

Meeting title: Nottinghamshire Schools Forum
Date and time: 27th February 2020, 2pm to 4pm
Location: Welbeck Hall, West Bridgford NG2 7QW

Membership

'A' denotes absence

A	Mr A Rossington	Maintained Primary Head Teacher
	Mr B Waldram	Maintained Primary Head Teacher
	Mrs H Atkins	Maintained Primary Head Teacher – (Vice Chair)
A	Ms L Regan	Maintained Primary Head Teacher
	Ms L Toom	Maintained Primary Head Teacher
A	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
A	Mr D Bell	Academy Representative
	Dr Philip Smith	Academy Representative
	Mrs H Angus	Academy Representative
	Mr J MacDonald	Academy Representative
A	Mr N Holmes	Academy Representative
	Mr M Rooney	Special School Head Teacher
	Ms P Corfield	Academy Special School Head Teacher
A	Ms A Williams	Governor Maintained Primary
	Mr C Barnard	Governor Maintained Primary
	Ms F Jones	Governor Maintained Primary
A	Ms J Smalley	Governor Maintained Special
A	Mr T Colton	Academy Governor
	Ms L Gapski	PVI - Early Years Group Member
	Mrs K Richards	PVI - Early Years Group Member
A	Mr C Cuomo	Diocesan Representative - (Chair)
A	Ms L Knott	14-19 Partnership Representative
	Mr J Jefferies	Trades Union Representative
	Ms L Maddison	Trades Union Representative

In attendance:

Mrs S Summerscales	Senior Finance Business Partner, Children & Families Finance
Mr S Hawkins	Senior Pupil Place Planning Practitioner
Ms K Hughman	Group Manager School Improvement, Planning and Admissions
Mrs M Clay	Service Director, Education, Learning Skills
Ms J Burgess	Early Years Strategic Manager
Mrs T Gardner (Clerk)	Assistant Account, Children & Families Finance

1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Helen Atkins welcomed all members.</p>							
	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Carlo Cuomo, Andrew Rossington, Lynn Corner-Brown, David Bell, Neil Holmes, Amanda Williams, Tony Colton, Louise Knott, Colin Pettigrew and Irene Kakoullis.</p>							
2.	<p>Minutes – 12th December 2019</p> <p><u>School Forum Constitution</u> Resolution for full membership and the shift between maintained and academy representation is not yet resolved, constitution is not clear and still waiting something back from legal. A maintained head who is on the forum is leaving the authority, therefore we would not look to replace or show a vacancy in the maintained sector, but intend to advertise for an academy rep.</p> <p>We also have a governor that has not attended forum, and has since resigned as a governor, therefore in the next round we will be looking for a governor and academy representative.</p> <p><u>Schools & Early Years Consultation 2020-21</u> Page 3 in regards the 10p increase, Sue Summerscales wanted to clarify the increased 10p for 2019-20 is from the current year 19-20 allocation, the 10p that has been built in for 2020-21 will come from the 2020-21 allocation, the 8p is the increase in rate from central government.</p> <p>Page 4 – deprivation 2-year-old – is part of the Early Years central spend.</p> <p>Minutes approved as accurate and correct</p>	<p>ACTION</p> <p>MC/TG</p>						
3.	<p>3a – Confirmation of the Schools & Early Years 2020-21 Formula</p> <p>Sue Summerscales presented the paper, and explained which schools were in receipt of the Minimum Funding Guarantee of 1.84% and the reason why. Which schools are receiving more than the minimum 1.84% and which schools are in receipt of the Minimum Per Pupil (MPP)</p> <p>Members were informed that after applying the full National Funding Formula (NFF) we unexpectedly had some money left over, we are not the only Local Authority to be in this position. The balance left over reduced the growth commitment.</p> <p>Fiona Jones asked what the alternative option was for the allocation that was left if we hadn't reduced the growth commitment. Sue Summerscales advised we could have used it within the formula but as we are able to apply the full formula anything different would be a move away from the NFF.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION/S</p> <p>That the Schools Forum</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the content of the report – report noted 2. Approves the increase to the amount of growth funding centrally retained for 2020-21 <table border="1" data-bbox="140 1930 1235 2007"> <tr> <td>Votes for</td> <td>Votes against</td> <td>Abstentions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions	14	0	1	
Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions						
14	0	1						

3b. Early Years DSG Funding Central Expenditure 2020/21

Jude Burgess presented the paper.

Clarification was requested around question 9 and 10 of the consultation which at the time were either or questions.

At the December meeting it was agreed that question 10 'increase to the hourly rate for 2 year olds who are eligible for free school meals by a further 5p' was void, and members agreed we would not proceed with this question.

Question 9 'proposal to extend the existing criteria for the Deprivation Fund to include 2-year-olds who are LAC/CIN/ CPP? This would be funded from the forecast 3-&4-year olds underspend' was agreed and voted on unanimously.

School forum members were advised that the early years sector was not losing the money it was been directed and given to 2 year olds under a different criteria.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Schools Forum

1. Approves the Authority's proposal to retain £1.461m of early years funding to be used for sufficiency and assessment functions within the Early Childhood Services and Schools and Families Specialist Service.

Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions
15	0	0

2. Approves the proposal to carry forward £26,000 of the Early Years Inclusion Fund into 2020/21 to provide 2 free Early Years SEND Conferences.

Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions
15	0	0

3c. DSG – Budget Monitoring

Sue Summerscales presented the paper and advised this was as at period 10, the last paper brought to the forum in December 2019 was period 7.

