

# MINUTES OF MEETING

**Meeting title:** Nottinghamshire Schools Forum  
**Date and time:** 07 December 2017, 2pm to 4pm  
**Location:** National Watersports Centre, NG12 2LU

## Membership

*'A' denotes absence*

	Mr A Rossington	Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Bassetlaw)
	Mrs H Atkins	Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Mansfield) – (Vice Chair)
	Mrs H Richardson	Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Newark)
A	Ms L Regan	Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Ashfield)
	Ms L Toom	Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Rushcliffe)
A	Mr A Nash	Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Broxtowe)
	Vacancy	Maintained Secondary Head Teacher
A	Mr C Weaver	Academy Representative
	Mr D Vasey	Academy Representative
	Mr J McGeachie	Academy Representative
	Vacancy	Academy Representative
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A	Ms D Wigley	Special School Head Teacher
A	Mr A O'Malley	Academy Special School Head Teacher
A	Mr T Colton	Governor - Maintained Secondary
	Ms V Holland	Governor - Maintained Primary
	Vacancy	Governor
	Vacancy	Governor
	Vacancy	Governor
A	Ms C Walton	PVI - Early Years Group Member
	Ms K O'Connell	PVI - Early Years Group Member
	Mr C Cuomo	Diocesan Representative - (Chair)
A	Ms C Meese	Diocesan Representative
A	Ms L Maddison	Trades Union Representative
	Mr J Jefferies	Trades Union Representative

## ***In attendance:***

Mr C Pettigrew	Corporate Director – Children, Families and Cultural Services
Mrs M Clay	Service Director – Education Standards & Inclusion
Mrs S Summerscales	Senior Finance Business Partner, CFCS Finance
Mrs I Kakoullis	Group Manager – Early Childhood Services
Mrs L Foster	Group Manager - Education Standards and Inclusion
Mr S Edwards	Service Director, Youth Families & Social Work
Mr S Hawkins	Finance Business Partner, CFCS Finance

1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Carlo Cuomo welcomed all members to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Adrian Nash, Dawn Wigley, Adrian O'Malley, Tony Colton, Chris Walton and Claire Meese</p>	
3.	<p><b>Minutes of the Schools Forum 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017</b></p> <p>Joe Jeffries stated that he had been missed from the apologies.</p> <p>Minutes were agreed as accurate</p>	<b>ACTION</b>
4.	<p><b>Item 4a - Election update and revision of Schools Forum constitution</b></p> <p>Carlo Cuomo introduced the 'Operational and good practice guide for Schools Forums' that had been released by the ESFA in September 2017 and explained that a review of Nottinghamshire's Schools Forum's constitution should be carried out in accordance with the document in the near future.</p> <p>Marion Clay gave an update on the on-going process for electing School Forum members to vacant positions.</p> <p>Marion explained that there had been seven nominations received for the four vacant academy representative posts and that a ballot would now take place with each Governing body being able to return a vote by the 28<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p>Marion confirmed that academies who convert after the beginning of the election process will not be eligible to vote.</p> <p>Carlo Cuomo requested a Forum member to volunteer to be present at the count of the ballot on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018.</p> <p>Helen Atkins volunteered.</p> <p>Marion confirmed that only one nomination had been received for the maintained primary representative vacancy so the Education Trust Board had been able to elect Andrew Rossington.</p>	
	<p><b>Item 4b – 2018-19 Schools Funding and Local Funding Formula Consultation</b></p> <p>Sue Summerscales introduced the paper and recapped the process that had been undertaken in producing the consultation.</p> <p>Sue informed members that the response rate from Schools had been 11.7% and directed members to appendix F for the response by question.</p> <p>Sue explained the options available to NCC should the final Schools Block and pupil characteristics give an affordability gap. An affordability gap could occur due to factors such as Non domestic rates for schools increasing in 2018/19 although NCC's allocation will be based on the 2017/18 APT.</p> <p>Sue drew attention to the disapplication requests referenced in paragraphs 15 to 17 that had been submitted by NCC and were still awaiting approval.</p> <p>Carlo Cuomo informed members that a minor request had already been approved on the morning of the meeting (7 December).</p> <p>Voting on the consultation questions began.</p>	

Question 1 - Do you agree that Nottinghamshire should transition the local funding formula to mirror the national funding formula as far as possible for 2018-19?

Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions
7	1	0

Question 2 - In order to transition to the NFF the local authority may need to make a number of technical adjustments to Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) funding tool (APT).

Do you agree that a disapplication request can be made to the Secretary of State to allow the local authority to make the necessary adjustments to the ESFA funding tool to enable the transition to the NFF?

Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions
8	0	0

Question 3 - Do you agree with the proposal to transfer 0.5% from the total schools block funding to the high needs block? Financial modelling at Appendix B and C.

Dick Vasey instigated a discussion before the vote took place. He explained that academies in Ashfield had contacted him with concerns about the fairness of the transfer as many schools are already investing in children with high needs and feel it would be unfair to transfer funds from them.

