

# **CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

15 January 2019

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor: Brenda Harrison (In the Chair)

Councillors: Ann Marshall, John Lauderdale, Sue Little and Shane Moore

Co-opted members:

Jo Heaton, C of E Diocesan Representative

Mark Tilling, Secondary Schools Head Representative

Healthwatch representatives: Ruby Marshall.

Officers:

Mark Patton, Assistant Director, Education

Peter Brambleby, Interim Director of Public Health

Dr Oliver Harness, Senior School Improvement Adviser (Secondary)

Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

## **62. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received by David Turner (Primary Schools Head Representative) and Zoe Westley (Special Schools Head Representative).

## **63. Declarations of Interest**

The Headteachers declared their usual personal interest.

## **64. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November and 4 December 2018**

Received.

## **65. Dedicated Schools Grant – Schools Block Funding 2019/20** *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Key Decision – Test (i) and (ii) apply – Forward Plan Ref CJCS 78/18.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide details of the 2019/20 Schools Block Funding allocation and to propose school budget shares for 2019/20. The Schools Block funding forms part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Assistant Director, Education thanked the Finance Team for producing the report in the tight timescales required as a result of the publication of the funding allocations on 17 December 2018. The report included a table which outlined Hartlepool's Schools Block Allocation for 2019/20 which totalled £63.765m compared to £62.723m for 2018/19. As part of the transition to a NFF, the ESFA established a Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) to fund local authorities for the statutory duties and other commitments they hold for maintained and academy schools. CSSB funding of £0.918m for 2019/20 had been confirmed based on October 2018 census numbers.

On 16 October 2018, the Schools' Forum agreed to fund the elements amounting to £0.549m with the balance of CSSB funding (£0.367m) to be transferred to the Schools Block for 2019/20. Owing to the financial pressures on the HNB, the Schools' Forum was consulted on several options for 2019/20 and chose to report an unbalanced budget deficit of £1.030m. At its meeting on 29 November 2018, the Committee agreed to the submission of a disapplication request to seek approval for transfer of the £1.030m from Schools Block. However, owing to an increased funding allocation of £0.409m for the High Needs Block in 2019/20, the disapplication request had been reduced to £0.621m.

Included within the report was a table that summarised the proposed individual school budgets for 2019/20 which would mirror the NFF, less proposed Block transfers.

A discussion ensued during which the Assistant Director, Education provided clarification on a number of areas referred to in the report.

A Member sought clarification on the position of other local authorities in the area and the Assistant Director, Education indicated that he would endeavour to find this out and will update Members.

### **Decision**

- 1) The contents of the report were noted.
- 2) The agreement by Schools' Forum to centrally retain funding of £0.549m, with the residual £0.369m being transferred to the Schools Block as detailed in paragraph 5.3 was noted.
- 3) The recommendation by the Schools' Forum to report a deficit position of £1.030m against the HNB was noted.

- 4) The decision taken by this Committee on 29 November 2018 to apply for Secretary of State approval to the transfer of £1.030m from the School's Block to the HNB, and the subsequent reduction to a £0.621m transfer appeal was noted.
- 5) The individual school budget share for 2019/20 of £63.513m as noted in paragraph 6.2 of the report was approved.

## **66. Dedicated Schools Grant – Early Years Formula 2019/20** *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Key Decision – Test (i) and (ii) apply – Forward Plan Reference CJCS 79/18.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide an indicative Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding allocation in relation to the Early Years Funding for 2019/20 and propose the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) for 2019/20.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The 2019/20 funding allocation for the Early Years Block shown in a table in the report was announced in December 2018. As part of the consultation with providers and the Schools Forum, a revised hourly rate that shifts the current supplements into the guaranteed base rate per hour for all providers was proposed. If agreed, this would help to ensure compliance with the 95% pass-through requirement. The current funding for these supplements would be transferred to the base rate payable to all providers as shown in the report. The base rate would increase from £4.09 per hour to £4.21 per hour if this proposal was agreed.

### **Decision**

- 1) The contents of this report and the outcomes from the consultation with providers and Schools' Forum were noted.
- 2) The agreement by Schools' Forum to centrally retain funding of 5% was noted.
- 3) The recommendation from Schools' Forum to adopt the hourly rate funding formula shown in the table at paragraph 5.4 was noted.
- 4) The hourly rate funding formula for 2019/20 showing an increase to £4.21 per hour as shown in paragraph 5.4 was approved.

**67. Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Block Budget 2019/20** (*Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*)

**Type of decision**

Key Decision – Test (i) and (ii) apply – Forward Plan Reference CJCS 80/18.

**Purpose of report**

To inform Members of the funding allocation for the High Needs Block in 2019/20 and to seek approval for the 2019/20 budget. The High Needs Block forms part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The background to the High Needs Block funding allocations was provided in the report. It was noted that indicative allocations for 2019/20 had been received with final allocations being subject to change depending on volumes of pupils accessing provision outside of their home authority. To address the predicted funding shortfall, a disapplication request had been submitted to the Secretary of State for approval by the deadline of 15 January 2019 to transfer £1.030m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. However, Councils were being asked to respond to the updated funding allocations by refreshing their disapplication requests appropriately. As of December 2018, the funding allocation for the High Needs Block 2019/20 was £9.124m. The indicative budget requirement for 2019/20 was £9.745 which has resulted in the disapplication request being reduced to £0.621m.

A school representative indicated that the reduction in the disapplication request was welcomed, however it was recognised that this was a stop gap and there would be continuing funding pressures in future years.

