

Meeting title: Nottinghamshire Schools Forum
Date and time: 17th September 2020, 2pm to 4pm
Location: Virtual – Windows Teams

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)
	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
A	Mr D Bell	Academy Representative
	Dr Philip Smith	Academy Representative
	Mrs H Angus	Academy Representative
	Mr J MacDonald	Academy Representative
	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
	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:

Mr K Palframan	Group Manager Finance Strategy and Compliance
Mrs M Clay	Service Director Education, Learning and Skills
Mr M Needham	Finance Business Partner, Children and Families Finance
Mrs S Summerscales	Senior Finance Business Partner, Children & Families Finance
Mrs T Gardner (Clerk)	Assistant Accountant, Children and Families Finance

1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Marion Clay welcomed all members to the forums virtual meeting on Microsoft Teams.</p>	
	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Helen Atkins, Amanda Williams, Louise Knott and Colin Pettigrew.</p> <p>Carlo Cuomo and David Bell have both resigned from the school forum. Carlo who has been a member of the forum for the past 9 years, as the chair for the last 5 years, Marion Clay will draft a letter to thank Carlo for all his work.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes – 18th June 2020</p> <p><u>Minster School – application of the minimum per pupil methodology</u> Letter to ESFA regards the schools MPP methodology is required. Letter will come from LA and Schools Forum – carry forward action to next meeting</p> <p>Minutes approved as accurate and correct</p>	<p>ACTION</p> <p>SS/TG</p>
3.	<p>3a – Election of Chair & Vice Chair</p> <p>Neil Holmes nominated James Macdonald for chair, 2nd by Andy Seymour, James Macdonald was unanimously voted in has the new chair of the school forum. James Macdonald accept the position, thanked all members for their vote and the time he’s spent shadowing Carlo Cuomo, thanking him for all the work he’s carried out during his term in office and as the chair.</p> <p>James Macdonald informed the members that he had spoken with Helen Atkins, who was happy to continue as vice chair if members agreed. James Macdonald nominated Helen Atkins, 2nd by Neil Holmes, Helen Atkins was unanimously voted in has the vice chair.</p>	
	<p>3b. Schools Forum Constitution Updated</p> <p>Toni Gardner presented the paper.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION/S</p> <p>That the Schools Forum</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the amendment to Article 2 – composition, Section 2.0.1 (a) of the Nottinghamshire Schools Forum constitution in line with paragraph 6. <p>Members voted unanimously - recommendation approved</p>	
	<p>3c. Review of Schools Forum Membership</p> <p>Sue Summerscales presented the paper.</p> <p>Members were advised that once agreed we would go out for nominations in the usual way. Recently we have had more nomination than vacancies so feel reassured the posts can be filled.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION/S</p> <p>That the Schools Forum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Notes the content of the report. 2) Agrees to the membership as set out in paragraph 4 of the report. 	

<p>Report was noted and members voted unanimously to recommendation 2. The process to fill the current vacancies will be started.</p>	<p>TG</p>
<p>3d Trade Union Facilities Financial Year 2020/21</p> <p>Marion Clay presented the paper.</p> <p>It was explained that the buying into the scheme was so that a school / academy could access a local representative if required, instead of having to wait for a regional, sometimes a national representative, which can delay the process.</p> <p>There is no rebate for the fee paid it needs to be viewed as an insurance cover.</p> <p>James Macdonald reiterated the importance of local representative and the difference in time between access a local representative versus a regional representative.</p> <p>Marion advised that all maintained schools have this service as the allocation is de-delegated, but there are also several academies that buy into the scheme.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>That the Schools Forum:</p> <p>1) Note the financial contents of the report</p> <p>The report was noted</p> <p>Early years representatives requested if and how they could contribute towards the trade union buy in. Marion Clay believed it was only for schools and academies and that a discussion would be required with HR and trade unions.</p>	<p>AW /MC</p>
<p>3e Central School Services Block funding 2020-21</p> <p>Sue Summerscales presented the paper.</p> <p>Advised members that during a 'East Midlands Finance' meeting ESFA representatives advised that part of the decrease in the central spend was a trade off with treasury for the increase in the other funding blocks. A decrease in 21-22 is also expect, the plan going forward is to reduce each line until we reach the protected amount.</p> <p>In June there was no plan for the £285,000 shortfall, this is outlined in point 7 of the report options are still be looked and we will update forum members later in the financial year.</p> <p>James Macdonald requested clarification regards reduction in the psychology service discussed.</p> <p>Marion Clay advised that there is no plan to date for reducing the psychology service, and the local authority may need to come back to forum and request to maintain the current levels.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>That the Schools Forum:</p> <p>1) Approve the Authority's application to centrally retain funding within the Central School Services Block for the services set out at Appendix A.</p> <p>Members voted unanimously - recommendation approved</p>	

