

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday 19 January 2023 (via Teams)
Title of report:	Minutes of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum
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:	Jillian Baker, Rob Campbell, Karen O'Donnell
Secondary Headteachers:	Nick Hinchliffe, Kath Jordan
Nursery Headteacher:	Michael Pettaval
Special Headteacher:	Sarah Edwards
Pupil Referral Service:	
Academies:	Josh Greaves, Helen Flynn, Jane Turner, Michelle Hockham, Alison Kaye, Helen Channing, Kevin Matchett, Matthew Vickers
Governors:	Corinne Cross, Ray Wells,
Early Years Providers:	Charlotte Hope-Harrison

16-19 Providers:	
Diocesan Representatives:	Andrew Smith
Trade Unions:	Anne Swift, Sarah Carter
Observers:	Cllr Annabel Wilkinson
In Attendance:	Howard Emmett, Martin Surtees, Sally Dunn, Mandy Lambert (LSO Minute- Taker), Deborah Wilbor (LSO)
Apologies:	Brian Crosby, Pauls Gibbons, Helen Williams David Barber, Dominique Osbourne

1119: WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1120: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Circulated: A list of the current membership:

The current vacancies were outlined, Primary LA (1), Secondary LA (1), PRS LA (1), Academy (2), 16-19 Education Provider (1) – Quorum is 40% of members.

1121: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 December 2022 be agreed as an accurate record.

1122: MATTERS ARISING

NOTED: There were no matters arising.

1123: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

1124: ELECTION OF CHAIR

CONSIDERED: Information on the nominations received for the Chair of the Schools Forum. The Chair was uncontested.

AGREED: That Ian Yapp starts his second term as Chair of the Schools Forum.

1125: SCHOOL FUNDING UPDATE

CONSIDERED: A report setting out the overall DSG allocation and planned expenditure on the Schools Block budget in 2023-24, following the endorsement of proposals regarding its distribution at the Schools Forum meeting in November 2022 and December 2022 along with formal agreement by the Council's Executive in January 2023.

NOTED: The overall DSG and the total funding for 2023-24 of £534.4m (increase of £31m). The Block allocations were outlined along with the planned Schools Block expenditure. There are some challenges this year with the funding allocation. The de-delegation levels reflect the decisions of the Schools Forum in November and December. Unreasonable school expenditure continues at the same level and trade unions costs has slightly increased. The de-delegation of the School Improvement core service was outlined along with the pupil growth.

Key issues are an overspend on the Schools Block which has been investigated. This is due to an increase in FSM numbers and EAL increases. It is proposed that this is funded from LA Schools Block DSG General reserve for the £759k shortfall.

Consideration will need to be given if this occurs in the following year – could look to use a capping and scaling option.

There is a significant increase in the number of duplicate pupil records. This has been resolved. This position is relating to LA and Academy schools. It is hoped that the pupil numbers can be adjusted on a mutually agreed basis.

The National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) funding was explained where there is a shortfall of around £500k following a national NNDR review. This is not an issue for academies as the ESFA will deal with the increase in rates for academies but for the LA maintained school this would be an issue. This issue has been flagged to the DfE.

NOTED:

- HC asked if the funding for EAL all goes into schools.
This was confirmed.
- HC asked if there would be a Schools Forum vote on any capping and scaling.
This was confirmed.
- HC asked about the duplicate pupil records and amount of funding.
This equated to £100k - £120k.
- RW asked about the figures in 3.2 of the report. SD explained the correlation.

NOTED: The mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) was outlined. There will be a separate grant for academies for April 2023 – 24. The MSAG funding rates were outlined.

The High Needs position was outlined with the continued financial pressures. Nationally the High Needs Block of the DSG will benefit from an additional £400m in 2023/24, through a top up to the DSG allocations. The LA does make provision for the High Needs deficit. The LA will participate in the DfE Delivering Better Value programme.

The expenditure for the Central Schools Spending Block was outlined looking at services operated by the LA and are available to support schools and academies within North Yorkshire.

