

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20th March 2019**

**Wellington Suite, Tollbar Conference Centre**

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| Present: | | Jane Aukett (JA) | | Phil Hutchinson (PH) | | | |
|  | | Allie Majer (AM)  Carol Shaw (CS) | | Kevin Gallacher (KG)  David Kirven (DK) | | | |
|  | | Lorna Pendred (LP)  Roz Danks (RD) | | Alex Allenby (AA)  Cllr Kath Wheatley (Cllr W) | | | |
|  | | Helen Hussey (HH)  Peter Kennedy (PK) | | Casey Thornton (CT) | | | |
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| Apologies: P | | David Hampson, Wendy Jackson, George Krawiec, Andy Zielinski, Kim Leach, Gill Alton | | | | |  | | |
|  |  | | | | **Action** |
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| **01/19**  **02/19**  **03/18**  **04/19**  **05/19**  **06/19** | **Introductions and apologies**  Apologies noted. DK advised that with both the Chair and Vice Chair not being present another Forum member would need to be elected to Chair today’s meeting. Jane Aukett agreed to Chair the meeting.  **Minutes and matters arising of the meeting held on 18th  December 2018**  Minutes Agreed.  Action Update: *DK to confirm at the next Forum if the invoice raised to the FE setting has been paid –* DK advised that the invoice had been paid. AM asked whether the amount paid had been equivalent to what a school would be expected to pay. DK advised that the funding arrangements were different for an FE provision and the FE setting had paid in accordance with the guidance. He further advised that he and Nathan Heath had raised the matter again with the DfE. AM requested that the monetary impact of the cost of placing excluded pupils against funding recovered from the FE setting be provided. A full discussion then took place on this matter. The discussion concluded and DK was requested to provide information on the financial impact.  **Action: DK to provide information on the financial impact.**  **DSG Financial Settlement 2019-20**  DK advised that the final settlement was received on 17th December. This shows an increase of £1.238M on the 2018-19 figure of £130.598M. The increase is as a result of the introduction of the new High Needs Block National Funding Formula and an increase in pupil numbers. This was offset by a decrease in early year’s uptake particularly around 2 year olds.  **Funding Formula for Schools 2019-20 Update**  DK went through the report and highlighted that following the issue of the final APT Proforma with the October 2018 Schools Census data it had been necessary to remodel and refine the Schools Funding Formula as discussed at preceding Forum meetings and the consultation with Schools meetings carried out in November 2018.  Pupil numbers had increased by 66 in the secondary phase and this together with other data changes had resulted in a final allocation for the Schools Block of £101.802m. This was an overall increase of £0.659m from when the initial modelling work was undertaken.  The refinements made were to reduce the Primary prior attainment factor new NFF value of £1,022 to £700. The reason for this is at the previous meetings and the consultations with schools a commitment had been given to not change the AWPU amounts.  DK advised that for the 2020-21 Schools Funding Formula he would be looking to use the NFF for Primary prior attainment but this would result in an estimated reduction in Primary AWPU of £100 per pupil. This in itself may result in the Primary : Secondary ratio moving away from the DfE ideal and there then may be an impact on the Secondary AWPU. All this would need to be worked through and would be discussed at future Forums.  Apart from the AWPU and the Primary prior attainment all other factor values reflected NFF values.  The Forum noticed that there was an error on one of the tables. DK will ratify. Forum in agreement with the content of the report.  **Action: DK to amend the report.**  DK advised that the above was discussed and agreed by the working party when it met on the 10th January 2019. Two of the members of that working party present confirmed this.  DK advised he did not require a formal vote on the paper but a consensus approval. Those members present agreed with the actions taken.  **SEN – High Needs Block Allocation 2019-20**  The High Needs Block allocation issued by the DfE shows an allocation to NELC of £18.558M which is an increase of £0.876M on the 2018-19 allocation. The amount of £18.558M includes the additional £0.357M funding allocation announced on the 17th December 2018. A further £0.401M in respect of the top slice from the Schools Block is also available for High Needs Funding.  DK advised that Members are to note that our special academies final admission numbers will not be known until the summer and that the final value of top up funding cannot be estimated at the moment.  DK went through the summary of main changes firstly in terms of commissioning places which included additional places being required at both of the special academies and secondly in terms of the financial position.  In respect of the financial position to meet anticipated and projected spend based on the information known at this time has resulted in the High Needs Block being over allocated by £0.346M. This is after factoring the additional allocation announced on the 17th December 2018, the top slice from the Schools Block and the full anticipated BAC’s income. In respect of the last one this decision has been reluctantly taken as a result of the pervasive nature it could create.  **Any other business**  DK advised that there will shortly be a tender process being issued for an education provision for 7-15 LAC children where it is planned that these will be returned from out of area. DK advised that the document will be sent to Forum members who are not in attendance.  **Action: CT to send document to Schools Forum**  **Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 11th July 2019 at 1pm at the Tollbar Conference Centre** | | | |  |