<p>3f DSG Budget Monitoring</p> <p>Mark Needham presented the paper.</p> <p>Figures are as at period 5 and points highlighted were the projected net growth and the lack of special school places as outlined in point 4 of the report. Members were advised that this overspend could increase, we are seeing a 43% increase at Portland and mainstream colleges have not yet to submit their returns.</p> <p>Officers are considering the impact of this going forward and there is a call on the additional funding and additional growth.</p> <p>Marion Clay advised further workings was required for the High Needs Block, Nottinghamshire figures are modest compared to other authorities. The intention is to look at this in leadership meeting, we do not want to spend next year's funding this year.</p> <p>On a positive note, members were advised that Nottinghamshire has been identified in the top 10 for effectiveness and Marion will forward the report to members</p> <p>We currently have a small underspend on the Early Years block. The ESFA have advised that how the funding allocation is worked out, currently this is 5/12 Jan 2020 + 7/12 Jan 2021 (estimated) would change for this year. We will need to access the impact of this.</p> <p>Overall the reserve is in surplus, but we need to have a plan if this was to go into a deficit.</p> <p>Ly Toom left the meeting</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>That the Schools Forum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Schools Forum notes the content of the report. <p>Report was noted.</p>	<p>MC</p>
<p>3g 2021/22 Consultation Update</p> <p>Sue Summerscales advised that the modelling tool had now been received and as in previous years a working party was required to look at the modelling that would then be presented to all members.</p> <p>Members were advised on the following points: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher grant and teacher pension have been rolled into the budget tool and the schools 20-21 baseline. £180 for primary and £265 for secondary. The amount is reflected in the minimum per pupil allocation and these amounts are £4,180 for primary and £5,415 for secondary. • The IDACI data has been updated with the latest 2019 information, for 2020-21 the information was 2015 data, the impact of this will need to be looked at. This change would also impact the High Needs Block. • Funding floor for all schools is 2% on pupil led funding. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other factors are seeing a 3% increase, except for sparsity where there as been a significant increase especially at primary level, the maximum in 2020-21 was £26,071 for 2021-22 this has been increased to £45,000. In Nottinghamshire we currently have 12 eligible primaries and no secondaries. <p>A primary school has approached the local authority regards the criteria and the intention is to bring this back to forum when officers have had chance to investigate this in more details.</p> <p>The distance is measure as the crow flies and not road distance a local authority can request an exceptional change if schools are found to be disadvantaged by this method. We know that the ESFA are looking into changing this to road distance instead of as the crow flies for the 'hard' formula.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gains cap is still allowed in local formulas, though it's currently not in the National Funding Formula or in Nottinghamshire's Local Formula. Central government are still moving towards a hard formula, and there will be a wider consultation soon. High Needs Block – there is an 8% increase to this block with the Teacher Pay Grant and Teacher pension grant included in the allocation. <p>The intention is to have consultation proposals for the next forum meeting in November, we look to use the same unit values as in the National Funding Formula and mirror as we did in 2020-21.</p> <p>The areas we are looking at presently are sparsity, falling rolls and the primary growth fund. In the past this has been set at 1 million, but early projection indicates a million is not needed.</p> <p>Working group has been planned in for 14th October.</p> <p>Forum members for working group: - Pauline Corfield Ben Waldram James Macdonald Colin Barnard Fiona Jones Anne Hall</p> <p>James Macdonald asked if we knew why the Teacher Pay Grant and Teacher Pension Grant had been included? This was because the government did not want separate grants going forward.</p>	
<p>4. Any Other Business</p>	<p>James Macdonald – requested a letter be drafted for Carlo Cuomo to express our thanks for all the work and commitment he has shown to the forum. Marion Clay will draft a letter and it would be signed by James Macdonald as the new chair of the forum and Colin Pettigrew.</p> <p>A discussion was had on who else should sign this letter – Marion Clay would investigate this and feedback</p> <p>Members requested details of the academies all that had contributed to the trade union buy in</p> <p>Laura Gapski asked with early years representatives included in the forum was there scope to change the name from School's Forum to include Early Years within the title.</p>	<p>MC</p> <p>AW</p>

	<p>James Macdonald advised that his understanding was that the name and how forum generally operates is set by legislation, Marion Clay agreed.</p> <p>After a discussion it was left that the clerk would raise this with the ESFA in the first instance</p> <p>Pauline Corfield given the significant increased requirement for PPE in specialist settings, meaning the cost has increased by 3-6 times the amount in non-covid times. (eg. £400/£1.2-£2.4k/month). We fully understand the pressures on the high needs block, but special schools and academies are concerned by the significant financial impact. Could the LA review and explore potential options within the HNB (perhaps in the special school equipment line), raise the issue with the DfE and seek an agreement with health commissioners, when PPE is now required for complex medical procedures undertaken in schools? Marion Clay would explore potential options, discussions are being had around the cost of PPE and cover for maternity teachers. This does need a more in-depth conversation and for special schools the best place to discuss this would be at the special school trust board.</p>	TG												
<p>5. Confidentiality</p>	<p>No item marked confidential</p>													
<p>6. Date and time of next meeting</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="145 927 1031 1070"> <tr> <td>Thursday 12 November 2020</td> <td>2-4pm</td> <td>Virtual – Microsoft Teams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 10 December 2020</td> <td>2-4pm</td> <td>Virtual – Microsoft Teams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 25 February 2021</td> <td>2-4pm</td> <td>Virtual – Microsoft Teams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 17 June 2021</td> <td>2-4pm</td> <td>TBC</td> </tr> </table>	Thursday 12 November 2020	2-4pm	Virtual – Microsoft Teams	Thursday 10 December 2020	2-4pm	Virtual – Microsoft Teams	Thursday 25 February 2021	2-4pm	Virtual – Microsoft Teams	Thursday 17 June 2021	2-4pm	TBC	
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