

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Formal apologies had been submitted by Mr Buckley, Ms Hammerton, Mrs Smith and Councillor Tattersall

2. DECLARATIONS OF 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 SCHOOLS FORUM

The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 27th January 2022 were approved as a correct record

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

No matters arose through considering the minutes of the previous meeting.

5. REPORTS**High Needs Funding Budget (2022/23)**

Mr Amahwe presented a report which detailed the High Needs Funding allocation for the Borough. He commented that the Council's disapplication request to transfer 1% of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block had been successful and confirmed the sources of additional, supplementary funding made available.

Mr Amahwe went on to detail the funding commitments concerning the High Needs Block during 2022/23 within the context of growing demand and the ongoing effect of historic under funding in Barnsley. Mr Amahwe then outlined the measures which would be taken during this period to tackle the accumulated DSG deficit through the Local Authority's Management Plan. Here, it was noted that the Local Authority had been notified by the Department for Education of its inclusion in the 2022/23 SEND 'Safety Valve' Programme for potential financial support in tackling accumulated deficits in the High Needs Block.

Referring to the number of planned places, place funding and top-up funding in the range of provision, members of the Forum were encouraged by the increased commissioning of school places for children and young people with moderate special educational needs within local, mainstream settings via the use of satellite facilities as part of a graduated response to meeting the needs of these groups of young people.

RESOLVED

- 1. The Schools Forum notes the High Needs Funding Settlement, together with the outcome of the Local Authority's disapplication request for 2022/23.**
- 2. The Forum notes the proposed funding requirements and allocations for this period, particularly in relation to the number of commissioned**

specialist places and the payment of top-up funding to mainstream and special schools or academies, together with other providers.

Central Schools Services Block: Use of Funding to Meet Ongoing Responsibilities and Historic Commitments During 2021/22

Mrs Turner and Mr Smith presented a report on how the funding which the Schools Forum had approved last year had been used to improve the quality of practice and provision within the following historic commitments:

- Supporting the Local Authority's statutory commitment as the *Corporate Parent* towards the education of looked after children.
- Supporting sector-led, peer-based school improvement through the Barnsley Alliance
- Supporting the work of the Local Authority's Young People Skills and Enterprise Service in enhancing the education, skills and employability of young people aged 14-19 years.

Mrs Turner commented particularly on how the lessons learned during the Covid-19 Pandemic, notably in relation to catch-up learning, ensuring a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage; preparedness for assessments and examinations, together with promoting inclusion through good attendance and exclusion policies would be at the forefront of the upcoming Barnsley Education Improvement and Inclusion Strategy (2022-24). Mrs Gostelow added that this investment had been used to further develop the role of governing bodies in challenging and making school leaders accountable for performance and progress at schools and settings.

Mr Smith informed the Forum that the funding allocated to his service had been exclusively used to create effective pathways which would enable young people with High Needs to obtain employment and access higher education. Mr Smith highlighted the success of the measures adopted for this purpose and paid tribute to Neil Wilkinson the Service and Strategy Manager on his role in improving outcomes.

RESOLVED:

- 3. The Schools Forum notes the improvements made to the quality of practice and provision as a result of the funding allocated to support these historic commitments during 2021/22.**

Special Educational Needs (SEND) Performance and Finance Report (Quarter 3: 2021/22)

Ms Sleight presented the latest, published quarterly report on the progress made towards achieving the priorities of the local SEND Improvement Plan. Ms Sleight commented upon the following:

- The number of children and young people with an Education and Health Care Plan or on SEN Support.
- Good compliance with statutory timescales, including assessment and review
- Engaging parents, carers and families in the co-production of plans and strategies and in planning and commissioning services

- Meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND, closer to home including within mainstream provision and satellite facilities
- The budgetary position, together with the lingering impact of the Pandemic upon learning
- The Written Statement of Action in response to the findings of the recent local area joint inspection of services for children and young people with SEND

Reflecting upon the report, Mrs James commented favourably on how the maintainance and timely issue of EHCPs to children and young people with SEND in the Borough was better than the National Average.

Ms Sleight added that the long awaited outcomes of the National Review of SEND would be published in the form of a Green Paper and consultation document by the end of this month.

RESOLVED:

4. **The Schools Forum notes the progress made by local statutory partners against the priorities of the Barnsley SEND Improvement Plan, during Quarter 3 this year.**

6. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

No issues were raised at today's meeting.

The Chair of the Barnsley Schools Forum expressed his gratitude to members of the Forum for their attendance and contributions to today's meeting and paid tribute to those members for whom this would be their last meeting

A list of dates for meetings of the Forum during 2022/23 would be circulated in due course.

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 (Signed by the Chair of the Barnsley Schools Forum)