

THE KIRKLEES SCHOOLS FORUM

meeting held on Friday 12th December 2014

10:30am at the Tolson Museum

Present:

Julie Helm	Nursery School Heads (1)
Michelle Lee [Chair], Simon Sloan, Diana Wilson	Primary School Heads (6)
	Middle School Heads (1)
Ian Ellam	High School Heads (2)
Nicky Rogers	Special School Heads (1)
Mike Cook	Academy Heads (2)
Martin Ridge	Pupil Referral Units (1)
	Kirklees Governors (1)
Jo Bailey-Taylor (NASUWT), Gillian Collins (ATL), Hazel Danson (NUT), Sarah Ellis (Pre-school Learning Alliance)	Non-school members (5)
Angela Farmer (Senior Finance Officer) David Gearing (Financial Delegation Manager); [Minute Clerk] Carol Lancaster (Senior Manager Early Learning and Childcare)	Officers in Support
	Observers

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Jo-Anne Atkinson (Academy Heads), Carole Hardern (Strategic Council Finance Manager), Gary Johnson (Middle School Heads), Liz Singleton (Deputy AD – Children & Adults) [Carol Lancaster substitutes], David Smith (Director for Resources), Loz Wilson (High School Heads) and Jackie Wood (Nursery School Heads) [Julie Helm substitutes].

2. Minutes of the Schools Forum Public meeting held on 24th October

The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the Schools Forum meeting 24th October

No matters were raised.

4. Confirmation of agreed draft submission arrangements to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for schools funding 2015-16

Central Retention

There were two outstanding items of business to resolve at the time of the last Forum meeting – the continuation of support for the school safeguarding officer post and the retention of monies to provide school improvement commissioning funds for the primary and secondary sectors.

School Safeguarding Officer

A further report had been given to Forum members to explain the safeguarding work undertaken by the local authority. A summary was given of the case referrals dealt with by the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). Only one third of referrals last year actually arose from an education setting. The largest proportion (39%) came from Social Care with the remainder coming from a variety of sources including the Police, the health sector and

Ofsted. The paper explained how the local authority work sat alongside the work of the post funded by retained DSG, although sometimes there will be cross-over between the two roles. It was agreed to continue DSG funding support for the School Safeguarding Officer into 2015-16. However, Forum has requested a much fuller report on the SSO activity to include some form of impact statement to inform the decision for funding year 2016-17. The new Safeguarding Assurance Manager takes up post in January and they will need to take on board Forum's request.

Commissioning Funds

It has been agreed that central retention of the amounts for the primary and secondary school improvement commissioning funds should continue in 2015-16. Forum intends to monitor the use of these funds on a regular basis in future and will work with the Learning Service to agree what information needs to be provided to help the Forum evaluate the outcomes of the support funding interventions made. Particular attention will be focussed upon the emergence of separate school improvement funding grants which are accessible by teaching schools and teaching alliances in order to ensure that the DSG commissioning funds are resourced at a compatible level in future.

Budget provision	£	Notes	Position reached
Pupil Growth Fund	600,000	Discretionary amount	Agreed
Falling Rolls Fund	200,000	Discretionary amount	Agreed –reduced from £365,900
Servicing of Schools Forum	31,000	No increase allowed	Agreed
School Admissions / Organisation & Planning	833,500	No increase allowed	Agreed
Historic DSG pension commitments	170,400	No increase / no new commitments	Agreed
School milk – administration costs	26,000	No increase allowed	Agreed
School Safeguarding Officer	48,400	No increase allowed	Agreed
Primary sector commissioning fund	171,500	No increase allowed	Agreed
Secondary sector commissioning fund	278,800	No increase allowed	Agreed
Provision for central LAC / NEET etc	45,100	No increase allowed	Agreed
National Copyright Licence	172,700	Mandatory budget – EFA annual invoice to meet	Agreed
TOTAL	2,577,400		0.944% of indicative 15-16 Schools Block

De-delegation

There were two outstanding items to resolve at the time of the last Forum meeting – the position of the maintained secondary sector regarding trade union duties and the position of both maintained school sectors in respect of de-delegation of the international new arrivals service.

Trade Union Duties

Further information had been provided about the buy-in to the arrangements by maintained high schools and by primary and secondary academies. Ten out of the fourteen maintained secondary and middle schools are currently purchasing whilst roughly half of the local academies do so. Given that a majority of the maintained secondary sector is choosing to support the arrangement, the issue of de-delegation was raised once more at a recent meeting of Kirklees High School Heads (KHS). The maintained secondary schools at KHS decided to not de-delegate their Union Duties funding for 2015-16, instead leaving the choice whether to buy into the arrangements to the individual school.

