

Schools' Forum Meeting

26 September 2018

Attendees:

Members

Sue Sharpe (SS) (Large – Deprived) **CHAIR**
Emma Espley (EE) - (Secondary Schools)
Lynn Chambers (LC) (Primary >25% <50% FSM)
Chris Simmons (CS) (Governor)
Mary Frain (MF) (VA Large)
Paul Thompson (PT) (Special)
Stephen Hammond (SH) (Academy-Secondary)
Jo Heaton (JH) (Diocese C of E)
Louise Robson (LH) - (Academy Special)
Mark Hughes (MH) (16-19 Sector)
Mark Tilling (MT) – (SECONDARY)
Peter Cornforth (PC) – (Large 50%)
Julie Thomas (JT) – (Academy – Primary)
David Turner (DT) – (Primary)
Mike Cooney (MC) - (VA Small)
Mandy Hall (MH) - (Academy-Primary)
Miles Sharp (MS) - (Diocese - Roman Catholic)
Angela Henderson (AH) – (PRU)

Local Authority Officers

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

Observers – None

Agenda Item	Action
<p>1. Apologies were received as follows:</p> <p>Alan Chapman – (Academy Special) Rachel Williams – (Small) Penny Thompson - (PT) (Early Years) Neil Nottingham - (NH) (Academy-Primary) Zoe Westley - (ZW) (Special) Tracey Gibson - (TG) (Secondary Schools) Amanda Baines - (AM) (Academy-Primary) Rachel Williams - (RW) - (Diocese-Roman Catholic)</p>	
<p>2. Minutes from Last Forum and Matters Arising - 9 July 2018</p> <p>2.1 SS welcomed all to the first Forum meeting of the new school year.</p> <p>2.2 The minutes were read and accepted as a true record.</p>	
<p>3. Schools Forum Constitution and Membership (R/I) – Mark Patton</p> <p>3.1 MPA advised that the named substitutes for Andrew Jordan and Mark Hughes still had not been received. When confirmed – names are to be forwarded to MPA or ELA.</p>	AJ/MH
<p>4. High Needs Block Update (R/I) – Mark Patton</p> <p>4.1 MP gave an update on the purpose of the report which is to provide an update on the 2017/18 outturn and the projected spend on the HNB for the financial year 2018/19.</p>	

