

Stuart Carlton
Corporate Director - Children and Young People's
Service

County Hall, Northallerton
North Yorkshire, DL7 8AE

Your ref:

Tel: 01609 532234

Our ref: SC/MES

E-mail: marion.sadler@northyorks.gov.uk

Web: www.northyorks.gov.uk

Contact: Stuart Carlton

5 September 2019

Dear Colleague

AUTUMN TERM 2019

At the start of what we are sure is going to be another busy academic year we would like to say we hope you had a great holiday and are feeling invigorated and ready for the year ahead.

It is good news that the results for all key stages are looking positive and this is down to your hard work and dedication, thank you. We will be able to discuss these with you at our Headteacher meetings later this term but the young people should be congratulated for their achievements.

As some of you may know we have been undertaking a restructure of the School Improvement Service and this has now moved into the implementation phase. In the next few weeks we will be able to share with you the changes which will be taking place and what the new service will look like when implementation takes place in January 2020.

The Locality Boards which we consulted on in October 2018 are being set up but this has not been an easy task. The feedback received was to move to a Locality Board arrangement however it has been challenging to get Headteacher involvement in some areas. I must however say thank you to the colleagues who have become involved. We will continue developing the Boards but if anyone is interested please contact either myself or Judith Kirk. There are finances attached to this model both from a School Improvement and SEND perspective and the ambition is for this to be a sector-led model.

We are really appreciative of the commitment you have given to working with us to tackle some of the difficult issues in SEND and Inclusion. We have now final proposals for the new AP models from September 2020 which should gain full approval by the end of September and will allow schools to use alternative provision proactively to meet the needs of identified children who might otherwise be at risk of permanent exclusion

On a very positive note, permanent exclusions have shown a significant decrease this year to 85 children (75 secondary and 10 primary children) which is encouraging. However we need to continue our joint efforts to maintain this downward trend next year and we hope that the roll out of the Pivotal

Education training for schools together with the establishment of the locality based SEND teams will help schools to support children at risk of exclusion.

We have analysed the financial performance of LA maintained schools during 2018-19 and, whilst funding and finances clearly continue to represent a challenging issue for us in many schools across the county, I am encouraged that the position did not deteriorate by the scale that had collectively been projected at the start of the year. This clearly reflects a lot of hard work from Headteachers, Governing Bodies, business managers and finance staff to look for options and to take what I know have been some extremely hard decisions to ensure good quality and financially sustainable education. Over the course of the academic year, the local authority in conjunction with the Schools Forum have lobbied hard to make the case for a fairer funding deal for North Yorkshire – better core school funding which reflects the cost of delivery in rural areas, addressing the significant shortfall in high needs funding, and seeking a much needed increase in capital funding. We have provided written and verbal evidence to two inquiries from the Education Select Committee, worked with the f40 group of local authorities, lobbied Ministers in DfE, HM Treasury and HCLG and briefed our local MPs on the issues. We are hopeful that this is starting to have an impact with an impending Spending Review but we are not complacent and will continue to lobby and to make the case.

On Tuesday Gavin Williamson MP made a statement to the House of Commons on education funding and key details were:

- Additional funding of £2.6bn in 2020-21
- An extra £2.2bn in 2021-22 (total additional funding of £4.8bn in 2021-22)
- An extra £2.3bn in 2022-23 (total additional funding of £7.1bn in 2022-23)
- £1.5bn will continue for additional pension contributions for all three years

At individual school level, the funding announcement will provide £5,000 per secondary school in 2020-21 (currently £4,800) and £3,750 per primary school in 2020-21 rising to £4,000 in 2021-22 (currently £3,500). We know that 100 primary schools and 19 secondary schools in North Yorkshire fall below the £4,000 and £5,000 threshold figures. We also understand that the Government has set aside £1.5bn for the next three years to cover the cost of additional pension contributions. The additional investment is welcomed and we await further information to understand what this means for individual schools. We will continue to talk to Schools Forum about the funding position and any consultation required with schools will be undertaken in due course.

The Government also announced £700m nationally for SEND. Our expectation is that this will provide somewhere between £5-7m for North Yorkshire depending on distribution method. High Needs funding pressures have been a big issue locally and nationally for both schools and local authorities – in North Yorkshire, we've put gross funding of £7.6m into the budget to top up the shortfall from the Department for Education in the context of a 61% increase in the number of children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) since 2015. The additional funding is welcome and helps to alleviate some of the financial pressure as we continue to implement the Strategic Plan for SEND.

Finally, as the 31 October Brexit deadline gets nearer, the Council, along with other government organisations, are taking steps to ensure preparedness in the event of a no deal exit from the EU. The Department for Education have updated their guidance for schools at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-exit-no-deal-preparations-for-schools-in-england/eu-exit-no-deal-preparations-for-schools-in-england>. It is important that schools commence planning now in order to ensure that there is as little disruption as possible in the event of a no deal exit.

We now look forward to a new academic year with yet another new Secretary of State in place. Gavin Williamson has strong connections with North Yorkshire, born in Scarborough and having attended primary, secondary and sixth form there, and we will be keen to share our achievements with him at an

early opportunity. The Cabinet also includes two North Yorkshire MPs – Julian Smith and Rishi Sunak, which will mean a strong local presence at the highest level in Government. We will continue to lobby and make the case for North Yorkshire schools and wider children’s services.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'R' or similar character, located below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Service