

NORTH YORKSHIRE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

Date of meeting:	
Title of report:	Minutes of the Education Partnership – 17 May 2018
Type of report:	For information only
Executive summary: Including reason for submission	The minutes of the previous meeting of the North Yorkshire Education Partnership 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 NYEP Tel: 01609 532234 E-mail: marion.sadler@northyorks.gov.uk
Presenting officer: If not the originator	N/A

PRESENT:

Chair:	Ian Yapp
Primary Headteachers:	Rob Campbell, Karen O'Donnell
Secondary Headteachers:	Mark McCandless
Nursery Headteacher:	Jane Pepper
Special Headteacher:	Jonathan Tearle
Pupil Referral Service:	Nick Bell
Academies:	David Read, Helen Flynn
Governors:	
Early Years Providers:	Jane Pepper
16-19 Providers:	
Diocesan Representatives:	Andrew Smith
Trade Unions:	Chris Head
Observers:	Stephen Payne, Francis McGoldrick
In Attendance:	Howard Emmett, Sally Dunn, Judith Kirk, Andy Lancashire, Mandy Lambert (Clerk)
Apologies:	Karen O'Donnell, Nick Hinchliffe, Paul Brockwell, Jo Robinson, Stella Smethurst, Julie Stephenson, County Councillor Patrick Mulligan, County Councillor Janet Sanderson, Sarah Moon-Gatford

778: WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including new members and informed the group of resignations.

779: MEMBERSHIP OF THE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

Current vacancies were outlined but would be discussed as part of the item on The Learning Trust.

780: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed.

781: MATTERS ARISING

NOTED: The Director of CYPS had made representation to MPs, DfE and to County Council Members regarding school finance. This would be discussed further under the Finance item.

782: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other urgent business to discuss.

783: THE LEARNING TRUST

CONSIDERED: The ISOS report – February 2018 (*circulated*). The report gave updated interim feedback on the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership review.

NOTED: The principles set out in the report are very much about the need to collaborate and ensure the right structure is in place for the development of the North Yorkshire Learning Trust. All children are North Yorkshire children despite the type of school they attend and this is a collaborative partnership irrespective of the school. A separate Schools Forum would be set up to consider school and early years-related financial issues including the minimum funding guarantee and provide a forum for consultation of high needs related financial issues.

The ISOS report articulated the need to look at the school level clusters and the local area or district-level alliances along with strategic partnership. The North Yorkshire Learning Trust would be made up of expert coalition and would be a North Yorkshire system leader partnership and strategic school improvement executive group. The four Improvement Partnerships are already in place although there are likely to be significant cuts in the funding for the Improvement Partnerships. Area Delivery Hubs would look at cross cutting themes, peer reviews and mutual support. The Expert Group would be a consultation group for cross cutting themes which impact on the County. Terms of reference and membership would be considered for the groups. ISOS had considered the consultation feedback they received from across the educational landscape and considered the evidence on the impact on the outcomes for learning.

Helen Flynn asked about the level of consultation that had been undertaken with schools and academy trusts about The Learning Trust and what role it would have. It was noted that there was a lot of good work going on in schools around collaboration and evidence about collaborating as a school system.

Andy Lancashire stated we are working closely with colleagues in Cumbria and building relationships through the SRIB.

Rob Campbell asked about Option 1 of the report and the funding and relationship between the North Yorkshire Strategic Board and Schools Forum.

Helen Flynn asked about the rationale and purpose, and looking at the Cumbria Alliance and the way they have organised this around regional structure of schools. This appears to be using the SIP to drive the work.

Andrew Smith stated that this was a massive opportunity in the sense of the Strategic Board.

AGREED: That the detail is worked up in the background by email interchange over the summer term with a view to trying to put forward a launch meeting date in the Autumn Term. The background work would progress with a view to moving to the Learning Trust and Schools Forum. This was agreed unanimously.

784 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018 /19

CONSIDERED: The report to be considered by Executive on 22 May 2018 (*circulated*) to seek their approval for the Schools Condition Capital Programme including the Voluntary Aided Capital Maintenance Programme for 2018/2019. This is in response to the County Council allocation of £11.5m. There was no indication of the level of funding for next year. The report was noted.

