



Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16th March 2022

Grimsby Town Hall

	<p>Attendees</p> <p>George Krawiec (GK) (Chair), Lorna Pendred (LP), Kim Leach (KL), Carol Shaw (CS), Sally Jack (SJ) (NELC), Dave Kirven (DK) (NELC), Carrienne Robson (CR), Cllr Lindley (Cllr L), Jane Aukett (JA), Phil Hutchinson (PH), Matt Clayton (MC) (NELC), Wendy Jackson (WJ) (NELC), Rebecca Taylor (RT) (NELC), Kim Stevens (KS) (NELC)</p>
<p>08/22</p>	<p>Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>GK welcomed all to the Forum and introductions made. Apologies received from: Andy Zalinski, Jayne Perry, Allie Major, Alex Allenby, Mark Wood, Sarah Bates, Jo North</p>
<p>09/22</p>	<p>Minutes and matters arising of the meeting held on 12th January 2022</p> <p>Minutes agreed as an accurate record</p> <p>Update on action</p> <p>3/22 DSG – MW/AZ/PH to work together to produce a paper outlining how the process could be made equitable and how it would be funded – item to be picked up in today’s agenda</p> <p>3/22 DK to look at the figure if special schools were to have a 2% increase – work ongoing</p> <p>4/22 SJ to present an overview of how housing is impacting on pupil numbers at the next meeting – SJ updated that a paper had been presented to Cabinet around pupil numbers, Cabinet have approved permission for 2 x 210 primary schools, without nursery provision to be built over a period of time. One school will be built in Waltham and one in Scartho as housing development in these areas are high. SJ will continue to provide updates as this develops.</p>
<p>10/22</p>	<p>Schools Funding Formula 2022-23</p> <p>The purpose of this note is to recommend, subject to any comments Schools Forum may have, an updated procedure to be adopted in</p>

accessing additional funding where the Local Authority request a maintained or academy primary or secondary school to increase its PAN and this results in additional pupil numbers over and above those funded at the previous count. The procedure is being revised following discussion on this item at the last school's forum in respect of the re-introduction of this fund and the need to ensure that the limited resources are used where needed most.

Growth Fund Proposal tweaked as recorded below and re-submitted:

- Awards are made for one year only and will be reviewed each year in accordance with the criteria. ***As part of this review confirmation will be required as to how the funding has been spent.***
- Schools must be able to demonstrate that they are unable to fund the request themselves. As part of this assessment reliance will be placed on the level of reserves held and where these are in excess of the former 8% amount (primary) and 5% (secondary) ***this will be taken into consideration and a discussion may take place with the school in respect of the planned use of these reserves.*** Where the school is maintained, reference will be made to the school budget plan, where the school is an academy evidence such as system management accounts showing the projected outturn position and reserves position will be required as a minimum.

In respect of the above this will be calculated as follows:

**Reserves available (general fund restricted and unrestricted)
*Gross funding per the APT for the year the request is being made for multiplied by 100 to get the %***

DK commented that if there was any balance in excess then Forum could vote that this be returned but there is no requirement for balances to be clawed back.

GK commented that he felt that if money was not used for this purpose, then it should be paid back.

Recommendation

We would request Schools Forum to approve the above revised procedure in respect of the eligibility criteria to access this new growth fund.

We would also recommend that this procedure is reviewed in 12 months at the latest.

	Forum members were happy with these minor modifications.
11/22	<p>Early Years Funding Paper 2022-23</p> <p>At the meeting of the Schools Forum on the 18th November 2021 members requested further information on the above particularly around what the spend was used for and the impact of retaining a lesser amount. Information was requested on benchmarking and other market information where this was available. The purpose of this paper is to provide school forum members with this information and context.</p> <p>Funding is shared between 3 areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Team – the current core funding supports both Portage and the Specialist teachers. With the increase of complexity of SEND and the number of children presenting with potential additional needs any reduction to these services could be detrimental to the support Early Years settings currently receive. There has been an increase in the number of EHCP requests for children aged 0-5 made to the LA over the last 4 years • Specialist Teachers • Contribution to Localities team – families come through the Integrated Front Door, there are currently 400 open cases re 0-5yr olds. The latest offer has identified 14 settings and individual plans are provided into these. LP questioned if these settings are spread across different areas MC updated that a couple are outside the expected areas of deprivation hotspots and a list of settings would be made available. Early Years is a key issue for the Prevention and Early Help Strategic Group and partners have a strong commitment to what we should be doing at an early age. <p>A discussion took place around the take up of both the universal and extended offer decreasing during the pandemic, GK suggested carrying out a publicity campaign to promote settings, WJ reported there had been a recruitment campaign during the last month for the take up of 2-3yr places.</p> <p>LP thanked those who had put the paper together, this will be used to explain to others where the money is spent.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Officers recommend that the Schools Forum allow full retention of the 5%.</p> <p>Forum members voted for this to be carried forward</p>
12/22	SEN – High Needs Block Allocations 2022-23

	<p>The purpose of this paper is to advise Schools Forum members of the allocation of the High Needs Block (HNB) for 2022-23 and seek any comments they may have.</p> <p>Discussion on content held.</p> <p>SJ gave the following update:</p> <p>The DfE have launched a new initiative called 'Delivering Better Value' to help LAs understand and manage the DSG and any potential deficits, a financial consultant would work with LAs to develop action plans and there is a pot of £85m available, we have put in an expression of interest to become part of this initiative.</p> <p>SJ had been invited to discussions with the Regional School Commissioner's (RSC) Advisory Board, seeking ideas and support for secondary provision for those young people with SEMH as a primary need.</p> <p>A recent secondary school 'summit' meeting was undertaken, and support and commitment was given by all head teachers to the inclusivity agenda.</p> <p>The RSC had discussed the development of SEMH Free Schools, and our bid has been drafted to apply when the Free School window opens. We will be working with our schools to develop a 12-place provision for Key Stage 1 and plans are in place to develop 40 places across the borough for Key Stage 1&2.</p> <p>Action: SF Working Party to be reconvened to discuss the above</p> <p>GK commented that inflation will impact on all school's budget as utility bills rise. DK reported that the area has been allocated a £4m schools supplementary grant which schools will receive a share of.</p> <p>Cllr Lindley commented that the Ukraine issue will impact locally.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Whilst the setting of the High Needs Block allocation does not require a formal decision from the Schools Forum and the report is for information and noting only it is imperative that the Schools Forum are an active partner in finding solutions and the joint work continues at pace in order to prevent the financial deficit position referred to increasing.</p> <p>In respect of the high needs supplementary grant, it is proposed that a paper is brought to the September meeting of the Schools Forum when calls on this additional funding should be more fully known.</p> <p>DK was thanked for making the paper easy to understand.</p>
13/22	Any other business

	None
14/22	Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 6th July 2022, 1.00 – 2.30, Bremerhaven Room, Grimsby Town Hall.