

Meeting title: Nottinghamshire Schools Forum
Date and time: 6 December 2018, 2pm to 4pm
Location: National Watersports Centre, NG12 2LU

Membership

'A' denotes absence

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--|
| | Mr A Rossington | Maintained Primary Head Teacher |
| | Mr B Waldram | Maintained Primary Head Teacher |
| A | Mrs H Atkins | Maintained Primary Head Teacher – (Vice Chair) |
| A | Ms L Regan | Maintained Primary Head Teacher |
| | Ms L Toom | Maintained Primary Head Teacher |
| | Ms L Corner-Brown | Maintained Primary Head Teacher |
| | Mr D Phillips | Maintained Secondary Head Teacher |
| | Mr A Seymour | Academy Representative |
| | Ms A Hall | Academy Representative |
| | Mr D Bell | Academy Representative |
| | Ms H Angus | Academy Representative |
| | Mr J MacDonald | Academy Representative |
| | Mr N Holmes | Academy Representative |
| | Vacancy | Academy Representative |
| | Ms D Wigley | Special School Head Teacher |
| | Ms P Corfield | Academy Special School Head Teacher |
| | Ms A Williams | Governor Maintained Primary |
| A | Ms F Jones | Governor Maintained Primary |
| A | Mr J Smalley | Governor Maintained Special |
| A | Mr T Colton | Governor Maintained Secondary |
| | Vacancy | Governor |
| | Ms K O'Connell | PVI - Early Years Group Member |
| | Ms K Richards | PVI - Early Years Group Member |
| | Mr C Cuomo | Diocesan Representative - (Chair) |
| | Ms C Meese | Diocesan Representative |
| | Mr J Jefferies | Trades Union Representative |
| | Ms L Maddison | Trades Union Representative |

In attendance:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Mr C Pettigrew | Corporate Director – Children & Families |
| Mrs M Clay | Service Director – Education, Learning and Skills |
| Mr L Jones | Service Director – Commissioning and Resources |
| Mrs I Kakoullis | Group Manager – Early Childhood Services |
| Ms L Foster | Group Manager |
| Mrs S Summerscales | Senior Finance Business Partner, Children & Families Finance |
| Mrs T Gardner (Clerk) | Assistant Accountant, Children & Families Finance |

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|----|--|---------------|
| 1. | <p>Welcome</p> <p>Carlo welcomed all members to the meeting.</p> | |
| | <p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from Helen Atkins, Fiona Jones and Tony Colton. Tony Colton has resigned from the school forum</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Minutes – 18th September 2018</p> <p>Trade union – ongoing discussion regards facilities. Minutes approved as accurate and correct</p> | ACTION |
| 3. | <p>Minutes – 18th October 2018</p> <p>Minutes approved as accurate and correct</p> | |
| 4. | <p>4a – High Needs Budget Monitoring</p> <p>Sue Summerscales presented the paper, and explained this was a forecast as at the end of October. Officers were currently working on the November figures and it was showing little change.</p> <p>David Phillips asked where there is an overspend, how had it been allowed to come about?</p> <p>Marion Clay advised that the High Needs Block has been bought to Forum over the past 2 years, the main reason for the overspends are access to EHC assessments and the statutory provision that follows. This will be discussed in more detail following this paper.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION/S</p> <p>That the Schools Forum:</p> <p>1. Note the contents of this report – report noted</p> | |
| | <p>4b. High Needs Update</p> <p>Marion Clay gave a verbal update on the pressures to the High Needs Block.</p> <p>We lose approximately 80% of tribunals, which in some cases results in a budget pressure of £80K for the next 6 years. Where there is provision, we do not have enough of it. Independent Non Maintained (INM) cost three times the amount of our special schools, with increasing numbers and the extension to the age range to 25.</p> <p>There is a paper going to Anthony May’s corporate leadership team to explain how and what has led to Nottinghamshire County Council being in this position.</p> <p>Sue Summerscales explained how we would report a deficit on our Non-ISB reserve. A deficit recovery plan is required if a deficit is 1% more than the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation. The DfE state that the DSG is a ring fenced grant and the Local Authority is not expected to fund any part of this, all deficits must be contained within it.</p> <p>Marion Clay – advised that due to this members around the table will need to make some difficult decisions. A meeting is being held at County Hall on the 19th December and all members are welcome, as we need to explore new ways of working together. It’s very important that we have a wide representation.</p> | |

