

Meeting title: Nottinghamshire Early Years & Schools Forum
Date and time: 16th September 2021, 2pm to 4pm
Location: St Giles School – DN22 7NJ

Membership

'A' denotes absence

	Andrew Rossington	Maintained Primary Head Teacher - Gedling
	Ben Waldram	Maintained Primary Head Teacher - Newark
A	Helen Atkins	Maintained Primary Head Teacher - Mansfield - (Vice Chair)
	Steve Border	Maintained Primary Head Teacher - Rushcliffe
	David Phillips	Maintained Secondary Head Teacher
	Dr Philip Smith	Academy Representative
	Halina Augus	Academy Representative
	Andy Seymour	Academy Representative
	Anne Hall	Academy Representative
A	Neil Holmes	Academy Representative
	James Macdonald	Academy Representative - (Chair)
	Neil Robinson	Academy Representative
	Matt Rooney	Special School Head Teacher
	Jamie Hutchinson	Academy Special School Head Teacher
A	Colin Barnard	Governor Maintained School Representative
	Andy Palmer	Governor Maintained School Representative
	Fiona Jones	Governor Academy Representative
A	Paul Hawkins	Governor Academy Representative
	Jacque Sainsbury	Governor Special School Representative
	Laura Gapski	PVI - Early Years Group Member
	Karen Richards	PVI - Early Years Group Member
A	Nigel Frith	Church of England Diocese Representative
	Daniel Moore	Catholic Diocese Representative
	Louise Knott	14-19 Partnership Representative
	Joe Jeffries	Trade Union Representative - NASUWT
	Jo Myers	Trade Union Representative - UNISON

In attendance:

Cllr Sam Smith	Conservative County Councillor for Newark East
Marion Clay	Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills
Naomi Clark	Senior Finance Business Partner, Children and Families Finance
Mark Needham	Finance Business Partner, Children and Families Finance
Toni Gardner	Assistant Accountant, Children and Families Finance - (Clerk)

1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>James Macdonald welcomed all members to the first hybrid forum meeting. Introduced Councillor Sam Smith who was in attendance and Naomi Clark the new senior finance business partner for children and families' finance. Thanks, was given to Matt Rooney for hosting the meeting.</p>	
	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Helen Atkins, Neil Holmes, Paul Hawkins, Nigel Frith and Colin Pettigrew.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes – 17th June 2021</p> <p>Minutes approved as accurate and correct</p>	ACTION
3.	<p>3a. Election of Chair & Vice Chair</p> <p>Toni Gardner started the process for election of the chair. Matt Rooney nominated James Macdonald, this was second by Anne Hall – All members agreed.</p> <p>James Macdonald started the process for election of the vice chair, explained that Helen Atkins who is the current vice chair has now been on the forum for 10 years and is at the end of her term of office. He asked that members consider this position and if anyone was interested to discuss with either James Macdonald or Toni Gardner. This agenda item would be carried over to the November meeting.</p> <p>Fiona Jones asked about the school consultation, James Macdonald advised the plan was to discuss this when we look at the National Funding Formula and he's proposing a steering group for next week.</p>	
	<p>3b. Review of Forum Membership & Constitution</p> <p>Toni Gardner presented the paper, there was an amendment on point 2 of the recommendation this should read 'paragraph 2'</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION/S</p> <p>That the Forum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the content of the report - noted 2. Agrees to the membership as set out in paragraph 2 of the report – Unanimously agreed 3. Agrees to the change to the constitution as set out in Appendix A, page 12 – Unanimously agreed. 	
	<p>3c. Trade Union Facilities</p> <p>Marion Clay presented the paper for Andy Wilson.</p> <p>Explained the table in paragraph 3 and that we have a carry forward. Members were informed that only schools and academies that contribute to the scheme have access to these funds.</p> <p>The individual appendices were explained and asked members to note the content of the report, advised that no teachers name would be placed on the forum public website these would be removed/ blanked out before uploading the relevant documents.</p> <p>James Macdonald agreed for no names to be published on the forum website and asked for a collective agreement from members, which was given.</p>	

<p>Jo Myers explained that the trade unions do not receive any of this allocation, school and academies that have contributed are reimbursed for the release and time of members / representatives to carry out the required work. If more academies bought into the scheme it would drive the per pupil cost down.</p> <p>James Macdonald pointed out that if an academy didn't contribute any case would take longer as a regional representative would have to deal with the work.</p> <p>David Phillips requested further clarification around cover of employment, reduced timetable Marion Clay advised David to contact Andy Wilson directly to discuss this.</p> <p>The carry forward and its level was discussed, work had been carried out and the per pupil amount could only be reduced by 1p something we would not look to do in the current climate and after Covid. It was agreed that the level of carry forward needs to be monitored a suggestion to make this a regular agenda item.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>That the Forum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the financial contents of the report – report noted. 	
<p>3d & 3e. DSG Budget Monitoring & High Needs Budget</p> <p>Mark Needham presented the paper and highlighted the current 2.2 million overspend which is all in the High Needs Block and explained the areas affected.</p> <p>Members were advised of the change in how the numbers were being recorded for the early year's allocation. The Education Funding Agency would be using all 3 censuses, this is new to the formula and currently in place due to Covid. Figures are still not known and officers hope to have more information at the November meeting where they would give an update.</p> <p>Officers have not yet been informed if this change will be permanent or for one year only – any information will be communicated to members.</p> <p>David Phillips raised the current and previous concerns regards the overspend in the High Needs Block, accepted the overspend but asked what plans have been put in place or established by Nottinghamshire County Council. Wanting to understand what invest was being worked through and what was being done to ensure we are spending wisely.</p> <p>James Macdonald – agreed that the members have always been concerned about High Needs, and though the allocation pot has increased we have more spend.</p> <p>Marion Clay understands the concern, it is an issue, but Nottinghamshire's overspend is modest compared to other authorities that have around 10 – 15 million overspend. The exercise that was carried out two years ago was discussed and actions that were implemented were re-mentioned.</p> <p>The High Needs Block has not requested a transfer from the Schools Block for two years, we did action a transfer for the two years before this and the Local Authority would be asking for a transfer for 2022-23. We do not want to ask for a transfer, an recognise that everyone is under increased pressure.</p> <p>Work is ongoing but not confirmed regards investment into special schools and places, nothing can be discussed until it's been approved but forum members will be kept up to date with any developments - if approved this would only create around 70 places and this would not be until Summer 2022.</p>	<p>MN</p>

