

## NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	Thursday 16 January 2025 (via Teams)
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Minutes of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum</b>
<b>Type of report:</b> Delete as required	For information only
<b>Executive summary:</b> Including reason for submission	The minutes of the previous meeting of the North Yorkshire Education Partnership 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>	Andrea Mansfield- Clerk to The Schools Forum Tel: 01609 532609 E-mail: <a href="mailto:andrea.mansfield@northyorks.gov.uk">andrea.mansfield@northyorks.gov.uk</a>
<b>Presenting officer:</b> If not the originator	N/A

**Minutes of the NYSF meeting held on 16 January  
2025**

**PRESENT:**

<b>Chair:</b>	Ian Yapp
<b>Primary Headteachers:</b>	Karen O'Donnell, Ian Mottram, Claire Barber
<b>Secondary Headteachers:</b>	Nick Hinchliffe, Julia Polley
<b>Nursery headteacher:</b>	
<b>Special Headteacher:</b>	Ann-Marie Ellis, Michelle Hockham
<b>Pupil Referral Service:</b>	Gareth Morton
<b>Academies:</b>	Alison Kaye, David Barber, Claire Hurworth, Louise Sagar, Samantha Williams, Simon Smith, Jon Watson, Kerry Young, Clare Dowson, Rebecca Broadbent
<b>Governors:</b>	Ray Wells, Anna Kirkham, Becki Bulmer
<b>Early Years Providers:</b>	
<b>16-19 Providers:</b>	Simon Gunnerson
<b>Diocesan Representatives:</b>	
<b>Trade Unions:</b>	Michelle Jones, Anne Swift
<b>Observers:</b>	Cllr Annabel Wilkinson
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Howard Emmett, Mel Hutchinson, Louise Wilson, Amanda Newbold, Sally Dunn, Andrea Mansfield (LSO Minute Taker),
<b>Apologies:</b>	Charlotte Hope Harrison – EYFS Matthew Vickers- Prim Academy Helen Thomson -Prim LA Helen Williams – Sec. Academy Cllr J Sanderson- Observer Kathryn Firth-Nursery LA

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The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1242: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

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

The current vacancies were outlined:

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

Quorum is 40% of members.

**1243: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**AGREED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 November 2024 be agreed as an accurate record

**1244: MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**1245: NOTIFICATION OF OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no notifications of other urgent business for consideration.

**1246: OVERALL DSG AND THE SCHOOLS BLOCK 2025/26**

**CONSIDERED:** A report setting out, for information, the overall DSG allocation and planned expenditure on the Schools Block Budget in 2025/26, following the consideration of proposals regarding its distribution at the Schools Forum meeting in November 2024 and formal agreement by the Council's Executive in January 2025.

The North Yorkshire Schools Forum is asked to:

- note and approve the contents of this report.

**NOTED:** The total funding for 2025/26 of £648.82m (increase of £68.85m) The final allocation is dependent on final early years' numbers and academy recoupment and therefore the total DSG will change throughout the financial year

The 2025/26 planned Block allocations and School's Block expenditure were outlined. The funding shortfall was noted along with the significant changes in the profile of pupil characteristics between October 2023 census and October 2024 census. Noted that the funding shortfall for the 2025/26 financial year has been mitigated by the use of Growth Funding (£1,165k) and the Schools Block DSG General Reserve (£100k) to support core school budgets and ensure that school funding levels reflect the 2025/26 NFF funding formula factor values.

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De-delegation will be applied to LA maintained school budgets as agreed in the Schools Forum November 2024 meeting.

The 2025/26 Schools Block DSG includes Growth Funding of £1.665m. Released for 2025/26 school budgets £500k (2025/26 funding requirements on the Pupil Growth and Falling rolls Fund Contingency Funds to be met from reserve funding. Pupil growth – New Schools Reserve £500k total Growth Funding released to support school budgets £1.165m

**Key Issues:**

- (a) 2025/2025 School Block Transfer High needs Block LA request- Refused by Secretary of State.
- (b) Schools Block funding shortfall £1.488k (based on 0% Minimum Funding Guarantee);
- (c) Holy Family Catholic High School- Closure 31 August 2025
- (d) Exceptional Rents funding through the NFF for 2025/26 for 13 out of the 14 schools that received funding through this formula element in 2024/25.
- (e) 2024/25 Pupil growth & Falling Roll Fund requirements are likely to be higher than the previous estimate of £244.5k

Schools Staff Pay Costs, the DfE have confirmed that in addition to the funding allocated through the 2025/26 NFF, further funding in respect of the increase in employer's National Insurance contributions will be provided in 2025/2026 by a separate grant outside the NFF. The grant details and conditions have not yet been published by the Department. The Government outlines that the 2025/26 NFF funding increase will be required to cover pay award costs for the financial year.

