

<p>Schools' Forum Meeting</p> <p>19 October 2021</p>
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Attendees:**Members**

Carole Bradley (CB) (Primary - Large <50%)
 Lynne Chambers (LC) (Primary Academy >25%<50% FSM)
 Alison Darby (AD) (Special)
 Nicola Dunn (ND) (Primary – Small)
 Tracey Gibson (TG) (Secondary)
 Martyn Gordon (MG) (Horizon School)
 Lisa Grieg (LG) (Academy – Special)
 Mandy Hall (MH) (Primary Academy >25% FSM)
 John Hardy (JH) (Primary – VA Small)
 Jo Heaton (JHe) (Diocese – C of E)
 Linda Richardson (LR) (PVI)
 Sue Sharpe (SS) (Primary - Large Deprived)
 Chris Simmons (CS) (Academy Governors)
 Mark Tilling (MT) (Secondary)
 Rachel Williams (RW) (Diocese – RC)

Local Authority Officers

Jacqui Braithwaite (JB)
 (Integrated Services for
 Learning Manager)

Jo Stubbs (JS) (Administrator)

Danielle Swainston (DS)
 (Assistant Director Joint
 Commissioning)

Jane Watt (JWa) (Children's
 Finance)

Amanda Whitehead (AW)
 (Assistant Director Education)

Agenda Item	Action
<p>1 Apologies -</p> <p>Apologies were submitted by the following:</p> <p>Andrew Jordan (Secondary Academies > 50% FSM) David Turner (Primary – Small) – Nicola Dunn substituting Lee Walker (Primary Academy > 50% FSM) Jo Wilson (VA Large) Zoe Westley (Special) – Alison Darby substituting Sandra Shears</p>	
<p>2 Minutes of the Last Meeting – 21st September 2021</p> <p>Minutes approved.</p> <p>SS noted that her comment around the capacity of the de-delegated service for ethnic minority pupils was not a reflection on the capability of the team.</p>	

	<p>Outstanding Actions Log</p> <p>High Needs Task and Finish Group – a meeting of the Children’s Strategic Partnership had taken place. Members had re-examined the Terms of Reference for the Partnership and were in the process of formulating an action plan for the future. This action was therefore closed.</p> <p>Salary disclosure – Officers had received advice on wording and had forwarded this to any schools affected. This action was therefore closed.</p> <p>Excess Balances Panel – MT to progress this.</p>	
3	<p>Statutory Services Provided by the Local Authority</p> <p>At the previous meeting members representing maintained schools had been asked to consult with the schools they represented regarding a proposed general rate of £60 per pupil to cover statutory services provided by the local authority.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>That a general rate of £60 per pupil for statutory services provided by the local authority would be approved.</p> <p>In favour - nil Against - 7 Abstain - nil</p> <p>The Chair highlighted that the decision was a reflection of the Forum’s opposition to the removal of the former Education Services Grant by government and not a reflection on the quality of statutory services provided by the local authority.</p>	
4	<p>Proposed de-delegated Services Budgets 2022/23</p>	
	<p>At the previous meeting members representing maintained Primary Schools had been asked to consult with the schools they represented regarding the services to be de-delegated in 2022/23.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>That the following services be de-delegated:</p> <p>Education Psychology</p> <p>Refused unanimously</p>	

	<p>School Attendance</p> <p>Refused unanimously</p> <p>Trade Union facility time</p> <p>Refused unanimously</p> <p>Ethnic Minority Pupils</p> <p>Refused unanimously</p> <p>Assessing Free School Meal Eligibility</p> <p>Refused unanimously</p> <p>The Vice Chair outlined the discussion and consensus on this topic at a recent Head Teachers Meeting. Primary Head Teachers wish to move away from de-delegation towards SLAs with individual services so that charges and the scope of services provided is more clearly documented. The Chair re-iterated that these decisions were based on a wish to work with the local authority around future SLA provision rather than continue as previously. Alongside the decision to discontinue de-delegation, all Heads agreed to a price fix for a period of 18 months whilst Council service managers work with schools to develop charging mechanisms and SLA documentation. Heads of schools involved would meet for further discussions after the half-term break.</p>	
5	Dedicated Schools Grant – Early Years Block Centrally Retained Budget 2022/23	
	<p>At the previous meeting members had been asked to consult with the schools they represented regarding a proposed central spend element of 5% for early years funding for 2022/23. This amount would be applied once the provisional allocations were published and would be centrally retained.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>That the report be noted</p> <p>That centrally retained funding of 5% to administer and deliver early years provision in line with legislative requirements be approved unanimously.</p>	
6	Autism Education Trust Training and Quality Assurance Support	
	<p>Members were asked to approve the allocation of funding for Autism Education Trust Training/audit/action planning from the High Needs Block reserve at a cost of £5,220 per school. A pilot of this training had taken place successfully and it was therefore proposed that funding be allocated</p>	

