

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday 16 March 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:	
Special Headteacher:	
Pupil Referral Service:	
Academies:	Josh Greaves, Jane Turner, Michelle Hockham, Alison Kaye, Helen Channing, Matthew Vickers, Dominique Osbourne, Helen Williams
Governors:	Ray Wells
Early Years Providers:	

16-19 Providers:	
Diocesan Representatives:	Andrew Smith
Trade Unions:	Helen Gray
Observers:	Cllr Annabel Wilkinson
In Attendance:	Howard Emmett, Martin Surtees, Sally Dunn, Janet Crawford, Amanda Newbold, Mandy Lambert (LSO Minute- Taker), Deborah Wilbor (LSO)
Apologies:	Sarah Edwards, Kathryn Firth, Paul Gibbons, Corinne Cross, Andrew Krlie, Anne Swift, Daniel Metters, Cllr Janet Sanderson

1129: WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1130: 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) – Quorum is 40% of members.

1131: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2023 be agreed as an accurate record.

1132: MATTERS ARISING

NOTED: There were no matters arising.

1133: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

An update on the Early Years announcement the previous day.

1134: SCHOOLS BLOCK BUDGET 2023/24

CONSIDERED: A report setting out, for information, the final position regarding the planned expenditure on the Schools Block Budget in 2023-24, following:

- The finalisation of the funding requirement from the Schools Block Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Reserve to meet the shortfall of £782k in funding between the 2023/24 Schools Block DSG and the 2023/24 school budget funding requirement. The final funding requirement £782k, after a further DfE technical adjustment for NNDR implications of school closures in 2022/23.
- The resolution of the duplicate pupil records identified in the 2023/24 school budget calculation process. There are no overall funding implications for the 2023/24 Schools Block Budget.
- Confirmation of the Local Authority joining the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) central payment process for National non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) for the 2023/24 financial year.

NOTED: The 2023/24 planned schools' expenditure totalling £417,802.

AGREED: To note the contents of the report.

1135: EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE 2023/24

CONSIDERED: A report providing an update on 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- and 4-year-olds and disadvantaged 2-year-olds for the 2023/24 financial year.

NOTED: The DfE announced updated rates for 2023-24 on 16 December 2022. For 3- and 4-year-olds, a 26p per hour increase. For disadvantaged 2-year-olds, an increase of 13p per hour. For Early Years Pupil Premium an increase of 2p per hour. For Disability access fund, an annual increase of £28. Teachers pay and pension grants will be mainstreamed in both the EYNFF and MNS supplementary funding. The underlying datasets driving the early years' funding formulae will be updated to the most recently available data. Early Years regulations restrict the retention of EY DSG to 5% of 3- and 4-year-old funding (no restriction on 2-year-old funding). The views of the early years sector were sought via consultation (25 January – 22 February 2023) on the following:

A proposed increase in the 3- and 4-year-old provider base funding rate of 20p per hour to increase the base hourly funding rate from £4.31 to £4.51 per hour.

The discontinuation of the Sparsity funding supplement for the 2023 / 24 financial year, with the use of the Early Years reserve to provide any short term exceptional financial support to a provider required to secure sufficiency of early years provision within a geographical area until the availability of provision can be stabilised. The discontinuation of the Sparsity funding supplement would allow for the provider base rate funding to be increased by a further 1p per hour in addition to the 20p detailed above.

Schools Forum were presented with two options for the distribution for the teachers' pay and pension grant:

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 above).

Option 2: Introduce a Quality Supplement which would be paid to those providers that employ a qualified teacher to deliver the early years provision, where the qualified teacher is employed on teachers' pay and conditions and where the employer pays into the teachers' pension scheme for the teacher delivering the early years' provision. The Quality Supplement rate would be 22p per hour for three- and four-year-old universal and extended hours. The funding supplement would only be payable to those providers meeting the eligibility criteria.

It was noted that 187 responses had been received from the consultation (31%).

