

THE KIRKLEES SCHOOLS FORUM

meeting held on Friday 11th March 2016

10:00am at the Tolson Museum

Present:

	Nursery School Heads (1)
Marcus Newby, Diana Wilson	Primary School Heads (6)
Gary Johnson	Middle School Heads (1)
Jennifer Templar	High School Heads (2)
	Special School Heads (1)
Mike Cook [Chair], Ann McCall	Academy Heads (2)
Martin Ridge	Pupil Referral Units (1)
	Kirklees Governors (1)
Gillian Collins (ATL), Hazel Danson (NUT), Sarah Ellis (Pre-school Learning Alliance), Paula Westcott (NASUWT)	Non-school members (5)
Gill Ellis (Assistant Director for Learning and Skills) David Gearing (Financial Delegation Manager); [Minute Clerk] Liz Singleton (Deputy Assistant Director, Learning)	Officers in Support
	Observers

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Ian Ellam (High School Heads), Angela Farmer (Officer in support), Lynn Hill (Primary School Heads), Michelle Lee (Academy Heads) and Loz Wilson (High School Heads). Jennifer Templar attended in substitution for Ian/Loz and Ann McCall in substitution for Michelle. Mike Cook chaired the meeting in Michelle's absence.

2. Minutes of the Schools Forum Public meeting held on 11th December

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

3. Matters arising from the Schools Forum meeting 11th December

No matters were raised.

4. Report on 2016-17 Budget Share allocations

- **IDACI factor changes**

At the last meeting held on 11th December it was reported that the new school funding data set supplied by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) contained a significantly different pattern of IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index) scores. A separate meeting of Schools Forum representatives was held on 15th January to discuss how to adjust funding allocations in response to the changes in the new IDACI data set. The first stage of that process showed the difference in the IDACI allocation to 2015-16 funding if the same factor values were applied. The schools with the biggest initial drop in IDACI funding were serving areas of Dewsbury and Batley. In particular, post codes beginning WF12, WF13 and WF17 appeared to have experienced the largest downward shift in the assessed level of deprivation. The meeting on 15th January considered options for how to reapply the £5.1m initially displaced within the IDACI factor budget. These options ranged from a reallocation of the full amount to the Age-Weighted Pupil Unit factors through to boosting the current IDACI factor values to spend the £5.1m – unfortunately neither of these two approaches had much effect upon the schools that were most disadvantaged by the update of the IDACI data set.

A third approach was considered. The new local IDACI assessment had, in general terms, moved children down by one IDACI band. An option was prepared which moved the IDACI factor banding values down by one band to match the movement in the data set. This did mitigate the biggest reductions in a significant way although the difference in IDACI assessment for these schools is so substantial that there is no practical way to maintain anywhere near the previous levels of support funding received. This approach was adopted and formed part of the submission to the EFA of the 2016-17 schools funding allocations for 21st January. The movement in the factor band values is illustrated below.

IDACI score	IDACI Band	Primary-age per pupil funding		Secondary-age per pupil funding	
		2015-16	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17
< 0.2	0	£0	£0	£0	£0
0.2 to 0.25	1	£198.63	£436.98	£252.66	£341.09
0.25 to 0.3	2	£436.98	£536.30	£341.09	£821.15
0.3 to 0.4	3	£536.30	£794.52	£821.15	£884.31
0.4 to 0.5	4	£794.52	£794.52	£884.31	£1,010.64
0.5 to 0.6	5	£794.52	£794.52	£1,010.64	£1,010.64
0.6 to 1.0	6	£794.52	No pupils	£1,010.64	No pupils

Those schools still adversely affected by the IDACI changes will be helped to some extent by an increase to the AWPU values (worth £2m in total) and the operation of the Minimum Funding Guarantee.

- **Funding 2016-17**

Summary-level breakdowns of the 2016-17 funding allocation to schools and academies were provided, one showing the overall differences in funding allocated on each factor in comparison to 2014-15 the other breaking those differences down between the primary and secondary sectors as well as detailing any differences in the value of the funding factors.

Overall the funding allocation has increased by £3.82m as a result of having more children in schools and academies in the borough. Internal savings on some of the additional need factors meant that the amount allocated via Age-Weighted Pupil Units is £5.49m higher than the previous year. The main factors underlying the difference between these two figures are a movement of £490k out of the secondary IDACI allocation (see above), £970k mainly out of the primary low prior attainment factor (improved outcomes, assessment methodology change) and £202k from amalgamated school transitional support. The primary to secondary funding per pupil ratio for 2016-17 is 1 to 1:2755, very similar to the declared national average of 1 to 1.28.

Aside from the IDACI factor value changes shown in the above table the AWPU values have increased in comparison to 2015-16 – Primary by £29.23 (+1.06%), KS3 by £60.89 (+1.55%) and KS4 by £75.16 (+1.55%). The secondary rates show a higher increase because of the transfer of £490k out of the secondary IDACI budget into secondary AWPU.

5. National Funding Formula arrangements – launch of consultation

On Monday this week the Department for Education launched two consultations, one on the introduction of a national funding formula for mainstream schools and academies and one on future High Needs funding arrangements. [A third consultation on Early Years funding arrangements will be launched later in the year]. The response deadline for the two current consultations is Sunday 17th April. The focus for the major part of today's business was to

work through the consultation document proposals and record Schools Forum's response to each of the 39 questions asked (25 on the NFF proposals, 14 on the High Needs proposals). Officers agreed to submit the responses on behalf of Schools Forum. A draft version will be circulated amongst Forum members to give chance for comment / amendment before the on-line response is submitted. A copy of the agreed responses will be circulated with the papers for the next agenda.

