

# Schools' Forum Meeting

8 December 2017

## Attendees:

### Members

**Mark Tilling** (MT) (Secondary Schools) **CHAIR**  
**Zoe Westley** (ZW) (Special)  
**Chris Simmons** (CS) (Governors)  
**John Hardy** (JHa) (VA Small – Primary)  
**Lynne Chambers** (LC) Primary Academy >25%  
<50% FSM  
**Julie Thomas** (JT) Primary Academy >50% FSM  
**Alan Chapman** (AC) (Academy Special)  
**Stephen Hammond** (SH) (Secondary Academy)  
**Emma Espley** (EE) (Secondary Schools )  
**Amanda Baines** (ABa) (Primary Academy <25%  
FSM)  
**Helen O'Brien** (HOB) (Large <50% - Primary)  
**Jo Heaton** (JH) Diocese of Durham  
**Penny Thompson** (PT) Early Years

### Local Authority Officers

**Mark Patton** (MP) (Assistant Director  
Education)  
**Sandra Shears** (SSh) (Children's Finance)  
**Louise Allen** (LA) Head of Service SEND  
**Eileen Larkin** (EL) (Administrator)

### Observers

**Emma Straker** (ES) (Academy Special -  
Finance Representative)

## Agenda Item

## Action

1. **Apologies for absence** – Mary Frain, Tracey Gibson and Sue Sharpe.

2. **Minutes from 14 November 2017 and matters arising**

2.1 EL to do a name card for Louise Allen.

**Actioned**

2.2 It was noted for future meetings if a member cannot attend they must ensure that they have representation. This note is to be added to the constitution.

2.3 MT to speak to MP after the meeting.

**MT/MP**

2.4 MP advised to control any formatting issues of future reports etc, they are to be distributed in pdf format.

**EL**

2.5 Item 4.2 to be amended to read as follows:

**SSh**

JD asked for clarification as to Appendix 1 of the report, which mapped out the services schools can access. SSh to provide.

SSh explained that the information requested was available on the SAS website. MT requested that the information was circulated.

2.6 ZW enquired as to when the Sub Group is likely to make decisions in terms of funding allocations, as Springwell have a bid for funding for building work, and for works to be undertaken in the Easter break, a decision will be required in January 2018. MT advised that this will be discussed at a meeting arranged for Monday 11 December 2017.

### **3. SEND Banding Ranges – funding allocations 2018/19 (R)**

3.1 MP reminded colleagues that the text of the descriptors had been agreed in principle. Revisit discussion with colleagues around funding grid. Need to go back to CS Committee 13 December with a verbal update around funding table. There were concerns around abstentions, therefore agreed for more time to discuss.

MT concerns voting on a draft document and not final.

3.2 Chris S advised that he had not received email sent from MP regarding this. MP apologised and will be rectified for future meetings.

3.3 LA advised that the topic had been discussed at the Headteacher meeting on the 7 December. Nothing substantial had been changed in the document only a few wording amendments were made.

3.4 The question was raised about the funding from health and not just schools.

3.5 DS is pursuing this with a meeting being held with herself, representatives of health and representatives of Schools Forum to say what the needs are. MP asked Forum for examples of children they support with health needs so that these could be used by DS in her meetings with Health. .

3.6 See email from Kelly Armstrong which has been sent to all schools (attached).

**EL**

3.7 ABa highlighted her concerns with the proposed funding ranges and LA advised that as stated in the legal framework, diagnosis was irrelevant as funding was based on an individual need. Funding will be on individual basis.

3.8 More discussion took place around funding.

3.9 LA explained to the Forum how the banding ranges worked and what the different types of provision were. More discussion centred around this.

3.10 Further discussions took place around budget cuts that are being made by the Government and schools are now feeling the squeeze. MT advised that what is being proposed needs to be sustainable in the future. A decision needs to be made to move forward.

3.11 ZW stated that she was confused by KA email.

3.12 AC advised Forum of the growing demands being put on medically untrained staff. Some staff were even having to do medical intervention, (eg. Injecting medication).

3.13 MP advised Forum that examples of health interventions were needed to move forward to help DS fight for more funding as a meeting was due to be held with health partners in January 2018.

4. MT requested that votes be taken.

4.1 High Needs Recommendation

The purpose of the report is to obtain a final recommendation from Forum on the proposed funding allocations to the SEND bandings from 1 April 2018 for the financial year 2018/19.

**Vote:**

**For: (10) Against: (3) Abstention: (0)**

	For	Against	Abstention
Alan Chapman – Academy Special		✓	
Amanda Baines – Primary Academy <25% FSM	✓		
Chris Simmons – Governor – Primary	✓		
Emma Espley – Secondary Schools	✓		
Helen O'Brien – Large <50% - Primary	✓		
John Hardy – VA Small - Primary	✓		
Julie Thomas - Primary Academy >50% FSM	✓		
Lynne Chambers - Primary >25% <50% FSM	✓		
Mark Tilling – High Tunstall – Secondary	✓		
Stephen Hammond – Secondary Academy		✓	
Zoe Westley – Special		✓	
<b>Non School</b>			
Diocese of C of E	✓		
Penny Thompson	✓		

4.2 ZW requested for it to be noted that she voted against because a vote 'for' meant an implicit assumption that pupils' needs could be met within these funding ranges, which may not be the case for all children.

4.3 LAL left the meeting at 10.46am.

5. Dedicated Schools Grant – Early Years 2018/19 (D+R)

5.1 PT explained to the group the 2018/19 Block Funding and referred to the report – Item 5 on the agenda and advised of the 2 x changes being proposed.

5.2 Recommended Proposed Funding and Early Years Centrally Retained

**Vote: all agreed that were present to vote**

**For: (13) Against: (0) Abstention: (0)**

	For	Against	Abstention
Alan Chapman – Academy Special	✓		
Amanda Baines – Primary Academy <25% FSM	✓		
Chris Simmons – Governor – Primary	✓		
Emma Espley – Secondary Schools	✓		
Helen O'Brien – Large <50% - Primary	✓		
John Hardy – VA Small – Primary	✓		
Julie Thomas - Primary Academy >50% FSM	✓		
Lynne Chambers - Primary >25% <50% FSM	✓		
Mark Tilling – High Tunstall – Secondary	✓		
Stephen Hammond – Secondary Academy	✓		
Zoe Westley – Special	✓		
<b>Non School</b>			
Diocese of C of E Jo Heaton	✓		
Penny Thompson	✓		

## 6. Agenda Items for Next Full Forum Meeting

- 6.1
- School Balances Survey
  - Update SEMH Review
  - Feedback from Children's Services Committee
  - Update Facility Time
  - School Budgets
  - Apprenticeship Levy Working Party

## 7. Any Other Business

### 7.1 Apprenticeship Levy

- 7.2 ZW referred to this central pot of money and advised that a meeting was held recently and discussions took place on how to access this money. There is a considerable amount not being accessed. Permission is needed from HTs to access these funds. ZW is keen for a group to be set up to discuss how to access this money. It was noted that if money is not all spent it is retained by central government.

It was agreed that all Heads should be at this meeting. Co-ordination is needed. The question was raised if there should be a sub group?

A proposal will be put forward at January's School Forum for this.

- 7.3 SSh gave an update on the recently announced Local Government Pay awards. The national figures were an increase of 5.584% over two years, 2.707% in year one and 2.802% in year 2.

- 7.4 It was agreed that all Forum papers are to be sent to All Heads in future.

**ELA**