



Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Children's Services Directorate

A

Minutes

BARNSLEY SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE FORUM HELD ON TUESDAY, 20th JANUARY 2021

PRESENT

Headteacher Representatives

Nick Bowen, Paul Crook and Antoinette Drinkhill

Governor Representative(s)

Molly Beever, Adrian England, Margaret Gostelow, Mark Pawson and Michael Sanderson (Chair of the Schools Forum)

Special Education Provision Representative

Josh Greaves

14-19 Years and Further Education Representative

Tom Smith

Barnsley MBC Elected Representative

Councillor Trevor Cave

Non-Schools Group Representative

Ayesha Baggley

Officers

Nina Sleight	Service Director (Education, Early Start and Prevention) Barnsley MBC
Josh Amahwe	Strategic Finance Manager (Core Services Directorate) Barnsley MBC
Charlotte Smallman	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Anna Turner	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

PRESENT (continued)

Officers (cont'd)

William Ward	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Shafeek Khan	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Formal apologies were submitted by Mr Buckley, Mr Dickinson, Mrs James and Mrs 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 17th December 2020 were agreed as a correct record.**

4. MATTERS ARISING THROUGH CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

No matters arose during consideration of the minutes of the previous meeting.

5. SCHOOLS BUDGETS

Latest Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Budget: Outturn Position (Quarter 3: 2020/21)

Mr Amahwe presented his report on the latest out-turn position and referred to the following:

- The revised budgets for the Schools Block, High Needs Block and Early Years Block, together with Central Schools Services.
- School balances being carried forward.
- Pupil Premium and EFA Post-16 funding allocations.
- Other specific grant funding for schools which had been recently announced, including summer schools funding and for universal infant free school meals.
- The outturn position for maintained schools.
- Summary of the financial impact of Covid-19 upon the Borough's schools.
- The current over-spend in centrally retained schools' budgets amounting to £7.3 million against a planned deficit of £5.2 million. This was predominantly attributable to prevailing cost pressures in the High Needs Block, particularly out of authority placements in which expenditure had increased by a further £0.7 million from the previous Quarter.

- Top-up funding being provided to schools.
- Emerging financial risks, including cost pressures impacting on the Early Years Block at year-end, based upon the DfE's recent announcement that funding in the Spring-Term would be based on Early Years Census data (January 2021) and in which attendance will inevitably be impacted by Covid-19. Top-up funding would be made available to affected settings on a case by case basis.
- Arrangements for the future carry-over and management of DSG deficits.

Mr Amahwe then responded to queries from Mr Crook, Ms Drinkhill and Mr Greaves in relation to the report.

RESOLVED

(2) That the Schools Forum notes the latest projected outturn position for the schools' delegated budget and the centrally retained DSG budgets, particularly the projected deficit position on the high needs block.

Schools Funding Settlement (2021/22)

Mr Amahwe advised the Forum of the Borough's Schools Funding Settlement for the next school year and referred to the following:

- A total DSG allocation of £221.4 million which equated to a £17.2 million increase compared to 2020/21.

	2020-21 £M	2021-22 £M	Change £M
Schools Block	160.070	173.072	13.002
High Needs Block	27.183	31.168	3.985
Early Years Block	15.239	15.456	0.217
Central Schools Services	1.733	1.757	0.024
	204.225	221.453	17.228

- The basis for allocations to the Schools Block, High Needs Block, Early Years Block and Central Schools Services, using the local schools funding formula which, as members of the Forum were aware, had been the subject of a recent consultation concerning proposed changes.
- The basis for, together with funding rates for the Pupil Premium Grant (2021/22)
- Other schools-related funding, including Year 7 catch-up funding; Universal Infant Free School Meals and the PE/Sport Premium.

Mr Amahwe responded to queries raised about the Borough's Settlement, including by Mr Crook, Ms Drinkhill and Mr Greaves in order to clarify the position. .

RESOLVED

(3) The Schools Forum notes the Government's funding settlement for the Borough's schools across the four funding blocks during 2021-22 as part of determining the budgets for schools and settings.

(4) The Schools Forum also notes the additional funding available for schools during 2021-22.

Schools Block Delegated Budget (2021/22)

Mr Amahwe reported on the changes to the local schools funding formula, following the recent consultation, which would form the basis of determining individual school budgets during 2020/21. Mr Amahwe commented particularly on the following:

- The total schools block funding envelope of £173.1 million, an increase of £13.million from 2020/21.
- Allocations for teacher's pay and pension costs, together with increases in pupil numbers.
- Schools Block units of funding for both primary and secondary schools.
- A proposed percentage transfer of funding amounting to 1% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. A disapplication request on this proposal had been submitted to the Secretary of State and the Local Authority was awaiting a response.
- The proposed de-delegation of funding from schools back to the Local Authority for the purpose of managing 'Contingency'; 'Free School Meals Eligibility' and 'Teaching Staff Cover'.

