

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday 12 December 2019 (County Hall)
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:	Michelle Hall (representing Jillian Baker), Nick Styles, Karen O'Donnell, Fiona Beetles, Damien Smith
Secondary Headteachers:	Nick Hinchliffe, Julia Polley, Mark McCandless
Nursery Headteacher:	
Special Headteacher:	
Pupil Referral Service:	
Academies:	Helen Flynn, Helen Channing, David Read, Andrew Krlic
Governors:	
Early Years Providers:	
16-19 Providers:	
Diocesan Representatives:	Andrew Smith, Kevin Duffy
Trade Unions:	Chris Head
Observers:	
In Attendance:	Stuart Carlton, Howard Emmett, Jane Le Sage, Chris Reynolds, Mandy Lambert (Clerk)
Apologies:	Rob Campbell, Michelle Hockham, Jillian Baker (deputy Michelle Hall), Kath Jordan, Michael Pettaval

886: WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the group of the current membership situation.

887: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Current vacancies were outlined, 4 x primary, 1 x PRS Academy, 1 x PRS LA, 5 x academy, 1 x Unison Rep, 1 x 16-19 Providers, 1 x early years / childcare.

888: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That with the following amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2019 be agreed as an accurate record.

NOTED:

- (i) That the Professional Associations and NYCC HR have been consulting on maintained and academy school policy.
- (ii) That the cost of tribunals would be picked up by the regional centres.

889: MATTERS ARISING

NOTED: PAFA Delegation - If there is a move to a fully traded model, one of the questions would be how schools would buy in. This had been clarified by HR that the MATs that do not buy in to PAFA would be required to consult with the County Secretaries on any policies which they do buy from NYCC and those policies may or may not be looked at by the policy meeting with the professional associations.

890: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no notification of any other urgent business.

891: VERBAL UPDATE ON SCHOOL FUNDING AND DISAPPLICATION REQUEST

NOTED: There had been a good debate in the November Schools Forum meeting. Following that meeting a paper had been taken to Executive Members. A disapplication request had been submitted. The LA feels that a 1% transfer is required but have asked for 0.5%. There has been no notification back from the DfE and will probably not know before Christmas.

JP asked if that decision may change following the outcome of the elections. This was felt not to be the case.

892: DRAFT SCHOOL FORUM LETTER TO MPs

CONSIDERED: The draft letter to be sent to MPs on behalf of schools and academies in North Yorkshire regarding the insufficient level of high needs funding and the continued constraints placed on school and education budgets more widely.

HF felt it was a good letter and captures everything required.

AGREED: That there be no alterations to the letter and it be sent to the Secretary of State for Education with a copy to local MPs for North Yorkshire. It was also agreed that schools should be sent the letter after the Christmas break along with the response to the SEND consultation.

CH asked if it could be included as part of the agenda of the Professional Association Consultative Panel meeting. It was felt that this should not happen before it had been sent to Government.

893: SPECIAL SCHOOL MFG

CONSIDERED: A paper on the Special School Minimum Funding Guarantee. In setting the budget for 2020-2021 a MFG would need to be set. DfE have specified that it should be 0% for special schools but does not seem equitable with mainstream schools (where MFG must be set between +0.5% and +1.84%). Special schools in North Yorkshire experienced some of the greatest financial pressure in 2018/19 and continue to remain under significant financial pressure in 2019-20. The LA have looked at ways of supporting special schools. Two scenarios have been modelled - 0% MFG and 4% MFG which gives a modest cash injection into special schools. The consultation paper had been sent to special schools. The challenge as an LA was that by doing so it was costing £180k and widens the gap slightly.

HF asked if we knew why there was a differential. This was unknown.

NOTED: The consultation closes on 13 January 2020 and would be considered at the Schools Forum in January.

894: UPDATE ON ENHANCED MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS

CONSIDERED: The report on the Enhanced Mainstream Schools which provides an update on the implementation plan for the new enhanced mainstream schools across the Local Authority.

NOTED: Jane Le Sage stated that within North Yorkshire there was a low starting point. Since 2014 there had been a c.70% increase in EHCPs, the main areas are around ASD, C&I and SEMH. The current model of EMS currently has 19 EMS split across localities. There has been a lot of work around the whole SEND provision when developing the SEND strategic plan. The current approach is an outreach model. The LA are trying to acknowledge that when the support is exhausted and what the other options are. When all of the skills of the EMS have been exhausted children go through statutory assessment and can end up in special school provision. In the proposed model, there would be some children who could be maintained on roll at a maintained school.

