

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday 21 November 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:	Laura Sandilands – Clerk to the Schools Forum Tel: 01609 532123 E-mail: laura.sandilands@northyorks.gov.uk
Presenting officer: If not the originator	N/A

PRESENT:

Chair:	Ian Yapp
Primary Headteachers:	Ian Mottram, Karen O'Donnell
Secondary Headteachers:	Julia Polley, Nick Hinchcliffe
Nursery Headteacher:	Kathryn Firth
Special Headteacher:	
Pupil Referral Service:	
Academies:	Alison Kaye, Claire Hurworth, Claire Dowson, Andrew Robinson on behalf of David Barber, Jon Watson, Kerry Young, Louise Sagar, Rebecca Broadbent, Samantha Williams, Helen Williams
Governors:	Ray Wells,
Early Years Providers:	Charlotte Hope-Harrison

16-19 Providers:	Simon Gummerson
Diocesan Representatives:	Yvonne Methley
Trade Unions:	Anne Swift
Observers:	Cllr Annabel Wilkinson, Cllr Janet Sanderson
In Attendance:	Howard Emmett, Andrea Mansfield (LSO), Laura Sandilands (LSO Minute Taker), Louise Wilson, Mairi Reed, Martin Copson, Michelle Hockham, Sally Dunn,
Apologies:	David Barber, Amanda Newbold, , Matthew Vickers, Helen Thompson, Emma Lambden

1228: WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1229: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Circulated: A list of the current membership:

The current vacancies were outlined, Primary LA (2), PRS LA (1), Special LA (1).
Quorum is 40% of members.

1230: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

NOTED: RW is a Governor not a Headteacher

AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 September 2024 be agreed as an accurate record.

1231: MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

1232: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other urgent business to note.

1233: SCHOOL FUNDING CONSULTATION

CONSIDERED: A report providing the results of the 2025-26 School Funding Consultation that ran from 20 September 2024 to 25 October 2024. Schools Forum is asked to consider:

- The consultation option to be endorsed in relation to the level of the Minimum Funding Guarantee.
- The methodology to be endorsed for use in the allocation to school budgets of any surplus funding available within the Schools Block DSG after the calculation of the school funding formula using NFF values.
- The capping and scaling methodology to be endorsed for use in the recovery of any funding shortfall, in excess of the value of the mitigating support measures, on the Schools Block DSG after the calculation of the school funding formula using NFF values.
- Approval of the Local Authority request to transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block DSG to the High Needs Block.

AGREED:

- **Minimum Funding Guarantee at 0% (0 votes -0.5% MFG, 17 votes 0% MFG)**

- **Methodology for the Allocation of Any Surplus Funding – use of lump sum (0 votes AWP, 17 votes Lump Sum)**
- **Methodology for the Operation of Capping and Scaling to Recover Any Funding Shortfall - A higher gains cap percentage and a higher scaling back of gains percentage (0 votes Lower Gains Cap, Lower Scaling Percentage, 17 votes Higher Gains Cap, High Scaling Percentage)**

Comment from RW that he intends to vote against the block transfer proposal. £12m is being spent on external providers. RW believes focus should be on in-house services and need to make better use of resources.

Comment from NH has reservations about the block transfer away from mainstream school budgets as it seems to be disappearing into an ever-growing pot. The funding from the block transfer will barely touch the deficit but would have an impact on small schools who are struggling with their budget. But does note that the majority of responses from the school funding consultation were in favour of the block transfer.

Comment from AR that the Trust have a vote in 4 different local authority Schools Forum and always vote against it. AR believes that a yes vote says to the government that there is enough funding to give 0.5% to high needs and that's not the case. We are effectively masking a problem and central government needs to deal with high needs block issue.

Comment from HE that the local authority is implementing a number of mitigating actions aimed at delivering up to £50m cost mitigations over the next 3-4 years. The LA is hopeful that this will reduce the projected accumulated deficit of £100m.