<p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p> <p>4.5</p> <p>4.6</p> <p>4.7</p>	<p>MP provided background information and highlighted the salient parts of the report to the forum.</p> <p>MP advised of the process that occurred last year and the decisions that were made to reduce the overspend in the High Needs Block, for financial year 2018/19 Schools Forum agreed to transfer £0.550m (0.8% Schools Block) from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. This will also need to be considered for the 2019/20 financial year.</p> <p>Permission from the Secretary of State (via a disapplication request) had been sought and approved and was now in the budget.</p> <p>Section 4 of the report which showed the projected outturn for 2018/19 was explained in more detail to the Forum.</p> <p>There is projected to be almost no DSG Reserve remaining at the end of 2018/19. MP reported that this means it is important to ensure that the measures taken (Schools Block transfer, funding attached to band descriptors, adjustments to IPS rates, and so on) will balance the books in 2019/20.</p> <p>Final decisions need to be made for 2019/20 financial year by mid-November.</p> <p>All were asked to note the contents of the report and consider the budget for next year as a decision was needed before Christmas 2018.</p> <p>MP asked all to be aware of the funding attached to the bands. Early decision may be needed to go for a review and need to be aware of overspend for projections.</p> <p>MT made reference to the school fees provision and felt that the predicted figures were not enough. A discussion centred around this. Suggestion was put forward to reduce out of town placements.</p> <p>LA advised that the projection figures for out of town placements were continuing to rise. A lot of work had been done. ARP provision had been reviewed. A bid had been put forward in 2016 for SEMH free school serving the Tees Valley, but had not been successful. Another joint bid will need to be submitted again by mid-October. A lot of work has been going on in the background for Secondary SEMH which has the biggest projected rise.</p> <p>CS asked what the contribution from Health was. Further discussion took place.</p> <p>CS felt that that the information in the press around children's mental health was a serious issue.</p> <p>MT spoke of children with complex needs. Children's needs were getting worse and this could create a capacity issue in schools. All schools were affected and it was felt that they were at a crisis point at the moment.</p> <p>MPA explained to the Forum that the transfer of funding between the Schools Block and the HNB was done as a proportion of the Schools Block, ie for 2018/19 Hartlepool transferred 0.8% of the Schools Block to the HNB. If a decision was made for 2019/20 to repeat the transfer, it would be 0.8% of the 2019/20 total Schools Block. SSh confirmed if this decision was made no disapplication request would be required. However, if Forum decided to transfer a different proportion of the Schools Block another disapplication request may</p>	
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	<p>be required (depending on the proportion).</p> <p>MT requested that the forward projections for the HNB 2019/20 be tabled at the next meeting to inform discussions.</p> <p>MPa reminded Forum members that the Council had written several times to Government ministers about school funding pressures and that an open response had been received. Heading towards a difficult situation in 2020. MPa stated that professional associations and unions needed to be much more vocal and lobby more in support of their members.</p> <p>SS felt that there was a need to take on board the well being of staff. All are aware of the financial situation. Staff are working to their full capacity at present. All need to be mindful of staff and the situation that they are in.</p> <p>JT advised that when she had read the Ofsted reports from the DfE, she was aware that the staff who were dealing with the behaviour of some children were often the less paid staff and was wondering if there was a support network for them? How were other colleagues working? How could voices be heard? Felt it would be great if Ofsted and the DfE worked together on this.</p> <p>SS was advised that information needed to be fed back in readiness for the next Forum meeting on the 16 October regarding projected budgets. Forum members needed to be ready to make a decision by then.</p> <p>MP advised that if anyone had any items to be discussed at the SEMH Working group meeting on Thursday 27 September were to let him know via email asap.</p> <p>LA left the meeting at 10.05am</p>	Ssh
<p>5.</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p>SEMH (I) (standard item) – Mark Patton</p> <p>MP advised that the first SEMH panel had taken place and that the SEMH Working party was taking place tomorrow (27 September 2018).</p> <p>Main items to be discussed were what had worked, and what hadn't. Primary provision at Rossmere school is now available. The planning for Springwell is going ahead and is on track for anticipated opening in 2019.</p>	
<p>6.</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p> <p>6.3</p> <p>6.4</p>	<p>Scheme for Financing Schools (R/D) – Mark Patton</p> <p>MP made reference to this report and explained that the changes made had effectively been enforced by the DfE.</p> <p>His recommendation was to approve the report.</p> <p>JH raised a question on behalf of the Diocese and enquired if a school would be put under any pressure to take on a loan if a school was in deficit?</p> <p>Ssh advised that this would not happen.</p> <p>A vote was taken of maintained schools. 10 voted in favour. There were none against and there were no abstentions.</p>	

7.	Teachers Pay Grant Methodology (R/I) – Mark Patton	
7.1	MP made reference to this report. MP advised that the methodology was in the public domain and was for information.	
7.2	SSh advised that information regarding individual school grant allocations are likely to be received after the October census.	
7.3	In response to a query from JH, SSh stated that if schools converted to academy status during the autumn term, the LA and new academy would just to work together to ensure the grant was transferred to the academy.	
7.4	All Forum members were asked to note the contents of the report.	
8.	Permanent Exclusions Financial Guidance Update (R/I) – Mark Patton	
8.1	MP gave an overview of this report to the Forum and advised of what the recommendations were that Forum members should do.	
8.2	The report provided Schools’ Forum with an update on permanent exclusions in respect of the claw back and reimbursement of funding from/to schools.	
8.3	The report was for clarification since Forum had already taken the decision locally that funding will follow the child beyond the financial year in which they are permanently excluded.	
9.	Agenda Items for Next Full Forum Meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019/20 High Needs Block projection • ESG for maintained schools • National Funding Formula • Schools capital group membership 	
10.	Any Other Business	
10.1	MP advised that the membership of the Schools Capital Funding Group needed to be reviewed therefore had been added to the next agenda.	Actioned
10.2	MT proposed that the National Funding Formula be a standing item on the agenda.	Actioned
10.3	SSh reminded maintained school representatives about the detailed ESG funding documentation that had been prepared to support decision-making at last year’s Forum meetings. SSh asked if any additional details beyond this documentation was required by maintained schools because decisions around ESG for 2019/20 will need to be made in October. SS asked if the relevant papers could be sent to her for circulation to and discussion by maintained schools. SSh agreed to send the documentation to SS.	SSh
		SSh

11. Date and Time of Next Forum Meetings –

Hartlepool Schools Forum Meetings 2018-19	
Date	Time
Tuesday 16 October	9.30 – 11.30
Wednesday 21 November	9.30 – 11.30
Wednesday 5 December	9.30 – 11.30
Monday 21 January	1.00 – 3.00
Friday 15 March	9.30 – 11.30
Tuesday 7 May	9.30 – 11.30
Friday 21 June	9.30 – 11.30
Monday 8 July	1.00 – 3.00