

THE KIRKLEES SCHOOLS FORUM

meeting held on Friday 23^d March 2018

10:00am at the Tolson Museum, Huddersfield

Present:

Julie Helm	Nursery School Heads (1)
Marcus Newby, Jenny Shore	Primary School Heads (5)
Ian Ellam, Loz Wilson	High School Heads (2)
Anne Lawton	Special School Heads (1)
Sarah Wilson	Special Academy Heads (1)
Michelle Lee [Chair]	Academy Heads (3)
Martin Ridge	Pupil Referral Units (1)
Paul Davies	Kirklees Governors (1)
Gillian Collins (NEU – ATL section), Hazel Danson (NEU – NUT section)	Non-school members (5)
David Gearing (Financial Delegation Manager); [Minute Clerk] Jo-Anne Sanders (Acting Service Director – Learning & Early Support)	Officers in Support
	Observers

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Catherine Jubbs (Academies), Claire Minogue (Primary School heads), Paula Wescott (NASUWT), Martin Wilby (Officers in support) and Diana Wilson (Primary School heads).

2. Minutes of the Schools Forum Public meeting held on 1st December

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

3. Matters arising from the Schools Forum Public meeting 1st December

3.1 Forum membership update

Officers confirmed that the process to seek nominations from the academy sector for the vacant third representative position on the Schools Forum had been launched and there have been a couple of expressions of interest so far. The next stage will be to hold a ballot to elect the representative from the nominations received with an aim of having someone in place for the Forum meeting on 4th May.

4. Kirklees Education & Learning Partnership Board (standing item)

The last Board meeting had been significantly affected by the extreme wintry weather – many of the membership had been unable to attend. The meeting had still gone ahead. Feedback had been provided to the Board about business considered at the School Improvement Committee. Three live consultations – on early education, keeping children safe and the mental health green paper were considered with responses to each being discussed, agreed and submitted. It was also agreed that the work of the Place Planning & Admissions Group should be taken on by the Board. The Kirklees Cultural Education Partnership was also discussed. The Partnership has been launched by the Arts Council and is already working alongside some local schools and is keen to work with others. The Partnership is chaired by Rob Vincent who will be attending the April KELPB meeting.

The Education Services Committee continues to work through the list of services trading with schools. The Procurement Service and Maintained School Banking were the topics scrutinised at last Friday's meeting. The School Governors meeting earlier this week had received a briefing about the work of the Committee when the Committee's work plan had been shared. [A commitment was given to add the work plan to the circulation of the next Forum minutes]. The recent School Business Managers Network meeting had also been briefed about KELPB and the work of the Education Services Committee in particular. Feedback from that meeting was mainly about the need for communication from the Board and its committees to be improved and how to ensure that the SBM network is able to feed thoughts and ideas into the work being undertaken.

5. 2018-19 School Budget Share allocations:

- **The final shape of 2018-19**

An example of a 2018-19 Schools Budget Share notification sheet was circulated to inform Forum how the new funding allocation has been explained to schools. The funding breakdown makes clear to schools those elements of their current allocation which are 'at risk' going forward because they reflect transitional cash protection over and above the funds allocated by the pure National Funding Formula values.

The first element of transitional protection affects all mainstream schools and academies alike and stems from an eleventh hour change that had to be made when submitting the figures to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Following a period of local consultation on the shape of 2018-19 funding arrangements it was decided that Kirklees would adopt the ESFA methodology to provide all schools with a minimum 0.5% increase in per pupil funding compared to their individual 2017-18 per pupil baseline. However, when this calculation had been performed there was still a significant amount of funds remaining to be allocated. The only common factor available to allocate the remaining money was the lump sum. £13,282 was the amount which needed to be added to the NFF lump sum value of £110,000 to spend up to the available budget level. This addition is currently paid for from the transitional cash protection allocated to Kirklees and therefore should be viewed as temporary support.

The major part of any transitional cash protection has been delivered through the Minimum Funding Guarantee Adjustment. Many schools and academies have received a support allocation via this factor to ensure that the 0.5% per pupil increase is delivered. The breakdown contains the full calculation to explain how the MFG support figure has been determined. Some schools and academies did not require the additional MFG support because the operation of the National Funding Formula alone was sufficient to lift them over the minimum 0.5% increase threshold.