International New Arrivals Service

A report was provided to Forum members about the numbers and language background of pupils admitted to schools in the authority outside of the normal round of admissions during September. In 2012/13 there were 427 mid-term admissions of pupils with English as an additional language and this grew to 564 in 2013/14. In the latter year these children presented with 62 different languages as their first language. For the purposes of targeting help for these pupils and their schools the analysis ignored pupils with a first or additional language of Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi or Urdu as such admissions are usually from established communities where school support mechanisms are already in place. The report proceeded to analyse those schools which had had ten or more mid-year admissions from the identified group. There were eleven such schools in 2012/13 and seventeen in 2013/14 and although some schools showed up in both years' lists there were a number of schools new to the list in 2013/14, 3 of which had admitted mid-twenties to mid-thirties of such pupils.

Service staff had been deployed via single point of referral processes, previously identified needs of individual schools and from an analysis of available data. The support provided ranged from modelling and sharing of good practice to work with individual pupils or groups of pupils through to delivering training for school staff in the English as an Additional Language Intensive Programme (EALIP).

The Service had also been discussed at recent constituent group meetings. Those schools that had received support from the service confirmed that it was very useful. There were issues raised though about how to access the support and also about the need to better publicise its availability. Both sectors confirmed their continued support for de-delegation of funding to operate the service.

Budget	Primary per pupil	Secondary per pupil	Notes
School Contingency	-£13.11	-£16.43	Reduced cf 14-15 values of -£16.27 and £20.39
Free school meals eligibility	-£1.03	-£1.29	No change
Maternity / paternity	-£16.25	-£20.37	No change
Trade union duties	-£5.72	£0.00	No change (agreed for Primary only)
Public Duties	-£0.16	-£0.20	No change
International new arrivals	-£1.58	-£1.98	No change
Nurture Groups	£0.00	£0.00	Transitional support ended
TOTALS	-£37.86	-£40.28	Compared to 2014-15 values of -£42.69 and -£46.33 respectively

5. DSG 2015-16: Impact of the October 2014 pupil census

The new Authority Planning Tool (APT) containing the pupil data set for use in the 2015-16 Schools Block allocations is due to be released next week. Local authorities should also find out their Dedicated Schools Grant allocation for 2015-16 at the same time.

The October 2014 pupil census data has been released by the EFA. Officers presented an analysis of how the Reception to Year 11 numbers stack up in comparison to the previous data set. There are 716 more primary pupils in local schools, 306 more pupils in Key Stage 3 but 192 fewer Key Stage 4 pupils. The net increase of 830 pupils will draw down additional funding of around £3.86m in 2015-16 (assuming the EFA continue to use Kirklees' current Guaranteed Unit of Funding of £4,648.67 per pupil). The drop in pupils in KS4, having the highest value Age-Weighted Pupil Unit, is helpful to overall affordability. Multiplying the 2014-15 AWPU values by the changes in pupil population reveals an additional AWPU cost of £2.24m. Many of these additional pupils will also score against the pupil support factors (deprivation, low prior attainment, English as an additional language etc), the cost of which will also come out of the extra £3.86m. Any 'spare' funds will also be helpful should there be a general volume increase in the base number of pupils within these pupil support factors.

Once the new APT and DSG allocation figures become available, the local authority will need to review the levels of the three funding blocks – schools, early years and high needs – taking account of the volume pressures in each area. Officers will then start to fill out the APT pro forma using the funding factor values submitted to the EFA back in October.

6. Update on fair access / alternative provision etc

A suite of guidance documents on local pupil placement protocols have now been sent out to all head teachers in the authority asking for feedback. The period of consultation will run through to the end of January 2015. The aim is to provide coherent and consistent procedures for schools to follow when faced with a range of possible circumstances that entail the transfer of pupils in and out of school. The documents cover permanent exclusion of pupils, placements in alternative provisions, managed transfers of pupils between schools, pupils moving schools mid-year, single point of referral processes and movements of high needs pupils. A further update will be provided once the consultation has ended.

7. DfE Consultation response on Early Years Pupil Premium

The Government has published its response to the recent consultation on the introduction of an Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and the move to participation-led funding for disadvantaged two year-olds. The new EYPP will be introduced from April 2015 and be paid out to those Free Early Education and Care providers having eligible children (eligibility using the same measures as free school meals and applicable to such children from the school term after their third birthday). The national EYPP rate is expected to be set at 53p per hour per eligible child and will be in addition to the base funding and deprivation rates delivered by the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF). The estimated additional funding for Kirklees providers in 2015-16 is £477k. As happens with other pupil premium allocations, Ofsted will assess the use of EYPP and its impact under their 'leadership and management' judgement. The DfE will also be conducting studies to assess the impact of the EYPP and to identify early evidence of the same.

The response document also confirms that actual take-up of places by disadvantaged two year-olds will determine the funding allocated for these children (previously authorities have

received funding linked to target participation levels). Initial funding for 2015-16 will be allocated in June 2015 based on the January 2015 census and a second mid-year data count will then be used to adjust the initial allocation. The hourly grant payment rate for these two year olds has been confirmed at £4.85. This is lower than the potential hourly rate of funding for a three year old nursery child from a disadvantaged background.

8. Any other business

No other business was raised.

Dates and times of next meetings [times and venues to be confirmed]

Friday 27th March 2015, 9:30am to 11:30am

Friday 10th July 2015, 9:30am to 11:30am