

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday 18 March 2021 (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:	Ian Yapp
Primary Headteachers:	Chris Parkhouse, Jillian Baker, Nick Styles, Karen O'Donnell, Fiona Beetles
Secondary Headteachers:	Nick Hinchliffe, Julia Polley, Kath Jordan
Nursery Headteacher:	
Special Headteacher:	Jonathan Tearle
Pupil Referral Service:	Josh Greaves
Academies:	Helen Flynn, Helen Channing, Andrew Krlc, Michelle Hockham, Helen Williams, Alison Kaye Jane Turner,
Governors:	Corinne Cross, Katja Rudden
Early Years Providers:	Charlotte Hope-Harrison

16-19 Providers:	Ann Hardy
Diocesan Representatives:	Andrew Smith, Emma Higgins
Trade Unions:	Chris Head
Observers:	Cllr. Patrick Mulligan, Cllr. Janet Sanderson, Anne Swift
In Attendance:	Stuart Carlton, Amanda Newbold, Howard Emmett, Sally Dunn, Jane Le Sage, Martin Surtees, Andrew Dixon, Mandy Lambert (Clerk), Deborah Wilbor
Apologies:	Brian Crosby, Michael Pettavel, Damien Smith, David Barber, Rob Campbell

983: WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and to new members. He informed the group of the current membership situation including the resignation of Mark McCandless.

984: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Circulated: A list of the current membership:

Current vacancies were outlined, 1 x primary governor LA, 1 x PRS LA, 1 x secondary LA.

985: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: With a slight alteration to Minute 973 (HF should read HW), that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 January 2021 be agreed as an accurate record.

986: MATTERS ARISING

NOTED: There were no matters arising.

987: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no notification of any other urgent business.

988: HIGH NEEDS BUDGET

CONSIDERED: A report outlining the expected budget for the High Needs Block in 2021-22, how this compares to an anticipated in-year cash allocation of £56.9m and the extent of the anticipated financial pressure.

NOTED: The overview of the High Needs Block which is indicative at this stage. The total budget would be £59.4m – with a projected in-year deficit of £2.5m. The budget lines for High Needs Commissioning were outlined showing c.89% of spend is allocated for SEN and pupils with EHCPs in a range of educational settings. The NYCC funded EHC plans and SEN trends were shared. North Yorkshire has been below the national average.

CONSIDERED:

- HC asked if there was a plan in place to reduce spending independent / non-maintained special schools. JLS confirmed there was a plan in place and explained the interventions to close the gaps for provision for children.
- HF asked about the expected capacity coming on line in terms of new Special School and provision in schools leave us when we look at the projections in

numbers needing EHCPs. JLS explained the forecasting for places for special school provision.

- CP asked about the state of the 31 targeted mainstream provision currently. JLS explained that this would increase placements for appropriate children. This is slower than anticipated. There are four provisions in place with some more coming on stream in September. Round two had only secured two further schools at this point in time but are having on-going discussions. This had been slower than anticipated due to COVID.
- HF suggested it would be useful to see a graph or similar showing current and planned capacity versus projected need for EHCPs over the next five years to seek assurance that the need would be met.

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

989: HIGH NEEDS FUNDING CONSULTATION

CONSIDERED: A report detailing the lines of enquiry in the DfE consultation document and providing background information on the operation of the high needs DSG methodology.

NOTED: An overview of the consultation was shared along with background information around the operation of High Needs DSG and the potential line of response from NYCC.

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

990: SPARSITY CONSULTATION

NOTED: The DfE proposed changes to the sparsity funding from 2022/23 were outlined along with the proposed consultation. The sparsity funding calculation criteria was explained, one relating to the size of school and the second for all the pupils for whom it is the nearest compatible school. Maximum sparsity funding is paid for 75 pupils or less for primary schools and 300 pupils or less for secondary schools. In terms of the proposed changes the DfE are proposing that the maximum sparsity funding would increase from £45k to £55k for primary schools and from £70k to £80k for secondary schools. In terms of the average distance it is proposed that this will move to actual road distance rather than "as the crow flies". The impact for North Yorkshire is an increase in the number of schools eligible for sparsity funding. The indicative total amount of sparsity allocation would be to £6,325,614 from £3,412,325. The consultation response considerations were shared.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

991: DSG MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

CONSIDERED: The DSG Management Plan for 2020-21.

NOTED: This had been circulated for information at the current time and will be published in due course.

992: SPECIALIST PROVISION TARGETED CAPITAL PROGRAMME (SPTCP)

CONSIDERED: A report providing an update on the development of the programme and detailing the resources that have been committed to date from the programme.

NOTED: The summary of SEN capital business case. North Yorkshire starts with a relatively small scale of specialist provision. There are very high rates of increase in EHCPs compared to national average. NY faces increased pressure for independent placements at significantly higher average cost and have done what can be to develop provision in line with SEN Strategic Plan.

Potential priorities for investment were:

- Autism
- SEMH
- Targeted provisions
- Modernising special schools
- Investment in PLP / PRS

Progress in developing SEN Capital Programme had faced challenges in tightening public sector financial environment and limited opportunities for low capital investment projects. Options have been investigated with progress on SPCF Round 2 and developing a draft programme during Summer 2021. Resources have been committed towards existing commitments to date in excess of £1.1m.

New developments show Government has assigned £300m for capital projects to enhance specialist capacity. There are concerns that the formula criteria could potentially disadvantage North Yorkshire.

The SPTCP is a separate fund established from the annual Schools Condition Grant. It was agreed to report to Schools Forum about that fund and a governance structure.

CONSIDERED: HW asked to clarify that there are two discrete funds and asking about the trajectory of academisation and the impact on this fund. AD confirmed this understanding and would be monitored.

AGREED: That Schools Forum note the following:

- (a) The commitments to date set out in Section 3 of the report;
- (b) The next steps outlined in Section 4.2 of the report.
- (c) To consider an additional contribution for the SPTCP at the next meeting.

993: EARLY YEARS UPDATE

NOTED: An Early Years funding consultation had been undertaken based on the increased on the North Yorkshire local authority early years hourly funding rate. The proposals were to pass on those increases through the provider base funding rate for the next financial year.

The consultation had taken place between 13 January and 10 February 2021. The funding rates were outlined at £5.36 for disadvantaged two year olds and £4.15 for three and four year olds. In terms of the funding to the LA, the position is that the census shows funding based on January 2021 levels. The DfE say they would be looking to fund LAs through a termly count through the next financial year.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

994: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

NOTED: That the Local Government Reorganisation consultation was live through google or on the NYCC website and runs until 16 April 2021. Schools Forum were encouraged to visit the site and comment as necessary.

995: COVID

NOTED: All schools have returned (8 March 2021). It has been a strong return. All primary children attended school from 8 March 2021. Data shows 97% of children have returned to school. Secondary return was phased due to mass testing. The data shows 90% attendance as of today. Support is in place from Public Health colleagues. There are small numbers of children picked up through the lateral flow testing. The impact information is awaited.

CONSIDERED: HC expressed her congratulations to headteachers and staff on the work they have had to do at very short notice with limited capacity.

996: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business to note.

997: FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 27 May 2021 (virtual)

Thursday 16 September 2021

Thursday 11 November 2021

Thursday 16 December 2021