



Minutes

BARNSLEY SCHOOLS FORUM

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FORUM HELD ON THURSDAY, 14th
MARCH 2019, AT KIRK BALK ACADEMY**

PRESENT

Headteacher Representatives

Nick Bowen, Ann Nixon (*for Antoinette Drinkhill*) Nichola Smith and Alison Wilks

Governor Representative(s)

Adrian England, Margaret Gostelow, Sandra James, Mark Pawson and Michael Sanderson

Special Schools Representative(s)

Molly Beever and Josh Greaves (*for Dave Whitaker*)

Local Authority Elected Member Representative(s)

Councillor Andrew Millner

Officers

Josh Amahwe

Strategic Finance Manager (Core Services Directorate) Barnsley MBC

Richard Lynch

Head of Service (Barnsley Alliance For School Improvement)

Shafeek Khan

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

1. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE BARNSLEY SCHOOLS FORUM

Mr Lynch welcomed members of the Forum to today's meeting. Referring to Mr Bowen's intention to stand down as Chair and whilst noting that today's meeting would be quorate, a number of apologies had been received.

As a result, together with the desire to involve all members of the Forum in an opportunity to nominate and vote for a new Chair and a Vice-Chair as part of an open and transparent process, it was agreed to withdraw consideration of this item.

RESOLVED

(1) That nominations leading to the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Schools Forum be deferred until the next meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Formal apologies for absence were received from Ms Baggley, Mr Benbow, Mr Buckley, Ms Drinkhill, Mrs Gilmore, Mr Patterson, Councillor Tattersall, Mr Whitaker and Miss Wordsworth.

3. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTEREST

Representatives from the Forum declared their interest concerning Agenda Item 5 (a) relating to Schools Budgets.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE FORUM

RESOLVED

(2) The minutes of the meeting of the Forum, held on 24th January were agreed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING THROUGH CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Pages 3-4, Minute 6(b): Schools Budget (2019/20) – De-Delegated Funding From Maintained Schools For Statutory Local Authority Retained Functions

It was confirmed that Mr Bowen and Mr Crook were directly consulted on this matter and both were supportive of the proposal to deduct a contribution from maintained secondary schools allocations for the funding of statutory Local Authority retained functions.

6. SCHOOLS BUDGET

High Needs Block Funding Arrangements (2019/20)

Mr Amahwe presented a report on the proposed arrangements for funding the High Needs Block during 2019/20. In particular, Mr Amahwe commented on the following:

- The Borough's High Needs Funding Settlement of £23.2 million, together with details of additional non-recurrent funding.
- Recent steps taken by the Local Authority to manage and mitigate the cumulative deficit on a one-off basis.
- Proposed number of planned high needs and specialist resourced provision places.
- Maintaining current top-up funding arrangements and funding rates for existing pupils with an education and health care plan (EHCP) in pre-16 maintained schools and academies.

- To set aside £100,000 in exceptional funding to provide additional support to maintained schools and academies.
- To maintain the current level of top-up funding allocated to private, voluntary and independent early years settings.
- To maintain the current approach for funding specialist resource provision and that top-up funding rates be increased by £539 per pupil in both special academies.
- Increase the top-up funding rate for alternative provision by £539 per pupil, together with the contract value of commissioned alternative provision services by £40,000.
- Proposed funding for the commissioning of additional specialist places.
- To maintain the budgets for SEN support services, together with the funding contributions from the Higher Needs Block at the current level.

Among the matters discussed by the Forum, were the following:

- The historical and current context for the funding challenges facing the High Needs Block and SEN Services.
- The basis for the allocation of funding.
- The non-recurrent nature concerning additional grant funding and whether phasing could mitigate the effects of tapering.
- Distinctions between core and non-core funding within specialist resource provision.
- The financial modelling taking place to evaluate the impact of a number of commissioning intentions, including the provision of additional education placements for children and young people with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs and speech, language or communications needs (SLCN).
- Recent measures which had taken place to use Council assets, such as the Kendray Resource Centre, to commission satellite provision for pupils with the above named needs, in order to manage and mitigate the cost of out of Borough placements.
- Cost comparisons with neighbouring local authorities.
- The Incidence of school exclusions at the Primary phase compared to the Secondary phase.

RESOLVED

- (3) The Schools Forum confirms its consideration of the Borough's high-needs funding arrangements for 2019/20, including funding allocations and the proposed number of high needs places, together with the forecasted over-commitment in expenditure, amounting to £3.652 million.**

That a follow up report, making reference to (a) the Local Authority's

plans for managing and mitigating the over-commitment in High Needs expenditure (b) the outcome of financial modelling on the impact of commissioning intentions for SEN education places and (c) the impact upon schools and academies, of distinctions between core and non-core funding, particularly within specialist resourced provision, should be submitted for the Forum’s consideration at a future meeting, during 2019/20.

De-Delegation Of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) For Local Authority Statutory Functions: Education Of Children In The Care Of The Local Authority

Mr Lynch presented a report on the use of de-delegated DSG in supporting and improving education outcomes for all children and young people in the care of the Authority both within and outside of the Borough.

RESOLVED

(4) The Schools Forum re-affirms its approval for a DSG funding contribution of £200,000 to be made in supporting the education needs of children and young people in the care of the Local Authority.

7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No matters were raised at today’s meeting.

8. SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS (2019/20)

RESOLVED

1. That the proposed dates of meetings of the Schools Forum, during 2019/20, be communicated to members, once they are established.

Mr Bowen thanked members of the Forum for their attendance and contribution and expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the staff at Kirk Balk Academy for their hospitality in hosting today’s meeting.

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Signed by the Chair of the Barnsley Schools Forum