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**17th March 2021, at 4:00pm**

**via virtual TEAMS Meeting**

**Minutes**

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|  | **Attendees**  George Krawiec (GK) (Chair), Lorna Pendred (LP), Kim Leach (KL), Allie Major (AM), Jo North (JN), Carol Shaw (CS), Sally Jack (SJ) (NELC), Dave Kirven (DK) (NELC), Alex Allenby (NELC), Helen Hussey (HH), Andy Zielinski (AZ), Cllr Lindley (Cllr L), Casey Thornton (Clerk) |
| **07/21** | **Introductions and Apologies**  Apologies from Carianne Robson, Mark Wood, Gill Alton  GK welcomed all to the Forum. |
| **08/21** | **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**  Minutes agreed as an accurate record**.** |
| **09/21** | **SEN – High Needs Block Allocation 2021-22**  DK gave an update on the SEN HNB allocation.  In respect of the current financial year, 2020-21 a deficit on the high needs block of £1m was currently projected. In respect of the allocation of the high needs block for 2021-22 then an overallocation of £757k is projected. Consequently, by the 31-3-2022 the DSG account is projecting a forecast overallocation of around £1.7m. DK indicated that the forecast deficit may not be as high as £1.7m at the 31st March 2022 as there may be in year underspends against planned spend and the import / export adjustment still needed to be finalised. There was a discussion around the budget and where options could be developed and progressed to assist in balancing this budget area.  GK- advised that if no action is taken money will almost certainly have to be taken from the school’s block to address some of this deficit  The group advised the need for a working group to investigate options to reduce the cost spend. |
| **10/21** | ***Early Years hourly rates 2021-22***  DK gave an overview of the increase in hourly rates confirming that the full increase of 8p an hour for two-year-olds and 6p an hour for 3- and 4-year-olds will be passported onto settings  . |
| **11/21** | **DfE Consultation - Review of national funding formula for allocations of high needs funding to local authorities: changes for 2022-23**  DK advised that the closing date is the 24th March 2021. Noted. |
| **12/21** | **DfE Consultation - Changes to schools NFF sparsity factor in 2022 to 2023**  DK advised that the closing date is the 9th April 2021. GK raised concerns as to how the distance works on this. |
| **13/21** | **Any other business**  AZ wanted confirmation regarding the pay freeze for public sector workers and the lump sum for those members of staff under £24k per annum. GK- confirmed all public sector workers to receive a pay rise of at least £250 if earning below £24k. |
| **14/21** | **Date and time of next meeting:**  **July** |