Overspend on the Post 16 High Needs and Independent Non Maintained Schools were due to growth numbers

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Schools Forum

1. Notes the content of the report – reported noted

3d High Needs Block 2020 Presentation

Marion Clay presented to the members, and requested the presentation to be sent out to them after meeting,

Marion Clay explained that as an authority NCC have received one of the highest increases (%) in HNB funding for 2020/21. This is due to the raise in the level of capping at LA level, however with a cap still in place for the High Needs Block, Nottinghamshire is still underfunded.

TG

<p>HLN banding top-up amounts have been different in special schools in the past due to the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) with some of this extra funding we have looked to level up the amounts across the schools, though we unable to match the highest levels of top up we are able to level up to the 'mean' of 19-20 HLN bandings.</p> <p>That would leave only 3 schools that receive more per HLN top up – Fountaindale, Yeoman Park and St Giles. If more cash is received in 21-22 we would look to narrow the gap further.</p> <p>Clarification was sort around the equipment and therapy budget, Marion Clay explained that the equipment and therapy budget, did not deal with supplying equipment and therapy, but one that gives support and advise.</p> <p>We will continue to keep members updated on all budgets, budgets such as the Independent Non Maintained (INM) schools requires clusters to work. Others are impacted by EHCP and outcomes of tribunals.</p> <p>Helen Atkins asked who approves any decisions made in regards the High Needs Block?</p> <p>Marion Clay confirmed it was by the LA and decisions were mainly made and influenced from the High Needs Consultation, Nottinghamshire are a high devolving authority, and Karen Hughman has had discussions with different groups of people.</p> <p>Sue Summerscales advised that the High Needs Block is classed as centrally retained and therefore does not require forum approval, we keep forum members informed in order to work in a transparent manner.</p> <p>Helen Atkins acknowledged the transparent way that Nottinghamshire and Marion Clay work, how we have kept to the principles of what is discussed and members were appreciative of this.</p> <p>Pauline Corfield asked if there would be 2 enhanced hubs?</p> <p>Karen Hughman advised that we had received more bids than we could afford and were therefore looking at what would be sustainable.</p>	
<p>3e Funding Presumption for Free Schools</p> <p>Marion Clay and Steve Hawkins presented the paper.</p> <p>Marion Clay acknowledged the concerns that members voiced from the last meeting and confirmed that the growth fund was for school places and growth due to basic need and that opening new presumption free schools in areas where there are surplus places would not be allowed by the Department of Education.</p> <p>The future presumption free schools mentioned in the report are expected to be required due to new housing developments.</p> <p>The Gedling area was mentioned by members as there are surplus places in schools such as Lambley and Burton Joyce, with plans for a presumption free school in the Netherfield area due to large housing developments.</p> <p>The proposed Chase Farm Primary free school will not being built straight away, as LA share concerns over the current need for additional school places in the area. Land will be secured for Nottinghamshire County Council in the meantime.</p> <p>There are surplus primary school places in the Mansfield areas and because of this, areas of schools have been decommissioned.</p> <p>The intention is for NCC to hold 'twilight' meetings with districts to discuss issues with school places. Head teachers were encouraged to attend.</p>	

	<p>A further discussion is required around falling rolls, regarding protecting schools, the positives and negatives of this, and whether it would be delaying difficult decisions. The suggestion was to have a working group to look in more details, members were advised that nothing could be done this year but for future years.</p> <p>Helen Atkins agreed with a small working group to look at falling rolls in more details and requested Steve Hawkins be part of that.</p> <p>Pauline Corfield asked whether a falling rolls fund could support High Needs? Marion Clay – no, this would be from school budgets so for mainstream schools and academies.</p> <p>Karen Richards advised that in some area’s nursery numbers are seeing an 8.6% drop in numbers</p> <p>Karen said she understands the need for places in areas with high development, but do we have to fund all year groups for presumption free schools, as in reality in the first couple of years not all year groups will be filled to the guaranteed numbers set out in the report? Marion Clay advised that the LA is required to guarantee numbers in this way, the cost of this would come from the growth fund.</p> <p>Karen Richards asked if members could look at the pupil forecast numbers that were being used to make these decisions. Marion Clay – Nottinghamshire County Council will hold district meetings in areas where they plan to have new schools, projections will be shared with everyone and all are welcome to attend.</p> <p>Fiona Jones asked if closing a school was a political decision? Marion Clay confirmed that it was, but closure of any school is difficult territory.</p> <p><u>Members who expressed an interested to be part of the falling rolls working group.</u> Ben Waldram Colin Barnard David Phillips Fiona Jones James MacDonald</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION/S</p> <p>That the Schools Forum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the content of the report and the potential allocations to be made from the growth fund – report noted 2. Continues to monitor the use of the growth fund. Forum will be updated on an annual basis as to the spending allocations related to this budget – accepted by members 	
<p>4. Any Other Business</p>	<p>Sue Summerscales advised that after a conversation with Insurance colleagues, the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) insurance level of cover is not enough for maintained schools and Insurance will be sending out a letter to schools to explain the situation.</p>	
<p>5. Confidentiality</p>	<p>No item marked confidential</p>	

6.	Date and time of next meeting				
	<table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="127 190 478 286">Thursday 18 June 2020</td><td data-bbox="478 190 590 286">2-4pm</td><td data-bbox="590 190 1372 286">Welbeck Hall, West Bridgford NG2 7QW</td></tr></table>	Thursday 18 June 2020	2-4pm	Welbeck Hall, West Bridgford NG2 7QW	
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