

**NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM**

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	Wednesday, 13 November 2019
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Minutes of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum – 26 September 2019 @ Scarborough Library</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>	Nick Styles, Andrew Krlic, Damien Smith, Andrew Buttery
<b>Secondary Headteachers:</b>	Julia Polley, Nick Hinchliffe, Mark McCandless
<b>Nursery Headteacher:</b>	
<b>Special Headteacher:</b>	
<b>Pupil Referral Service:</b>	
<b>Academies:</b>	Helen Channing, Helen Flynn, David Read
<b>Governors:</b>	
<b>Early Years Providers:</b>	
<b>16-19 Providers:</b>	
<b>Diocesan Representatives:</b>	Andrew Smith
<b>Trade Unions:</b>	Chris Head
<b>Observers:</b>	
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Stuart Carlton, Howard Emmett, Jane le Sage, Sally Dunn, Lauren Young (Minute Taker)
<b>Apologies:</b>	John Warren (Resigned), Councillor Patrick Mulligan, Councillor Janet Sanderson, Michael Pettavel, Rob Campbell, Karen O'Donnell, Kath Jordan, Jonathan Tearle, Jillian Baker

**859: WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the group of the current membership situation. It was noted that Nick Bell had now resigned from the Schools Forum.

**860: MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM**

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

**861: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2019 be agreed as an accurate record.

**862: MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

### **Helen Flynn –**

HF spoke asked about inclusion proposals. JLS confirmed that this related restructuring. This will be included in November's meeting.

JLS confirmed that the Selby Locality Area Board is up and running; they are due to have their second meeting soon. Selby is progressing well.

HF hasn't been to the SWR (Scarborough, Whitby, Ryedale) meetings however reports have led her to believe they are a lively group and willing to get on.

Craven and Harrogate Locality Boards aren't currently up and running.

The overall arching trust isn't currently set up. Feedback on this will be brought to the next Forum meeting.

Colleagues have expressed that they will help Craven and Harrogate to set up if needed.

### **863: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no notification of any other urgent business.

### **864: SCHOOL FUNDING UPDATE**

CONSIDERED: report, presented by Howard Emmett, providing an update on school funding and, in particular, recent government announcements on central government education funding policy and associated implications for 2020/21. The report also set out proposed de-delegations for 2020/21 and the intention to consult schools and academies thereon.

HE indicated that education funding policy had risen up the order of DfE priorities following the formation of a new Government in July 2019. HE referred to extracts from Gavin Williamson's (MP and Secretary of State for Education) statement to the House of Commons on education funding on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Within North Yorkshire a total of 119 schools will benefit from the funding policy

**Issues –** There will be more funding for schools in the 3 year funding allocation. This means there will be more money in the system in the next 3 years. The statement from Gavin Williamson indicated that every school will see funding increase in line with inflation. However, this will be reviewed by Schools Forum.

Nationally, there will be £300 million going towards additional pupil numbers nationally, £700 million for high needs, £1bn to cover the cost of inflation leaving £600 million overall additional funding.

Block transfers will still be allowed in 2020-2021 although it has not been possible to confirm whether this facility will be exercised as High Needs Block allocations have not yet been published by Department for Education.

DfE have also confirmed that £1.5 billion has been set aside for increased employer teachers pension contributions for the next 3 years.

Increased starting salaries for teachers £30,000 by 2022/2023 and subsequent impact on teacher's pay scale will eat into the extra money allocated to schools.

**Issues for Schools Forum –** In 2018/19, North Yorkshire moved as close as possible to the National Funding Formula (NFF). Although DfE have confirmed that, in a significant change

in policy, they will move to a 'hard' national funding formula 'as soon as possible'. For 2020/21 there will still be local discretion for Schools Forum to formulate views and key factors are:

- The level of MFG will depend on what is affordable.
- This will need to be balanced against a local gains cap
- Block transfer depends on high needs allocation.
- Minimum per pupil funding is mandatory £3,750 for primary and £5,000 for secondary in 2020/21.

