

**NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM**

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	Thursday 19 May 2022 (via Teams)
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Minutes of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum</b>
<b>Type of report:</b>	For information only
<b>Executive summary:</b> Including reason for submission	The minutes of the previous meeting of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum are presented for approval.
<b>Budget / Risk implications:</b>	N/A
<b>Recommendations:</b>	The minutes are approved as an accurate record.
<b>Voting requirements:</b>	N/A
<b>Appendices:</b> To be attached	N/A
<b>Report originator and contact details:</b>	Marion Sadler – Clerk to the Schools Forum Tel: 01609 532234 E-mail: <a href="mailto:marion.sadler@northyorks.gov.uk">marion.sadler@northyorks.gov.uk</a>
<b>Presenting officer:</b> If not the originator	N/A

**PRESENT:**

<b>Chair:</b>	Ian Yapp
<b>Primary Headteachers:</b>	Jillian Baker, Karen O'Donnell, Nick Styles, Rob Campbell
<b>Secondary Headteachers:</b>	Nick Hinchliffe, Kath Jordan, Julia Polley
<b>Nursery Headteacher:</b>	Charlotte Hope-Harrisson, Michael Pettaval
<b>Special Headteacher:</b>	
<b>Pupil Referral Service:</b>	
<b>Academies:</b>	Helen Williams, Michelle Hockham, Josh Greaves, Brian Crosby
<b>Governors:</b>	Corinne Cross
<b>Early Years Providers:</b>	

<b>16-19 Providers:</b>	
<b>Diocesan Representatives:</b>	
<b>Trade Unions:</b>	Sarah Carter
<b>Observers:</b>	Councillor Janet Sanderson, Councillor Annabel Wilkinson
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Stuart Carlton, Howard Emmett, Sally Dunn, Andrew Dixon, Chris Reynolds, Mairi Reed, Mandy Lambert (LSO Minute Taker), Deborah Wilbor (LSO)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Helen Channing, David Barber, Dominique Osbourne, Jane Turner, Emma Higgins, Andrew Smith, Anne Swift, Ann Hardy

#### **1069: WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Also to Councillor Annabel Wilkinson who has been confirmed as Executive Member for Education & Skills along with Councillor Janet Sanderson who continues as Executive Member for Children's Services.

#### **1070: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

***Circulated: A list of the current membership:***

Current vacancies were outlined, 4 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 11 members.

**NOTED: Consideration of the proportion of members would be undertaken over the summer.**

#### **1071: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 March 2022 be agreed as an accurate record.

#### **1072: MATTERS ARISING**

NOTED: There were no matters arising.

#### **1073: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no notification of any other urgent business.

#### **1074: SCHOOLS WHITE PAPER UPDATE**

CONSIDERED: A verbal update given by Amanda Newbold on the White Paper, which had been published just before Easter. More detail is awaited from the DfE. The proposal is part of the wider levelling up agenda and shows the core challenge and complications. Also outlined were the White Paper vision, ambitions, and strategy to deliver. The shift will be a multi-academy trust system going forward. DfE is proposing to look at the teacher training programmes and invest in the workforce along with mechanisms to support the recruitment of teacher as well as retention. There is a commitment to deliver high standards of curriculum, behaviour and attendance. Targeted support for every child who needs it would be available along with a fairer and stronger school system. There would be new investment areas, Scarborough may continue to benefit from this. The LA is still at the heart of the

system ensuring that the children achieve the best outcomes. There is a strengthened role for admissions, a role for the Local Safeguarding Partnership and improved access to data that will allow the LA to monitor and intervene where attendance is not as it needs to be.

The opportunities for North Yorkshire were outlined. Work to better understand the roles in the system and asking LA schools to take time to reflect the opportunities for each school. Schools can expect no shocks, core and traded services will continue. Officers will continue to lobby over issues related to local context – championing North Yorkshire children and North Yorkshire schools. The LA will develop a new Early Years Strategy. The School Improvement Strategy will continue and intent to make provision for schools and develop a strategy to take the LA towards 2030. There will be ongoing discussions with stakeholders along with data being drawn up to present to schools. A policy response to the White Paper would be drawn up. The LA is committed to collaboration with the DfE.

**NOTED: (BC) Is the LA considering opting out. (SC) Unfortunately, there is no detail about this at the current time.**

**(RC) Is there any inclination about the national picture should there be a change of Government. (SC) No earlier timescale is being worked to. The academisation programme was started under a Labour Government.**

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

#### **1075: SEND GREEN PAPER UPDATE**

CONSIDERED: Chris Reynolds gave an update on the SEND Green Paper. The key proposals were outlined along with the new local SEND partnerships – there will be further detail to follow. A Local Inclusion Plan would be drawn up and looking at national standards for HCPs. A framework of banding and price tariffs for specialism funding. The detail is awaited but could be a positive move forward but without some issues. Parental preference for mainstream would be looked at in conjunction with the code of practice. There is reference to reviewing and renewing SENCOs along with upskilling staff through CPD. The focus around alternative provision had been discussed. There are three key areas, outreach support, proposal for a national model of AP, short-term placement and long-term placement for children who do not go back into schools. An SEND local area inspection would be introduced in 2023 with a consultation before then.

NOTED: The Green Paper is open to public consultation until 22 July 2022.

(IY) It was suggested that this be included in the Schools Red Bag.

AGREED: To note the SEND Green Paper.