Comment from HE that the local authority has a significant capital programme, including a new free special school opening in Harrogate, work is happening at Welburn Hall Special School and Springwater Special school. A new free special school in Selby is being built – this is a DfE-led scheme that has experienced significant delays. A lot of work is happening to try to mitigate those costs. It's not a quick turnaround. NYC is managing our high needs block relatively well compared with some LA deficits. The block transfer is about trying to manage the system within NYC. Over 95% of our high needs block funding is paid to schools -the block transfer simply reallocates funding to schools in a more targeted way. The LA acknowledge that the block transfer does not increase the total quantum of funding but this is about system leadership within a broken system.

NOT AGREED -

- **To approve the local authority proposal to transfer 0.5% of funding from the Schools Block DSG to the High Needs Block for the 2025-26 financial year. (0 votes Agree 0.5% Block Transfer, 17 votes Disagree 0.5% Block Transfer)**

Comment from IY (Chair) - Given the continued challenging position in schools with regards finance generally and also with regard meeting increasing frequency and complexity of student need, the Schools Forum do not feel able to recommend a block transfer from Schools Block to High Needs in 2025/26. The shared view of all schools and academy representatives present at Schools Forum continues to be that High Needs Funding income in North Yorkshire is inadequate and that the funding systems nationally are poorly structured, in acute distress and impact negatively on our authority. We recognise that the local authority will go on to seek dis-application from the Secretary of State for this block transfer. Furthermore, we recognise the

challenging position faced by North Yorkshire Council and the various mitigating measures in place to impact on the High Needs Funding deficit and offset in part the impact of a block transfer should it be approved.

1234: 2025-26 SCHOOL FUNDING: DE-DELEGATION - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

CONSIDERED: A report providing LA proposals requesting de-delegation of funding (buy back for maintained nursery schools, special schools and PRU) from school budgets in the 2025-26 financial year to fund statutory services for the provision of school improvement core activities to maintained schools.

NOTED: *RW expressed his support for the school improvement system in NY and praised the support received.*

AGREED:

- For LA maintained primary schools – de-delegation of funding for the statutory service provision of school improvement core activities for the 2025-26 financial year on the basis of a lump sum per school of £3,280 and a per pupil amount of £2.41. (3 votes – Agree, 0 votes – Disagree)
- For LA maintained secondary schools – de-delegation of funding for the statutory service provision of school improvement core activities for the 2025-26 financial year on the basis of a lump sum per school of £3,280 and a per pupil amount of £2.93 (2 votes – Agree, 0 votes – Disagree)
- LA maintained nursery schools buyback charge based on the Primary School de-delegation methodology for the statutory service provision of school improvement core activities for the 2025-26 financial year. (5 votes – Agree, 0 votes – Disagree)
- LA special schools and PRS buyback charge based on the Secondary School de-delegation methodology for statutory service provision of school improvement core activities for the 2025-26 financial year. (5 votes – Agree, 0 votes – Disagree)

1235: 2025-26 SCHOOL FUNDING: DE-DELEGATION – CONTINGENCY BUDGETS

CONSIDERED: A report detailing the LA proposals for the de-delegated contingency budgets for the 2025-26 financial year and the estimated reserves position for these budgets. The report also provides an overview of the use of dedelegated funding in relation to Schools in Financial Difficulty and Unreasonable School Expenditure Contingencies.

NOTED:

(Q) I'm concerned at the de-delegation of £7.33, I think there's sufficient funding in block of 1.1 million to cover cost.

(A) They are three separate elements, £87k is carried forward on schools causing concern - that's the only one we're seeking de-delegation on.

(Q) Can the reserve amounts be transferred between each one?

(A) That's not what they've previously been agreed for.

(Q) What is the timeline for decisions to be made?

(A) We need this before APT submission - a decision today or we will return on the December reserve meeting date

(A) When requests come in for unreasonable expenditure, it's about having sufficient funding available to support those schools. Expenditure in relation to schools causing concern is a more consistent level.

(Q) Does it have to be £7.33?

(A) LW clarified that the schools causing concern grant does support some of the enhanced offer. In addition governance health checks. We deliver our school improvement offer on an academic year basis.

(A) Forum need to consider the proposal presented in the meeting. If that does not confirm the de-delegation amount for 2025-26, then we may need to use the December reserve meeting to look at alternatives.

NH will support the proposal but wants the concerns raised and noted for next year.