**July 2019 –** Education Policy Institute (EPI) report – schools that are more inclusive and smaller will benefit least from minimum per pupil funding. Graphs were presented showing current pupil funding under the NFF by local authority for Primary and Secondary schools with horizontal lines to show proposed new funding floor.

**Other Measures –** A range of other measures were outlined by DfE as part of the education funding policy announcement and these were discussed by Schools Forum.

**High Needs Issues –** HE reminded colleagues that the DfE currently consider North Yorkshire to have too much high needs funding as minimum funding protection is provided through the 'funding floor'. Despite this, North Yorkshire have experience a significant increase in demand (68% since 2015) but this is not reflected in how the formula operates.

North Yorkshire incurred a £3.3million deficit which is being cross-subsidised by the Council and needs to be repaid.

Special School Funding formula hasn't changed, there has been no funding increase as of yet for them.

MM raised concern about how quickly the deficit needs to be repaid and questioned whether it needs to be paid back straight away or in stages. HE confirmed that the discussion at the September Schools Forum was principally about the range of issues that need to be considered and not a proposal.

**Other Issues –** HE confirmed that there had not been any announcements in the Spending Review on capital funding for schools.

**Consultation –** The length of consultation will depend on whether a block transfer is requested as the DfE have set very tight deadlines in the context of very late announcements in publishing the revenue operational guidance and DSG control totals. It was not possible to confirm whether a block transfer will be requested until the DfE publish DSG control totals. Should a block transfer be requested, it is likely that a very short consultation period will be undertaken mindful of the need to report consultation feedback to Schools Forum, and the timing of the Autumn half-term break for schools. If a block transfer is not required, a longer consultation period will be possible. Following receipt of high needs block allocations and DSG control totals, draft modelling will be undertaken by the local authority to enable consultation. At this stage, it is not possible to confirm the consultation start date. DfE have indicated in their guidance that they understand that the consultation may need to be shorter in order to comply with their deadlines.

SD confirmed that a consultation would commence on the Scheme for Financing Schools on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September for 4 weeks with LA maintained schools, within this, opinion and views on proposals should be put forward. The feedback from this will be brought to the November forum for approval.

**Discussions –** It was confirmed that academies can't claim for redundancies from the LA. SD confirmed that the LA had recently changed the redundancy policy – following discussion at Schools Forum - and were not paying for voluntary redundancies. Redundancy costs will

be considered through a business case proposals but schools would need to pay for voluntary redundancies.

De-delegation was considered and MM requested information on the impact of de-delegated items for 2018/19.

#### RESOLVED

1. That the report be noted including the proposed treatment of exceptions to the formula (Section 7 of the report), the position on Central School Services Block (Section 10) and teachers' pay grant and pension contributions (sections 11 and 12)
2. That schools and academies be consulted on the potential formula implications for 2020/21 and any proposed transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block with results reported back to the November 2019 meeting of the Schools Forum.
3. De Delegations to be considered on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November Forum meeting.

#### **865: PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS FACILITIES ARRANGEMENTS (PAFA)**

NOTED: report, presented by Chris Head, updating the Forum on progress on actions taken to achieve a fully traded service model by April 2020.

**Chris Head** – CH indicated that potential de-delegation for 2020/21 was good news for schools moving forward. This year there are no contracted teachers working as Local Secretaries or County Secretaries. In 3 years, the current deficit will be repaid if things continue as they currently are. They have managed to remove 1/3 of the deficit in one financial year.

**Ian Yapp** – Attendees would like to make the decision in the November meeting and would like to know the impact of PAFA, what are schools currently getting from the fund? What is the expectation of Union representatives in schools? **CH** explained that schools have a new webpage and information on their old flyers which includes all the benefits. He also confirmed that the name 'PAFA' will be changed and for anyone with any suggestions to put them forward – they have narrowed it down to 4 possible names. For the next meeting it has been asked that CH comes with a report of the general context and advantages of PAFA and the risks of PAFA not being in place. Attendees would also like to see a cost breakdown of where the money is being spent year on year.

#### **866: SCHOOL BALANCES**

NOTED: report, presented by Sally Dunn, summarising the position of school balances as at 31 March 2019 as compared with the previous year.

