

**NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM**

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	Thursday 17 September 2020 (via Skype)
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Minutes of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum</b>
<b>Type of report:</b>	For information only
<b>Executive summary:</b> Including reason for submission	The minutes of the previous meeting of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum are presented for approval.
<b>Budget / Risk implications:</b>	N/A
<b>Recommendations:</b>	The minutes are approved as an accurate record.
<b>Voting requirements:</b>	N/A
<b>Appendices:</b> To be attached	N/A
<b>Report originator and contact details:</b>	Marion Sadler – Clerk to the Schools Forum Tel: 01609 532234 E-mail: <a href="mailto:marion.sadler@northyorks.gov.uk">marion.sadler@northyorks.gov.uk</a>
<b>Presenting officer:</b> If not the originator	N/A

**PRESENT:**

<b>Chair:</b>	Ian Yapp
<b>Primary Headteachers:</b>	Rob Campbell, Jillian Baker, Karen O'Donnell, Chris Parkhouse
<b>Secondary Headteachers:</b>	Nick Hinchliffe, Julia Polley
<b>Nursery Headteacher:</b>	Michael Pettavel
<b>Special Headteacher:</b>	Jonathan Tearle
<b>Pupil Referral Service:</b>	
<b>Academies:</b>	Helen Flynn, Helen Channing, David Read, Andrew Krlc, Michelle Hockham, Helen Williams, Dominique Osbourne, Francis Loftus, Michelle Hockham, Josh Greaves
<b>Governors:</b>	Damian Smith, Corinne Cross, Katja Rudden

<b>Early Years Providers:</b>	
<b>16-19 Providers:</b>	
<b>Diocesan Representatives:</b>	Andrew Smith
<b>Trade Unions:</b>	Chris Head, Daniel Maguire
<b>Observers:</b>	Cllr. Patrick Mulligan
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Stuart Carlton, Amanda Newbold, Howard Emmett, Sally Dunn, Jane Le Sage, Martin Surtees, Emma Wright, Louise Gigante, Fiona Sowerby, Mandy Lambert (Clerk), Deborah Wilbor
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mark McCandless, Jane Turner, Cllr Janet Sanderson, Fiona Beetles, Nick Styles, Kath Jordan, Dave Barber

**939: WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the group of the current membership situation.

**940: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Current vacancies were outlined, 1 x Primary LA, 1 x PRS LA, 1 x Early Years / Childcare, 1 x 16-19 provision.

**941: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 May 2020 be agreed as an accurate record.

**942: MATTERS ARISING**

NOTED:

- CH asked if there had been feedback on item 934 - EMS. JLS explained that the approval had gone through.
- CH asked about the issue of risk assessments – Unions have been updating the NYCC schools risk assessment template which schools have been using and also local MAT and academies. This had been a helpful consultation. There are some concerns from colleagues around the information Government had been sending. Knowing some of the media articles there is still a concern that although there are risk assessments not all schools have sent them into the professional associations.

**943: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no notification of any other urgent business.

**944: EARLY YEARS FUNDING – COVID-19**

CONSIDERED: A report providing an overview of:

- The additional financial support that has been provided to the early years' sector within North Yorkshire during the Covid-19 crisis for the summer term 2020.
- The national guidance issued by the DfE in relation to the funding of early years' provision during the Autumn term 2020 and the associated local consultation which will be undertaken with the early years' sector within North Yorkshire in relation to the operation of the guidance.

- The next phase of the potential deployment of the NYCC Covid-19 Early Years Support Fund and the associated local consultation which will be undertaken with the early years' sector within North Yorkshire in relation to the potential deployment of the Fund.

NOTED:

- The package of local support and costs to date = £256k.
- The Autumn term 2020 would be funded by the January 2020 census.
- The DfE is asking the LA to continue to fund providers based on pre-Covid arrangements and suggests that the LA looks to fund providers on 2020 funding.
- Providers that have closed will not be funded.
- Local proposals were outlined – with a view to undertaking a consultation with providers.

CONSIDERED: MP asked about the DfE guidance and if numbers are higher than the census would this be adjusted upwards for providers and whether the furlough payments detail could be followed up. The payment would be consulted on and detail of the furlough arrangements would be sought.

AGREED:

- To note the intention to consult with early years' providers on the local operation of the DfE national guidance on the funding of early years' provision in the autumn term 2020.
- To note the intention to consult with early years' providers on options for the potential deployment of additional financial support to the sector.
- To establish a reference group of Schools Forum members to provide comment on the consultation feedback in order to support the decision making process of CYPS Executive Members in conjunction with the Strategic Director – CYPS on the two proposals. MP agreed to join the group.