James Mcgeachie explained that Rushcliffe Academies were against the transfer.

Ly Toom stated that Rushcliffe primaries had discussed this and were concerned that should the transfer be rejected, all schools would be affected by reductions in other services as per the modelling provided with the consultation.

Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions
2	4	2

Ly Toom asked what happens to the 2018/19 budgets following the vote against the transfer of funds.

Sue Summerscales confirmed that the decision would lie with the LA.

Colin Pettigrew stated that the LA have to set a legal budget.

Question 4 - In order to transition the LFF to the NFF as far as possible, the local authority will need to set an MFG between 0% and 0.5%. Are you in agreement with this proposal?

Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions
8	0	0

Question 5 - In order to transition the LFF to the NFF as far as possible, the local authority will need to adopt a gains cap of between 2.5% and 3%.

Are you in agreement with this proposal?

Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions
8	0	0

Question 6 - As a representative of a maintained primary school, do you agree to the de-delegation of the following in 2018-19:

	For	Against	Abstained
Free school meals eligibility assessment?	5	0	0
Support to underperforming ethnic minority groups and bilingual learners?	5	0	0
Contingency for crisis communications?	5	0	0

As a representative of a maintained secondary school, do you agree to the de-delegation of the following in 2018-19:

There were members eligible to vote in attendance

Question 7 - Do you agree with the proposal to change the deprivation funding criteria from FSM eligibility to an allowance which would enable providers to attend monthly multi-agency meetings for a maximum of 4 hours per month?

Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions
2	1	5

Question 8 - Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the hourly rate by 1p for 2, 3 and 4 year olds to create an Early Years SEN Inclusion Fund?

Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions
1	0	7

#### **Item 4c - Central Early Years Funding 2018-19**

Irene Kakoullis introduced the paper and explained the funding allocation table on page 4 of the report.

Karen O'Connell requested a working group review the central commitments prior to the consultation for 2019/20.

Val Holland requested information on the work carried out by the inclusion service. Marion gave information on the role they play in schools, PVIs and children's homes.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Schools Forum Approves the proposal by Nottinghamshire County Council to retain £1,057,607 of early years funding to be used for central early years functions as described in the appendix.

Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions
8	0	0

#### **Item 4d - Primary Partnerships Underspend 2016-17**

Linda Foster introduced the paper and explained the reasons for the carry forward of funds being required.

Dick Vasey expressed concerns about funding from the High Needs block not being spent in year.

Helen Atkins explained the importance of the Primary Partnerships receiving these funds due to commitments having been made against the funds.

	<p>Helen Atkins stated that the role and agenda of Primary Partnerships had become unclear and that guidance was required from the LA</p> <p>Helen Richardson asked if NCC were aware of what commitments against the requested carry forwards were. Linda Foster explained that it was not known in all cases.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b> That the Schools Forum approves the carry forward of the £0.185 million Primary Partnerships underspend from 2016/17 into 2017/18.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="183 501 1292 573"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="183 501 564 539">Votes for</th> <th data-bbox="564 501 943 539">Votes against</th> <th data-bbox="943 501 1292 539">Abstentions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="183 539 564 573">6</td> <td data-bbox="564 539 943 573">0</td> <td data-bbox="943 539 1292 573">2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions	6	0	2	
Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions						
6	0	2						
	<p><b>Item 4e - Tackling Emerging Threats to Children Update</b></p> <p>Steve Edwards and Rachel Miller arrived at the meeting to give an update on the TETC programme of services.</p> <p>Steve Edwards informed the Forum that 300 schools and academies had opted into the programme and that much positive feedback had been received.</p> <p>Helen Atkins asked for clarification on the ability of schools who had not opted in to the programme to access the level two support workers.</p> <p>Rachel confirmed that schools who had not opted in could not access the workers.</p> <p>Linda Foster suggested that non TETC work could be bought from the level two workers as a sold service outside of the programme.</p> <p>Helen Atkins also feedback that schools had been disappointed that not all pint size theatre productions had been free as stated in the original proposal.</p> <p>Steve Edwards apologised and said this had now been made clear in more recent communication.</p>							
5	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>Sue informed the Forum that the disapplication request to give 19 schools and academies the 'sustainability factor' payment that was no longer eligible in the EYNFF out of the DSG reserve for 2017/18 only had been approved.</p> <p>Colin Pettigrew informed members that a letter would be sent to schools on the 8<sup>th</sup> December to inform them that NCC's charges for the academy conversion process would now be £7,000 or actual costs if lower than £7,000.</p> <p>This decision had followed a letter from Lord Nash to LAs and was in recognition of the previously used £10,000 flat rate charge being a disincentive to schools to convert.</p>							
6.	<p><b>Confidentiality</b></p> <p>No items were identified as confidential.</p>							
	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="183 1957 1240 1998"> <tr> <td data-bbox="183 1957 625 1998">8 February 2018</td> <td data-bbox="625 1957 1240 1998">National Watersports Centre</td> </tr> </table>	8 February 2018	National Watersports Centre					
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