Because 2019-20 allocations will also be based upon a similar 0.5% per pupil guaranteed rise it is anticipated that similar levels of cash protection will be present within next time's budget share allocation. Things become more uncertain from 2020, the beginning of the next government comprehensive spending review period, the consequences of which for school funding are not yet known. The Finance Team are hoping to pull together over the Easter Break a three-year projection tool for schools to use to explore different funding scenarios for the medium term.

- **Summary of Budget Shares 2018-19**

A comprehensive school-by-school summary of 2018-19 Budget Share outcomes for maintained schools and academies in Kirklees was circulated to the meeting. This summarised the information submitted to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in January together with any High Needs and Early Years funding allocations plus the main Pupil Premium and the Service Children Pupil Premium. [NB for the academies Pupil Premium amounts were not included in the analysis and the figures shown are subsequently added to by the ESFA in determining their General Annual Grant allocation].

The 2018-19 Budget Share figures are compared to the equivalent figure the school/academy was allocated for funding year 2017-18 to note the difference between the two years in both cash and percentage change terms. A note had also been included to show the difference in pupil numbers between the two years. A clear majority of schools have experienced an increase in funding between years, largely due to the minimum increase of 0.5% per pupil the DfE built into the 2018-19 settlement. The increase between years would then be added to if a school's pupil numbers had risen since 2017-18. Where a loss of funding was apparent between the two years it is almost always the result of a fall in number on roll.

Within the summary there were five academies still to finish off – confirmation of early years numbers from the January census is needed to be able to do this. It was pointed out that the Pupil Referral Unit budget shares are missing from the analysis. The summary file will be updated for both these issues and circulated to Forum members at the earliest opportunity.

6. Pupil Premium Plus – arrangements from April 2018 for supporting looked-after children etc

The meeting considered a briefing paper about arrangements to support looked-after children from April 2018.

The National Funding Formula does not include a looked-after children (LAC) funding factor. Any LAC funds previously allocated within local funding formulae have been transferred by the ESFA to the Pupil Premium grant funding stream from 2018-19. The two LAC-related Pupil Premium grants, collectively known as 'Pupil Premium Plus', will both see an increase in their funding value from £1,900 to £2,300.

The Post-LAC Premium arrangements are unchanged (save for the increase in value of the allocation). 'Post-LAC' refers to children who have ceased to be looked-after because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or a residence order. Post-LAC Premium has to be passed on directly to the child's school for the school to manage. Schools can take account any Post-LAC Premium allocation when setting their budget plan.

The LAC Premium in respect of children who were looked-after for at least one day during the last SSDA903 census return period is initially allocated to each local authority's Virtual School Head (Janet Tolley is the Kirklees VSH) who must use the Premium "*without delay for the benefit of the looked-after child's educational needs as described in their Personal Education Plan (PEP).*" The Premium is not to be regarded as an individual entitlement per child. Schools must apply via the e-PEP system to secure LAC premium funds to support the education needs of their LAC children. Funding provided will be determined by reference to

the analysis of need explained in the child's PEP. Some children will require little or no support, but other needs may require far more than the individual LAC Premium value.

The Kirklees Virtual School's updated Pupil Premium Plus Strategy document was also made available to the meeting by way of background reading. It was also mentioned that the Virtual School Head is looking to set up a focus group with head teacher membership to help determine best practice and the way forward for Pupil Premium Plus.

7. High Needs Strategic Review update

Unfortunately, Mandy Cameron, Head of Service for Education Safeguarding and Inclusion, had been unable to stay for this part of the morning's proceedings. The agenda papers included the presentation slides used at the High Needs 'visioning' event held at the John Smith's Stadium earlier in the week. The slides had also been shared at a recent Primary Head Teacher briefing. It was requested that the slides be distributed more widely.

Over the forthcoming Easter Break officers intend to develop and refine a strategic high needs action plan following the recent period of local consultation and feedback received at the visioning event. Links will also be made to the ongoing work about Fair Access processes and permanent exclusions. It is intended that the action plan will be widely publicised and should be regarded as collective responsibility for all involved in the system to act upon.

8. Any other business

No other business was raised.

9. Date and time of next meeting

Friday 29th June 2018

Venue: Tolson Museum

Start: TBC