

**NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM**

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	Thursday 18 January 2024 (via Teams)
<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>	Jillian Baker
<b>Secondary Headteachers:</b>	Nick Hinchliffe, Emma Lambden
<b>Nursery Headteacher:</b>	Kathryn Firth
<b>Special Headteacher:</b>	
<b>Pupil Referral Service:</b>	
<b>Academies:</b>	Michelle Hockham, Alison Kaye, Louise Sager, Helen Williams, Claire Hurworth, Dave Barber
<b>Governors:</b>	Corinne Cross, Ray Wells
<b>Early Years Providers:</b>	
<b>16-19 Providers:</b>	

<b>Diocesan Representatives:</b>	Martin McCauley
<b>Trade Unions:</b>	Anne Swift, Rachel Horsman (sub for Sarah Carter)
<b>Observers:</b>	Cllr Annabel Wilkinson, Cllr Janet Sanderson
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Stuart Carlton, Howard Emmett, Sally Dunn, Mandy Lambert (LSO Minute-Taker), Martin Surtees
<b>Apologies:</b>	Andrew Smith, Karen O'Donnell, Brian Crosby, Josh Greaves, Sarah Carter, Julia Polley

#### **1182: WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **1183: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

***Circulated: A list of the current membership:***

The current vacancies were outlined, Primary LA (1), PRS LA (1), Academy (4) – Quorum is 40% of members.

#### **1184: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** With the following amendments, that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23 November 2023 be agreed as an accurate record:

- (a) That Ray Wells be moved on the attendance list from Headteacher to Governors.
- (b) Minute 1175 – correction required to the resolution under the Falling Rolls Fund and to continue this fund.
- (c) Minute 1176 – to differentiate between primary and secondary schools.

#### **1185: MATTERS ARISING**

**NOTED:** Minute 1172 – the information on High Needs Funding to send to schools was almost ready to be distributed subject to Schools Forum approval.

#### **1186: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no other urgent business to note.

#### **1187: OVERALL DSG AND SCHOOLS BLOCK 2024/25**

**CONSIDERED:** A report setting out, for information, the overall DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant) allocation and planned expenditure on the Schools Block Budget in 2024/25, following the endorsement of proposals regarding its distribution at the Schools Forum meeting in November 2023 and formal agreement by the Council's Executive in January 2024.

**NOTED:** The total funding for 2024/25 of £579.97m (increase of £45.57m). The actual amount received will be dependent on Early Years numbers, academy recoupment and High Needs deductions.

The Block allocations were outlined, along with the planned Schools Block expenditure. The shortfall of £1.919m was noted along with the reduction of schools' budgets down to that level. De-delegation and pupil growth information was outlined and that funding requirements for SIFD (Schools in Financial Difficulty), Unreasonable School Expenditure would be met from the reserves funding for 2024/25.

Notional SEN budget has been updated as agreed by Schools Forum. The DfE has required North Yorkshire to review calculation which had been undertaken in the Autumn Term.

**Key issues:**

- (a) Schools Block funding shortfall.
- (b) Duplicate pupil records
- (c) Exceptional rents
- (d) Rates

A Teachers' Pay Additional Grant has been provided by the DfE to support schools in meeting the costs of the 2023-24 teachers pay award. The DfE's view was that schools could support up to 3.5%.

High Needs is showing continued and significant financial pressures. There will be a 4.8% increase between 2023/24 and 2024/25 (£82.151m before adjustments). New DfE guidance was published in December 2023 regarding 'Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'. Guidance is being reviewed.

The 2024/25 Central Schools Services Block reflects the ongoing reduction of the Historic Commitments element of the Block with a reduction of £145k from £0.732m to £0.586m. The 2024/25 Copyright Licence fee is delayed and the budget is unable to be finalised at the current time.

