

Schools' Forum Meeting

10 October 2017

Attendees:

Members

Mark Tilling (MT) (Secondary Schools) CHAIR
 Kieran Sharp (KS) (Pupil Referral Unit)
 Alan Chapman (AC) (Academy Special)
 Chris Simmons (CS) (Governor)
 Zoe Westley (ZW) (Special)
 David Turner (DT) (Primary – Small)
 Michael Piper (MPi) (Diocese C of E)
 Julie Thomas (JT) (Primary Academy >50%FSM)
 Lynne Chambers (LC) (Primary >25%<50% FSM)
 John Hardy (JH) (VA Small Primary)
 Helen O'Brien (HO) (Large <50% Primary)
 Sue Sharpe (SS) (Large – Deprived – Primary)
 Tracey Gibson (TG) (Secondary Schools)

Local Authority Officers

Mark Patton (MP) (Assistant Director Education)
 Joanne Smith (JS) (Children's Finance)
 Sandra Shears (SSh) (Children's Finance)
 Louise Allen (LA) (SEND)
 Danielle Swainston (DS) (Assistant Director of Children and Families Services)
 Eileen Larkin (EL) (Administrator)

Observers

Emma Straker, Catcote
 Kath Hall, Northern Education Trust

Agenda Item	Action
1. Apologies for absence – Mary Frain	
2. Minutes of the Meeting – 21 September 2017 and Matters Arising	
2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on the 21 September were read after the following amendments were made:	
2.2 KS referred to item 6.9 and advised that it should read that most PEX students attend full time at the PRU.	
2.3 ZW referred to item 7.12 and felt that there were clear discrepancies. The word banding needed to be changed in the minutes. ZW noted that the banding took place against the descriptions but that it was for financial modelling purposes and a fuller process would need to be completed for each child.	
2.4 JT and SS representation is to be amended on the minutes to be the same as stated on the name cards.	Actioned
2.5 Item 7.18 was referred to and there was a request for the dates of the next SEND Working group to be shared.	LA

3.	Minutes from the 27th September and Matters Arising	
3.1	Minutes from the 27 September were read and accepted after the following amendments were made:	
3.2	JT and SS representation is to be amended on the minutes to be the same as stated on the name cards	Actioned
3.3	The minutes were amended to state that Mike Cooney was in attendance.	Actioned
3.4	MP advised Forum that due to the resignation of Councillor Trisha Lawton from the Victoria Ward, the Council was now in 'Purdah'. This means that it is a pre election period and that key decisions cannot go through the Committee process. MP advised that it was close for statutory time lines for Council to make budget returns but there was still time to explore options from today's meeting. The report for key decisions to be made will now go to Committee in December.	
4.	High Needs Block Review Update (I)	
4.1	MT informed Forum that were a number of concerns raised from discussions that were held within the central cluster group regarding issues raised around high needs block. Guidance and support had been requested as decisions made can have a major impact.	
4.2	MP advised that an email was sent out with questions and answers to all headteachers on Friday 6 October in preparation for today's School Forum.	
4.3	MT requested for it to be noted that he was disappointed at the turn out at today's meeting.	
4.4	MT advised that there was a suggestion put forward to reconsider the decision on transferring funding from the schools Block back to the HNB.. It was felt that in an ideal world there should have been more time to make a decision and on reflection there should have been a lot more information in the report.	
4.5	A lot of discussion took place around this item.	
4.6	MPi enquired into the validity of the votes and asked the question if they were valid?	
4.7	The question was asked why only option 2 was presented to the Forum re transferring the money. Was it greater than 0.5%?	
4.8	CS advised the Forum that himself and other schools governors felt isolated as there is no mechanism in place for them to share thoughts and views on complex issues. He felt he needed more guidance. CS advised the Forum that there was no mechanism in place for CS to be	

