

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday 13 March 2025 (via Teams)
Title of report:	Minutes of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum
Type of report: Delete as required	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:	Andrea Mansfield- Clerk to The Schools Forum Tel: 01609 532609 E-mail: andrea.mansfield@northyorks.gov.uk
Presenting officer: If not the originator	N/A

Minutes of the NYSF meeting held on 13 March 2025
PRESENT:

Chair:	Ian Yapp
Primary Headteachers:	Ian Mottram, Helen Thompson, Karen O'Donnell
Secondary Headteachers:	Nick Hinchliffe
Nursery headteacher:	
Special Headteacher:	Michelle Hockham, Beth Cargill (sub for Anne-Marie Ellis)
Pupil Referral Service:	Gareth Morton
Academies:	Alison Kaye, David Barber, Claire Hurworth, Louise Sagar, Samantha Williams, Jon Watson, Kerry Young, Rebecca Broadbent
Governors:	Ray Wells, Anna Kirkham
Early Years Providers:	Charlotte Hope-Harrison – EYFS
16-19 Providers:	
Diocesan Representatives:	
Trade Unions:	Michele Jones
Observers:	Cllr Annabel Wilkinson
In Attendance:	Howard Emmett, Stuart Carlton, Louise Wilson, Sally Dunn, Andrea Mansfield (LSO Minute Taker),
Apologies:	D Barber - Prim Academy Helen Williams – Sec. Academy C Dowson - Sec. Academy Julia Polley - Sec. Headteacher Ann-Marie Ellis - Special Headteacher Becki Bulmer - Sec. Governor M Palmer - York CE Diocese M Macaulay – Middlesbrough RC Diocese Amanda Newbold – AD-Inclusion Mel Hutchinson – AD - Children & Families Anne Swift - Trade unions Cllr Janet Sanderson

Minutes of the NYSF meeting held on 13 March 2025**1250: WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1251: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Circulated: A list of the current membership:

The current vacancies were outlined:

Primary GOV LA (1), PRS Academy (1), Academy (2).

Quorum is 40% of members.

1252: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED: that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 January 2026 be agreed as an accurate record.

1253: MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

1254: NOTIFICATION OF OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no notifications of other urgent business for consideration.

1255: SCHOOLS BLOCK 2025-26 & SCHOOLS BLOCK DSG RESERVES

CONSIDERED: The report sets out the final position with regard to the planned expenditure on the Schools Block Budget in 2025-26 following the finalisation of school budget allocations. The report also provided details of the forecast position on the key reserves linked to the Schools Block DSG as at 31 March 2025.

RECOMENDATIONS:

- To note and approve the contents of this report.

NOTED:

(Q) Do we know what the average reserve would be for a LA, as in the current climate is a large sum to have in reserve when schools are in challenging situations?

(Q) The £5m from other fund (new school reserve) is this totally separate?

(A) The new school funding reserve has been built from pupil growth allocations allocated to NYC. This funds planned schools and future liabilities as new schools do not get funded in the same way until they are fully established with all year groups. May be close to figure needed within the reserve and needs to be reassessed this year.

(A) Will do some research into to other LA reserves and provide response. 1% is considered reasonable in context of £400m+ funding to be able to afford NFF.

(Q) Feel very strongly that school funding reserve should not be used to fund high needs.

Minutes of the NYSF meeting held on 13 March 2025

(Q) What are the actual per pupil rates for 25/26?

(A) The actual rates mirror the National funding rates. The figures were sent to schools on 24/2/2025.

AGREED:

- To note and approve the contents of this report.

1256: EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE

CONSIDERED: The report considers the planned expenditure for the 2025-26 financial year in respect of the utilisation by the local authority of the early years funding retained for the delivery of centrally managed early years' service provision. The report also outlines the recently published details of the DfE Early Years Expansion Grant 2025-26.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- To note the 2025-26 Early Years DSG allocation and to approve the associated planned expenditure.
- To note the DfE Early Years Expansion Grant 2025-26 and the initial consideration for the allocation of the grant.

