



Minutes

BARNSLEY SCHOOLS FORUM

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FORUM HELD ON THURSDAY, 16th
JANUARY 2020 AT KIRK BALK ACADEMY**

PRESENT

Headteacher Representatives

Dean Buckley, Paul Crook, Alison Wilks and Kirsty Wordsworth.

Governor Representative(s)

Adrian England, Margaret Gostelow, Sandra James, Jackie Milliner, Mark Pawson and Michael Sanderson (Chair of the Schools Forum)

Early Years Representative

Laura Hammerton

Alternative and Special Provision Representatives

Molly Beever and Dave Whitaker

Non-Schools Group Representative

Martin Copson

Officers

Nina Sleight	Service Director (Education, Early Start and Prevention) Barnsley MBC
Josh Amahwe	Strategic Finance Manager (Core Services Directorate) Barnsley MBC
Richard Lynch	Head of the Barnsley Alliance for Schools
Shafeek Khan	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Formal apologies were submitted by Ms Baggley, Ms Drinkhill, Councillor Saunders and Mr Smith

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTEREST

Representatives from the Forum declared their interest in relation to matters being considered as part of Agenda Item 4 of today's meeting. .

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE FORUM

RESOLVED

(1) The minutes of the meeting of the Forum, held on 12th December 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING THROUGH CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Pages 4-5: Outcome of the Consultation on the proposed percentage transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block

Mr Pawson enquired over when the Forum would be given an opportunity to consider its role in helping evaluate the impact and value added through such proposed transfers. Mr Sanderson confirmed that this matter would initially be considered as part of Agenda Item 5 of today's meeting.

5. SCHOOLS BUDGETS

Schools Budget (2019/20) Latest Outturn

Mr Amahwe reported upon the latest outturn position with particular reference to the following:

- Overall DSG Budgets – including the carrying forward of schools' balances; allocation of Pupil Premium Grant and Post 16 funding, together with specific grant funding, such as for Universal Infant Free School Meals.
- Schools Delegated DSG Budget - including the position on individual school balances.
- Centrally Retained Schools Budgets – notably, the factors contributing to the current net deficit together with actions to manage and mitigate financial risks.

RESOLVED

(2) The Schools Forum notes the latest outturn position.

2020/21 Schools Budget: Schools Funding Settlement

The Forum noted the funding settlement for schools in the Borough, during 2020/21. This had resulted in the following changes:

- Schools Block – an increase of £11.3 million to £160.1 million, to be distributed via the National Funding Formula.
- High Needs Block – an increase of £4.1 million to £19.4 million, composed of additional SEN(D) funding together with the beneficial impact of the National Funding Formula.
- Early Years Block – an increase of £0.3 million to £15.3 million, leading to a funding rate of £3.48 per hour.

The Forum, also, noted the provision for Pupil Premium Grant, together with other specific grants, including those for employer contributions to teachers' pay and pensions, during 2020/21.

RESOLVED

(3) The Schools Forum notes the funding settlement in the Borough, during 2020/21 as the basis for determining budgets for schools and settings, together with details of other funding to be made available in the same period.

2020/21 Schools Budget: Schools Block Funding

Further to the previous report, Mr Amahwe presented two reports which provided greater detail on the Schools Block DSG allocation and on arrangements for the Early Years Block.

The first report focused upon Schools Block Funding upon which Mr Amahwe referred particularly to the following:

- Agreed changes to the local schools funding formula, including funding factors to be utilised during 2020/21.
- Percentage transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, as agreed by the Forum at its previous meeting. On this Mr Amahwe advised the Forum that the Department for Education's' decision concerning the percentage transfer was still awaited.
- Changes to the level of de-delegated funding allocations for contingencies; eligibility for free school meals and teaching staff cover.

RESOLVED

- 4 (a) The Forum notes the DSG allocation for the Schools Block, including the changes implemented to the local schools formula, following the recent consultation.**
- 4 (b) The Forum also notes the percentage transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, amounting to 2% which was agreed by the Forum at its previous meeting and which will be subject to the Secretary of State agreeing the Local Authority's recent disapplication request.**
- 4 (c) The Forum agrees for an element of Schools Block Funding aimed at Local Authority maintained primary and secondary schools and amounting to £0.403 million, to be de-delegated and retained by the Local Authority.**

2020/21 Schools Budget: Early Years Block Budget

Mr Amahwe's second report focused upon the proposed allocation of funding to the Early Years Block. This included the following:

- An allocation of £12.4 million for the early years' universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year old children.
- An allocation of £2.7 million for free child care provision for eligible children aged 2 years.
- Early Years Pupil Premium funding amounting to £0.133 million, together with Disability Access Funding equating to £73,000 to improve access to early years provision for children with SEN(D).