High Needs budget is continuing to show significant financial pressures forecast indicate accumulated deficit to c.£19m by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Forecast to increase to £29m by 31 March 2026. NYC High needs funding £798/young person aged 2-18 years (NYC 146 lowest out of 151 LA's). NYC potential forecast unmitigated accumulation High Needs deficit £85m by 31 March 2028 (assumption 3% funding increase beyond 2025/26). Continued increases in the growth rate in the number of children and young people assessed as requiring EHCP.

The 2025/26 Central Schools Services Block funding level of £3.621m reflects the ongoing reduction in the Historic Commitments element of the Block, with a reduction of £117k from £0.586m to £0.469m. There has been an increase of £352k in the grant income for Ongoing Functions; the funding increase includes provision for a 7.1% increase on the Copyright License fee for 2025/26 (£47k) and the mainstreaming of the 2024/25 TPECG and the CSBG related to centrally employed teachers for the 2025/26 financial year.

**Main School Block**

**(Q) Is the increase in FSM due partly to the introduction to the automated enrolment introduction?**

**(A) It has impacted on the numbers and the funding formula as funding is lagged.**

**(Q) Is it under the remit of this group to look at or to be concerned about the main schools, block DSG reserves should it be considered in March?**

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(A) Yes, the reserve can be shared at a future Schools Forum meeting and is worth keeping under review. It is a relatively modest reserve given the scale of the overall DSG.

(Q) Regarding the Holy Family Catholic School Closure is the funding ring fenced for just NYC school receiving pupils from the school or is it available to others outside the NYC?

(A) It is available for all schools admitting pupils from the closed school that meet the eligibility criteria.

**High Needs funding**

(Q) As the DFE rejected the transfer will it make the deficit and projections worse?

(A) Yes, in effect we are now projecting a £9.9m deficit with the transfer it would have been £7.6m. It is now how we, as system leaders, address the deficit. It will form part of future High Needs Funding Subgroup discussions.

**Date of High Need Funding Subgroup Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

(Q) Had we transferred to the high needs block, would have had to use reserves from the mainstream DSG?

(A) There were mitigations in place (use of Growth Fund and Schools Block Reserve) to reduce the impact of the block transfer. We had consulted on and talked about the capping and scaling of school budgets to contain within the funding envelope.

**AGREED:**

- To note and approve the contents of this report.

**1247: EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE**

**CONSIDERED:** A report providing an update on the 2025/26 Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation. A summary of the proposed funding rates to be paid to early years' providers for the funded early years entitlement for 2-year-olds of families receiving additional support, the working parent entitlement for under 2-year-olds, 2-year-olds, and 3 & 4-year-olds and the universal entitlement for 3 & 4-year-olds for the 2025/26 financial year. An update on the allocation of the supplementary funding provided for Maintained Nursery Schools for the 2025/26 financial year.

**NOTED:**

- (a) DfE published details of the 2025/26 local authority early years entitlements funding.
- (b) DfE additional £75 million revenue grant for 2025-26, to support the early years sector.
- (c) 2025/26 proposed funding rates for the 2025/26 financial year.
- (d) Update on Deprivation funding rates for 2025/26.
- (e) Update on the Early Years Educational Needs Inclusion Fund.
- (f) An update on the allocation of the supplementary funding provided for Maintained Nursery Schools for the 2025/26 financial year.

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- (g) Proposed 2025/2026 Early years DSG -Planned Expenditure £90.9m breakdown in report.

**AGREED:**

- To note the 2025/26 Early Years DSG allocation
- To endorse the proposed early years funding rates for the 2025/26 financial year.
- To note the position with regard to the provision of supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools for the 2025/26 financial year.

**1248: AOB**

**Members held a discussion regarding the low funded position of NYC compared to other LA's, the disparity of funding across the country and the approach to lobbying/advocating for NY schools and academies with regard to school and high needs funding.**

**1249: MEETINGS**

Thursday 13 March 2025  
Thursday 15 May 2025  
Thursday 18 September 2025  
Thursday 20 November 2025  
Thursday 11 December 2025 (provisional)