A discussion ensued on ensuring appropriate education was provided in the town for young people with specific high needs. The Assistant Director, Education indicated that the most appropriate education for a very small number of young people with specific high level needs may need to be provided elsewhere but every effort was being made to explore options to provide this type of education in the Town. However, the needs of those particular young people and their families would always be paramount in any considerations.

In response to a question from a Member, the Assistant Director, Education indicated that the outcome of the disapplication request to the Secretary of State should be available at the beginning of February and an update will be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.

**Decision**

- 1) The contents of the report were noted.
- 2) The budget of £9.745m for 2019/20 as shown in paragraph 4.6 of the report was approved, pending a successful outcome from the revised disapplication request to the Secretary of State.

**68. To Nominate Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies** *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

**Type of decision**

Non key.

**Purpose of report**

To update Members in respect of vacancies that currently exist for local authority representative governors, and to request that Members recommend nominees to the governing bodies where vacancies currently exist.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

A schedule was submitted with the report setting out details of vacancies which existed, together with applications received. The individual applications were set out in a confidential appendix to the report which contained exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government), (Access to Information), (Variations Order 2006) namely, information relating to any individual (Para 1).

The Assistant Director, Education confirmed that the School concerned were happy to accept the nomination.

**Decision**

The nomination for a local authority governor position as set out in confidential Appendix B of the report was approved.

**69. Engineering Masterclass Series 2018 Evaluation** *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

**Type of decision**

Non key.

**Purpose of report**

To provide background information to the 2018 series of Royal Institution

Engineering Masterclass series held in Hartlepool and an evaluation of their impact.

For the purposes of this report, the word 'school' or 'schools' can refer to maintained school or academy.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

A short video of the engineering masterclass that had taken place at Hart Biologicals was shown to the Committee. Further details of the outcomes and evaluation of the Hartlepool masterclass series were provided in the report and noted that a total of 16 students had enrolled with students from four of the five mainstream Hartlepool secondary schools participating. Attendance was good with children enjoying the Saturday morning classes. The students most enjoyed the masterclasses where they were active most of the time and asked a lot of insightful questions.'

All the engineers involved reported that they had enjoyed working in Hartlepool and working with the young people. Hart Biological had indicated that they would be willing to support future series. It was noted that one member of the Education Division of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services had attended all six Saturday mornings to support the masterclasses and without this hands-on support, the series could not have happened.

Members were pleased to note the success of the engineering masterclass as this was a fantastic opportunity for the young people in the Town and noted in particular the positive comments received from the young people. The importance of showing young people as many options for future training and employment opportunities was emphasised. A discussion ensued on expanding these opportunities to be available in school holidays and across the primary sector. The Assistant Director, Education indicated that there may be opportunities to bid for additional funding to expand activities into the school holidays. In addition to this, the Senior School Improvement Adviser indicated that work was ongoing with employers and schools on bring the standard of careers information and guidance in line with the Gatsby Standards.

The secondary school representative added that the provision of careers education in Hartlepool had been ahead of the game in ensuring the offer was right for the young people and their future and it was a great move to see that meaningful work experience for young people was being looked at again.

The Director for Education indicated that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the outcome of bids to extend the holiday hunger programme in Hartlepool over the six week summer holiday.

**Decision**

- 1) That the contents of the report were noted.
- 2) That the organisation of a further series in 2019 was approved.

**70. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2017/18**

*(Interim Director of Public Health)*

**Type of decision**

For information.

**Purpose of report**

To present the Director of Public Health Annual Report for 2017/18. The report, including ward profiles for Elected Members, will be presented to full Council on 20 December 2018.

It is a statutory duty of Directors of Public Health to produce an independent annual report on the health of the population and present it to Councillors for consideration.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The 2017/18 report focusses on 'starting well' in Hartlepool, highlighting the services, good practice and partnership working taking place across the Borough in order to provide all Hartlepool children with the best start in life, as well as some of the adverse trends and continuing challenges. The theme of 'starting well' is the beginning of a systematic approach covering each step in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Hartlepool in turn, so that every stage of life was covered in detail over a five year cycle. A full copy of the report was attached at Appendix A. The Interim Director of Public Health highlighted that one of the key themes of the 'starting well' was to become an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) aware town. The Interim Director of Public Health indicated that there were 10 chronic unpredictable and stress-inducing events that were commonplace, including the death of a first degree relative within the first 2 years of life. The Assistant Director, Education added that work was ongoing in partnership with schools to raise awareness of ACE as this was a huge issue.

A discussion ensued on the uptake of breast feeding across the town and the Interim Director of Public Health confirmed that discussions were ongoing with the local Foundation Trust and Primary Care to explore ways of encouraging breastfeeding.

The Church of England school representative suggested that it would be useful to circulate this report to all schools in the town as it provided fascinating insight into the health of people across the town.

A discussion ensued on the take-up of immunisations and the levels of teenage pregnancies in the town. The Interim Director of Public Health indicated that discussions were ongoing to increase the take up of immunisations. In addition, the decision had been taken to continue the funding of the provision of the sexual health service which included support to prevent teenage pregnancies as well as support those young people who welcome pregnancy. The importance of raising young people's aspirations was reiterated along with raising awareness that young people can say no to things they were not ready for. The Chair referred to a particularly successful programme that worked across all schools to raise awareness of sexual health services a number of years ago.

**Decision**

The final report was noted.

**71. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

There were no items the Chair considered urgent.

The following future meetings of the Committee were noted:

5 February 2019 at 4.00pm – Joint meeting of the Children's Services and Adult and Community Based Services Committee.

19 February 2019 at 4.00pm – Children's Services Committee.

The meeting concluded at 5.20pm

**H MARTIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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