

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday 21 September 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:	Helen Williams
Primary Headteachers:	Karen O'Donnell, Helen Thompson, Jillian Baker, Anna Kirkham
Secondary Headteachers:	
Nursery Headteacher:	Kathryn Firth
Special Headteacher:	
Pupil Referral Service:	
Academies:	Josh Greaves, Michelle Hockham, Alison Kaye, Mike McCluskie (sub), Richard Crane, Louise Sager, Helen Channing
Governors:	Corinne Cross
Early Years Providers:	Charlotte Hope-Harrison

16-19 Providers:	
Diocesan Representatives:	Andrew Smith
Trade Unions:	Anne Swift, Sarah Carter
Observers:	Cllr Janet Sanderson
In Attendance:	Stuart Carlton, Howard Emmett, Sally Dunn, Janet Crawford, Amanda Newbold, Martin Surtees, Mandy Lambert (LSO Minute- Taker), Karen Russell (LSO)
Apologies:	Ian Yapp, David Barber, Cllr Annabel Wilkinson, Nick Hinchliffe, Matthew Vickers, Daniel Metters, Brian Crosby (sub Mike McCluskie) Sarah Edwards, Ray Wells, Rob Campbell, Daniel Metters

1152: WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1153: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Circulated: A list of the current membership:

The current vacancies were outlined, Primary LA (1), Secondary LA (2), PRS LA (1), Academy (4) – Quorum is 40% of members.

Resignations had been received from Kath Jordan, Andrew Krlic, Dominique Osbourne and Jane Turner. Thanks were expressed to those members for their work on the Schools Forum.

1154: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 May 2023 be agreed as an accurate record.

1155: MATTERS ARISING

NOTED: There were no matters arising.

1156: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other urgent business to note.

1157: EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE

CONSIDERED: A report giving an update on the DfE Early Years Supplementary Grant and the operation of the Grant within North Yorkshire for the period September 2023 to March 2024, as approved by the North Yorkshire Council Executive on 22 August 2023. The report gives an overview of the DfE “Early years funding – extension of the entitlements” consultation and the consultation response provided by North Yorkshire Council.

AGREED:

- **To note the operation of the Early Years Supplementary Grant within North Yorkshire for the period September 2023 to March 2024, as approved by the North Yorkshire Council Executive on 22 August 2023.**
- **To note the DfE “Early years funding – extension of the entitlements” consultation and the response provided by North Yorkshire Council.**

1158: HIGH NEEDS BUDGET UPDATE

CONSIDERED: A report providing an update on issues relevant to the development of the High Needs Budget for 2024-25, including the determination of Special School budgets.

NOTED:

- (a) The trends in requests for new assessments.
- (b) The level of SEN support pupil population in comparison to the national picture.
- (c) Update on the DBV process.
- (d) Looking at a deficit of £3m on top of the £10m from the previous years.
- (e) Low level of uplift in DSG.
- (f) Specific work being undertaken around the two schools with residential provision and their low pupil numbers in the provision.

NOTED:

(Q) A query in relation about the minimum funding guarantee. Disappointing to see a low level of MFG than in previous years and to understand the Local Authority's position.

(A) The MFG for special schools is prescribed by the DfE. The additional funds made available in December last year will flow through as a separate funding stream for schools. Conscious of the pressures the specialist provisions are facing. The equity across schools would remain.

AGREED: To note the information contained within the report and identify any issues for further discussion within the High Needs Sub-Group.

1159: 2024-25 NOTIONAL SEN BUDGET

CONSIDERED: A report providing:

- (a) An update on the latest DfE guidance on the operation of the notional SEN budget within local school funding formulae.
- (b) An analysis of the operation of the notional SEN budget across other local authorities nationally and across other similar local authorities.
- (c) Proposals for updating the North Yorkshire Council notional SEN budget in order to comply with DfE guidance and to better reflect the notional SEN budget requirements of schools within North Yorkshire.

NOTED:

(Q) Recognising the pressure on the High Need Block and the raising of those levels would not want to see a notional spend increasing. This has to be paid for somewhere else. Is there an ability for a school to use the funding or not and not an expectation to have an additional top-up?

