

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday 19 September 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:	Alison Kaye
Primary Headteachers:	Helen Thompson, Ian Mottram, Ray Wells
Secondary Headteachers:	Julia Polley
Nursery Headteacher:	
Special Headteacher:	
Pupil Referral Service:	
Academies:	Michelle Hockham, Louise Sager, Helen Williams, Samantha Williams, Clare Hurworth, Rebecca Broadbent, Clare Dowson, Jon Watson, Kerry Young, David Barber
Governors:	
Early Years Providers:	

16-19 Providers:	
Diocesan Representatives:	Yvonne Methley
Trade Unions:	Anne Swift, Sarah Carter
Observers:	Cllr Annabel Wilkinson, Cllr Janet Sanderson
In Attendance:	Stuart Carlton, Howard Emmett, Sally Dunn, Mandy Lambert (LSO Minute-Taker), Laura Sandilands (LSO), Andrea Mansfield (LSO)
Apologies:	Ian Yapp, Matthew Vickers, Corinne Cross, Kevin Matchett, Emma Lambden, Charlotte Hope-Harrison, Amanda Newbold, Nick Hinchliffe

1215: WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1216: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Circulated: A list of the current membership:

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

1217: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the following amendments, that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 May 2024 be agreed as an accurate record.

1218: MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

1219: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other urgent business to note.

1220: EARLY YEARS FUNDING

CONSIDERED: A report considering the following areas:

- Notification of a principle-based consultation to be 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.
- Notification of a consultation to be undertaken on the allocation methodology for the Early Years Budget Grant (EYBG) for the 2024/25 financial year.

NOTED: Key changes to Early Years National Funding Formula for 2024/25 and the 2024/25 NYC Early Years Funding arrangements.

AGREED:

- **To note the principle-based funding consultation to be 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 funding consultation to be 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.

1221: HIGH NEEDS BLOCK

CONSIDERED: A report highlighting the projected financial pressure in the High Needs Block in 2024/25 and subsequent years, and the specific challenges facing the local authority and North Yorkshire schools and academies. The report provides information on SEND trends particularly around Education, Health and Care Plans and exclusions.

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

1222: SCHOOL FUNDING 2025-26

CONSIDERED: A report providing an update and requesting approval from the Schools Forum for the amendment of the North Yorkshire Council Scheme for Financing Schools.

NOTED:

(Q)

(A)

AGREED:

- To note the update on school funding.
- To support the submission of a disapplication request to the DfE for the use, if required, of an exceptional circumstance funding formula allocation of £50,000 for very small sparse secondary schools for 2025-26.
- To support the submission of a disapplication request to the DfE for the continued use in the 2025-26 financial year of the exceptional circumstance funding formula factor to provide funding for those schools where property rental is essential for the delivery of statutory educational provision and where the rental cost is greater than 1% of the school's delegated budget.
- To note the intention to consult schools and academies on the potential formula implications for 2025-26 related to:
 - The level of the MFG for 2025-26
 - The methodology to be used to deal with any under or overspend on the 2025-26 schools' block DSG (after any agreed block transfer), after the application of the NFF factor values and MFG funding protection in the North Yorkshire funding formula.
 - The proposed transfer of 0.5% funding from the Schools Block DSG to the High Needs budget for the 2025-26 financial year. The consultation results will be reported back to the Schools Forum at the November meeting.
- To approve utilisation of the balance of 2025/26 NFF Growth Funding after the contribution of £500k to the New Schools Growth Funding Reserve, if required, to fund any shortfall in the 2025/26 Schools Block DSG (adjusted for any agreed block transfer) after the calculation of 2025-26 schools budget based on National Funding Formula (NFF) values and providing a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).
- To approve the request to utilise up to £500k of the Schools Block General Reserve to support, if required, any remaining funding shortfall on the Schools Block (adjusted for any agreed block transfer), after the utilisation of the 2025/26 NFF Pupil Growth funding.

1223: PUPIL GROWTH AND FALLING ROLLS
(Declarations of interest received from Alison Kaye and Helen Williams)

CONSIDERED: A report providing an overview of the usage of the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Contingency Funds in the 2023-24 financial year and the likely funding requirements for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years. The report details the forecast level of reserves on the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Contingency Fund forecast for 31 March 2025.

NOTED:

(Q) RW asked that there be a strategic review of school provision in the areas where there is an issue with falling rolls.

(A) This would be difficult to achieve due to half of the schools having academised. There would need to be a legislation change.

(Q) AW asked if the LA had any idea of the school numbers in the state sector if there is a transfer from the private sector.

(A) There are plenty of surplus places to meet need. There have not been any transfers this summer.

(Q) HT asked if the fund was removed would there be a contingency or support for schools finding themselves in that position.

(A) As outlined in the presentation, if the Falling Rolls fund continues it is requested that an additional eligibility criteria measure be added in order to ensure that individual schools are not eligible to receive Falling rolls funding where the school is located in a SCAP planning area where the pupil roll is forecast to rise but the individual school has a reducing roll and no forecast of recovery in their pupil roll within the medium term.

AGREED:

- To note the usage and forecast usage of the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Contingency Funds in the financial years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 as detailed in this report.
- To amend the operation of the Falling Rolls Fund for the 2025-26 financial year, as detailed in section 3.5 of the report.
- To note the reserves position on the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Fund as at 31 March 2024 and the forecast reserves position for 31 March 2025 as detailed in section 5 of this report.

1224: SCHOOL BALANCES 2023-24

CONSIDERED: A paper summarising the position of school balances as at 31st March 2024. It compares school balances as at 31st March 2024 with the previous year and summarises the movement in revenue balances between years and between types of school. The position of those schools which had a negative revenue balance as at 31st March 2024 is also identified. Table 1 provides a detailed breakdown of the balances position of every maintained school in North Yorkshire.

NOTED:

(Q)

(A)

AGREED: To note the position of school balances as at 31 March 2024.

1225: SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP

CONSIDERED: A report to brief the Schools Forum of the outcome of the annual review undertaken to ensure that membership composition continues to reflect the make-up of schools and academies in North Yorkshire.

NOTED:

(Q)

(A)

AGREED:

- **The proposal to amend the Constitution regarding the membership outlined in section 3.2.**
- **The proposals detailed in section 3.2 in respect of electing representatives to the two vacant positions.**

1226: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

1227: FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 21 November 2024
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)

DRAFT