#### **945: SCHOOL FUNDING 2021-22**

CONSIDERED: A report providing an update on school funding describing the detail of recent announcements on central government education funding policy and high-level implications for 2021-22. The paper also outlines Covid-19 additional funding arrangements for schools in 2020-21. The paper describes the intention to consult schools and academies.

NOTED: When final census information is available, the information will be updated. The consultation will start on 23 September and will run to 23 October. Schools Forum will consider this information in November 2020.

AGREED:

- To note the contents of the report.
- To note the intention to consult mainstream schools and academies on potential formula implications for 2021-22 related to MFG and allocation of any surplus funding. Results to come back to Schools Forum in November.
- To endorse the proposed treatment of exceptions to the formula.
- To agree the request to fund the cost of reimbursing schools for limited additional Covid-19 related costs.
- To note the position on CSSB.

#### **946: HIGH NEEDS BLOCK**

CONSIDERED: A report highlighting the projected financial pressure in the High Needs Block in 2020-21 and subsequent years and the specific challenges facing the local authority and schools. The report provides information on SEND trends particularly around Education, Health and Care Plans and exclusions.

NOTED: A rise in secondary SEN support but still below the national average. Requests for EHCPs continue to rise but still below the national average. Comparisons for mainstream, special schools and independent schools were outlined. Demand is increasing and as such, the LA are expecting that there will continue to be a small deficit in 2021/22. Progress in Year 1 of the Plan was outlined including information on universal provision, targeted provision, specialist provision and local governance. Further actions were outlined for the Strategic Plan for SEND.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

**947: SPECIAL SCHOOLS FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**

CONSIDERED: A report setting out arrangements for special school funding for 2021-22 and specifically seeking to provide stability in these arrangements.

NOTED: DfE is proposing 0% MFG for 2021-22 compared with +0.5% to +2.0% for mainstream schools. In 2020-21, NYCC opted for a +4.0% MFG to ensure special schools receive a real-terms increase. Consultation with special schools is proposed.

JG asked whether a positive MFG had been considered for all settings. The LA is looking at this. Further information will be available in December or January 2021.

AGREED: To note the report and to move into consultation with special schools.

**948: FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY IN LAMS AND ACADEMIES**

CONSIDERED: A report on the outcome of the government consultation on financial transparency of local authority maintained schools and academy trusts. The report highlights which proposals will be implemented and DfE's timescale.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

**949: SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS 2020/21**

CONSIDERED: A report regarding the amendment of the North Yorkshire County Council Scheme for financing schools to be updated for the DfE directed change requiring Schemes for Financing Schools to reflect the extension of the national risk protection arrangement (RPA) to local authority maintained schools from 1 April 2020.

AGREED: The amendments to the NYCC Scheme for financing Schools relating to the directed change from the DfE requiring Schemes for financing Schools to reflect the extension of the national risk protection arrangement (RPA) to local authority maintained schools from 1 April 2020 and to allow for the collective de-delegation of this funding by the agreement of the Schools Forum.

**950: PUPIL GROWTH AND FALLING ROLLS**

CONSIDERED: A report providing an overview of the review that has been undertaken with regard to the operation of the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Contingency Funds that were introduced in 2014/15. Based on the review findings the report provides a number of proposals for changes to the current eligibility criteria and funding methodology of the Funds.

NOTED: The background and current criteria were outlined. The mandatory requirement from the DfE as far as falling rolls is concerned the school must have an Ofsted judgement of good or outstanding. This is based on vacant place funding and looks at what the required growth in funding is over the next three years.

HW asked that currently under the three-year projections there is an estimated need of £3.6k. It is felt that this seems unnecessarily high.

AGREED:

- Implementation of the proposed changes to the falling rolls fund eligibility criteria and funding methodology as detailed in 3.9ii from September 2020.
- Falling Rolls Contingency Fund should be retained for the 2021/22 financial year. This would be reviewed on an annual basis and monitor moving forward.
- That the implementation of the proposed changes to the Pupil Growth Fund eligibility criteria and funding methodology as detailed in 4.7i and ii from September 2020.
- The operation of a combined approach to the utilisation of the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls contingency budgets for the 2020/21 financial year.

