

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday 20 January 2022 (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, Karen O'Donnell, Nick Styles, Rob Campbell
Secondary Headteachers:	Nick Hinchliffe, Kath Jordan
Nursery Headteacher:	Michael Pettavel,
Special Headteacher:	
Pupil Referral Service:	
Academies:	Helen Flynn, Brian Crosby, Helen Williams, Michelle Hockham, Jane Turner, Josh Greaves (wef 14.53), Francis Loftus, Dominique Osborne
Governors:	Corinne Cross
Early Years Providers:	Charlotte Hope-Harrisson

16-19 Providers:	Ann Hardy
Diocesan Representatives:	Andrew Smith, Emma Higgins
Trade Unions:	Anne Swift
Observers:	Alison Kaye, Lisa Marron, Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust. Patrick Mulligan,
In Attendance:	Stuart Carlton, Howard Emmett, Sally Dunn, Amanda Newbold, Andrew Dixon, Jon Holden, Mandy Lambert (LSO Minute Taker), Deborah Wilbor (LSO)
Apologies:	Julie Polley, Fiona Beetles, Helen Channing

1047: WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1048: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Circulated: A list of the current membership:

Current vacancies were outlined, 3 x primary LA, 1 x secondary LA, 1 x PRS LA, 1 x academy, 1 x Special School LA. Total membership 36 (reviewed 2019) – Quorum is 12.

NOTED: It was noted that Chris Head had retired from Schools Forum and Anne Swift had taken his place. The meeting was quorate for the decisions required to be taken.

1049: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 December 2021 be agreed as an accurate record.

1050: MATTERS ARISING

NOTED: There were no matters arising.

1051: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no notification of any other urgent business.

1052: OVERALL DSG AND SCHOOLS BLOCK 2022-23

CONSIDERED: A report setting out the overall DSG allocation and planned expenditure on the Schools Block Budget in 2022-23, following the endorsement of proposals regarding its distribution at the Schools Forum meeting in November 2021 and December 2021 and formal agreement by the Council's Executive in January 2022.

NOTED: There is a £20m increase from 2021-22. This reflects the additional funding allocated to North Yorkshire through the updated national funding formula, an increase in the High Needs Block allocation and an increase in the LA Early Years funding rate and additional funding due to the new school funding settlement. The total DSG does change throughout the year due to early years' numbers, academy recoupment and high needs deductions. A summary of the overall DSG and Schools Block and how things had changed was outlined.

The School Improvement de-delegation DfE response had been received with an intention to go ahead with the proposals. De-delegation for school improvements was rejected at the previous meeting. Due to the short time-scale, a disapplication

request would be submitted in early February to the Secretary of State. If approved the lump sum will be de-delegated in 2022/23. The LA is committed to work with colleagues around what School Improvement de-delegation would look like going forward.

The exceptional circumstances grant is funded by reserves. Upper Wharfedale and The Wensleydale School and Sixth Form are eligible to receive the funding. In terms of growth funding, the LA would receive £2.053m to be spent on pupil growth and falling rolls in line with 2021-22.

The Secretary of State decision to close Baldersby St James CE Primary Academy has not yet been received but is expected.

The planned schools expenditure and where this was being spent was outlined.

NOTED:

- ***BC asked about the accumulated deficit and where was it held. It was noted that the LA holds the deficit. Provision has been made to hold a equal and opposite LA positive reserve going forward. Work continues to reduce the High Needs deficit.***
- ***IY asked if the rate of the deficit accumulation had slowed. There are not many LA areas without a deficit in the budget. If there had not been the three-year step up the situation would have been much worse. The DfE have stepped in and negotiated to wipe some of the deficit out for some LAs.***
- ***HF asked about the current funding with the Locality Boards and whether a regular report could be brought to Schools Forum. The new Trust Board will be set up in due course now that all Locality Boards were operating. There are expectations on how the budgets are managed. This is based on data provided to the Board six times per year. The expectation is by June the spending plans are in place and any procurement / brokering has taken place for that financial year.***
- ***IY suggested that financially reporting to Schools Forum would take place to enable challenge and impact to the Locality Boards.***

AGREED: That Schools Forum approves the contents of the report.