There is a reduction in school balances. Secondary School and Special Schools show the most reduction in balances. There is a slight rise in primary school balances. The average value of deficit balances has increase and is larger for those who had deficit already.

#### **867: SCHOOL FINANCES**

NOTED: report, presented by Howard Emmett, providing an update on the latest financial position in relation to Local Authority maintained schools as at 31 March 2019 and management action taken in response to the trends and issues identified.

It was noted that there are no reports being asked from the academies compared to the mainstream schools. Northern RSC report for academies that sit in the same North Yorkshire Area.

**Howard Emmett –** There had been written letters sent to local MP's and directly to ministers as well as through consultation responses to DfE and MHCLG. The latest national SEND review will be commencing shortly and North Yorkshire have invited the Chair to visit in November.

It is noted that schools struggle to pay back deficits when incurred. Forum discussed finding other ways to help schools if they can't get a license deficit arrangement. NH noted that letters had been sent out relating to deficit in 2 years' time. NH noted that there are so many uncertainties and unknown areas and the letter had asked for a plan around any potential deficit in 2 years. HE indicated that schools should be thinking about recovery plans prior or irrespective of the letter sent by the LA and it is helpful to ensure there is dialogue between schools and the local authority to determine the robustness of local plans.

Forum noted that there will be a disconnect between the big education funding announcements and the expected continued financial pressure in some, particularly small and rural, schools.

Discussed the benefits of briefing governors on school funding – knowing what information to look for to enable them to hold HT to account. Some schools are considering a federation, and the number of schools considering this is increasing across the county.

It is noted that generally the schools that are risk of deficit or that are in deficit are smaller schools.

AS provided anecdotal information that some new Headteachers can have little understanding of their budgets and the link with school development plans within their schools. It should not be left to School Business Managers or Bursars.

#### **868: HIGH NEEDS FUNDING, SEND UPDATE AND PRS**

CONSIDERED: Howard Emmett and Jane le Sage presented:

- a) Report providing a summary of the projected financial pressure in the High Needs Block 2020/21 and subsequent years
- b) Report providing an overview of special educational needs and disability across North Yorkshire together with an update on the implementation of the SEND Strategic Plan 2018-2023
- c) Report updating the Forum on the new models of Alternative Provision which have been finalised with secondary and Pupil Referral Service Headteachers.

There has been a large increase in the number of children who require SEN support since January 2017. Since January 2017, the profile and understanding of SEND has increased. Schools (Primary and Secondary) are now confident in identifying children with a SEND Need.

## **General SEND update –**

The Strategic Plan for SEND continues to be implemented aiming to keep children locally Developments are in train to help ensure that mainstream schools are fully supported in meeting children with the needs of SEND. Locality Boards are being established to facilitate partnership working between Headteachers, school leaders and the LA.

The central SEND team restructures consultation has not been completed and has moved into an implementation stage.

A new model of provision has been developed for PRS/ AP to encourage early intervention before permanent exclusion. Funding into PRS has previously been very generous and agreed proposals will mean that the LA will fund the national average - £18k. AP model decision has been made, now going back out with the implementation plan. In September 2020 they should be ready with new model and be able to move forward.

Selby Free Special School - sponsors will have to have submitted the applications to be considered to Selby Free School by 30<sup>th</sup> September. It is noted that the timescale has slipped slightly, this is now Feb 2020 rather than January 2020.

## **869: DFE CALL FOR EVIDENCE AND CURRENT CONSULTATIONS**

NOTED: report, presented by Howard Emmett, setting out a summary of the Local Authority's response to the call for evidence on SEND and Alternative Provision and information about live DfE consultations in relation to:

- Implementing Mandatory Minimum Per Pupil Funding Levels
- Extending the Academies Risk Protection Arrangements to LA Schools
- Financial Transparency of Local Authority Maintained Schools and Academy Trusts

HE noted that a response had been prepared for the LA Financial Transparency consultation. Individual schools are encouraged to respond to the consultations where appropriate.

## **870: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no further business raised.

## **871: FUTURE MEETINGS**

Wednesday, 13 November 2019 – 2.00 pm – Cedar Court Hotel, Harrogate

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

23 January 2020

12 March 2020