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**11th March 2020, 1:00 pm**

**Tollbar Conference Centre**

**Minutes**

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|  | **Attendees**  David Hampson (DH) (Chair), George Krawiec (GK) (Vice Chair), Andy Zielinski (AZ), Lorna Pendred (LP), Kim Leach (KL), Mark Wood (MW), Carol Shaw (CS), Cllr Lindley (Cllr L), Sally Jack (SJ) (NELC), Nathan Heath (NH) (NELC) Dave Kirven (DK) (NELC), Casey Thornton (clerk) |
| **01/20** | **Apologies**  Gill Alton, Phil Hutchinson, Helen Hussey, Allie Major, Alex Allenby (NELC) |
| **02/20** | **Minutes and matters arising from the meeting on 10th December 2019**  Minutes Agreed as a true record, KL moved, GK seconded  Matters arising:  26-19 – still to be actioned, outstanding  27-19 - completed  29-19 - completed |
| **03/20** | **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Financial settlement 2020-21**  DK presented the DSG 2020-21 financial settlement for members to note.  The allocation BEFORE academy recoupment is £139.961 which is an increase of £8.125m from 2019-20.  The individual block splits were Schools - £106.862m, Early Years - £10.481m, High Needs - £21.210m and Central Services - £1.408m.Each of these was briefly discussed. |
| **04/20** | **Funding Formula for schools 2020-21 update**  DK updated members on the formula working party discussions of the 10th January 2020 along with the remodelling work carried out and the final formula submission. A summary of the main changes was as below:  Pupil number increases – 92 additional primary, 265 secondary  Final AWPU’s - £3,125 primary, £4,130 KS3, £4,825 KS4.  The final allocation:   * Increases the previous year’s 2019-20 AWPU values * Maintains the current Primary:Secondary ratio of 1:1.28 which DfE expect. * Has additional funding for 2 primary schools and 2 secondary schools in order to meet the minimum funding levels. * MFG + 1.84% compared to + 0.20% in 2019-20. As a result schools that gain will be allowed to keep all of these. * Puts 75.00% of the funding through Basic pupil factors – Age Weighted Pupil Factors (AWPU). This was 75.52% in 2019-20. * Puts 93.16% of the funding through Pupil led factors – Age Weighted Pupil Factors (AWPU), deprivation, prior attainment etc. This was 92.80% in 2019-20.   Schools block fully allocated and all but AWPU’s adopt the NFF unit values. NELC AWPU values above NFF unit values. NELC submission was fully compliant with DfE guidelines.  It is requested that Schools Forum ratify the working party decisions in respect of the final schools funding formula proposed for 2020-21.  Schools Forum agreed with the submission made. |
| **05/20** | **SEN – High Needs Block Allocation 2020-21**  DK presented members with the proposed High Needs Block allocations for 2020-21. The allocation BEFORE academy recoupment is £21.210m. an increase of £2.652m on 2019-20. Despite this increase the High Needs Block allocation is overallocated by £0.151m. A detailed discussion took place around the allocations. The main changes from 2019-20 which were fully discussed are summarised below:   * Agency placements – significant increase due to on-going demand which is being monitored. * Top ups - mainstream and special academies increase of 7% across all bandings in addition a fixed cost payment to special schools in line with mainstream schools lump sum. Effective April 2020 for mainstream, Sept 2020 Specials. * Top ups- AP 5.6% proposed increase from Sep 20. * Post 16 – budget reduction based upon 2019-20 outturn – budget to be closely monitored. * Early Years Inclusion Fund – increase from 2019-20 based upon demand, will be charged to Early Years Block at year end if this block is not fully spent. * Pupil Inclusion Fund / contribution to DSG account – both new for 2020-20 in order to retain children in mainstream settings as opposed to the more expensive agency placements settings and to contribute to the DSG account to avoid a deficit position and DfE reporting territory.   Central DSG position subject to allocations not overspending is a projected surplus of £0.200m. |
| **06/20** | **BAC’s Recharging Consultation**  NH updated members on the on the proposed changes and discussed the work undertaken around how the BAC system is funded and how charges will be calculated. Following a discussion forum members confirmed that the position in the briefing note had been clarified. |
| **07/20** | **Early Years Hourly Rates**  DK confirmed the new base rate for all providers will be £4.08 per hour for 3 and 4 year olds and £5.08 per hour for 2 year olds. This is an increase of 8p per hour which is the full passporting of the increase in funding being received by NELC in the Early Years Block. |
| **08/20** | **RPA Insurance arrangement for maintained schools**  DK gave a verbal update regarding maintained schools joining the scheme from April 2020. NELC Insurance section is currently looking into the level of cover offered compared to our existing arrangements. |
| **09/20** | **Any other business**  None |
| **10/20** | **Date and time of next meeting**  9th July 2020 1:00pm TollBar Conference Centre. |