	in touch with Governors in schools. CS asked if there were any meetings that he could be invited to?	
4.9	MP advised that there were chairs of governance meetings which meet termly. Some of the timescales around decision making at Forum means these meetings may not be helpful.	
4.10	CS enquired if all chairs of Governors could have a Hartlepool Borough Council email address? MP advised that he felt this would not be permitted but would check.	MP
4.11	It was noted that in the HNB Update report there was no mention of the contribution that was made from health and social care towards funding. MP was aware of this, therefore Danielle Swainston (DS) Assistant Director of Children and Families was present today to answer any questions.	
4.12	AC mentioned to the Forum that historically there had been a 60/40 split and not a 50/50 split as it is today.	
4.13	DS advised that there were no easy solutions and gave a more in depth explanation of the budgets around children and young people placed out of town.	
4.14	A discussion took place around the fact that places at Springwell and Catcote schools were being taken up by other authorities. It was noted that where possible, Hartlepool is always considered first. ZW confirmed that Springwell could meet the needs of some children currently placed out of town, but that such places at the school were taken by a child from another authority and it would be unsettling to move that child back to their own authority if the place was needed by a Hartlepool child.	
4.15	More and more children have special needs. It was suggested that more space was needed.	
4.16	DS then advised the Forum of the SEMH Cohort and that Catcote and Springwell do not meet needs of many of that cohort of people, therefore there would be still the need to look outside of Hartlepool for places, particularly for high-functioning children.	
4.17	DS explained to the Forum that some residential children are placed far apart from each other into different homes as they can have connections, therefore there would always be a need for residential places outside of Hartlepool.	
4.18	DS stated that there was a definite need for day placed children, therefore could potentially look at this internally. KS felt that this was something PRU plus could be involved in. It was felt that there was a need to find a way to bridge the financial gap. More discussion took place around this.	

4.19	DS advised that Tees Valley had put in a bid for a Tees Valley Free School. Unfortunately the bid was unsuccessful. The bid was felt to be very good, but at the time there wasn't enough funding available. DS noted this would be resubmitted when the next round opens.	
4.20	MT advised Forum that all the funding for the hydro pool had been provided by High Tunstall school and that nothing had been received from Health. He felt that schools were doing the work that should be done by health partners.	
4.21	DS advised that she spends a long time fighting with health over funding. There is such a long process to go through before any decision can be made.	
4.22	It was agreed that a meeting needed to be held with herself, representatives of health and representatives of Schools Forum to say what the needs are. DS advised that there needed to be a collective response from Schools Forum.	
4.23	DS requested examples to put forward to demonstrate schools' frustrations.	
4.24	DS to arrange the meeting with health and school representatives.	DS
4.25	Emma Straker left the meeting at 10.25am.	
4.26	JH asked the question if they can commission the hydro pool? DS agreed this would be useful but did not think it would happen.	
4.27	TG said that it that it appeared that there was some confusion as to what was and wasn't included in the report.	
4.28	TG felt that the consultation process/guidance was not followed by the local authority. TG was aware that some schools had not seen the 3 proposed models and felt that everything needed to be clearly laid out before decisions could be made. MP reported that all information had been sent to all headteachers.	
4.29	TG read out paragraphs 1.20 and 1.21 from the guidance to the Forum to emphasise her point.	
4.30	It was felt that more questions and answers were needed and more discussion took place around this.	
4.31	MP advised that standardised questions on proposals of transfer of funding to high needs block would be sent to all Headteachers in readiness for answers to be picked up at National Funding Formula (NFF) meeting on Friday. Chair of governors (CS) is be copied into this email also.	MP MP

4.32	Forum were advised that all consultation paperwork must be ready for the next Forum meeting which is scheduled to take place on the 17 October if want to reconsider transferring of funding decision from the 27 September.	
4.33	Decision will be revisited on the 1 November regarding proposed transfer from school Block to HNB.	
4.34	HO requested that the purple column in the appendix be clarified. JS provided this clarification in the meeting.	
4.35	MT advised Forum that paper copies of the NFF summary document sent to all HTs were available from him.	
5.	Agenda Items for Next Full Forum Meeting	
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEMH Update • National Funding Formula • Outcomes from funding transfer consultation 	
6.	Any Other Business	
6.1	There was no further business	
7.	Date and Time of Next Meeting – Tuesday 17 October 2017 1pm at CETL	