

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Wednesday 13 November 2019 (Cedar Court, Harrogate)
Title of report:	Minutes of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum – Wednesday 13 November 2019
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 Schools Forum Tel: 01609 532234 E-mail: marion.sadler@northyorks.gov.uk
Presenting officer: If not the originator	N/A

PRESENT:

Chair:	Ian Yapp
Primary Headteachers:	Rob Campbell, Nick Styles, Jillian Barker, Karen O'Donnell
Secondary Headteachers:	Sue Galloway (representing Mark McCandless), Kath Jordan, Nick Hinchliffe, Julia Polley
Nursery Headteacher:	Michael Pettavel
Special Headteacher:	
Pupil Referral Service:	
Academies:	Helen Flynn, Helen Channing, Jane O'Gara (representing Jo Robinson), Chris Knowles (representing David Read), Stuart McGhee (representing Andrew Krlc)
Governors:	
Early Years Providers:	
16-19 Providers:	
Diocesan Representatives:	Andrew Smith, Kevin Duffy
Trade Unions:	Chris Head
Observers:	
In Attendance:	Stuart Carlton, Howard Emmett, Sally Dunn, Mandy Lambert (Clerk)
Apologies:	Mark McCandless, Andrew Krlc, David Read, Jonathan Tearle, Fiona Beetles, Damien Smith,

872: WELCOME

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

873: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Current vacancies were outlined, 4 x primary, 2 x secondary, 1 x PRS Academy, 1 x PRS LA, 5 x academy, 1 x Unison Rep, 1 x 16-19 Providers, 1 x early years / childcare.

874: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That with the deletion of paragraph 3 in Minute 862, the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2019 be agreed as an accurate record.

875: MATTERS ARISING

- ***CH asked that an update on Locality Boards be brought to the next meeting.***
- ***CH asked that an update on the EMS reorganisation be brought to the next meeting.***

876: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no notification of any other urgent business.

877: SCHOOL FUNDING 2020-21 DE-DELEGATION

CONSIDERED: The report showing an overview of the use of de-delegated funding in relation to schools in Financial Difficulty and Unreasonable School Expenditure Contingencies. The report also details the LA proposals for de-delegation in 2020-21.

NOTED: This had been discussed at the previous meeting with the intention to bring more information about the impact of de-delegation and to consider whether it would be appropriate to continue. Section 3.1 – 3.3 of the report gives a description of the criteria used to apply the expenditure. Schools that have educational issues that need rapid improvement are also in financial difficulty. Both elements of the funding are to support these schools. Redundancy support costs is a new element agreed for 2019 / 20 on the basis that for a number of years' redundancy costs have been running high and it was felt that the LA wanted to share the costs with schools. The funding has had an impact but it is difficult to quantify as these funds are used to support schools in difficulty.

CK suggested the definition would need some clarification and more clarity to Schools Forum about the success of the expenditure. In terms of the description there has to be some measure that Education and Skills has delivered programmes. Some measures are required so future discussions can be based against that criteria. Consideration be given to this and a more detailed conversation to be undertaken at a future meeting.

HF asked about the School Improvement Partnership reports. It was noted that the Partnerships have now been dissolved and the Locality Boards would have some budget discretion but the funding would be separate from de-delegated funding.

NH asked about the contribution for this year. It was noted that it would be the same amount per pupil but there was a decrease in the number of schools reducing the overall fund.

HC asked if there had been a study undertaken on the commonality of the schools. This would be considered along with trying to get a good grasp of the schools which may be ahead although discussions do take place around vulnerable schools.

AS stated that as budgets get tighter there would need to be a robustness as to what this money is being used on and was there the capacity to deliver at the level as is now.

NH stated it would be interesting to look at which organisations are doing the work.

SG stated that MM had stated he had found it difficult to assess the report and would need further information.

AGREED: To look at the process for reporting back, look at historic accounts and the nature of schools accessing funds and whether implying some vulnerability. Also look at the deployment of fund, agencies and locality.

VOTE: Maintained schools: Primary 3 votes for (de-delegation approved) Secondary 3 with 1 against (de-delegation approved).

878: PAFA DE-DELEGATION

NOTED: The report providing an option for Schools Forum to continue to de-delegate funding for PAFA for 2020-21 and an update on progress towards a traded model. It was noted that de-delegation was the preferred route for Union colleagues. A meeting had been held in October with the Trade Union County Secretaries. The name agreed is Trade Union Support for Schools (TUSS). Discussion took place on achievements over the past 12 months. A significant number of MATs are buying services directly from the LA. The TUSS are producing a maintained school policy and an academy school policy.

