

Sefton Schools Forum Minutes

Minutes of Sefton Schools' Forum Meeting

Monday 13th January 2020 1.30pm

PDC, Formby

Forum Members present:

In attendance:

Chair: Isobel MacDonald-Davies

Alice Apel, Gil Bourgade, Niki Craddock, Tricia Davies, Cathy Earley, Anna James, Sue Kerwin, Ian Parry, Amanda Ryan, Julian Ward

SMBC Officers present:

Nick Carbonaro, Mark Chambers, Tricia Davies, Nicola Robson, Nicola Walsh

Others present:

Olivia Williams (Liverpool Echo Sefton's Local Democracy Reporter)

		Actions
1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Daniel MacAreavy, Dorothy Lee-Ogden, Kevin McBlain, Toni Oxtan-Grant, Erin Wheeler</p>	
2	<p>Minutes from the last meeting</p> <p>Minutes were agreed</p>	
3	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify link members between sub groups and forum. Link members have been agreed (Mark Chambers - High Needs & Cathy Earley – Early Years), still working through the reporting process for the groups. Early Years forum agreed to only feedback an update once minutes have been ratified, and will be one meeting behind when updating. • Finance to produce a breakdown report to be presented to Early Years Development Group. A report was produced and tabled, but more detail is required in the format seen 2 years ago (EYF to provide template to finance) showing breakdown by cost centre as well as where non-school money is allocated. • Finance will investigate and feedback the difference in costings of free meals funding between primary and secondary 	<p>ACTION: Finance to produce a detailed report showing cost centres</p>

	<p>A report was taken to SAPH & SASH outlining the discrepancy is due to a historical budget formula which will be addressed when moved to the National funding formula.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised comparisons showing different models of funding <p>Different models of funding were revised and presented to SAPH an SASH</p> <p>No other matters arising.</p>	
4	<p>Schools: High Needs Early years and Central Services Budgets for 2019/2020 (with Phased voting requirements) report and 6 appendices</p> <p>For Approval and Information</p> <p>Report pack presented by Mark Chambers – Please refer to the report for details of the information given.</p> <p>The aim of the report was to</p> <p>To provide members with information on the 2020/21 proposed funding allocations to Early Years; High Needs; Individual Schools Budgets and the Central Schools Services Block (including delegation and de-delegation) on which Schools Forum are asked to formally approve as required.</p> <p>To note the intention of the Local Authority to submit the final Authority Proforma Tool (APT) Return on Schools funding to the DfE by the deadline of 21st January 2020 to enable School Budgets to be set for 2020/21. This will be based on the agreed approach to the Schools formula after consultation with schools.</p> <p>The Schools Forum noted and/or agreed the following recommendations:</p> <p>The overall DSG funding for 2020/21 and the allocation assigned to each of the 4 funding blocks including any adjustments to be made.</p> <p>The Local Authority recommendations in support of the Individual Schools Budgets (ISBs) for 2020/21 (before any de-delegation from Maintained Schools), and in line with the general direction given by SAPH and SASH during November/December 2019, on the approach to apply to the schools formula; and note the provision of the APT Return in respect of the Schools Formula after reducing the Block funding for: the contribution by the Schools Block towards High Needs budget pressures in 2020/21 (as agreed previously by Schools Forum); and for the Infant Class size/Pupil Growth contingency adjustments (subject to approval by schools, below)</p> <p>The provision of funding for High Needs in 2020/21, and the continuing review of High Needs by the LA, in conjunction with schools, throughout the early part of 2020,</p>	

to try to make efficiencies and reduce/contain expenditure in 2020/21.

The provision of funding for Early Years and the intention of the LA to increase the base hourly rates payable to all EY Providers for 2; 3 and 4-Year-old childcare by £0.10p p hour from 1 April 2020.

The contribution from the Early Years funding Block towards High Needs budget pressures in 2020/21, as determined by the LA.

The Forum were asked to agree by voting the following

(Prior to the votes Academy Heads wanted to raise the fact that due to their funding running from September to September, there will be a full-term lag in funding, behind maintained schools, who's funding runs from April, when adjusting for in year growth of 10+ or 20+ students, resulting in a £15K shortfall. And it was requested that this is addressed next year as part of the modelling process).