(A) Additional top-up would be ring-fenced and would still be notional. Schools would be expected to spend funding on SEN pupils than the notional budget. The analysis has shown that North Yorkshire is different as to what is happening nationally. It is a guide not a limit but neither a constraint. It is just updating a guide for each school and brings North Yorkshire in line with the national average.

NOTED:

- (a) Parents increasingly know about the concept of a notional budget.
- (b) The LA constantly lobby government about the notional funding as this is getting worse year on year.

AGREED:

- (a) To note the analysis that has been undertaken on the North Yorkshire notional SEN budget calculation.
- (b) To note on the alternative notional SEN budget calculation models developed.
- (c) To note the proposal to seek views from schools, through the 2024-25 North Yorkshire school funding consultation, on the implementation of the Model 1 methodology for the calculation of 2024-25 school notional SEN budgets.

1160: SCHOOL FUNDING 2024-25

CONSIDERED: A report providing an update on school funding and describing the details of recent announcements on central government education funding policy and high-level implications for 2024-25. The paper describes the intention to consult schools and academies.

CONSIDERED:

- (a) The background on the 2023-24 funding formula for North Yorkshire.
- (b) The Education Funding Policy 2024-25.
- (c) Teachers' Pay Additional Grant.
- (d) Ongoing transition to direct NFF.
- (e) New DfE Hardship Fund.
- (f) The LA proposes to continue to provide the exceptional circumstance funding of £50,000 for very small sparse secondary schools which would otherwise be unable to attract sufficient funding to remain viable (one school expected to benefit).
- (g) Intention to consult schools.
- (h) Capping and Scaling – Principles and operation.
- (i) CSSB
- (j) Consultation timetable.

(Q)

AGREED:

- (a) To note the update on school funding.
- (b) To support the submission of a disapplication request to the DfE for the provision of an exceptional circumstance funding formula allocation of £50,000 for very small sparse secondary schools for 2024/25.
- (c) To note the proposed treatment of exceptions to the formula outlined in section 4 and to support the continued use of exceptional circumstances 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.
- (d) To note the intention to consult schools and academies on the potential formula implications for 2024/25 related to:
 - The level of the MFG for 2024-25
 - The methodology to be used to deal with any under or overspend on the 2024/25 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.
 - Changes to the notional SEN local funding formula for 204/25
 - The transfer of 0.5% funding from the Schools Block DSG to the High needs budget for the 2024/25 financial year. Cash value is £2.2m.

The consultation results will be reported back to the Schools Forum at the

November meeting.

- (e) **To approve the request to utilise up to £500k of the Schools Block General Reserve to support, if required, any funding shortfall on the Schools Block (adjusted for any agreed block transfer), after the calculation of the school funding formula using NFF values and the agreed MFG funding protection. The Schools Block stands at £4m in total which is around 1% of the in-year DSG overall allocation.**
- (f) **To note the position on Central School Services Block outlined in section 7.**

1161: SCHOOL BALANCES 2022-23

CONSIDERED: A report summarising the position of school balances as at 31 March 2023. It compared school balances as at 31 March 2023 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 31 March 2023 is also identified. A detailed breakdown of the balances position of every maintained school in North Yorkshire is provided.

NOTED:

- (a) An increase in capital balance due to the energy efficiency funding made available to schools.
- (b) School balances by phase / sector.
- (c) Projected revenue balances 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- (d) School Balances 2022-23.

AGREED: To note the position of school balances as at 31 March 2023.

1162: MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

CONSIDERED: A report to brief 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. No changes are proposed for the 2023/24 academic year.

NOTED:

- (a) Current membership of the Schools Forum (reviewed September 2022). No changes proposed to the membership of 36 members.
- (b) There are vacancies to fill.
- (c) The Schools Forum Constitution.
- (d) Recommendations as to how the vacancies would be filled.

AGREED: To approve the proposal that no change is made to the Constitution regarding the membership outlined in section 3.2 and the proposals detailed in section 3.2 in respect of electing representatives to the eight vacant positions.

1163: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to note.

1164: FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 23 November 2023

Thursday 14 December 2023 – if required

Thursday 18 January 2024

Thursday 14 March 2024

Thursday 16 May 2024

Thursday 19 September 2024

Thursday 21 November 2024

Thursday 12 December 2024 (provisional)