

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	
Title of report:	Minutes of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum – 19 November 2018
Type of report:	For information only
Executive summary: Including reason for submission	The minutes of the previous meeting of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum are presented for approval.
Budget / Risk implications:	N/A
Recommendations:	The minutes are approved as an accurate record.
Voting requirements:	N/A
Appendices: To be attached	N/A
Report originator and contact details:	Marion Sadler – Clerk to the NYEP Tel: 01609 532234 E-mail: marion.sadler@northyorks.gov.uk
Presenting officer: If not the originator	N/A

PRESENT:

Chair:	Ian Yapp
Primary Headteachers:	Robert Campbell, Jillian Baker, Damien Smith, Nick Styles, Karen O'Donnell
Secondary Headteachers:	Julia Polley, Helen Coulthard (deputising for Mark McCandless)
Nursery Headteacher:	
Special Headteacher:	Jonathan Tearle
Pupil Referral Service:	Nick Bell
Academies:	Helen Flynn, Helen Channing, John Warren
Governors:	
Early Years Providers:	
16-19 Providers:	
Diocesan Representatives:	
Trade Unions:	Chris Head
Observers:	Stephen Payne
In Attendance:	County Councillor Patrick Mulligan, Stuart Carlton, Howard Emmett, Jane Le Sage, Martin Surtees, Mandy Lambert (Clerk)
Apologies:	David Read, Amanda Caton, Andrew Smith, Nick Hinchliffe, Debra Forsythe-Conroy, County Councillor Janet Sanderson, Sarah Moon-Gatford, Jon Watson

801: WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including new members and informed the group of resignations.

802: MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

Current vacancies were outlined.

803: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed.

804: MATTERS ARISING

NOTED:

805: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other urgent business to discuss.

806: SCHOOL FUNDING CONSULTATION OUTCOME

CONSIDERED: The report providing the results of the recent local consultation held on school funding for 2019/20 and recommendations provided in relation to the transfer of funding from schools block to high needs block in 2019-20, the level of the Minimum Funding Guarantee in 2019-20 for primary and secondary schools, the arrangements for E2 Exceptional Funding and the LA proposals for de-delegation in 2019-20 along with an update of forthcoming teachers' pay costs and associated funding grants.

NOTED:

Appendix 4 – The letter from the Chair of Schools Forum to Government describing frustrations with the Funding Formula along with a letter from Carl Les, Leader of the Council. A response had been received from the DfE and was circulated at the meeting.

Additional funding for schools was announced by the Chancellor in the recent Autumn Budget Statement. No details of the individual school allocations as yet. Next year will be a comprehensive spending review with potential for a full fiscal event in Spring.

Transitional arrangements are in place with a Minimum Funding Guarantee of 0% per pupil in 2018/19. For 2019/20, there could be a pattern of winners or losers but it depends on the starting point and the HN transfer.

LA's can set MFG between +0.5% and –1.5%. The lower the MFG level, the less protection will be provided to schools.

Consultation had taken place on the following:

Option 1	0.5% High Needs transfer	-0.5% MFG – 15 schools
Option 2	0.5% High Needs transfer	-1.5% MFG – 16 schools
Option 3	1.0% High Needs transfer	-1.5% MFG – 3 schools

The disappointing response rate was noted but LA officers explained it had been communicated as a headline issue in the e-Red bag and the Director had addressed all Headteachers in the round of 5 Primary Leadership Network events and the Secondary Leadership Network event and had encouraged schools to respond to the consultation.

