

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting title: Nottinghamshire Schools Forum
Date and time: 8 February 2018, 2pm to 4pm
Location: National Watersports Centre, NG12 2LU

Membership

'A' denotes absence

	Mr A Rossington	Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Gedling)
	Mrs H Atkins	Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Mansfield) – (Vice Chair)
A	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	Ms L Corner-Brown	Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Broxtowe)
	Vacancy	Maintained Secondary Head Teacher
	Mr C Weaver	Academy Representative
A	Mr D Vasey	Academy Representative
A	Mr J McGeachie	Academy Representative
	Vacancy	Academy Representative
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	Ms D Wigley	Special School Head Teacher
	Mr A O'Malley	Academy Special School Head Teacher
	Mr T Colton	Governor - Maintained Secondary
A	Ms V Holland	Governor - Maintained Primary
	Vacancy	Governor
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	Ms K Richards	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 (substitute was sent S.Dennis)
A	Ms L Maddison	Trades Union Representative
	Mr J Jefferies	Trades Union Representative

In attendance:

Mrs M Clay	Service Director – Education Learning and Skills
Mrs L Foster	Acting Group Manager – Support to Schools Service
Ms K Hughman	Fair Access – Lead Officer
Mr C Savage	Principal Educational Psychologist
Mr M Rooney	Team Manager – SEND
Mr P Gray	High Needs Consultant
Mr S Hawkins	Finance Business Partner, Children & Families Finance
Mrs T Gardner (Clerk)	Assistant Account, Children & Families Finance

1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Carlo Cuomo welcomed all members to the meeting and introductions were made.</p>	
	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from Louise Regan, Helen Richardson, Lynn Corner-Brown, Dick Vasey, James McGeachie, Claire Meese and Lorraine Maddison.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the Schools Forum 7th December 2017</p> <p>Item 4a – paragraph 4 date should read 19th March 2018. Item 4d – Linda Foster confirmed that partnerships would need to have a carry forward, and after a conversation with Aaron Connor from NCC’s schools finance team, it was confirmed this is possible. The reference to the carry forward only be allowable for one year only needed to be removed as this may not be the case.</p> <p>Minutes were agreed as accurate.</p>	ACTION
3.	<p>Minutes of the Schools Forum 10th January 2018</p> <p>Page 3 –The Local Authority was asked whether they had looked at other authorities to see what they were doing to manage pressures in their High Needs Blocks. Marion Clay – We are only aware of Local Authorities that have requested a transfer to their High Needs blocks. Peter Gray was unaware of authorities that have resolved their issues, but said that if he finds any he will inform both the Local Authority and Forum members.</p> <p>Minutes were agreed as accurate.</p>	
4.	<p>4a – High Needs Block Budget Pressure Options</p> <p>Linda Foster presented the paper, detailing the need to reduce projected expenditure by £3 million to ensure that the High Needs Block does not overspend again in 2018/19.</p> <p>Paragraph 9 and 10 (Independent Non Maintained and Alternative Provision) was explained in detail.</p> <p>Charles Savage talked through the AFN and FNF formula and outlined the two possible options to replace the prior attainment element.</p> <p>Members were advised that the overspend was not a final end of year figure and could change, and that there could possibly be an issue for 2019-20.</p> <p>Adrian O’Malley asked if the reductions were for 2018/19 only? Steve Hawkins – The reductions are for 2018-19 we would need to re-look at possible reductions for 2019-20 closer to the time. Carlo Cuomo – explained that the current actions are quick actions and that work still needs to be carried out.</p> <p>Steve Hawkins presented and explained the models that accompanied the reports, there were two model, one with savings in both the central and the devolved budgets (appendix 2) and one with savings in the devolved budget only (appendix 3).</p> <p>Craig Weaver welcomed appendix 2, and felt appendix 3 would have a greater impact on what the schools could offer their pupils.</p> <p>Adrian O’Malley asked if Partnerships were spending their allocations?</p>	

Carlo Cuomo explained this had been discussed over the last two meetings and concerns had been raised.