LY expressed concern about the use of the fund as opposed to Members' fees.

NOTED: It would be interesting to have statistics about the number of case work. Fees have gone to the running of the central organisation and if there were cases to tribunal these are picked up by the fund. Since the 1944 Education Act there has been a budget for local government work which has included trade union representations. It is now a lot quicker to get people into school.

NH asked for clarity about the expectations of union representatives in school. It was felt that too much was being asked of these people.

NOTED: That from the point of view of the school representatives, they do not get the level of training required for serious case work unless the member is thinking of succession planning.

JP stated that if the academies were buying the work in, it would seem that some schools would use the services disproportionately so perhaps need to look at the costs of fully traded services.

CK asked about the access to suitably qualified people to move through speedily.

RC stated that if there is a move to a fully traded model one of the other questions will be how schools who chose not to buy in will be able to access LA policies.

NOTED: That the figures are amended due to a change in the team doing case work which causes a surplus projected figure.

AGREED: To continue to de-delegate services for PAFA for 2020-21 with a charge of £2.79 per pupil to cover what is inflationary costs.

VOTE: Maintained primary 4 (de-delegation approved) Maintained Secondary 4 (de-delegation approved).

879: SCHOOL FUNDING 2020-21 & HIGH NEEDS

CONSIDERED: A report on school funding and high need funding including discussion on proposed transfer of funding from schools block to high needs block in 2020-21, the level of the Minimum Funding Guarantee in 2020-21 for primary and secondary schools and the level of a local gains cap. The paper also provides an

update of forthcoming teachers' pay costs and associated funding grants. The addendum provided the results of the 2020/21 School Funding Consultation which ran from 18 October to 7 November 2019. The report requests the Schools Forum to consider which of the options consulted on should be endorsed in relation to the level of the Minimum Funding Guarantee and the associated funding gains cap to be applied for the 2020/21 financial year and the level of any transfer from Schools Block to the High Needs Budget for 2020/21.

NOTED: The option of transferring money from the schools block to high needs block. DfE is introducing a new approach to the mobility factor. The Government's consultation was outlined and broadly welcomed that they are putting more money into schools. In terms of the consultation the DfE released their information which allowed the local authority to undertake necessary financial modelling and subsequently undertake a consultation which was launched on 18 October. Transfer of funds needs to be considered in conjunction with high needs allocations. Local Authorities have been given between 8% and 17% in the high needs block. North Yorkshire's allocation amounted to an 11% increase. The additional figure is around £5.4m. DfE have recommended a special school Minimum Funding Guarantee of 0%. HE indicated this was noteworthy given that DfE have recommended a MFG for mainstream schools in the range +0.5% to +1.84%. Of all the phases LA maintained special schools have been hardest hit.

In 2018/19 and 2019/20 the high needs accumulated deficit amounts to approximately £7m and going into 2020-21, even with the extra high needs funding, there would still be an in-year funding gap of £4 - £6m. The Local Authority will continue to lobby local MPs and the DfE to ensure they address the quantum and distribution of funding. DfE have indicated that they will look at this in 2020.

CK stated that this would have a detrimental impact on the SEN Strategic Plan of maintained level of funding. Concern was expressed about whether the Strategic Plan delivery timescale and whether 0.5% transfer would have any real impact and whether the end was in sight. Unless implemented in full this will continue for many years to have those pupils' needs addressed. HE stated that the LA does recognise that this is not new money and the proposal to transfer funding simply moves money around the system; the consulted transfer effectively targets funding to those with additional learning needs.

SC stated that there were more EHCP plans in the system. Other capacity demands were going on which will play out. Reality is to create additional places to meet the demand of the EHCP. Capital from government has been low with a bigger issue around transport capacity and capital.

NOTED: That 39 responses to the consultation had been received (16% response rate). The length of time for the consultation had not been ideal but will look next year at the consultation method.

AGREED: Following the consultation with all schools and academies in North Yorkshire, the following options were voted on:

An initial vote on the level of block transfer, if any, with voting members able to cast a vote for more than one option resulted in:

High Needs Transfer	Vote
0%	7 votes for
0.5%	7 votes for
1.0%	0 votes for

As the result was inconclusive, Forum moved to a second vote on the level of block transfer but with members only able to vote for one option:

High Needs Transfer	Vote
0%	9 votes for
0.5%	3 votes for
1.0%	0 votes for

AGREED: Schools Forum to support a 0% transfer.