Helen Flynn asked about the asbestos situation and whether the scale of the problem could be flagged up to Members. This was confirmed.

785: SCHOOL FUNDING UPDATE & SELECT COMMITTEE RESPONSE

NOTED: Confirmation was provided that the LA is moving towards a National Funding Formula in 2018/2019 although there are significant concerns around sparsity. Work is ongoing around some of the schools causing concern that may give some strategic problems going forward. No school has lost on a per-pupil basis but gains are capped. Following the introduction of the national funding formula, North Yorkshire was receiving close to the lowest amount of funding, particularly in relation to secondary schools. With regard to school balances within North Yorkshire, in 2015/2016 they peaked at £33m collectively. In 2016/2017 there was the first real reduction with an expectation that they would reduce again. Based on projections looking forward to 2018/2019 another significant reduction was made as schools used their reserves to top up their day to day spend. In terms of maintained school deficits the numbers of schools in deficit at the end of 2016/17 was approximately 30 but current projections were for this number to double following confirmation of 2017/18 year-end figures.

School mobility funding – there are a high number of schools in North Yorkshire receiving some mobility funding. DfE have started informally consulting with local authorities about reforming mobility funding but there is no clear indication at this stage on what that may look like.

The current estimate of potential budget deficits arising from sponsored academies bill is as high as £1.5m which will be unfunded and will be a direct funding pressure on the local authority – as will closing school deficits. School redundancy costs are paid for by the LA but with depleted DSG reserves, these costs are likely to fall to the LA in the future.

There is recognition that some of the funding pressures schools are under such as the introduction of the apprenticeship level, pay awards and changes to the NJC pay spine. However, the ability of the local authority to financially support schools will be limited given the depletion of previously accumulated reserves.

786: HIGH NEEDS UPDATE

CONSIDERED: North Yorkshire received a cash grant within the DSG of about £45m in 2017/2018. This appears to be broadly the same in 2018/19 despite a significant increase in the number of funded Education Health and Care Plans since 2014.. There is currently a projected £4m financial pressure in 2018/19. With the agreement of schools in North Yorkshrie, 0.5% of the Schools Block (£1.6m) was transferred to the High Needs Block as a temporary measure and reduces the in-year projected overspend to £2.4m. However, the underlying overspend is £4m. There will be a lot of work to do around the High Needs block but it is unlikely that all of the financial pressure will be addressed by April 2019 so this financial pressure will continue. The LA will continue to lobby MPs, DfE, HMT, ESFA and MHCLG to secure a fairer funding deal for children and young people in the county.

These funding pressures will continue to affect the finances of mainstream and special schools within the county and will also continue to affect the local authority's financial position. However, the LA, in conjunction with school leaders and satekholders will undertake further work from June / July to look in-depth at school finances to identify which schools are in need of support or challenge and will continue to review the high needs block. The strategic plan will shortly be out for consultation.

Nationally, the Education Select Committee has invited written submissions on an Inquiry into School Funding by 30 May 2018. A draft response has been drawn up.

Helen Flynn asked if the LA would refer to all schools in North Yorkshire including academies in a deficit situation.

787: REDUNDANCY REPORT

CONSIDERED: The Schools Redundancy Report (*circulated*).

Schools look at redundancies for a number of reasons. There are current financial controls around redundancies and schools must produce a business case in order for the LA to consider funding redundancies which will be considered by the Finance Team. The LA propose to support compulsory redundancies only with effect from September 2018 and will review this position in due course.

Chris Head stated that the report was balanced and commended the previous practice as it has dramatically helped in preventing the need for selection. There will be a significant increase in the time that schools and leadership will be spending on this for the future. It is essential going forward to make the redeployment arrangements work.

Helen Flynn asked about the reserves policy overall.

788: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business raised.

789: FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 27 September 2018 – election of Chair for Schools Forum

Thursday 22 November 2018

The Chair asked to express his thanks to everyone and especially to Jane Pepper who would be retiring at the end of the academic year.