NOTED:

- AS asked about the High Needs Block and whether there is an expectation for DfE that there will be a recovery plan.
It was noted that spending pressure and growth in demand for SEN casework is an issue and the LA is at a point that viable SEN capital schemes have been undertaken within existing special schools. Work is ongoing to try and increase school places for SEN pupils. There are some real challenges. There will need to be a deficit reduction plan linked with the DBV in SEND programme.
- IY asked if there was a proposal that the shortfall consultation having to be allocated out of DSG.
The DfE jointly put forward a regulation change that LAs could not use general Council Tax to fund the issues. The High Needs deficit needs to be re-paid by the Block.
- JG asked to note the work around delivering capital build in North Yorkshire is not without its hurdles, but much is outside the LA control.

AGREED:

- a) **That North Yorkshire Schools Forum notes and approves the contents of the report.**
- b) **To approve a disapplication request to the DfE should this be necessary along with the disapplication rates.**

- c) **To note that an update will be brought to the March Schools Forum meeting.**

1126: EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE AND CONSULTATION PROPOSAL

CONSIDERED: A report setting out the following:

- a) An update on the 2023/24 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 education entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds and 3- & 4-year-olds for the 2023/24 financial year.
- c) An update on the latest position with regard to the supplementary funding provided for Maintained Nursery Schools.

NOTED: There is an increase in the hourly rate received to the LA to £4.87. It is noted that in the increase 0.5p relates to the mainstream of the teachers' pay and pension grant. North Yorkshire is on the national funding floor as far as the £4.87 is concerned. For disadvantaged an increase to £5.70. Early Years PP an increase to 62p. For Disability Access Fund an increase to £826p. The underlying datasets driving the early years' funding formulae will be updated to the most recently available data. The Early Years regulations restrict the retention of EY DSG to 5% of 3&4year old funding.

In terms of the funding consultation proposed for 20223/24, a proposal to increase the provider base funding rate to £4.51 per hour was outlined along with the sparsity funding supplement to support situations where in particularly rural areas where there is a danger to the sufficiency of early years provision and where the LA could provide some exceptional funding on a short-term basis. There has been very limited use of the funding over the past few years. Some of the Early Years reserve could be used where there is a risk to sufficiency in a particularly geographical area.

The early years sector will be sought via consultation on:

Option 1: Increase the three- and four-year-old provider base funding rate by an additional 5p per hour (in addition to the 20p detailed in the report).

Option 2: Introduce a Quality Supplement which would be paid to those providers that employ a qualified teacher to deliver the early years provision.

Supplementary Funding for the maintained nursery schools' proposals were outlined along with the 2023/24 Early Years Centrally Managed Service provision.

NOTED:

- IY asked if the consultation outcome would come to the Schools Forum in March.
- It was noted that the outcome will go to Members on 7 March 2023 and bring back for information to Schools Forum on 16 March 2023.
- CHH asked why there was a restriction of 5% which minimum wage will be increasing in April and how this can be funded.
- In terms of the teachers' pay and pension grant providers' views are sought as in the options outlined.
- CHH asked about the QTS in settings. Do the qualified EY teachers count towards this.
It was noted that this would be a QTS who would pay into the Teachers' Pension Scheme.
- MP asked about the Early Years reserve fund.
It was noted that there was currently £2.2m in the reserve.

- MP asked what information the LA would be communicating to the DfE about the issues in North Yorkshire regarding Early Years.
It was noted that within the funding consultation undertaken by the DfE in the summer the LA made the point in terms of the cost pressures that were impacting on the sector in terms of increases in minimum wage and how this would be reflected within the funding in the EY sector. The point was made around rurality and reflecting the smaller providers in the more rural areas and the dis-economies of scale within that provision. The outcome of the consultation was received in December and would be looking at the LA response back to the DfE.
- AW asked to add her voice to support the issues to be raised with the DfE.
- MP asked about the development of the National Professional Qualification for Early Years Leadership. Could there be some consideration of settings that have a strong appetite for developing professionally. Could graduate professionals be included within a new National Strategy.
It was suggested that feedback to be provided through the consultation.

AGREED:

- a) **To note the funding consultation to be undertaken with early years' providers within North Yorkshire. The views of the Schools Forum are noted with regard to the proposed funding rate changes for the 2023/24 financial year.**
- b) **To note the position regarding the provision of supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools for the 2023/24 financial year.**
- c) **To note the 2023/24 Early Years DSG allocation.**
- d) **To approve the centrally planned expenditure.**

1127: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to note.

1128: FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 16 March 2023

Thursday 18 May 2023

Thursday 21 September 2023

Thursday 23 November 2023

Thursday 14 December 2023 – if required