Both consultations have two stages. This first stage is about establishing the principles and the framework structure for the proposed changes. The second stage, to be launched sometime during the Summer term, will release details about exactly how the revised funding methods will work. The main points under each consultation are listed below.

The Schools National Funding Formula

- The NFF will be introduced in 2017-18 in two stages
- 2017-18 and 2018-19 the NFF will determine the overall schools block allocation to each local authority
- For these two years the LA in consultation with Schools Forum will determine how the total funding is distributed to schools / academies [**'Soft' NFF**]
- From 2019-20 the NFF will apply at school-level with funding going direct to schools and academies via the national method [**'Hard' NFF**]
- The proposed NFF factors more or less match the current framework of factors, but..
- New measures will be used in the Low Prior Attainment factor
- EAL3 will be used for English as an Additional Language [Kirklees uses EAL1]
- Funding for business rates, split site costs, PFI and exceptional premises will be funded at historic spending levels during the 'soft' years
- Looked-after Children will cease to be a factor used – LAC will instead be funded via Pupil Premium Plus arrangements
- The NFF will include a growth factor to acknowledge planned basic need growth
- There will also be an area cost adjustment built in to acknowledge the higher costs of employment in certain parts of England.
- Pupil Mobility and Post-16 funding will not be factors in the NFF [Kirklees don't use]
- An exercise will be carried out with LAs to re-baseline the three Dedicated Schools Grant funding blocks – Schools, High Needs and Early Years – to reflect current spending patterns rather than the initial EFA allocations to the three blocks
- In future 100% of the Schools Block must be distributed to schools
- Local authorities will be able to use previously accumulated DSG reserves
- There is potential for local variation to deepen the permitted loss per pupil in the application of a minimum funding guarantee during the 'soft' phase.
- Schools Forum retains its current role for 2017-18 and 2018-19 with a review planned from first principles of its role, functions and membership for 2019-20 onwards
- De-delegation arrangements for maintained schools will be withdrawn from 2019-20 but it is possible to trade the services instead
- Further information, guidance and support to improve financial health and efficiency
- Invest to Save fund will help schools secure savings
- A new pupil-allocated Central Schools Block of funding will replace the current retained DSG and the retained duties elements of the current Education Services Grant
- There will be an exercise conducted by the EFA to agree historic spending commitments that need to be honoured within the CSB and reflected in how it is set

- The Education Services Grant will cease at the end of August 2017 to coincide with the expectation that LAs will step back by then from running local school improvement
- DfE is looking at whether other statutory duties can be removed from LAs to help save more money.

High Needs Funding arrangements

- There is a need to build on the recent changes brought in by the Children and Families Act 2014 and the introduction of the High Needs Funding Block which has responsibilities for SEN / disabilities from birth to the age of 25.
- Formulaic approach to allocate High Needs funding to local authorities in future
- Better communication about how the system is expected to work
- Better decision-making by frontline professionals, both in local authorities and in schools / colleges
- Growing mismatch between the current high needs allocation to LAs and their need to spend reinforces the case for change
- The majority of high needs funding will continue to be distributed to local authorities
- The national high needs formula will use proxy measures to allocate funds to LAs
- Its factors are proposed to be low attainment, health / disability, deprivation, child population and a basic pupil / student entitlement factor
- There will be an adjustment made to reflect whether the authority is a net importer or net exporter of special school children
- There will be an allowance for Alternative Provisions based upon overall pupil population and deprivation levels
- Hospital education will continue to be funded on current spending levels but EFA may use in-patient data in future to inform the funding distribution
- There will be an area cost adjustment to match the approach taken in the schools NFF
- There will be reference back to the current overall level of spend and a phased transition to the new high needs arrangements over at least a five-year period
- Capital funding is available to develop new specialist provision or expand existing provisions where there is a demonstrable need
- LAs encouraged to work collaboratively in regional or sub-regional groups to commission provision
- Schools and colleges encouraged to be more inclusive for pupils / students with SEN
- Support to all provisions to reduce some of their costs
- No changes to the way mainstream schools are funded for SEN / disability – still responsible for up to the first £6,000 per annum of additional support costs
- Special school places still funded at £10,000 per place per annum
- Local authorities still to allocate top-up for mainstream and special schools as appropriate
- Local authorities will no longer have to declare a Notional SEN budget – schools will receive guidance on how to determine what they should be spending on SEN issues
- Specialist Provisions will be funded at £6,000 per place (rather than £10,000) but pupils in the provision will also be funded via the main schools national formula.
- Further guidance to be issued on identifying and funding SEN disproportionality to support those schools that are particularly inclusive or have a high proportion of SEN high needs pupils
- EFA consulting on whether to fund independent special schools directly at £10,000 per place with LAs then supplying the top-up elements – LAs are currently responsible for both elements from their high needs block

- Further consultation later in the year on how to improve SEN support to Early Years settings
- Looking at ways that the Place funding approach could be extended to post-16 providers. Concept of special unit / resourced provision to be extended to FE and sixth form colleges

6. Any other business

No other business was raised.

Date and time of next meeting

Friday 24th June 2016 Tolson Museum 10.00 – 11.00am

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