

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday, 23 May 2019
Title of report:	Minutes of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum – 14 March 2019
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:	Nick Styles, Andrew Buttery, Jillian Barker, Karen O'Donnell
Secondary Headteachers:	Mark McCandless
Nursery Headteacher:	Michael Pettaval
Special Headteacher:	
Pupil Referral Service:	Nick Bell
Academies:	Helen Flynn, John Warren, Helen Channing
Governors:	
Early Years Providers:	
16-19 Providers:	
Diocesan Representatives:	Andrew Smith
Trade Unions:	Chris Head
Observers:	
In Attendance:	Councillor Patrick Mulligan, Stuart Carlton, Howard Emmett, Jane Le Sage, Sally Dunn, Mandy Lambert (Clerk)
Apologies:	Robert Campbell, County Councillor Janet Sanderson, David Read, Julia Polley, Jon Watson, Jonathan Tearle, Damien Smith, Nick Hinchliffe

834: WELCOME

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

835: MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

Current vacancies were outlined, 3 x primary, 3 x secondary, 1 x secondary academy, 1 x Unison Rep, 1 x 16-19 Providers

836: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed with an amendment to paragraph 828.

837: MATTERS ARISING

Schools Forum members had been written to asking for substitutes for meetings along with nominations for a Deputy Chair.

The Special School in Selby has now been approved. The timeline is unknown. Information would be sent to the DfE stating the LA support for the offer.

838: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Circulated: None

839 SCHOOLS & EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE

CONSIDERED: An overview of recent developments in relation to the issue of school budget allocations for 2019/20 and the continuation of supplementary funding for Maintained Nursery Schools until the end of the 2019/20 academic year.

NOTED: The LA request to the Secretary of State for the 1% funding transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block was approved. The maintained Nursery Schools issue around the under-supplementary funding. At that point in time it was for 2019 / 20 only. On 28 February an announcement of £24m in supplementary funding will be provided to LAs for maintained nursery schools to enable the continuation of the funding protection for the whole of the 2019-20 academic year.

AGREED: To note the contents of the report.

840: THE HIGH NEEDS BLOCK BUDGET 2019-20

CONSIDERED: A summary of the expected budget for the High Needs Block in 2019-20 and outlines the extent of the anticipated financial pressure. It also provides a summary of a number of proposed changes to the budget.

NOTED: The Chief Executive had attended the Education Select Committee to discuss High Needs funding and the pressures LAs are facing. North Yorkshire County Council hosted an Inclusion Conference with 39 LAs from across the North of England. This had been a positive event with views expressed and ideas shared.

The DfE allocation provided to North Yorkshire is just over £50m which includes the £1.2m additional funding announcement. Compared on a like-for-like basis there is an £8k decrease.

The disapplication request had been submitted at the end of November. In December, the government announced £250m temporary funding for revenue (amounting to £1.2m in 2018/19 and £1.2m in 2019/20 for North Yorkshire). £232k was the figure for capital funding. Alongside this funding announcement, the government asked LAs to consider withdrawing their disapplication requests with a deadline of 15th January to respond. In February the ESFA contacted the LA to ask to consider a 0% minimum funding guarantee before the Minister would consider the disapplication request. The LA responded (response contained within SF papers). Verbal confirmation had been received on 28 February that the request had been approved. The letter attached at Appendix 2 is evidence of that submission.

The proposed high needs budget is outlined which includes £7.6m of recurring base budget to help bridge the funding gap. The breakdown is included in the report. The High Needs budget proposal also reflects the planned savings for the budget consultation and outlined in the report.

There is a proposal to put forward some transitional funding protection for special schools to help achieve the aim for each special schools to achieve the banding achievement. A meeting with special school headteachers had been undertaken to discuss the transitional funding protection and asked to consult with them to see what that would look like. Eight of the special schools rejected the offer of transitional

funding protection and two schools accepted the level of protection. A further meeting had been held the previous day and they would welcome the transitional funding protection.

The PRS commissioned places are outlined in the report.

HF asked about the School Improvement Partnerships and how these will be managed with no funding available. It was noted that the school improvement partnerships funding will be phased out and will sit under The Learning Trust.

CH asked about EMS and that there are a few schools who do not want EMS. Would there be any information on the finances of EMS. JleS stated that this is an area of work that is underway. Existing schools and headteachers with EMS have been asked to see if they would like to change their model. The specifications for the new EMS are drawn up based on an in-reach model. A number of approaches have been made by new schools and a small number of MATs who would be interested in taking on an EMS. All EMS models will change from September 2020.

NS asked about the response from the special schools who were against the whole banded system and lack of transparency. HE stated that a meeting of the special schools had taken place to address this issue. The issues are being discussed with meetings on a regular basis with the special school headteachers.

IY asked if the discussions regarding bandings will be discussed with mainstreamed schools. This was confirmed. A post-implementation review would be arranged.

HF asked about the rising demand for EHCP and that it would be useful for the High Needs Group to look at the likely demand going forward.

SC stated that lobbying to Government needs to continue for the High Needs budget and schools in totality to help influence the spending review.

CH asked about the increase in schools in financial deficit. There is an increase in schools where the support staff are in scope for redundancy but there does not seem to be a number of schools consulting on teacher redundancy. Is there an increase in schools being given a licenced deficit? HE stated that from more schools are in a deficit situation. Recovery plans are being drawn up and some schools relying on surplus budgets.

IY suggested that some case studies are required to look at specifics.

AGREED:

- To note the contents of the report;
- To note the significant financial pressure and that further proposals will need to be brought forward to address the in-year budget shortfall and medium-term financial position.
- To note the proposed high need block budget;
- To note the application of transitional funding protection for special schools outlined in section 4.0.
- To bring an update on The Learning Trust to the next meeting.
- The High Needs Group to look at projections for the likely demand.

841: SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS

CONSIDERED: A review of the North Yorkshire County Council Scheme for Financing Schools will be undertaken to reflect the latest statutory guidance from the

DfE. All schools maintained by the local authority will be consulted on the updated Scheme during the summer 2019 term. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to the Schools Forum and the updated Scheme will be presented to the Forum for approval.

AGREED: To note the review of the NYCC Scheme for financing Schools to reflect the latest DfE statutory guidance and the intention to consult schools on the updated Scheme during the summer 2019 term.

842: PAFA TRADE UNION DUTIES

CONSIDERED: An update on the progress on moving to a fully traded model from April 2020.

NOTED: The arrangements are underway moving to a fully traded model. The service is something in both maintained and non-maintained sector need to be part of due to legal responsibilities. Senior HR colleagues and Relationship Managers are supporting the Trade Unions.

A flyer has been put together outlining the areas that will be changing. A meeting will be held with the TU Secretaries, financial colleagues and HR in March. The schools that do not buy into the service will be an issue moving forward.

AGREED: To note the strategy and progress in moving to a fully traded model.

843 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business raised.

844: FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 23 May 2019 – 2.00 pm – Selby Community House

Thursday 26 September 2019 – 2.00 pm – Scarborough Library

Wednesday, 13 November 2019 – 2.00 pm – Harrogate (TBC)

Thursday 12 December 2019 - 2.00 pm – County Hall, Northallerton