It was suggested that any balances carried forward would need clarification.
Helena Atkins welcomed working in an open and transparent way with finance,

Adrian O'Malley asked how partnership money follows a child going into an Independent Non Maintained (INM) school?

Marion Clay stated that partnership funding needs more rigorous auditing.

Adrian O'Malley stated that places were needed in special schools as there are currently no places for key stage transfer into schools

Marion Clay added that to address the INM problem Nottinghamshire need a local solution and explained that it costs around 50% more if a child is placed in a INM.

Steve Hawkins presented model 3a and 3b which demonstrates the changes to the AFN and FNF formula. 3a was re-designating the prior attainment allocation to free school meals (FSM) and pupil numbers, 3b was re-designating the allocation only to FSM.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Schools Forum:

1. Notes the content of the report – report was noted
2. Decides on a method to reduce the forecast high needs block expenditure in 2018/19

Appendix 2 (Yellow)	Appendix 3 (Blue)	Abstentions
8	1	0

3. Decides on the new formula for devolving AFN and FNF funding and whether these should become one combined budget allocation.

3a (FSM and Pupil no)	3b (FSM only)	Abstentions
7	1	1

Charles Savage explained how some schools use the AFN and FNF funding, the history of the formula, how it's changed, that the formula remains the same but by simplifying this it gives the schools more freedom.

It was agreed that the AFN and FNF should be combined and become a single AFN budget allocation

4b – 2018-19 Funding Formula Update

Steve Hawkins presented the paper, and explained that while Nottinghamshire wanted to carry out the High Needs transfer on a per pupil amount outside the formula to ensure all schools contributed, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) stipulated that it had to be done within the formula as doing it outside is not in the spirit of the formula itself.

Steve then went on to explain the minimum per pupil factor as this was a new factor for 2018-19.

Steve Hawkins gave an explanation on how the transfer from the schools block had been made. This was achieved by using the ESFA's 2018/19 Minimum per pupil funding amounts, reducing the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) from 0.5% to

	<p>0.25% and reducing the Gains Cap from 3% to 2.75%, to enable as many schools as possible to contribute to the transfer.</p> <p>Steve Hawkins confirmed that the schools budgets had been approved by the ESFA.</p>									
	<p>4c – Schools Forum Constitution update.</p> <p>Members were informed of the work Linda McCarthy had carried out on the document proposals.</p> <p>Carlo Cuomo suggested that instead of members going through the document page by page in the current meeting a small working group could be formed to go through the document and carry out this work on behalf of the Forum.</p> <p>Craig Weaver agreed that a working group would be sensible.</p> <p>Carlo Cuomo requested interested parties put their name forward to the clerk at the end of the meeting, and mentioned that a good variety of members was required for a fair representation. He requested that the working group report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>Members were informed that the count for the academy representatives and governor nominations would take place on the 19th March 2018 at the Governor Trust Board.</p> <p>Toni Gardner informed members that Val Holland had resigned which meant we had another vacancy for a governor and we she would proceed to advertise this position.</p> <p>Member who came forward for the working group:-</p> <p>Anne Hall Tony Colton Dawn Wigley Craig Weaver Andrew Rossington Ly Toom Joe Jeffries Karen O’Connell</p> <p>NCC Officers to be present would be Marion Clay and Sue Summerscales.</p>									
<p>5.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There was no additional business to discuss.</p>									
<p>6.</p>	<p>Confidentiality</p> <p>No items were identified as confidential.</p>									
<p>7.</p>	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="183 1816 1238 1973"> <tr> <td>Tuesday 5th June 2018</td> <td>2-4pm National Watersports Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday 18th September 2018</td> <td>2-4pm National Watersports Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 18th October 2018</td> <td>2-4pm National Watersports Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 6th December 2018</td> <td>2-4pm National Watersports Centre</td> </tr> </table>	Tuesday 5 th June 2018	2-4pm National Watersports Centre	Tuesday 18 th September 2018	2-4pm National Watersports Centre	Thursday 18 th October 2018	2-4pm National Watersports Centre	Thursday 6 th December 2018	2-4pm National Watersports Centre	
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