The results of the consultation were:

Consultation response – E2 Exceptional Funding results:

Option 1a – To apply the set of criteria for Exceptional Element 2 funding as set out in Appendix 2 as the new method of fixed allocation, starting from Autumn Term 2018. This option would provide an annual allocation of funding within the High Needs Block	10 schools
Option 1b – To apply the set of criteria for Exceptional Element 2 funding as set out in Appendix 2 as the methodology for the allocation of funding for a transitional period of 1 st September	5 schools

2018 to 31 st March 2019. The funding would cease from 1 st April 2019.	
Option 2 – To continue with the transitional funding method used for the summer 2018 term until 31 st March 2019. The funding would cease from 1 st April 2019.	9 schools
Option 3 – Allocate no further funding from 1 st September 2018 (i.e., effectively cease funding at the end-summer term 2018).	3 schools

The report also contains detailed information on the pressures and challenges of High Needs which aids as a reminder about:

- the increase in EHCPs since 2014
- the £3.3m financial pressure in 2017-18 funded from DSG reserves
- DSG reserves are fully depleted.
- the £5.7m projected overspend in 2018-19 which is offset by the one-off transfer of £1.66m from Schools Block.
- some proposals have been developed but will take time.
- there is further financial pressure expected in 2019-20.
- a recovery plan is required to repay overspend.

Proposals around de-delegations were outlined. There is a proposal at Section 7.3 around trying to deal with the level of school redundancies in the County and a suggestion that de-delegation of an additional amount of funding of £5.25 per pupil to cover school redundancies and the authority will match-fund.

The Chair invited comments on the report and presentation. HF asked to echo the point about the low response rate and suggested that Schools Forum could not take the feedback as meaningful. HF asked what Schools Forum could do to enhance this response. SC stated that he had just finished a round of Headteacher briefings about this issue. The LA could not have been any clearer. The Chair stated that with the changes in locality-based meeting this may change going forward. JT suggested there may have been confusion with what schools were being asked to consult on. RC commented on the usefulness of the data and whether the schools who had responded had a particular agenda. RC commented that Schools Forum need to bear in mind the number of responses and whether they are from those schools most affected.

HF asked whether there would be an opportunity to apply for some money to the LA. PM stated that the LA would be reluctant to do this. It was noted that the Council is already using its reserves to cover the gap.

HC expressed concern about the levels of funding being maintained and need to ensure that there is a strategic plan in place. SC stated he was happy to meet with anyone who has ideas and any further discussion with Schools Forum.

RC expressed concern about the message being related to schools following the decisions made at Schools Forum.

AGREED:

- That a Minimum Funding Guarantee of -1.5% is used as the basis for funding schools in 2019/20 (eleven out of thirteen voted in favour)
- On behalf of the Schools Forum, the Chair expressed that the Schools Forum have always worked very closely with the LA and would wish to continue with a constructive relationship and that the issue is substantively about a shortfall in the overall quantum of funding provided by the DfE rather than recycling funding in the North Yorkshire system. On that basis, Schools Forum generally understand -

but did not feel able to support - the LA's intention to submit a disapplication request to the Secretary of State for a transfer of 1.0% of the Schools Block to the High Needs budget for 2019/20.

- In the event that the disapplication request to the Secretary of State is unsuccessful, Schools Forum agreed to transfer 0.5% funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs budget for 2019/20
- To support the implementation of Option 2 in relation to ceasing the allocation of Exceptional Element 2 funding from April 2019.

With regard to the de-delegation of Schools in Financial Difficulty, HC stated that this seemed to be a very good proposal and it does seem that all schools should contribute to that, but was there any feedback to Schools Forum about the impact.

AGREED: Each phase of LA maintained schools (relevant members of Schools Forum only) voted on the de-delegation of Schools in Financial Difficulty (including the additional amount per pupil as a contribution towards school redundancy costs) and Unreasonable School Expenditure. Both phases voted in favour of both de-delegation proposals.

NOTED: The position with regard to teachers pay related costs and associated grant funding.

807 DE-DELEGATION OF FUNDING FOR TRADE UNION FACILITIES

CONSIDERED: A report from the teaching and non-teaching unions providing some options for funding facilities arrangements in 2019-20.