AGREED:

- To note the outcome of the funding consultation undertaken with early years' providers within North Yorkshire on the level of the provider base funding rate for the 2023/24 financial year for 3- & 4-year-olds and disadvantaged 2-year-olds.
- To note the recommendation to CYPS Executive Members and the Corporate Director – Children & Young People's Service to approve:
 - An increase in the provider base funding rate for the universal and extended funded entitlement for 3- & 4-year-olds from £4.31 per hour to £4.57 per hour for the 2023/24 financial year.
 - An increase in the provider funding rate for disadvantaged 2-year-olds from £5.51 to £5.64 for the 2023/24 financial year.

1135: HIGH NEEDS BLOCK 2023/24

CONSIDERED: The report outlines the expected budget for the High Needs Block in 2023-24, how this compares to an anticipated in-year cash allocation of £77.86m (including £3.23m of additional funding announced in the Government Autumn 2022 Spending Review to support increased financial pressures within High Needs) and the extent of the anticipated financial pressure. The 2023/24 key points were outlined along with the commissioning total of £67,692 and the further development work.

NOTED:

RC asked what age range the new Free School is. The age range will be 8-16. HC asked if the amount of rate coming through is a national picture - it was noted that this was slightly below the national average. HC asked about the improvements and opportunities and which parts of the plan were on track – progress in the SEND plan will be set out in future Schools Forum meetings. HC asked if the research findings had been considered – the DBV programme is still in its infancy and further dialogue with DfE and other LAs is required. JG asked about absorbing funding back into Council resources - the expectation is that the LA and partners will find ways of reducing the High Needs Block. IY asked about the trend on in-year deficit and what the predicted figure was – the latest projection was a £0.5m in-year financial pressure although it was noted that this position had improved during the course of 2022/23 and was an improved position compared with start-of-year forecasts.

AGREED: To note the contents of the report and the financial position.

1136: LOCALITY BOARDS UPDATE

A verbal update was given regarding the Locality Boards. The LA will be putting more targeted work in for schools to be discussed at the Locality Boards during the summer term for ratification and will report back with progress.

1137: LA MAINTAINED SCHOOLS – OVERVIEW OF OVERALL FINANCIAL POSITION

- The end of year balances for 2021/22 were outlined and noted.
- The school start budgets (April 2022) for 2022/23 were outlined and noted.
- The school revised forecasts (December 2022) for 2022/23 were outlined and noted.
- School financial pressures for 2022/23 were outlined and noted.
- Local Authority support for schools in financial difficulty – The LA adopts a number of measures to support schools facing financial difficulty.

NOTED: RW noted that we are starting to see schools' budgets deteriorating over the coming few years with a reduction in pupil numbers. There is an anticipation of much higher salaries and await the outcome of the teachers' negotiations. Fear that despite best efforts staff numbers would have to reduce and heading for real problems from 2024/25 onwards. What are we doing regarding that projection? Will there be a plan in future to look at school places?

HE explained the actions of the Local Authority and would be happy to have a conversation with any school governing body / headteacher. The primary school places required across the county are expected to be fewer in coming years due to a contraction in primary school-age pupils. Some schools may close but at the same time there may be a need for new schools where the population is growing.

AN explained the work to look at the change in pupil numbers. Overall, it is showing a drop of minus 2.5%. The decline is uneven across the County for primary-age pupils. The secondary picture looks like increasing around 4% across the whole area. JG asked whether special school deficits are included in the quoted High Needs deficit. HE confirmed that special school deficits are in addition to the High Needs deficit

figure and represents additional financial pressure within the SEND system in North Yorkshire. JG asked about the context for specialist provision in the County. This will have implications for strategic planning hence the High Needs Sub-Group. It would be interesting for the Forum to understand this information a bit more.

1138: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Early Years Budget Announcement - 15 March 2023

The headlines from the announcement were noted and the LA will consider the information received.

1139: FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 18 May 2023

Thursday 21 September 2023

Thursday 23 November 2023

Thursday 14 December 2023 – if required