

# THE KIRKLEES SCHOOLS FORUM

## meeting held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015

### 10:00am at Huddersfield Town Hall

**Present:**

	Nursery School Heads (1)
Marcus Newby, Diana Wilson	Primary School Heads (6)
Gary Johnson	Middle School Heads (1)
Ian Ellam, Loz Wilson	High School Heads (2)
	Special School Heads (1)
Mike Cook, Michelle Lee [Chair]	Academy Heads (2)
Martin Ridge	Pupil Referral Units (1)
	Kirklees Governors (1)
Gillian Collins (ATL), Hazel Danson (NUT), Paula Westcott (NASUWT)	Non-school members (5)
Angela Farmer (Senior Finance Officer) 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 Sarah Ellis (Pre-school Learning Alliance), Lynn Hill (Primary School Heads), Anton McGrath (Post-16), Nicky Rogers (Special School Heads) and David Smith (Director of Resources).

#### 2. Minutes of the Schools Forum Public meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October

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

#### 3. Matters arising from the Schools Forum meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> October

No matters were raised.

#### 4. De-delegated Budgets 2016-17

At the last (Public) Schools Forum meeting it was agreed that the de-delegation questions should be referred to constituent group meetings to gather views from the maintained schools present on what the arrangements should be for funding year 2016-17. De-delegation was considered at the last Kirklees Primary Heads (KPH) and Kirklees High School Heads (KHSH) meetings. It was reported from both meetings that no objections were raised about continuing the current pattern of de-delegation into 2016-17. The draft de-delegation amounts per pupil for 2016-17 are listed in the table below.

De-delegation arrangement	Primary amount / pupil	Secondary amount / pupil
• School Contingency	-£13.40	-£16.79
• Free School Meal eligibility checks	-£1.03	-£1.29
• Maternity / paternity leave	-£16.25	-£20.37
• Trade Union Duties	-£5.72	Not de-delegated
• Public Duties	-£0.16	-£0.20
• International New Arrivals	-£1.58	-£1.98
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>-£38.14</b>	<b>-£40.63</b>

## 5. Centrally-retained Budgets 2016-17

Forum has previously agreed to reduce the Falling Rolls Fund by £100,000 and move the funding into the Pupil Growth Fund for 2016-17 in acknowledgement that the growth fund will have to pay for the pre-opening costs of the new primary free school (to be called Beaumont Primary Academy) opening in September 2016 to serve the Huddersfield South West area. Forum had also noted the new arrangements for school milk from April 2016 which means that the cost of administering the service will be recovered via a traded service, meaning the £26k admin costs budget can be removed from the central account. An unavoidable change that is needed is to increase the National Copyright Licence budget provision to cover the inclusion late last year of the Performing Rights Society and the Phonographic Performance Ltd licences. The 2015-16 charge has ended up as £287,400 against original provision of only £180,000.

The above changes have been reported to constituent group meetings with no objections raised to the proposed way forward.

Today's Forum briefing meeting considered the latest position in this year's Pupil Growth Fund account. This shows uncommitted funds of nearly £131k and this is now likely to be the declared outturn position. Forum agreed to roll this sum forward into the 2016-17 PGF account to deal with the new free school pre-opening costs rather than diverting funds from the Falling Rolls Fund to increase the PGF budget in 2016-17. The Falling Rolls Fund reduction by £100k still stands though. The table below summarises the change between years in the centrally-retained account. [NB The revised Copyright Licence figure builds in an estimated increase in charge level due to inflation and a rising local pupil population].