	<p>to allow it to be rolled out to other ARP schools in the authority namely Grange, Kingsley and High Tunstall at a total cost of £15,660. The Chair noted that this request was not being driven by those schools. JB explained that the request for approval was based around the expense of the training licence which would run out in March 2022 and a wish to utilise this licence as much as possible while they were able.</p> <p>Members were supportive of the training but raised a number of practical issues as follows –</p> <p>Which school would be the first to be trained? If a number of schools were interested how would it be decided which schools could be included? And by whom? Would the training be mandatory? Schools may not have the capacity to take part. Was there feedback available from the school which had taken part in the pilot? Could all schools be included not just those with ARPs?</p> <p>Members felt unable to make a decision on this matter until they had more information and were clearer on how the allocation of monies would work. The Chair proposed that consideration be deferred to the next meeting to allow for further investigation and information on the impact the pilot training had on the school in question.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>That a decision on the allocation of £15,660 to implement the Autism Education Training Programme and audit package to mainstream ARP schools be deferred to a later meeting.</p>	
7	<p>High Needs Block Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23</p>	
	<p>At the previous meeting officers had recommended that decisions on the High Needs Block review be postponed to allow discussions on the way forward in terms of inclusion following the findings of NDTI initial consultation work. The delay was approved by Schools' Forum at the meeting. To compensate for the delay, members were asked to consult the schools they represented regarding the continuation of cumulative inflation of 3% to the Minimum Funding Guarantee for special schools and the continuation of cumulative inflation of 2.75% to SEND top-up ranges.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>That the application of 3% cumulative inflation to the Minimum Funding Guarantee for special schools be approved unanimously.</p>	

	That the application of 2.75% cumulative inflation to SEND top-up ranges be approved unanimously.	
7a	Any Other Business	
	<p>JW advised members that HBC officers and JH had met with representatives from the DfE to discuss the financial pressures being placed on Early Year's provision for 2 year olds. The discussion included analysis showing that funding on the basis of 3 census points as opposed to the two January census points would reduce the financial problem for Hartlepool. DfE colleagues reported similar thinking from other Councils but that several authorities had reported the opposite position on funding of 3-4 year old provision. Work to review the position on 3-4 year old provision in Hartlepool is underway. Officers had been asked to provide more analysis on these concerns to the DfE. More detail would be provided at the November Forum meeting.</p> <p>The Chair asked that officers reconsider the membership of the Schools Forum.</p> <p>Members agreed that future meetings of the Schools Forum should take place virtually via Microsoft Teams until March 2022 at the earliest.</p>	
12	Date and Time of Next Forum Meeting	
	Tuesday 18 th November 2021 at 10.00am	
	The meeting concluded at 11.10am	

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS LOG

Meeting	Description	Owner
9/07/20	Set up a meeting of the Excess Balances Panel	Mark Tilling

Financial Year 2021/22: Children’s Services Committee – Log of Schools’ Forum
Recommendations and Committee Decisions

Last Updated: 05/07/2021

Committee Date	Report	Recommendation and Decision Details
23 Jun 2021	PROPOSAL TO INCREASE CAPACITY FOR SEND EDUCATION PROVISION	<p>Unanimously supported and referred this report to Finance and Policy Committee (meeting Wed 7 July 2021) to support a sustainable solution for the provision of additional capacity for children with SEND and to seek approval from Council to Prudentially Borrow £1.550m saving the HNB annually between £0.343m and £0.783m. Decision to be ratified by Council.</p> <p>Noted the loan repayment cost will be met from the HNB and will not impact on the General Fund Budget of the Council.</p> <p>Subsequently approved at Finance and Policy Committee on 7th July 2021 and Council at 8th July 2021.</p>