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------|
| | <p>Laurence Jones – We need to collectively work together with parents, before it gets to a tribunal as at this point it's too late. Parents need to be assured of the local provision and what we can offer.</p> <p>Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) is one of the largest devolver of funds, with partnerships, this includes funds for exclusion. There is currently a Trust that is going to challenge the full cost recovery mechanise in court, if NCC lose it will be a cost to the High Needs Block.</p> <p>The paper for the 19th December is a confidential report which, we will send out to members that want to attend, a further meeting has been planned in for January 2019.</p> <p>Details for the 19th December – 10am County Hall Interested members – Amanda Williams, James MacDonald, Neil Holmes, Anne Hall, and David Phillips.</p> <p>David Bell asked the direction of travel</p> <p>Marion Clay advised reports and meetings have taken place with Council members and MP's who are raising the profile of the difficulties NCC are facing. There is a requirement for much stronger locality working. Special school heads to be the gate keeper to the High Needs Block due to their unique position. Finance – we need more school based provision, alternative provision is too expensive with outcomes questionable.</p> <p>Claire Meese arrived for meeting.</p> <p>The change to legislation from 2014 to increase the age to 25 has had an impact, It's a good idea but it's not been properly funded.</p> <p>Dawn Wigley requested a breakdown of tribunals and to analysis on what grounds we are losing them on.</p> | <p>TG</p> <p>LJ</p> |
| | <p>4c. School & Early Years Funding 2019-20</p> <p>Sue Summerscales presented the paper.</p> <p>New members were given a summary of what had previously been discussed and the recommendations made by Forum. Sue advised that the Local Authority have the final decision regards the formula, however it has never gone against decisions made by forum.</p> <p>The process, funding and timeline were explained.</p> <p>The low response to the consultation was discussed and it was agreed that for 2019 we collectively need to try and address this.</p> <p>Question 5 The transfer was discussed, with reasons for and against it. Sue Summerscales advised on the next step if the transfer was not agreed by Forum, NCC would need to go to Secretary of State for approval of the transfer.</p> <p>Linda Foster pointed out that without the transfer there would be a larger deficit on the High Needs Block.</p> | |

Anne Hall – commented that whether NCC went to Secretary of State or not, the problem about how to manage the High Needs Block will come back to Forum to manage and find a solution.

Sue Summerscales advised that all the financial models have got the transfer built in.

The Chair led the voting.

Question 5 was the proposal to transfer 0.5% from the schools block to the high needs block to alleviate the continued pressures on the high needs budget.

| Votes for | Votes against | Abstentions |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| 8 | 7 | 1 |

Question 6 was to mirror the reduction in the NFF primary low prior attainment unit value.

| Votes for | Votes against | Abstentions |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| 15 | 0 | 1 |

Question 7 was regarding a number of technical adjustments which may require Secretary of State approval and need to demonstrate that the LA has consulted with schools. Since the consultation was carried out two such applications have been made to the Secretary of State as follows:

- a) **To reduce the MFG for those schools who are not due to receive any further gains in 2019-20 because they were all allocated in their 2018-19 funding.**
- b) **To exclude the mobility factor from the MFG to mirror the NFF calculation.**

The consultation also included the exclusion of exceptional premises factors but it has been confirmed by the ESFA that this is not necessary.

| Votes for | Votes against | Abstentions |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| 16 | 0 | 0 |

A summary of the financial models consulted on was handed out and this included a further 2 models (5 and 6) which hadn't been included in the consultation. Models including the funding floor had been included because there was a difficulty with using a positive MFG to allocate increases.