Schools Forum then moved to provide an indicative vote for each scenario of block transfer with regard to the level of MFG and funding gains cap.

At a 0% block transfer, Schools Forum members voted between Option 1 and Option 2:

Option:	Vote
Option 1: High Needs Transfer 0% MFG 1.37% Funding Gains Cap 100%	12 votes for
Option 2: High Needs Transfer 0% MFG 1.84% Funding Gains Cap 34.33%	0 votes for

At a 0.5% block transfer, Schools Forum members voted between Option 3 and Option 4:

Option:	Vote
Option 3: High Needs Transfer 0.5% MFG 0.5% Funding Gains Cap 13.81%	12 votes for
Option 4: High Needs Transfer 0.5% MFG 1.84% Funding Gains Cap 11.47%	0 votes for

At a 1.0% block transfer, Schools Forum members voted between Option 5 and Option 6:

Option:	Vote
Option 5: High Needs Transfer 1.0%	7 votes for

MFG 0.5% Funding Gains Cap 10.61%	
Option 6: High Needs Transfer 1.0% MFG 1.84% Funding Gains Cap 8.50%	0 votes for

It was noted that the vote in relation to a 0.5% transfer (options 3 and 4) and the vote in relation to a 1.0% transfer (options 5 and 6) provide an indicative position should the local authority conclude that they need to seek a disapplication request to exceed the 0% position supported by Schools Forum.

It was also agreed to consider consultation mechanisms, easy-read versions of consultation content and how to get a better response to consultations.

AGREED: To recommend a 0% transfer of funding. Schools Forum also resolved to express their dissatisfaction at current funding levels – the Chair of Schools Forum will draft a letter to MPs and DfE which will be shared with papers for the Schools Forum meeting on 12th December.

880: EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE

CONSIDERED: The report providing an overview of the announcement made by the DfE on 31 October 2019 in relation to Early Years funding for 2020/21. The report also details the process which will be undertaken by the Local Authority to determine early years' provider funding rates for the 2020/21 financial year.

NOTED:

- (i) The local authority early years funding rates for the 2020/21 financial year as per the recent announcement from the DfE.
- (ii) The intention to consult early years' providers with regard to funding rates for the 2020/21 financial year.
- (iii) The intention to review the Early Years Sparsity funding supplement and, if considered appropriate consult providers on alternative distribution options.

881: TEACHERS' PAY GRANT & PENSION EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION GRANT: CONSULTATION OUTCOME

CONSIDERED: The report providing an update on the feedback received from the consultation on the distribution of the Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG) to high needs settings (i.e., maintained special schools, academies and PRUs). The Local Authority seeks the view of the Schools Forum on the proposals, which will be taken into account in the financial decision.

NOTED: There were no questions or comments on the report presented.

AGREED:

- a) To distribute the TPG April 2019 instalment to high needs settings as per the allocation table in Appendix 1.
- b) To distribute any further TPG and TPECG funding allocation using the same formula as used by the ESFA in its calculation of the total funding for the Local Authority in the allocation of funding to individual settings.

882: NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS

NOTED: A review of the North Yorkshire County Council Scheme for financing Schools has been completed to reflect the latest statutory guidance from the DfE. All schools maintained by the Local Authority were consulted on the updated Scheme during October 2019. The report provides an overview of the consultation and presents the updated Scheme for financing Schools to the Schools Forum for approval.

AGREED: That the North Yorkshire County Council Scheme for financing Schools to reflect the latest DfE statutory guidance be approved.

883: SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP

CIRCULATED: Following a review of membership composition to ensure that it continues to reflect the make-up of schools and academies in North Yorkshire, it is proposed to refine composition and for the Constitution to be updated accordingly.

NOTED:

AGREED: To amend the Constitution as in Section 3.2 and to elect five additional academy representatives.

884 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The venue of future Schools Forums was raised. The Chair confirmed that this would be discussed at the 12 December meeting which, on current rotation of venues, would be held at Northallerton.

885: FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 12 December 2019 - 2.00 pm – County Hall, Northallerton

Thursday 23 January 2020 – County Hall

Thursday 12 March 2020 – County Hall, Northallerton

Thursday 21 May 2020 – County Hall, Northallerton

Thursday 17 September 2020 – County Hall, Northallerton

Thursday 12 November 2020 – County Hall, Northallerton

Thursday 10 December 2020 – County Hall, Northallerton (if required)