

## Minutes of Schools' Forum - 25 September 2013

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### Present:

#### Members

Colin Reid (St Hild's) - Chair  
 Maria Mekins (English Martyrs)  
 Julie Deville (Eldon Grove)  
 Peter Cornforth (Fens)  
 Mark Tilling (High Tunstall)  
 Lynne Pawley (Rossmere)  
 Andrew Jordon (Northern Education)  
 Amanda Baines (Diocese of Durham and Newcastle)  
 Kevin Malcolm (Manor)  
 Andy Brown (West View)  
 Mark Atkinson (Throston)  
 Sue Sharpe (Golden Flatts)  
 Michael Lee (English Martyrs)  
 Jan Brough (Ward Jackson)

#### Local Authority Officers

Dean Jackson (Child & Adult Services)  
 David Ward (Children's Finance)  
 Sandra Shears (Children's Finance)

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Lee Walker, Marian Fairley, John Hardy, Karl Telfer and Zoe Westley.

### 2. Schools Funding

Forum referred to two papers that were circulated:

- a. 2013/14 Schools Formula - Comparisons for statistical neighbours and Tees Valley comparisons
- b. Deprivation funding scenarios.

### 3. Statistical Neighbours Analysis

Forum noted the following points:

- AWPU in Hartlepool is the lowest of statistical neighbours in value terms, but second lowest in % terms. The reasoning for this is that secondary weighting is lower than Hartlepool's and lump-sum and deprivation is relatively high.
- Forum made the decision to retain the same level of funding for KS3 and KS4. Comparisons show that there are three Local Authority with lower KS3 and one lower KS4.
- Deprivation and lump sum are higher in the Tees Valley than statistical neighbours.
- Forum made the decision to keep the lump sum as high as possible. Hartlepool are currently one of the highest.
- 4 statistical neighbours use scaling and 6 use capping. All Tees Valley neighbours use capping.

Forum asked if there was performance data available to compare alongside the statistical information. It was confirmed that this data is available should this be required by Forum.

It was agreed that Forum would work with the information tabled at the meeting to see if

any further mapping work was required, further to an agreement to be made at the next full Schools' Forum meeting on 23 October 2013.

Forum discussed if some modelling would should be undertaken driven by the AWPU, looking at 77% and 73%, which are the average % for statistical and Tees Valley neighbours. It was also asked if the ratio of 1:1.26 should be looked at further, to be in line with statistical and Tees Valley neighbours.

Forum referred to the data provided for Sunderland and Middlesbrough as they were close to 73% and 77% for comparisons.

DW noted that they have undertaken further modelling work and if the if the lump sum was to reduce, then the results were that primary schools with less than 254 pupils and secondary with less than 1016 pupils would we worse off.

It was noted that in previous years the lump sum was kept large to protect small schools in the authority. If the lump sum was to be reduced small schools would be adversely affected. DW confirmed that the minimum funding agreement would mean they would be affected by -1.5% per pupil the coming financial year. DfE have confirmed that the Minimum Funding Guarantee will continue, however, the rate has not been confirmed as yet.

DJ noted that in the last financial year there was the feeling by a small number of schools that the levels of funding were not correct, and comparisons of two similar sized schools showed different amounts of funding allocated. The Local Authority want to find a solution that is fair to everyone, but still recognises secondary progress and the level of deprivation in the town.

Deprivation in the current financial year was set at 21.9%. Modelling work has been undertaken on different deprivation scenarios, wt 9%, 12%, 15% and minimum change. Again, Middlesbrough, use a deprivation % close to 15%, and their data was referred to.

The Chair proposed to keep the lump sum at £175,000, change the deprivation % and increase AWPU to see what affect that would have on small schools.

Forum discussed the performance of FSM pupils, and noted that statistically these pupils are underachievers, however, they receive the same amount of funding of non-fsm pupils.

DW confirmed the items that have to be changed in the Schools Formula:

Lump sum has to be reduced from £200,000 to at least £175,000  
Eligibility factor for Looked After Children has changed (1 day against 6 months)  
Criteria for SEN pupils changing.

DW noted that the financial end positions have not been included on the modelling work, however, if Forum wished this could be provided on the next set of papers produced.

Forum discussed the different % of deprivation that could be used, and referred to Model 2, where deprivation is at 15%. It was suggested that if this model was used, could there be more modelling work undertaken, looking at the lump sum and the AWPU. Modelling would be looked at +/- 2% of the 15%.  
As the statistical and Tees Valley comparisons were 15% at the highest, it was felt that modelling should be looked at 15% and 2% below. Modelling would still be kept

anonymous, but would give a better picture for Forum to work on.

After discussion it was proposed at modelling will take place between 12% and 15%, and this was seconded.

It was noted that there had been two proposals, and Forum should vote on the first proposal, either using Model 2 or Model 3. A vote took place and there were seven votes for Model 2 (15%) and five votes for Model 3 (12%).

Model 2 had the majority vote.

Finance to undertake work working at 15%, and will produce papers for the next Schools Forum on 23 October, 2013, which will show how the AWPU levels will be affected. It was agreed that the lump sum will remain at £175,000 and the pupil ratio will remain at 1:1.26.

#### **4. Capping or Scaling**

Forum noted that capping was used in the previous year, and agreed to continue with capped.

#### **5. Mobility Factor**

Forum currently don't use mobility as a factor. It was noted that there has to be a 10% threshold before this can come into force. Using pupil data from October 2012, 8 primary schools would be eligible for this factor, affecting 42 pupils.

DW noted that in 2007/8 the mobility factor was used and this was £571. If this was increased in line with inflation then if forum agreed to use the mobility factor this would be £642.

Forum agreed to include the mobility factor would be used in the formula for 2014/15, and agreed that this would £642 per pupil.

#### **6. Consultation with Schools**

As a deprivation factor of 15% has been agreed, no further single agenda items are required.

It was agreed that consultation now needs to take place with all schools, to inform them of the decision made at Schools Forum, and for this to be voted on.

It was agreed that this consultation needs to take place as soon as possible, so that the results are brought back to the meeting on 23 October 2013.

#### **7. Any Other Business – None**

#### **6. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Date: 23 October 2013

Time: 9.15am for 9.30am start

Venue: Borough Hall