Centrally-retained item	Budget in 2015-16	Budget in 2016-17
• Pupil Growth Fund	£600,000	£600,000
• Falling Rolls Fund	£200,000	<b>£100,000</b>
• Servicing of Schools Forum	£31,000	£31,000
• School Admissions / Organisation & Planning	£833,500	£833,500
• Historic DSG pension commitments	£170,400	£170,400
• School Milk – administration costs	£26,000	<b>£0</b>
• School Safeguarding Officer	£48,400	£48,400
• Primary Sector Commissioning Fund	£171,500	£171,500
• Secondary Sector Commissioning Fund	£278,800	£278,800
• Provision for central Looked-after Children / Children Not in Education, Employment or Training	£45,100	£45,100
• National Copyright Licence invoice	£180,000	<b>£297,000</b>
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>£2,584,700</b>	<b>£2,575,700</b>

## 6. School Funding 2016-17

### 6.1 October 2015 census data update

The new data set for 2016-17 funding allocations had been issued by the Education Funding Agency yesterday afternoon. The 2016-17 Dedicated Schools Grant block allocations will follow sometime next week. Although the exact number of pupils to be funded in the DSG

Schools Block has still to be revealed, what is clear is that there are nearly 700 more children in the October 2015 census data than the year before. The increased number of pupils should bring into the system around £3.25m of additional funding for 2016-17. The first call on this sum will, somewhat obviously, be to fund those additional children in terms of age-weighted pupil unit allocations and the various support factors within the formula method. There may also be more general volume pressures that need to be addressed amongst those support funding factors. Any remaining funds will help to absorb the cost to the system of funding the Reception pupils in the new Primary Free School (to be called Beaumont Primary Academy) from September 2016.

All of the above needs to be worked through over the coming weeks with Forum being briefed on the outcomes at their briefing meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January. One issue from the new data set that is of particular concern is a change to the IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index) methodology. The figures are now based upon the September 2015 measures of deprivation which have a wider set of bandings (10 as opposed to the previous 7). This new information has then been reworked by the EFA into the existing banding structure (Band 0 to Band 6) used in the data set. An analysis of the numbers of pupils counted amongst these bands for 2016-17 compared to the previous year was tabled. This clearly shows a significant shift to the left in the numbers of pupils identified to the individual bands for both the primary and secondary sectors. In Band 0, which encompasses the lowest level of deprivation and cannot attract support funding, there are 3,922 more pupils than last year. Across Bands 1 and 2 there are 4,815 more pupils than last year but in Bands 3 to 6, reflecting the highest levels of deprivation, there are 7,867 fewer children identified, with no children at all now showing in the most deprived category of Band 6. If the current factor values were to be applied to the new data then the formula would allocate only £12m of IDACI funding in 2016-17 compared to £17.1m in 2015-16. Options need to be worked up to consider how the £5.1m difference should be re-applied. The two simplest options to be illustrated would be to simply move the £5.1m into basic AWPU funding or retain the £5.1m within the IDACI distribution and increase the factor values to match. Combinations of these two approaches will also be looked at and options will be presented to the 15<sup>th</sup> January Forum meeting at which a choice will need to be made. Everything else about the 2016-17 Schools Block formula allocation will be summarised for that meeting so that Kirklees' submission to the EFA can be made by the 21<sup>st</sup> January deadline.

## **6.2 Implications from the Chancellor's Autumn Statement**

The Chancellor's Autumn Statement mentions that a new national schools funding formula will start to be introduced from 2017 and that there will be a consultation launched about this in the new calendar year. It was also announced that the Education Services Grant will be further reduced. This will entail removing some local authority statutory responsibilities. It remains to be seen what these changes are and whether the responsibilities will shift to schools instead. It is also not clear yet whether there will be a matching reduction to the value of ESG allocated to academies for the additional responsibilities they currently take on.

## **7. Cabinet paper update**

The 2016-17 funding submission to the Education Funding Agency has to be registered with them by 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016. Political sign-off for the submission has to be indicated in the return. A draft version of the Cabinet report on School Funding arrangements will be considered by the portfolio holders next week. The final report will go to Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> January. Due to timing issues, the report will have to make reference to further discussions to

be held with Forum to resolve the issue that has arisen from the re-working of the IDACI data set (see item 6.1 above).

### **8. Any other business**

No other business was raised.

### **Dates and times of next meetings [start times to be confirmed]**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Tolson Museum

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Tolson Museum

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