It was explained that the following questions all had an impact on each other and the best way to proceed would be to vote on a model instead of individual questions.

Sue Summerscales explained that in the case of the Minimum Per Pupil funding the number in receipt is low due to the factor that all the other schools would already be above the minimum set.

David Bell commented that we should mirror the National Funding Formula (NFF) as soon as possible.

Sue Summerscales explained that due to the transfer we can only move towards the NFF and have been unable to mirror this in either 2018-19 or 2019-20, at the last meeting members felt that there should be a broad benefit to all schools.

The funding floor factor and positive minimum funding guarantee (MFG) were explained to members. It was also explained that the two factors work in the same way.

Members voted for Model 5

| Votes for | Votes against | Abstentions |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| 16 | 0 | 0 |

David Phillips – we should send out models 5 & 6 as voted on to schools for transparency.
It was agreed these will be put on the school forum along with the December papers

TG

De-delegation of funding for maintained primary and secondary schools

As a representative of a maintained primary school, do you agree to the de-delegation of the following in 2019-20: There were 5 members eligible to vote

Primary Sector

| | Votes for | Votes against | Abstentions |
|---|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| 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 |
| Trade Union Facilities | 5 | 0 | 0 |

As a representative of a maintained secondary school, do you agree to the de-delegation of the following in 2019-20: There was 1 member eligible to vote

Secondary Sector

| | Votes for | Votes against | Abstentions |
|---|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| Free school meals eligibility assessment? | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Support to underperforming ethnic minority groups and bilingual learners? | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Trade Union Facilities | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Early Years Local Funding Formula (EYLFF)

Do you agree with the proposal to increase the hourly rate by 1p for 2, 3 and 4 year olds and reduce the contribution to the Early Years SEN Inclusion Fund?

| Votes for | Votes against | Abstentions |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| 16 | 0 | 0 |

Contents of the report was noted

4d. Early Years Central Expenditure 2019-20

Irene Kakoullis presented the paper and explained the amount wished to be retained is 2.9% £1,153,326.

Dawn Wigley left the meeting

Karen O'Connell queried why the amount of £556,936 for Early Years staffing has stayed the same and is not increasing.

| | <p>Marion Clay believed this is a contribution to that service and not the total cost.</p> <p>Karen Richards requested further breakdown of each spend line, Irene Kakoullis requested future forum dates so that the early years consultation group can meet a month before.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION/S</p> <p>That the Schools Forum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approves the Authority's proposal to retain £1,153m of early years funding to be used for sufficiency and assessment functions within the Early Childhood Services and Schools and Families Specialist Service <table border="1" data-bbox="183 604 1299 676"> <thead> <tr> <th>Votes for</th> <th>Votes against</th> <th>Abstentions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Votes for | Votes against | Abstentions | 15 | 0 | 0 | <p>IK TG</p> | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Votes for | Votes against | Abstentions | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>5.</p> | <p>Any Other Business</p> <p>No other business was raised</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 1055 1240 1267"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Thursday 28 February 2019</td> <td>2-4pm National Watersports Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 13 June 2019</td> <td>2-4pm National Watersports Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 19 September 2019</td> <td>2-4pm National Watersports Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 7 November 2019</td> <td>2-4pm National Watersports Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 5 December 2019</td> <td>2-4pm National Watersports Centre</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Thursday 28 February 2019 | 2-4pm National Watersports Centre | Thursday 13 June 2019 | 2-4pm National Watersports Centre | Thursday 19 September 2019 | 2-4pm National Watersports Centre | Thursday 7 November 2019 | 2-4pm National Watersports Centre | Thursday 5 December 2019 | 2-4pm National Watersports Centre | |
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