

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th June 2014**

**Wellington Suite, Tollbar Conference Centre**

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| Present: | David Hampson (DH) (Chair) | | Cllr Ros James (RJ) | |
|  | Gillian Kendall(GKe) | | Gavin Monument, EFA (GM) | |
|  | George Krawiec (GKr) | | Nigel Woodworth (NW) | |
|  | Jane Aukett (JA) | | Denise Faulconbridge (DF) | |
|  | Trevor Wray (TW) | | David Kirven (DK) | |
|  | Lorna Pendred (LP) | | Alex Allenby (AAl) | |
|  | Paul Cordy (PC) | | Kim Stevens (Minutes) | |
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| Apologies: | | Karl Gabbitas (KG), Catherine Standley(CS), Anne Munro (AM), Simon Overal (SO), Ann Addison (AAd), Chris Penszor (CP) | | |  | |

|  |  | **Action** |
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| **12/14**  **13/14**  **14/14**  **15/14**  **16/14**  **17/14**  **18/14**  **19/14**  **20/14** | Two resignations have been received, one from Catherine Standley and one from Ann Addison who is retiring from her post as Head of Healing School. Ann asked that her sincere thanks be passed to all forum members, she has appreciated the opportunity to work with such a professional group of people and believes the groups decisions have had a very positive impact on all our local school. She also wished to thank Dave Kirven and his team for their hard work in servicing the School Forum with the high quality information necessary to inform very important decisions. She wished the Schools Forum much good fortune in the future.  **Minutes of the Meeting 19th March 2014 and Matters Arising**  **Item 6/14**  The above minutes on the Early Years hourly rates does not reflect the discussion around reviewing these in the summer.  The current recommendation reads:  *That the Schools Forum note the 2014.-15 hourly rates to be paid for early years providers.*  This should read:  That the Schools Forum note the 2014-15 hourly rates to be paid for early years providers. However Schools Forum, following its discussion, request that an in year review of rates is carried out in the summer. Officers undertook to review these.  **Review of the implementation of the 2014-15 Schools Funding Formula**  *The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Schools Forum with summary information produced by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) on all of the school funding formulas submitted by each Local Authority so they can see how NELC’s compares.*  **Recommendation**  That members note the contents of the report.  **Dedicated Schools Grant Financial Settlement 2014-15 – Spend Analysis**  *The purpose of this paper is to build upon the report of the 19th March 2014 and provide school forum members with a more detailed breakdown of proposed spend of the 2014-15 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation which was published by central government on the 18th December 2013.*  DH commented that ‘old’ academies are funded more generously than other academies. GM reported that ‘old’ academies have higher baselines and are locked into their Funding Formulas but the EFA are looking to bring these into line.  High Needs Block Funding  GKe commented that there is a changing need in the population and more children will required specialist education. It was agreed that further discussion was needed on this topic therefore it would be an agenda item at the next meeting.  **Action: Paper to be presented to the next Forum re Pre16 & Post 16 for the process to be agreed**  GKr questioned what the role of the LA is regarding Academies.  PC reported that on-going discussions are being held, the LA are to meet with the Schools Commissioner as NEL will shortly be one of the first areas to have 100% academies therefore the DfE would like to carry out further work with us.  **Recommendation**  That members note the contents of the report.  **SEN Working Party Update**  *The purpose of this paper is to advise Schools Forum Members as to progress following concerns raised at the last meeting in respect of the banding criteria.*  GKe commented that this is a very good start and thanked members for their support to enable things to move forward.  **Recommendation**  It is recommended:   1. That members approve the recommendations of the SEN Working Party 2. That any material financial matters arising from the review of the descriptors or Place Planning work be referred back to Schools Forum   GKr proposed to take this forward  This was seconded by GKe  Members agreed unanimously to take this forward  **Scheme for Financing Schools & Schools Finance Procedure Rules**  *The purpose of this paper is to advise maintained schools representatives of Schools Forum of the above documents which are due to be re-issued prior to the summer holidays.*  Prior to formal adoption by the maintained representatives of the Schools Forum comments need to be invited from all maintained schools. The document will be issued prior to the end of summer term with a deadline for comments of the 30th September 2014. Any comments received will be investigated and changes made as appropriate.  **Recommendation**  It is recommended:   1. That members note the contents of this report and, 2. Following the receipt of comments a report is brought back in December for these to be formally approved by the maintained Schools Forum representatives.   Members agreed unanimously to take this forward  **DfE Consultations Submitted**   * **Fairer schools funding in 2015-16**   DK reported that we are well above the minimum funding levels but has concerns if these become mandatory and our DSG allocation is based on these then there will be loss of DSG for the borough. Concerns have been logged and further guidance is expected. DH commented that there is significant strain on budgets as in 2015/2016 employers contributions to teachers pensions will increase from 14.2% to 16.4%, this will also mean an increase in national insurance contributions.   * **Consultation on converting non-recoupment academies to recoupment academies and amending the funding of local authorities for pupils in free schools from 2015-16**   DK advised that this consultation was proposing bringing non recoupment academies into our baseline. Concerns raised were potential impacts as these are funded on estimated numbers and the possible impact on central support costs. The comment was made our non-recoupment academies should be funded on actual pupil numbers as they are long established.  **Consultation on Procedures**   * **Falling Roles Fund**   A school with significant funding had requested to access growth funding. DK advised this contingency is small and as such requests should only be made when the school cannot afford this. He advised that he intended to add a criteria to reflect this and in the case of academies clear evidence that the school couldn’t afford this would need to be provided. The procedure, with the additional criteria would be brought back to the next meeting.   * **Growth in Pupil Admission Numbers**   DK advised he intended to introduce an additional criteria in respect of affordability similar to the Falling Roles Fund. Again the revised criteria will be brought back to the next meeting.  **AOB**  **Changes to Membership**  Due to the continuing conversion of primary maintained schools to academies a review of membership is to be carried out.  **Action: PC to carry out this review and make recommendations to the Schools Forum at its September meeting**  **Date and time of next meeting**  Wednesday 17th September, 1.00 – 3.00  Wellington Suite, Tollbar Conference Centre | **DK** |