#### **1076: DFE SCHOOL FUNDING CONSULTATION OUTCOME**

CONSIDERED: The DfE has undertaken a consultation last summer. This was the first of at least a two stage approach about how they move to a direct funding formula. The second stage of consultation will be out in summer. The responses to the first stage were 300. The response is that the DfE intend to move to a single national formula for all mainstream schools. With effect from 2023 / 24 LAs will be required to use formula factors, which North Yorkshire already does. The approach to transition will be a move by the DfE to explore how they deal in the NFF with split site and exceptional services factor. The intend to review the Central School Services Block. LAs will have flexibility to de-delegate funding and MATs will be able to top-slice funding. The DfE had recognised some concerns about top-slice funding. There was a question around moving all maintained schools to an academic year funding cycle. The level of work was understood and feedback was not to pursue

this. The DfE will consult on proposals for how a continued flexibility to transfer funding from core schools funding to LAs high needs budgets could operate under a direct NFF. The role of Schools forum will change but DfE expect it to play an important part in local decision-making and stakeholder engagement.

**NOTED:**

AGREED: The report was noted.

**1077: SCHOOL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022-2023**

CONSIDERED: A report outlining the Schools Condition Capital Programme for 2022/23. The schools condition allocation does not have to be used for maintenance. The capital would reduce year-on-year in line with academisation. This is the second year of allocations under the new DfE methodology - £7.33m. Issues to note lower funding, higher costs, reduced carry forward contingency and prudence around commitments. The new programme commitments were outlined along with others for further consideration.

**NOTED: (JG) Are there schemes that are reasonably urgent that are not being progressed and whether the contingency could be used. (AD) Need to take stock at this point but nothing that is critical that would require an immediate decision. A fund is being built up to deal with long-term needs for SEND and consider how this sits along the priorities.**

AGREED: To approve the Schools Condition Capital Programme for 2022/23.

**1078: LEARNING TRUST / LOCALITY BOARDS**

**(Declaration of interest from Helen Williams – Craven Locality Board)**

CONSIDERED: All five Locality Boards are established and chaired by school leaders from those patches. There is representation from all sectors on the Boards. MS has been discussing the challenges with Locality Boards including time taking to establish staffing, licensing arrangements and estimating the budget commitment to the scheme agreed balanced against the take-up along with the amount of time taken for procurement. The LA does not normally permit specific carry forward within the LA but an exception has been made for each Locality Board at 25%. The LA asks that each Locality Board come up with their spending plans by the June round of Locality Board meetings. For 2021/22, three locality boards had deployed all resources in-year but low in terms of the School Improvement allocation. For 2022/23, spending is broadly in line with allocation. An Approved Provider List has been worked on. Framework is due to be published shortly. Locality Boards are well advanced in having spending plans ready for approval for the 2022/23 financial year. Sharpening of impact of spending will be a focus going forward.

**NOTED: (HW) The impact of the Covid pandemic has not assisted some of the up-takes.**

**(IY) The impact of spending to be shared is important.**

**(IY) Is the Learning Trust still being discussed? (AN) This is being reflected on in conjunction with the White Paper.**

AGREED: That the report be noted.

**1079: PUPIL GROWTH POLICY – CLOSING SCHOOLS**

**(Declaration of interest from Helen Williams as Skipton Academy is in receipt of Pupil Growth Funding)**

CONSIDERED: The background to the Pupil Growth Policy and criteria was outlined for primary and secondary schools. The criteria does not cover the instance where a school or academy admits additional pupils as a direct result of a school closure.

Expansion of Pupil Growth Fund Criteria to cover the admission of pupils from a closed school. The changed landscape has been taken into consideration along with DfE guidance. Additional funding may be made available from the LA Pupil Growth Fund for costs incurred in transferred pupil from a closing school. The level of additional funding was outlined.

**NOTED: (HW) Clarification on netting off on closing schools fund and not looking having to spend the existing size of the growth fund pot. Is there going to be any prioritisation and how will this be dealt with. (SD) This is the scenario being looked at but would need to consider wider funding available within the Growth Fund. It was noted that normally there would be small pupil numbers so the risk is very limited. If the pupils had already transferred prior to the point of closure this would be subject to exceptional funding.**

**(HW) Is the principle for the cap being continued and is there any review. (SD) Would need to look at the level of funding in the pot to determine the amount of funding available. (HE) Will go away and clarify the cap for the September meeting.**

**(HW) Is the transparency of school closure public? (SD) This was confirmed.**

AGREED: The Schools Forum approves the implementation of the proposed changes to the Pupil Growth Fund eligibility criteria and funding methodology as detailed in 4.3a and 4.3b of the report subject to clarification on the cap.

#### **1080: UPDATE ON FACILITIES ARRANGEMENTS**

CONSIDERED: A report to update Schools' Forum on progress with work to model increases to the traded Trade Union Facilities Time charges in order to provide sufficient 'release' time for locally elected representatives. Three key principles outlined:

- (a) To cap reimbursement at UPR3 with on-costs. HB this will make the original aim more difficult.
- (b) Maximum increase in costs to be capped 0.50p including inflationary increases.
- (c) Inclusion of handover days where representatives changes.

AGREED: To note the progress of the work undertaken by LA officers along with trade union representatives.

#### **1081: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business had been raised.

#### **1082: FUTURE MEETINGS**

Thursday 22 September 2022

Thursday 17 November 2022

Thursday 15 December 2022 – if required

Thursday 19 January 2023

Thursday 16 March 2023

Thursday 18 May 2023

Thursday 21 September 2023

Thursday 23 November 2023

Thursday 14 December 2023 – if required