<p>Some arrangements are challenging we are working in many ways to place children, working closely with parents, maximising locality working and working with schools to keep them in mainstream.</p> <p>Nottinghamshire should receive an additional 10 million more for 2022-23 but we are still underfunded, and Nottinghamshire continues to advocate for fairer funding, as an authority our per pupil allocation is amongst the lowest in the UK.</p> <p>Matt Rooney – Special schools AWPU (per pupil) amount has been frozen and not increased for several years. There are more children due to the pandemic, and children that before the pandemic would have remained in mainstream have moved into special schools.</p> <p>Would it be possible to see projected spend? Finance team will incorporate this into their work and in reports</p> <p>Andrew Rossington – demands for INM is going up, pressure on schools is also going up but Additional Family Needs (AFN) allocation has remained the same.</p> <p>Mark Needham – AFN did increase over all as a budget by 6.1% this equates to £522,000 however the school allocations are based on the characteristics of the pupils.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>That the Forum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the contents of the report – report noted. 	<p>MN</p>
<p>3f – 2022-23 National Funding Formula (NFF) verbal update</p> <p>Naomi Clark updated the forum members with the following in regards 2022-23 National Funding Formula.</p> <p><u>High Needs Block</u> – a consultation was carried out earlier in the year to consult on how the formula works. Still very much based upon historic spend (2017-18) and any increase to authorities is capped at 11%.</p> <p>Nottinghamshire will receive an increase of 10.54% based upon the provisional allocations. There is an issue with the low attainment data due to the pandemic, adjustments will be made.</p> <p><u>Schools Block</u> – following a consultation around the sparsity factor, the sparsity distances are now based on road distances, instead of straight-line distance. making more schools eligible for this factor, with a maximum value of £55,000 for primary schools and £80,000 for secondary schools.</p> <p>NFF factor values have increased by 3% for basic entitlement, free school meals, income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI), lower prior attainment (LPA), English as an additional language (EAL) and the lump sum.</p> <p>There is an increase of 2% to the floor, and the minimum per pupil levels.</p> <p>Free school meal data will now be taken from the October census to bring this inline with the pupil premium change.</p> <p>Low attainment – as tests were cancelled the data will be based on 2019 test results.</p> <p>Pupils who joined a school between January 2020 and May 2020 attract funding for mobility based on their entry date, rather than by virtue of the May school census being their first census at the current school</p> <p>Local formula still to be implemented in 2022-23 – a consultation with an end date of 30th September is currently open with regards the formula.</p> <p><u>Central School Block</u></p> <p>Not much change in this area – additional pension is now part of this block with school’s teacher pay grant and teacher pension grant rolled into the school formula and individual budgets.</p>	

	<p>James Macdonald referred to the consultation mentioned by Naomi Clark. The consultation is called 'Fair Funding for All' with about 16 questions. The plan is for a steering group to meet 23rd September 1pm to 2.30 and anyone interested to inform Toni Gardner.</p> <p>Interested members were: - James Macdonald, Andrew Rossington, Daniel Moore, Fiona Jones and Anne Hall</p>													
<p>4.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Marion Clay mentioned the following request from governor services to governor representatives serving on schools' forum – an opportunity to discuss their role with NGA. Toni Gardner to forward an email to all governor members for them to follow up if interested.</p>													
<p>5.</p>	<p>Confidentiality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Atkins with reference to her School Forum term • Appendix A & D from agenda item 3c Trade Union Facilities report 													
<p>6.</p>	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="146 790 1016 931"> <tr> <td>Thursday 11 November 21</td> <td>2-4pm</td> <td>Virtual – Microsoft Teams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 9 December 21</td> <td>2-4pm</td> <td>Chilwell School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 24 February 22</td> <td>2-4pm</td> <td>Virtual – Microsoft Teams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 16 June 22</td> <td>2-4pm</td> <td>Virtual – Microsoft Teams</td> </tr> </table>	Thursday 11 November 21	2-4pm	Virtual – Microsoft Teams	Thursday 9 December 21	2-4pm	Chilwell School	Thursday 24 February 22	2-4pm	Virtual – Microsoft Teams	Thursday 16 June 22	2-4pm	Virtual – Microsoft Teams	
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