

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday 14 March 2024 (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, Helen Thompson
Secondary Headteachers:	Nick Hinchliffe, Julia Polley
Nursery Headteacher:	
Special Headteacher:	Sarah Edwards
Pupil Referral Service:	
Academies:	Michelle Hockham, Alison Kaye, Louise Sager, Helen Williams, Andrew Robinson (Sub), Samantha Williams, Josh Greaves, Kevin Matchett
Governors:	Anna Kirkham
Early Years Providers:	Charlotte Hope-Harrison

16-19 Providers:	
Diocesan Representatives:	
Trade Unions:	Anne Swift, Sarah Carter
Observers:	Cllr Annabel Wilkinson
In Attendance:	Amanda Newbold, Janet Crawford, Howard Emmett, Sally Dunn, Mandy Lambert (LSO Minute-Taker), Martin Surtees
Apologies:	Ray Wells, Emma Lambden, Corinne Cross, Andrew Smith, Matthew Vickers, Danny Metters, Dave Barber (sub Andrew Robinson), Cllr Janet Sanderson

1192: WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1193: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Circulated: A list of the current membership:

The current vacancies were outlined, Primary LA (1), PRS LA (1), Academy (3) – Quorum is 40% of members.

1194: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: With the following amendments, that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 January 2024 be agreed as an accurate record.

1195: MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

1196: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other urgent business to note.

1197: EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE

CONSIDERED: A report looking at the results and feedback received from the recent consultation on the funding rates paid to early years' providers for the funded early education entitlement for 3 & 4-year-olds, disadvantaged 2-year-olds, 2-year-olds of working families and under 2-year-olds of working families for the 2024/25 financial year. The report also provides an update on the latest position on the 2024/25 early years block dedicated schools grant (DSG), and associated approval is requested for the updated planned expenditure.

AGREED:

- (a) To note the outcome of the funding consultation undertaken with early years' providers within North Yorkshire, and the associated decision by CYPs Executive Members and the Corporate Director – Children & Young People's Service the changes outlined in the report are made to early years funding for the 2024/25 financial year.
- (b) To note approval was also provided for the early years' element of the DfE Teachers Pay grant to be passed on to all providers based on the DfE distribution methodology of 3p per hour on the universal and extended hours for 3 & 4-year-olds for the Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 terms.

- (c) To note the indicative increase in the 2024/25 Early Years Block funding level because of the DfE increasing the number of weeks funded for the under 2-year-olds of working parents for the Autumn 2024 and Spring 2025 terms, and to approve the associated update to the planned expenditure as detailed in sections 4.2 and 4.4 of the report.

1198: HIGH NEEDS BLOCK BUDGET

CONSIDERED:

- (a) A report outlining the expected budget for the High Needs Block in 2024-25, how this compares to an anticipated in-year cash allocation of £82.15m, and the extent of the anticipated financial pressure showing an estimated in-year deficit of up to £5.9m.
- (b) The deficit balance projected to be brought forward to 2024/25 is c.£13.6m.
- (c) The breakdown of the 2024/25 High Needs Commissioning budget was outlined.
- (d) Key points and further developments.

(Q) *Is there any sense of the impact for schools*

(A) *Wherever possible the local authority is aiming to use high needs block funding in a more targeted and efficient way.*

AGREED: That the report be noted along with the financial position on the High Needs Block.

Colleagues were encouraged to join the High Needs Funding Group should they wish to do so.

1199: OVERALL DSG AND CSSB

CONSIDERED: A report setting out the final position regarding the planned expenditure on the Schools Block Budget in 2024-25 following the finalisation of school budget allocations, including the resolution of the duplicate pupil records identified in the school budget calculation process. The paper also provides details of the planned expenditure for the 2024/25 Central School Services Block (CSSB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

NOTED: That the LA is picking up the cost of Early Help.

AGREED: To note and approve the updates for the Schools Block.

1200: SCHOOLS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY LA ALLOCATION

CONSIDERED: A report providing Schools Forum with an overview of the additional grant funding received by the Local Authority from the Department for Education in 2023-24 to support LA maintained schools in financial difficulty.

The report also outlines the proposed eligibility criteria and distribution methodology of the additional funding support to LA maintained schools currently in a financial deficit that will be considered by the North Yorkshire Council Executive on 19 March 2024.

NOTED: £20m to Local Authorities and £20m to academies (ESFA will allocate).

The conditions of grant allow the funding to be utilised as the provision of a cash sum to a school for the purposes of funding towards the elimination of a deficit balance. Not every school with a deficit will be given additional funding. The LA will be transparent in criteria and will be fully allocated within 2023/24.

Principles have been developed for the allocation of the DfE Schools in Financial Difficulty grant funding based on the principles outlined in the report.

There have been 20 schools identified as eligible to receive additional funding. Three funding options have been developed. Option 1 was considered to provide the best opportunity in utilising the grant funding.

(Q) Should there not be some eligibility around forecasted deficits.

(Q) Is this in-year balances or cumulative balances.

(Q) What about schools going through staff restructure due to budget deficit.

(Q) There is reassurance that the reviews are a robust process.

(Q) Does the LA have to report back to the DfE.

(A) This is for schools that are already in deficit and due to be in deficit for the end of the next financial year. This depends on the circumstances of the school. As a condition of grant the SRM review must take place. The schools with the most challenging financial positions continue to work with the LA. The LA is taking actions into account, but the schools will still need to act. The DfE has not asked for a report back to them.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

1201 FALLING ROLLS FUND ELIGIBILITY

CONSIDERED: A report providing an update on the DfE recent changes to the funding regulations for Falling Rolls Funds for the 2024-25 financial year. The proposed changes to the North Yorkshire Falling Rolls Funds in response to the regulation changes are detailed in the report.

The proposed eligibility criteria and operating methodology for the NYC Falling Rolls Fund for 2024/25 were outlined.

(Q) Should there be a change to the criteria set out in the list.

(A) This was noted.

(Q) Does this need to be reviewed next year.

(A) This was confirmed.

AGREED:

- (a)** To note the changes to the Falling Rolls Funds for the 2024/25 financial year.
- (b)** To approve the DfE changes to the statutory guidance on Falling Rolls Funds for the 2024-25 financial year and the proposed changes to the eligibility criteria for the Falling Rolls Fund from 1 April 2024 to comply with the DfE requirements for the 2024/25 financial year.

1202 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT CONSULTATION

NOTED:

- (a) Home to school travel background.
- (b) Home to school travel financial background.
- (c) Home to school travel discretionary provision.
- (d) Future estimates per Constituency areas.
- (e) Impact on primary schools.
- (f) Impact on secondary schools.
- (g) Home to school travel key messages.

- (h) Home to School Transport Policy changes indicative timeline.
- (i) The link to the consultation documentation.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

1203 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

1204: FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 16 May 2024

Thursday 19 September 2024

Thursday 21 November 2024

Thursday 12 December 2024 (provisional)