- Details concerning the Local Authority's SEN Inclusion Fund, amounting to £100,000.
- The level of base rates to be paid to early years settings

Mr Amahwe advised that, in determining early years budget allocations for schools and settings during 2020/21, this had been informed through pupil participation data, based upon the last 3 School Census counts.

RESOLVED

- (5) The Forum notes the provisional DSG funding settlement for the Early Years Block, during 2020/21, together with the arrangements for allocating funding to providers and settings through the Borough Early Years Single Funding Formula.**

2020/21 Schools Budget: Central Schools Services Block Funding

Mr Amahwe also reported on the proposed funding allocation for the Central School Services Block. This funding would be retained by the Local Authority in order to meet ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments.

As part of this, two related reports were presented on the use of such funding to, firstly, support the continued engagement and participation of vulnerable young people in education, employment and skills and, secondly, for improving the attainment of looked after children.

Mr Pawson enquired over the level of funding to be retained in order to support the Trade Union Facilities Agreement in maintained schools and if a review had been undertaken of employee representation across the local schools system. Mr Sanderson confirmed that a report on these issues would be submitted for the Forum's consideration, at the next meeting.

Similarly, Mrs Beever felt that it would be useful for the Forum to consider the impact which retained funding had made, particularly, in the realms of school admissions and school improvement.

RESOLVED

- (6) The Forum agrees that the following statutory and retained functions of the Local Authority be funded, during 2020/21:**

- **School admissions - £275,000**
- **School Forum administration costs - £7,000**
- **Employee termination and pension costs - £75,000**
- **Asset management - £251,000**
- **Education welfare - £208,000**
- **Other statutory and welfare related functions - £41,000**

- (7) The Forum, also, agrees the DSG funding contributions for the following:**

- **Looked after children - £200,000**
- **Young people's skills and enterprise - £21,000**
- **Barnsley Alliance for school improvement - £450,000**

- (8) That, as a condition, of agreeing the above contributions, follow up reports on the impact of such investment upon (a) school admissions (b) school improvement and (c) trade union representation, be submitted for the Forum's consideration at the next meeting.**

6. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Discussion On The Transfer Of Funding From The Schools Block To The High Needs Block: Improving The Forum's And Wider Schools' Oversight Of The Value Added By Such Investment

Ms Sleight referred to the previous meeting of the Forum at which it agreed to the percentage transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block and Ms Dickinson's recommendation that a solution be agreed and adopted to enable the Schools Forum and schools sector to oversee the effectiveness and value added through such investment.

Discussion emerged over the need to address the current deficit in such oversight without creating duplication or overlap with existing means of governance or communications between the Local Authority and schools. In particular, Ms Sleight and Mr Lynch commented on the pivotal role of the Local Authority's SEN(D) Oversight Board which included Mr Bowen and Mrs Smith among its membership. Members of the Forum were asked if summary reports by the Board or individual members on its deliberations could be submitted to meetings of the Forum. These could be accessed by school leaders and governing bodies via the Schools Forum Web Page, unless any papers were exempted from publication as a result of the Local Government Act (2000).

RESOLVED

- (9) That the members' of the Forum be invited to express any ideas for improving the Forum's and schools' oversight of the effectiveness of such investments in the High Needs Block and to send any ideas to Ms Sleight.**

- (10) That a report on proposals for improving such oversight be submitted for the consideration of the Forum at its next meeting.**

7. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Forum noted that the next meeting would be taking place on Thursday, 12th March 2020, commencing at 1.00pm at Kirk Balk Academy.

In concluding today's meeting Mr Sanderson thanked members of the Forum for their attendance and contribution whilst, also, expressing his appreciation and gratitude to the staff of Kirk Balk Academy and Northern Education Trust for their co-operation and hospitality in hosting the meeting.

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Signed by the Chair of the Barnsley Schools Forum