NOTED: That the method of funding is going to change and asked Schools Forum to note the risks. There was only one joint negotiating consultation committee but now one in every MAT in every area. There is an increase in work. Neighbouring authorities' costs are included in the report. None of the rates include non-teaching unions. Unison costs will now be included in the professional association rates. There has been a recharge to the fund of £33,200. Working with the academies has been successful and stand at £31,999. There is a time issue as the schools convert and then decide to buy-in there is no one date in the year and are renewing their membership on the date they convert. There is a danger that if de-delegation does not take place then a maintained school could choose not to join the service then the LA would need to find costs to pay for any tribunal.

RC asked about the question in the NYHR newsletter about PAFA funding not to be top sliced. The article had come out during the consultation and had now been superseded. The facility to do this would cease at some point.

The Chair asked for clarification on the £2.25 figure. This was the start of trying to understand the finances for academy conversions.

HC asked about the additional meetings with academies and could reassurance be given that the increased workload with academies was not being charged for. It was noted that all schools were treated similarly.

The Chair stated that a decision would not need to be made and could be deferred until the next meeting.

AGREED: To defer the decision until the meeting on 6 December 2018 and for members to look at the webpage available with information included.

808: EARLY YEARS DEPRIVATION FUNDING SUPPLEMENT

CONSIDERED: Proposals to consult on changes to the funding rates and methodology used to determine the deprivation paid to early years' providers for the funded early education entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds.

NOTED: Other methodologies have been considered with different options targeting funding in different ways.

HF asked about any feedback already received and whether this was a review as to making this a fairer way of allocating funding.

HC stated that all options are still operating in a differential way and whether there was another option with a smaller differential between bandings. It was agreed to include this within the consultation.

AGREED: To note the contents of this report and the principles used in the development of the options and agree to consult with all early years providers on the options for the allocation of the deprivation funding supplement related to the funded entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds with effect from April 2019. It is proposed that the consultation would run from 21 November 2018 to 17 December 2018. The results would be reported to the Schools Forum meeting on 24 January 2019.

809: HIGH NEEDS CAN-Do / Banded System

CONSIDERED: An update on the recent consultation (Proposal 1 only – proposal to change the E3 top-up arrangements for children and young people with EHCPs from a resource allocation system to a banded system model). The Special School Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2019-20 and a potential application to the Secretary of State to set aside the MFG for 2019-20 only.

NOTED: The background as to why consultation for a banded system model was explained. There have been events with parents, carers, young people and professionals as well as the on-line opportunity. There had been 324 responds with feedback and the questions included in the report. The results were outlined. It is thought that special schools would be funded in a similar way with five losing and five winning. It is proposed to apply to the Secretary of State for disapplication for a one year period.

JT stated that the new band system would need to be put in place but concerns about some of the schools that are already in a very difficult situation. More intervention is required.

HC stated that the percentage hit would need to be considered. HE indicated that applying for the special school MFG disapplication would provide local flexibility in the determination of special school budgets for 2019-20 and meeting the objectives of special schools receiving the intended amount of funding through the proposed banded system model (if implemented) and protecting special school budgets. If the disapplication was not requested, then there could be no flexibility. The LA was happy to look at transitional protection for special schools but a successful disapplication would enable the LA to provide transitional funding protection in 2019-20 – this would be less generous than strict adherence to the MFG but (i) would provide transitional funding, and (ii) help contain costs within the High Needs Block. A discussion on whether to apply the special school MFG could be taken in January (if the disapplication request is successful) alongside the LA's transitional funding protection proposals.

AGREED: To support the application to the Secretary of State for the disapplication of the minimum funding guarantee for special schools in 2019-20 subject to a discussion in January as to whether to apply this.

810: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business raised.

811: FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 6 December 2018: Agenda Items:

- PRS / AP Model
- Post-16 and Post-19 600 Hours Guided Learning
- PAFA de-delegation – further information requested

Proposed Dates for 2019

24 January 2019

14 March 2019

23 May 2019

26 September 2019

14 November 2019

12 December 2019