From September 2020 it is clear a new model of EMS will be rolled out to provide a place-based model for children with EHCPs in primary and secondary provision. The new models will be small in terms of places of 6-8 places. Six of the places will be for EHCPs and these will be on the school roll. There will be two flexible places for children with short term needs.

To date 29 schools have expressed an interest. School applications to be in by 18 December 2019 if they wish to be part of the roll-out. If the LA do not get a sufficient number then the LA accepts that there will need to be some contingency arrangements on how we support those schools. There are questions around outreach. The restructure of the central team was coming to an end. A model has been created for locality-based SEND teams. With effect from April these teams would undertake the outreach work ready for September. The financial model for EMS is guided by national formula. There will be six places with EHCP and will attract between Band 6 and Band 7 Element 3 funding along with the AWPU amount of money. This does not include additional funding which will be provided for the EMS by the LA.

With regard to the schools that are current EMS schools, if they have discussed with the LA then a decommissioning role will have to be undertaken. A small consultation would need to take place.

HF asked about their Trust as two schools do have EMS units. All the work undertaken leads to the conclusion that it is not feasible within the constraints. It is felt it will cost 25% more than will be offered and there is a danger that there will not be a level of expression from schools. Allied with this is the problem of the decommissioning as there is lack of clarity around redundancy payments.

HC stated that a provision was already run in another authority and was very positive.

CH stated that the PAs were looking at the lag period for members. A contingency plan will be required.

NOTED: **Inclusion restructure.** All staff have now been interviewed against the new roles. There will still be some vacancies within the new model. The first stage is to offer posts to staff who have fallen out of the ring-fencing. The HR process will then need to be followed. Vacancies left would be offered to staff and teachers within maintained EMS. In terms of the children they would still be able to access outreach provision up until July from the current EMS. In the majority of cases they were being supported in their own school and environment. Transfer of provision would be communicated over the summer. Contingency plans were not being made apart from the Barrowcliff EMS where they would be decommissioning from the end of September. There was concern in Scarborough about a spike of exclusions of primary children in that area and were confident that provision is available.

AS would be interested to know how many children are being supported and what this looks like under the new model. Consultation of referrals would be undertaken. The more flexible places would be a discussion with the new manager of the SEND Hubs.

NS asked about the existing EMS decommissioning – it was noted that there would be a high proportion.

MM asked about the outreach workers next year and would there be the same number. It was noted that the comparisons had not been made. Concern was expressed about a number of things e.g. funding, profile, transition, timeframes and may need to be reviewed again.

SC asked that the sector work alongside the LA through this review of EMS.

FB asked about geographical coverage and whether there were gaps. This would be known in January.

Schools need to know more about coverage, contingencies and understanding about the Hub, structures and opportunities.

895: HEALTHY PUPIL CAPITAL FUND UPDATE

CONSIDERED: An update on the Healthy Pupils Capital Fund including a list of approved schemes for Healthy Pupils Capital Funding and a case study from Greatwood Community Primary School. Further information and impact will be brought to Schools Forum at a future meeting.

NS asked the percentage funding was received. HE agreed to look at this.

NH stated that the funding had made a massive difference.

NOTED: The Schools Forum were asked to note the report.

896: LOCALITY BOARD UPDATES

NOTED: The LA would not take the lead on the Locality Board but would facilitate the sharing of agenda, furnishing the meetings etc. Three Locality Boards had been established, Selby, Scarborough/Ryedale/Whitby and Hambleton/Richmondshire. These have started to meet and from the point of view of moving the areas forward had started to look at the priorities and linking with SEND. The memorandum of understanding was still being worked on. The two areas still requiring work was the Castle Alliance and the Harrogate area. The LA was keen to get this going and did replace the PIP and Secondary Improvement Partnership. There was slow progress but colleagues who had established a board noted good progress. Draft terms of reference were in place for some areas and had developed a SEND and Inclusion

dashboard. There had been a lot of discussion around particular areas in a little more detail. The strength of bringing together all sectors had been strong with productive meetings. Following the work on the Locality Boards, the Learning Trust should be able to be formed.

NH asked for more information on the funding. It was noted that there should be £50k for each locality. The process for receiving the funding would need to be devised.

897: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There had been no further business raised.

898: FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 23 January 2020 – County Hall

Thursday 12 March 2020 – tbc

Thursday 21 May 2020 – tbc

Thursday 17 September 2020 – tbc

Thursday 12 November 2020 – tbc

Thursday 10 December 2020 – tbc (if required)