#### **951: SCHOOL BALANCES 2019-20**

CONSIDERED: The report provides information relating to school balances as at 31 March 2020. The revenue balances at 31 March 2020 are summarised in the report together with a comparison with 2019. The balances are also expressed as a percentage of school delegated budgets.

NOTED: The position is better than originally thought. Schools take action throughout the year to reduce impact and cost levels. A reduction in balance is £3.1m. The number of local authority maintained schools in deficit at the end of the financial year had reduced but the average level of deficit has increased quite significantly. There is a slight improvement in the forecast for 2020 / 21.

CH asked about the possibility of the redundancy rounds might be eased. It was noted that schools would be updating their budget forecasts this term and would be stating the funding developments announced. This would be reviewed and addressed in due course.

AGREED: That the position of school balances is noted.

#### **952: RISK PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS**

CONSIDERED: A report on risk protection arrangements. The report provides a comparison of insurance cover offered by the Risk Protection Arrangement (which is the alternative to Insurance Arrangement being offered by the DfE), with the current Insurance Schemes offered by North Yorkshire County Council. NYCC will no longer offer insurance cover to Local Authority Maintained Schools with effect from April 2021. Insurance and Risk Management can continue to offer insurance support services and Motor insurance. The Property Service can continue to offer the statutory Engineering Inspection service.

NOTED: AS suggested that this move may force better competition.

AGREED:

- To note insurers stance that schools are included within any Long Term Agreement and the timing of the insurance tender and new Long Term Agreement from 1st October 2021.
- To note that NYCC is not able to match the RPA's price of £18 per pupil and the current average rate offered by NYCC is £35.67 per pupil.
- To agree that NYCC does not offer the four Insurance Schemes to LAMS from 1st April 2021 and recommend that LAMS are referred to the RPA.
- To note that the Insurance and Risk Management Service will continue to offer the insurances not covered by the RPA such as Motor. The Property Service will continue to offer Engineering Inspection Services (formerly included as part of the County Insurance Scheme), that is not provided by the RPA.

- To note that schools can continue with services offered by NYCC's Insurance and Risk Management Service, and package is available.
- To note that it may be possible for all primary and/or secondary maintained schools in an LA to join collectively by agreeing through the Schools Forum to de-delegate funding. However, the DfE did not expect that mass membership through de-delegation would be used, as there was unlikely to be enough time for LAs to agree it with their schools and the Schools Forum. This paper does not seek to request de-delegation at this time.

**953: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

CONSIDERED: SC outlined the various developments around devolution and local government reorganisation including the likely NYCC business case. There are some national drivers for change for devolution which would unlock funding for the region but it will be dependent on local government reorganisation. The North Yorkshire County Council business case will be for a single unitary council on the existing geographical footprint. It is likely that there will be an alternative proposal to split the current county council footprint in two: a Scarborough, Ryedale, York and Selby unitary, and a Hambleton, Richmondshire, Harrogate & Craven unitary. Communities, the economy and public services all face significant pressures. Funding is reducing (public health, social care) whilst demand continues to rise. The options being considered were discussed. Information streams were set out and members were encouraged to have your say by writing to the Chief Executive or the Communities Minister. Discussion with Union colleagues has taken place. The links to use are as follows:

[www.northyorks.gov.uk/stronger-together](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/stronger-together)

[richard.flinton@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:richard.flinton@northyorks.gov.uk)

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[Howard.emmett@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Howard.emmett@northyorks.gov.uk)

[PSLukeHall@communities.gov.uk](mailto:PSLukeHall@communities.gov.uk)

**954: SCHOOLS FORUM VIRTUAL OPERATION SURVEY – FEEDBACK**

NOTED: After the May Schools Forum, a survey had been sent out to Schools Forum Members. Nineteen responses had been received with over 70% thinking the online experience was good or very good. The savings by having the meeting online were outlined. The LA would write to the DfE asking for local areas to have flexibility.

**955: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**COVID-19**

SC thanked all schools for their work at the start of term. Attendance is good but there are rising rates of Covid-19 infections across the county in-line with general covid infection rate rises. A national helpline for schools will be opened. Information will be sent to schools early next week around refining the process of contact and guidance around areas of concern.

**956: FUTURE MEETINGS**

Thursday 12 November 2020 – (Via Teams)

Thursday 10 December 2020

*Provisional dates:*

Thursday 21 January 2021

Thursday 18 March 2021

Thursday 27 May 2021

Thursday 16 September 2021

Thursday 11 November 2021

Thursday 16 December 2021