In terms of High Needs, the projected accumulated deficit as at March 2022 will be c.£11.2m.

1053: LMS PROCEDURE RULES

CONSIDERED: A report providing an update and requested comments from Schools Forum on proposed amendments to the North Yorkshire County Council Local Management of Schools (LMS) Financial Procedure Rules.

NOTED: The LMS Procedure Rules had been reviewed in terms of national association and DfE changes along with local policy changes. The key changes were outlined which are still subject to final review by North Yorkshire Legal Services.

AGREED: To note the changes to LMS Financial procedure rules.

1054: EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE 2022-23

CONSIDERED: A report giving an update on the following:

- (a) The 2022/23 Early Years DSG Allocation and requesting 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 two year olds and three and four year olds for the 2022/23 financial year.

- (c) The latest position with regard to the supplementary funding provided for Maintained Nursery Schools.

NOTED: The background sets out the 2022/23 increases to the funding rates at LA level. Early Years regulations restrict the retention of Early Years DSG to 5% of 3&4 years old funding. In 2021-22, the provider base rate of funding is £4.15 per hour. A funding consultation with the Early Years sector would take place from January to February. Supplementary funding for maintained nurseries will continue. The Centrally managed Early Years' Service provision spending was outlined.

NOTED:

- ***MP expressed concern about vulnerable children and that many Early Years providers cannot access some of the resources for schools. The pandemic has hit these services badly. These children may be further disadvantaged. It would be useful for the LA to consider giving funded two year olds a school reference number in order to be able to track impact going through. Providers may not be able to take the funded two year olds who are more complex. Providers are struggling with staff retention so the impact would need to be considered. What percentage of the Early Help team is paid for through the Early Years funding – the LA would clarify this.***
- ***AN explained that the outcome is a consequence of not using the funding to support more families to start at two. North Yorkshire are currently drawing up an Early Years Strategy.***
- ***CH-H asked to echo the comments outlined. Covid has massively affected the children.***

AGREED:

- (a) To note the funding consultation to be undertaken with early years' providers within North Yorkshire.
- (b) To note the position with regard to the provision of supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools for the 2022/23 financial year.
- (c) To note the 2022/23 Early Years DSG allocation and to approve the associated planned expenditure. It was noted that a further update would be provided at the March 2022 meeting of the Schools forum on the outcome of the funding consultation, along with any associated request for approval of the planned use of the additional income retained by the LA from the disadvantaged two year old funding for the 2022/23 financial year.
- (d) The Centrally Managed Early Years Provision allocation.

1055: GOOD ESTATE MANAGEMENT – LA MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

CONSIDERED: A report on the upcoming consultation on the NYCC Estate Strategy, which has been developed in alignment with the DfE guidance for 'Good Estate Management for Schools'. A consultation is expected to run across January and February 2022 before the document is presented to NYCC Executive in April 2022.

NOTED: The strategic priorities for the LA.

AGREED: To note the draft document for consultation which will be issued to all schools and County Council Members.

1056: REVIEW OF HIGH NEEDS SUB-GROUP ARRANGEMENTS

CONSIDERED: A report setting out the responses received to a recent review of the operation of the High Needs Sub-Group and proposes some changes to the future operation of the group.

AGREED: To note the comments on the proposals and that:

- (a) The High Needs Sub-Group should continue to function, but in future will meet on a termly basis.
- (b) That the membership of the group will be strengthened through the involvement of Locality Board Chairs (or their nominated representative) and the use of nominated substitutes (as appropriate).

1057: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business had been raised.

1058: FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 17 March 2022 (virtual)

Thursday 19 May 2022

Thursday 22 September 2022

Thursday 17 November 2022

Thursday 15 December 2022 – if required