AGREED:

For LA maintained primary phase schools:

- **To de-delegate £7.33 in relation to the per pupil Schools Causing Concern funding for 2025-26**
- **To utilise the reserve funding to support the Schools in Financial Difficulty element of the de-delegation contingency for the 2025/26 financial year with no de-delegation of funds for this element of the funding for next financial year.**
- **To utilise the reserve funding to support the School Redundancy Costs Contribution element of the de-delegation contingency for the 2025-26 financial year with no de-delegation of funds for this element of the funding for next financial year.**
- **To utilise the reserve funding to support the Unreasonable School Expenditure de-delegation contingency for the 2025-26 financial year with no de-delegation of funds for this element of the funding for next financial year**

(2 votes – Agree, 1 vote – Disagree)

For LA maintained secondary phase schools:

- **To de-delegate £7.33 in relation to the per pupil Schools Causing Concern funding for 2025-26**
- **To utilise the reserve funding to support the Schools in Financial Difficulty element of the de-delegation contingency for the 2025/26 financial year with no de-delegation of funds for this element of the funding for next financial year.**
- **To utilise the reserve funding to support the School Redundancy Costs Contribution element of the de-delegation contingency for the 2025-26 financial year with no de-delegation of funds for this element of the funding for next financial year.**
- **To utilise the reserve funding to support the Unreasonable School Expenditure de-delegation contingency for the 2025-26 financial year with no de-delegation of funds for this element of the funding for next financial year**

(2 votes – Agree, 0 votes – Disagree)

LA maintained Schools Forum members endorsed the LA requesting LA maintained nursery schools, special schools and PRS service buyback based on the 2025-26 LA maintained school per pupil charge on a per place basis in relation to Schools Causing Concern funding.

(5 votes – Agree, 0 votes – Disagree)

1236: SCHOOL FUNDING: DE-DELEGATION 2025-26 FACILITIES

CONSIDERED: A report seeking approval for continued de-delegation of funds to support local trade union facilities arrangements.

AGREED:

- To continue to support the principle of de-delegation of funds for maintained schools.
- Following a rate freeze in 2024-25, to agree to an increase of £0.50 for 2025-26, equating to £3.94 per pupil for primary phase schools and secondary phase schools

(Primary: 2 votes – Agree, 0 votes – Disagree)

(Secondary: 2 votes – Agree, 0 votes – Disagree)

1237: SPECIAL SCHOOLS & PRS FUNDING CONSULTATION RESULTS

CONSIDERED: A report providing the results of the Special Schools and PRS Funding Consultation that ran from 20th September 2024 to 25th October 2024. The report requests the Schools Forum to comment on the consultation response received in relation to the level of the Special School Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for the 2025-26 financial year and the distribution of the Teachers' Pension Employers Contribution Grant 24 (TPECG 24) and the Core School Budgets Grant (CSBG) to Special Schools and AP for the 2024-25 financial year.

AGREED:

- To note the recent updates received from the DfE in respect of the 2025-26 High Needs Block funding and the specific prescription of a 0% MFG for Special Schools.
- Schools Forum noted the consultation outcomes and noted that this will inform any approval requests to CYPS Executive Members and the Executive.

1238: EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE

CONSIDERED: A report considering the results and feedback received from:

- The principle-based consultation undertaken on the funding rates to be paid to early years' providers for the funded early years entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds, 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.
- The consultation undertaken on the allocation methodology for the Early Years Budget Grant (EYBG) for the 2024/25 financial year.

NOTED:

(Q) Are rates for 3 & 4 year olds lower than other areas?

(A) Yes.

(Q) Should we be raising?

(A) Its one of the examples of the inequity of funding

AGREED:

- To note the latest information received from the DfE in respect of early years funding for the 2025-26 financial year
- To note the results from the principle-based funding consultation undertaken with early years' providers within North Yorkshire, on the funding rates to be paid to early years' providers for the funded early years entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds, 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.
- To note the results from the funding consultation undertaken with early years' providers within North Yorkshire on the distribution methodology for the Early Years Budget Grant (EYBG) for the 2024-25 financial year.

1239: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

1227: FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 12 December 2024 (provisional)

Thursday 16 January 2025

Thursday 13 March 2025

Thursday 15 May 2025

Thursday 18 September 2025

Thursday 20 November 2025

Thursday 11 December 2025 (provisional)