

Schools' Forum Meeting

19 October 2022

Attendees:

Members

Chris Connor (CC) (Maintained Primary)
 Martyn Gordon (MG) (Horizon School)
 Lisa Grieg (LG) (Academy – Special)
 Mandy Hall (MH) (Academy – Primary)
 John Hardy (JH) (Academy – Primary)
 Phil Pritchard (PP) (Academy – Primary)
 Sue Sharpe (SS) (Maintained Primary)
 Chris Simmons (CS) (Academy – Governors)
 Elliot Stirk (ES) (Academy – Special)
 Mark Tilling (MT Chair) (Maintained Secondary)
 Leanne Yates (LY) (Maintained Primary)

Local Authority Officers

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

Sandra Shears (SSh) (Head of Finance – Corporate and Schools)

Jo Stubbs (JS) (Administrator)

Amanda Whitehead (AW)
 (Assistant Director – Education)

Agenda Item	Action
<p>1 Apologies -</p> <p>Apologies were submitted by the following and accepted by Forum:</p> <p>Carole Bradley (Academy – Primary) Tracey Gibson (Academy – Secondary) Jo Heaton (Diocese C of E) David Turner (Maintained Primary) Lee Walker (Academy – Primary) Jane Watt (HBC Group Accountant) Zoe Westley (Academy – Special) - Elliot Stirk in attendance as substitute Amanda Whitehead (HBC Assistant Director, Education)</p>	
<p>2 Minutes of the Last Meeting – 20 September 2022 - Minutes approved.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Schools Capital Sub Group – Chris Connor volunteered to take the remaining vacancy.</p> <p>High Needs Task and Finish Group Update - DS noted that</p>	<p>JWa</p> <p>DS</p>

	<p>information relating to the profile of children placed in independent provision had previously been requested. She would circulate this prior to the next Forum meeting. Members asked that a breakdown by year group be provided.</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the report be noted • That a general rate of £60 per pupil for statutory services provided by the local authority be rejected unanimously <p>The Chair highlighted that the decision was a reflection of the Forum’s opposition to Government cuts and not a reflection on the quality of statutory services provided by the local authority.</p> <p>SSh confirmed that a disapplication request will be made to the Secretary of State.</p>	
4	<p>Dedicated Schools Grant – Early Years Block Centrally Retained Budget 2023/24</p>	
	<p>Members were asked to approve the central spend element of the Early Years funding for 2023/24 as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The initial funding allocation was expected to be announced in December 2022. ESFA guidance states that a proportion of the grant may be centrally retained. It was proposed that this proportion be set at 5% of the EYNFF. This amount would be applied once the provisional allocations were published and would be centrally retained. It would be used to administer and deliver early years provision including staffing and administration.</p> <p>LY referred to the SEND inclusion fund, querying whether there was money ring-fenced within this. DS confirmed this amounted to £25K and was meant to be utilised for resources and training.</p> <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the report be noted • That the centrally retained budget be unanimously approved at 5% 	

5	High Needs Task and Finish Group Update	
	<p>DS updated members on ongoing discussions which had taken place within the Task and Finish Group and some broad consensus which had been reached. This included devolving funding decisions to specified clusters of schools rather than the current panel approach managed by the local authority. However it was acknowledged that some schools could belong to a number of clusters so this may not be a completely straightforward exercise. A model needed to be established in order to split out current funding agreements into the proposed clusters.</p> <p>The Chair highlighted a lack of attendance at meetings of the Task and Finish Group, noting that any models would be formulated based on the views of attendees.</p> <p>JH commented that not all schools had the capacity to be all things to all people. This could be a problem when a parent wanted their child to go to a particular school but had specific needs that school was unable to meet. All schools were therefore not equal and to make them so would cost millions. DS queried whether this was a situation whereby other schools in their cluster might assist. The primary aim was that local children be educated within their community wherever possible.</p> <p>DS advised that further modelling would be considered at the end of November prior to a discussion among Forum members. Should a consensus not be reached the issue would be considered by Children’s Services Committee. The Chair was keen to avoid the proposals being re-examined, noting that all Forum members had had the opportunity to take part in the Group discussions. JH urged that officers set a target date for completion of the process in order to have something to work toward. He also queried whether health and social care had taken part. The Chair confirmed this. LG commented that workforce development had also been considered.</p> <p>LY felt that when a formula had been established it should be piloted in 1 area, something which could be done without agreement from Children’s Services Committee however JH thought it preferable to progress it more widely. The Chair continued to urge members to attend future Task and Finish Group meetings.</p>	
6	Any Other Business	
	<p>DS informed members that following discussions around ‘challenging behaviour, parenting, children and young people defined as SEND’ it was proposed that a Task and Finish Group be set up to look into workforce development around trauma. £750k was currently available for SEMH work of this kind and she requested that members approve some of its usage to help develop future models. Members were happy to approve this. Suggestions were made around the process including a town wide</p>	

	<p>approach and consideration of neural development pathways. They also felt the inclusion of DS was important.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>That a Trauma Workforce Development Task and Finish Group be established and that funding be made available for workforce development to support the challenges of challenging behaviour, SEMH, trauma and ACEs.</p> <p>DS advised members of ongoing pressures for places at the Horizon School. While there was funding available to cover 24 places there were currently 36 students on roll with 5 students excluded since September 2022. Funding for 6 additional PEX places was needed at a total cost of £120k. This funding would come out of High Needs Block provision. DS intended to bring a report on these issues to the next meeting of the Forum prior to making a formal request to Children’s Services Committee. MG advised that the ages of the children involved ranged from Y8-Y11. Efforts were made to reintegrate all the children involved into mainstream education but this was often followed by further referrals.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>That a report for consultation be brought to the next meeting of the Forum.</p> <p>Ssh advised members that a funding request had been made to the ESFA. Advice had been received that this funding could be used as required but a disapplication would be needed if said funding went into school baselines. This only impacted on 2 schools therefore the advice was that it be retained for future High Needs Block pressures</p>	
7.	Date and Time of next Forum meeting	
	Friday 18 th November, 10am at CETL.	

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS LOG

Meeting	Description	Owner
20/09/22	Breakdown of profile of children placed into independent provision by year group to be provided to members	Danielle Swainston

Financial Year 2022/23: Children’s Services Committee – Log of Schools’ Forum
Recommendations and Committee Decisions

Last Updated: 7 October 2022

Committee Date	Report	Recommendation and Decision Details