Mr Amahwe underlined that the local schools funding formula and the determination of individual school budgets would need to account for the proposed Trinity Academy and any transitional arrangements for meeting increased demand for school places until this school opened during 2021/22. Mr Amahwe, then, responded to a range of concerns relating to individual school and other budgets which were raised by Mr Crook, Ms Drinkhill and Mr Greaves. Ms Sleight added that the impact upon individual schools would hopefully be minimal and re-iterated her appreciation and gratitude to the Schools Forum for supporting the percentage transfer of funding from the Schools Block to help the High Needs Block.

In noting the recommendations of the report, Mr Sanderson asked members of the Forum who were eligible to vote on this matter, if they supported the de-delegation of funding from maintained school budgets back to the Local Authority for the purpose of 'Contingency; 'Free School Meals Eligibility' and 'Teaching Staff Cover'. A motion to support this proposal was put to a vote and was carried but with the dissent of one eligible voter.

RESOLVED

- (5) The Schools Forum notes the Schools Block DSG allocation for 2021/22 and the implemented changes to the local schools funding formula as outlined in Mr Amahwe's report.**
- (6) That as part of these changes, a funding transfer of 1% to the High Needs Block, previously approved by the Forum on 17th December 2020 and subject to the DfE's approval of the disapplication request submitted by the Council, had been included.**
- (7) That following today's vote on this matter, the Forum agrees that the funding for maintained primary & secondary schools, as outlined in paragraphs 24- 27 of Mr Amahwe's report, be de-delegated and retained by the Council to fund central schools expenditure relating to Contingency; Eligibility for Free School Meals and Teaching Staff Cover**

Early Years Block Funding (2021/22)

Mr Amahwe proceeded to outline the proposals within his report on Early Years Block funding and commented on the following matters:

- The funding entitlement for children aged 2, together with those aged 3-4.
- The total funding allocation and rates of funding proposed in the Borough, based on the Single Funding Formula, including the payment of additional supplements to settings with pupils from deprived backgrounds.
- Mandatory pass-through levels of funding directly to settings.
- The purpose of the SEN Inclusion Fund.
- The forecasted risks impacting Early Years funding relating to the Early Years Census and participation hours (in January 2021) as indicated earlier during today's meeting

RESOLVED

- (8) That the Schools Forum notes the provisional DSG funding settlement for the Early Years block for 2021/22, based on the Early Years National Funding Formula for children aged 3 and 4.**
- (9) That the Forum also notes the arrangements for allocating early years funding for children aged 3 and 4 to providers and settings via the Barnsley Early Years Single Funding Formula during 2021/22.**

Central Schools Services Block Budget (2021/22)

Mr Amahwe's final report outlined the proposed funding allocations concerning a range of central schools' services functions. This included both statutory historic commitments and ongoing responsibilities as follows:

- Education of children looked after by the Local Authority.
- Participation and engagement of young people aged 14-19 in education.

- Sector-based, peer-led school improvement.
- Termination or pension costs.
- School admissions.
- Schools Forum administrative costs.
- Asset management.
- Education and welfare of pupils.
- Other statutory and regulatory functions, including health and safety.

The proposed allocations for these historic commitments and ongoing responsibilities required the agreement of the Schools Forum and Mr Sanderson recommended that a vote restricted to members of the Schools Group in the Forum, be taken on the proposals on a line by line basis. As a result of the subsequent vote each proposal was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED (10)

The Schools Forum agrees to the allocation of funding for the following statutory and retained functions during 2021/22:

- **School admissions (£275,000)**
- **Schools Forum administrative costs (£7,000)**
- **Termination and pension costs (£75,000)**
- **Asset management (£251,000)**
- **Education welfare services (£208,000)**
- **Other statutory and regulatory functions (£41,000)**

RESOLVED (11)

The Schools Forum agrees to the allocations of funding for the following services, subject to the submission of reports outlining the use and effectiveness of previous funding allocations, to the next meeting:

- **Education of looked after children (£200,000)**
- **Participation and engagement of children and young people aged 14-19 in education (£21,000)**
- **Funding to the Barnsley Alliance for school improvement (£450,000)**

6. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No matters were raised. Mr Sanderson thanked members of the Forum for their attention and contribution during this meeting.

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Signed by the Chair of the Barnsley Schools Forum