NOTED:

(Q) In recent national press articles there have been statements of regarding the grant levels of funding being insufficient. Do we think the amount NYC are giving to providers will meet their needs?

(A) The position in NYC is that we are very lowly funded in comparison to other LA's and continually raise this for increases in funding especially as the early years formula does not recognise sparsity. We support providers within the national funding framework but are constrained as a LA as to the levels of funding that can be allocated.

(Q) Is there an anticipation that there will be a shortage of places due to the funding issues?

(A) Not anticipated at this stage. We undertake sufficiency planning and that indicates potential shortages due to the expansion. Capital funding has been used to support providers to expand the number of places and the market is seen to respond.

AGREED:

- To note the 2025-26 Early Years DSG allocation and to approve the associated planned expenditure.
- To note the DfE Early Years Expansion Grant 2025-26 and the initial consideration for the allocation of the grant.

Minutes of the NYSF meeting held on 13 March 2025**1257: HIGH NEEDS BLOCK 2025-26**

CONSIDERED: The report outlines the expected budget for the High Needs Block in 2025-26, how this compares to an anticipated in-year cash allocation of £88.32m, and the extent of the anticipated financial pressure.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- to note the contents of this report;
- to note the financial position.

NOTED:

(Q) Statement regarding the significant deficits in other LA's in comparison to NYC and if any awareness of if their decision making is based on meeting the increased needs.

(A) Explanation regarding the complex set of funding arrangements and that locked into what was set in earlier years which set LA's on set trajectories and varying rates across the country.

(Q) Around statutory override in terms of North Yorkshire is the county still managing to put aside the figure to match it in that event?

(A) This authority is prudently putting aside a mirror reserve to match the High Needs deficit. The issue with that approach is that funding from General Reserve has been set aside in what should be a DfE responsibility but it's a prudent thing to do in case that override disappears and DfE do meet their obligations and liabilities.

(Q) Discussion around the lack of provision for high needs pupils and falling primary pupil numbers within the Selby area, why existing buildings could not be repurposed and why the Selby free school is not being built.

(A) Explained the complexity of funding and how the DfE capital funding works, that NYC has undertaken reprovisioning of sites in Harrogate and Northallerton which required significant capital investment. LA has made significant investment in preparing the infrastructure to the Selby free school and fully expects it to be delivered and continue to lobby the DfE and encourage Selby members to lobby their MP's.

(Q) The number of placements for the PRU's, was there any discussion about increasing that placement and how was the work done to decide that we didn't need additional placements, because with suspensions and exclusions going up at the exponential rate that they have done you would have also expected the need for placements to go up quite substantially as well?

(A) View was to retain 24/25 commissioned number of places. Will get a written response.

(Q) Could the closed Carlton Holy Family site be used in any format, what's the potential of that existing site being harnessed and used temporarily?

(A) Has been looked at in detail by the DfE as an alternative and discarded as a viable option because of some of the costs involved.

Minutes of the NYSF meeting held on 13 March 2025

(Q) Have empty sites in the Whitby area been considered for repurposing to be either and all through provision or some kind of special provision for the area to increase that capacity if there is the need obviously within that area?

(A) Has been reviewed deemed not viable, however working with Whitby schools around increasing TMP provision.

Chair shared information from a recent f40 meeting, from which a draft letter will be shared with all schools via the Red Bag. The letter can be used for each school to send to any DfE/Government contacts and their local MP's to lobby regarding the funding pressures in schools and SEND as the spending review is taking place. If any MP's would like to be briefed regarding funding they can contact CYPS.

AGREED:

- To note the contents of the report
- To note the financial position

1258: AOB

There was no further business.

1259: MEETINGS:

Thursday 15 May 2025
Thursday 18 September 2025
Thursday 20 November 2025
Thursday 11 December 2025 (provisional)
Thursday 22 January 2026
Thursday 19 March 2026