABa needs to be appointed to replace Ian Railton.</p> <p>Following some discussion it was agreed that there would be no third tier representation.</p>	<p>DJ</p> <p>SSh</p>
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<p>3</p>	<p>School Balances</p> <p>DJ reported that historically school balances had always been high and that following the last meeting a new way of presenting school balances had been agreed.</p> <p>A report and balance sheets were tabled which DJ explained in further detail.</p> <p>DJ reported that the Children’s Services Committee have now requested a full report on school balances to be presented at a future meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that a rigorous and robust mechanism needs to be put in place to ensure that school balances are spent on the projects that funding is allocated against.</p> <p>Suggestions from the Chair of the Children’s Service Committee and the Leader of the Council had been more robust than maybe required therefore it was suggested that Forum be more pro-active in producing a mechanism rather than having an external mechanism imposed on schools.</p> <p>It was felt that there was a need to avoid short term mechanisms in this current economic climate.</p> <p>A report on school balances is to go to the Children’s Services Committee in the Autumn term therefore it was agreed that a Task and Finish Group be set up to produce a monitoring mechanism.</p> <p>PC, AM, MT and MA are to be on the Task & Finish Group.</p>	<p>CL</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Trade Union Facility Time</p> <p>A report was tabled and WS reported that AS had met with representatives from the NASUWT and NUT. A further meeting is to be arranged between HR and DJ and schools therefore Forum members were asked if they would be willing to attend.</p> <p>AM, ML and SS all agreed to attend.</p> <p>It was noted that the HR Department will organise this meeting and any changes will need to be in place for the 2015/16 financial year</p>	<p>AS/WS</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Agenda Items for the next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task & Finish Group – School Balances - DJ • Formula Modelling - DJ • Early Years Funding - DS • PRU Funding – PM • Terms of Reference & Membership of Schools Capital Sub-Group – KT 	

<p>6</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p><u>Early Years Funding Formula</u> DS explained that some overspending had occurred in this financial year therefore a discussion is required ensuring Early Years Block funding is sufficient moving forward.</p> <p>It was noted that the closure of Seaton Nursery has freed up some finding which can be used currently but future years need to be considered.</p> <p>DJ thanked CR for all his help and support to the Schools Forum.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 18 September 2014, 9.30am to 1.00pm, Croft Room, Borough Hall Wednesday 22 October 2014, 9.30am – 1.00pm, Croft Room, Borough Hall</p>	