**ACTION:
Finance to consider Academy funding when modelling future year**

The Forum was asked

- 1. To agree by a vote**, to the proposed contingency allocation of **£0.600m** in support of significant pre-16 pupil growth in 2020/21 and in compliance with KS1 infant class size legislation and as described in **Paras 3.7 to 3.10 below (ALL Primary and Secondary School Phases to vote)**

Votes

For	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

Carried - Agreed

- 2. To agree by a vote** to support the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) funding allocation as proposed (totalling £1.150m 20/21) with associated services. **See Paras 6.1 to 6.5 below (ALL Primary and Secondary School Phases to vote)**

(Prior to vote 2 it was confirmed that there is no proposed change to what is included in the Central Block, that there is some tapering off of historical funding and that traded facilities do not come under this funding).

Votes

For	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

Carried - Agreed

3. **To agree by a vote** to the rates to be applied against Maintained Schools funding for 2020/21, in recovery of statutory costs incurred by the Local Authority on their behalf. This item was originally agreed as a de-delegated item in 2018/19 and 2019/20; and will need to be agreed for 2020/21 by Forum today. Costs are treated as de-delegated through the APT and raised through a charge per pupil for Primary and Secondary schools of £19.14; £47.62 per Place for Special schools; £47.62 for AP Places; and £28.55 per FTE place at Nursery schools. **See Paras 7.1 to 7.3 below (Maintained Schools only to vote by phase as required, but including Primary; Secondary; Special/AP and Maintained Nursery Phases)**

(Prior to this vote it was confirmed that the figure has gone up slightly due to a slightly lower number of schools accessing services. There was a discussion relating to some Phases not accessing all of the services and a request for Finance to produce a breakdown of cost to ensure Value for Money.)

ACTION:
Finance to provide detailed breakdown to ensure value for Money

Votes by Phase

Nursery

For	Against	Abstention
1	0	0

Primary

For	Against	Abstention
3	0	0

Secondary

For	Against	Abstention
2	0	0

Carried - Agreed

4. **To agree, by a vote** of the Maintained Schools Sector only, the basis for and, de-delegation of further specific central services as shown in **para 7.6 Items A to E below**, to be pooled centrally by the local authority to provide a service to all 'maintained' schools. **(Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools Only to vote by phase, as necessary)**

Votes by Phase

Primary

For	Against	Abstention
3	0	0

Secondary

For	Against	Abstention
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	<p>For noting</p> <p>Update by Cathy Earley</p> <p>As minuted in Matters Arising, The Early Years Sub Group requested a finance report and this was not as detailed as requested, the forum will provide a template previously used for finance to complete. The Sub Group have requested clarification on the Yearly Years and DAF underspend, a training needs analysis has been completed and it is hoped the underspend can pay for some training requirements, including SENCO training for Early Years, which it is hoped will pay dividends later through schooling years.</p>	<p>ACTION: Finance to update the Sub Group on the underspend</p>
8	<p>High Needs Funding Workshop Sub Group</p> <p>For noting</p> <p>Update by Mark Chambers</p> <p>The Forum were informed that there is a £4.4 million pound overspend in the High Needs funding and the High Needs Panel is still meeting, it is anticipated that year end will be £4.5 million pounds overspend, due to some time lag and applications by exception due to EHCP's. A 3-year recovery plan for DFE is being developed to outline how the funding will be brought within budget. It is forecast that there will be £4 million pounds increase in high needs funding for 2020/2021. However, it is unclear what the actual SEND spend is across all schools and a proforma has been send to ascertain what schools spend from their own budgets on SEND.</p>	
9	<p>AOB</p> <p>For information</p> <p>The Forum discussed additional funding streams that are available to all schools to apply for. It was agreed that there should always be transparency and equality when promoting and additional funding, to ensure parity across schools.</p>	
10	<p>Date and Time of the next meeting</p> <p>Monday 16th March 2020, 1.30pm, Formby PDC</p>	