***(Q) With regard to the duplicate pupil records, what strategies can be put in place to prevent this happening in the future?***

***(A) The LA has met with the DfE to discuss. They have acknowledged the issue and do not see it as being a material amount as far as the DSG is concerned but have agreed to take back to the Policy Unit. At a local level, the LA Census team can support the queries and questions. As far as academies are concerned direct discussions are taking place.***

***(Q) It was felt that the shortfall is an unsustainable position and being mitigated by reserves.***

***(A) DfE would comment that the funding should eventually catch-up. The LA was looking at the Schools Block reserve and what should be done with it but having it there is quite prudent. The Reserve would be kept under review.***

***(Q) Should the notional funding calculation be re-visited.***

***(A) There would be no transfer of funding from one school to another and is on a fixed rate across North Yorkshire. The notional SEN is a DfE construct and cannot be moved around.***

***(Q) The capping and scaling are not completely clear around factors that override the schools that will be capped and scaled. This would presumably be clear once the modelling has been undertaken.***

***(A) This was confirmed with some schools would receive funding protection.***

***(Q) Is the SIFD fund still in modelling. Does this go to the Executive?***

***(A) This was the case with the principles being considered and the various approval processes being undertaken.***

**AGREED:** To note and approve the contents of this paper with a final position for the 2024/25 DSG will be reported to the March 2024 meeting – any outstanding adjustments are not expected to be financially material.

## **1188: DBV UPDATE**

**CONSIDERED:** A presentation giving the DBV highlights for 2024 including:

- (a) DBV process and current position
- (b) Newton: Modular 1 feedback – key strengths in North Yorkshire financial management and team
- (c) Case reviews – thanks to all of the school community who engaged with the case studies
- (d) Converting workstreams into DBV implementation grant application
- (e) SEND and inclusion transformation activities (four broad areas of activity)
- (f) Confidence in the mainstream offer/developing inclusive communities (DBV grant funded)
- (g) Inclusion review and quality standards pledge

It was noted that recruitment would take place to work on the workstreams.

***(Q) How will the £1m be distributed?***

***(A) It will be distributed to deliver the three work-streams.***

***(Q) It feels quite heavy on mainstream settings and to flag the pressures that already exist in schools.***

***(A) Feedback has been received regarding this and are conscious of this.***

***(Q) To note how challenging it is to run schools at the moment and that there are a number of children who are in mainstream schools that should be in special schools. This is not sustainable.***

***(A) The rules and answers are made by Central Government, and they need to put in the funding or re-legislate. Lobbying by the LA is being undertaken.***

**AGREED:** That the report be noted.

## **1189: EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2024/25**

**CONSIDERED:** A report setting out the following:

- (a) An update on the 2024/25 Early Years DSG allocation and requests approval of the associated planned expenditure.
- (b) Notification of a consultation to be undertaken on the funding rates to be paid to early years' providers for the funded early years entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds, the working parent entitlement for under 2-year-olds, 2-year-olds and 3 and 4-year-olds and the universal entitlement for 3 & 4-year-olds for the 2024/25 financial year.
- (c) An update on the allocation of the supplementary funding provided for Maintained Nursery Schools for the 2024/25 financial year.

**NOTED:**

- (a) Key changes to Early Years National Funding Formula for 2024/25.
- (b) 2024/25 Early Years funding rates for North Yorkshire.
- (c) Other funding.
- (d) 2024/25 Early Years Funding Consultation – 15 January 2024 to 16 February 2024.
- (e) Supplementary Funding for Maintained Nursery Schools.
- (f) 2024/25 Early Years planned expenditure.

(g) 2024/25 Early Years centrally managed service provision.

**AGREED:**

- (a) To note the funding consultation to be undertaken with early years' providers within North Yorkshire. The views of the Schools Forum are requested on the proposed funding rates for the 2024/25 financial year.
- (b) To note the position regarding the provision of supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools for the 2024/25 financial year.
- (c) To note the 2024/25 Early Years DSG allocation and to approve the associated planned expenditure.
- (d) To pre-approve the planned spending should the proposals in the consultation be agreed.

**1190: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to note.

**1191: FUTURE MEETINGS**

Thursday 14 March 2024  
Thursday 16 May 2024  
Thursday 19 September 2024  
Thursday 21 November 2024  
Thursday 12 December 2024 (provisional)