

Schools Forum

June 24th 2013 - Minutes

Forum Members Present:	
Stella Sage – Vice Chair	Primary Headteacher
Peter Reaney	Academy (Governor)
David Kelham	Academy (Governor)
Cllr June Tandy	Governor
Ramesh Srivastava	Governor
Chris Smart	Governor
Latika Davis	Governor
Larry Granelly	Governor
Cllr Philip Johnson	Governor
Tony Wilmot	Secondary (Maintained) Headteacher
Patsy Weighill	Secondary (Academy) Headteacher
Philip Hamilton	Secondary (Academy) Headteacher
Ranjit Samra	Secondary (Maintained) Headteacher
Andrew Clay	Secondary (Academy) Headteacher
Chris Errington	Primary Headteacher
Gill Humphriss	Primary Headteacher
Sybil Hanson	Diocesan Board of Education
Andy Summers	NUT Vice Chair TRP
Non Members Present:	
David Hazeldine	County Secretary ASCL
Ian Froggett	Union Representative NAS/UWT, Chair of ATP
Cllr St John	Elected Member
LA Officers:	
Steve Pendleton	Secondary School Improvement Officer
Simon Smith	Strategic Finance Manager
Sara Haslam	Schools Funding & Strategy Manager
Clare Morris	Budget Planning Officer, Schools Funding Team

Forum Members Apologies:	
Richard Hawkins	Primary Headteacher
Cathy Clarke	Primary Headteacher
Diana Turner - Chair	Governor
Phil Clucas	Governor
Steve Dyke	PVI Representative
Lisa Capper	16-19 Representative
Judith Humphry	Special Head teacher
Non Members Apologies:	
John Collins	Trade Union Representative
Cllr Rickhards	Elected Member

2.0 Minutes from the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

2.1 Typing errors were highlighted and will be corrected.

2.2 New Schools Forum Membership and Revised Terms of Reference, page 4, point 3.5 - *Further information is brought to the Schools Forum regarding the levels of decision making with the Local Authority.* Sara provided the an extract from the WCC Contract and Standing Orders and an Overview and Scrutiny report regarding the new approach to inclusion of schools in decision making processes.

3.0 Secondary Alternative Provision Allocations.

3.1 Steve Pendleton presented a report detailing proposed revised allocation of funding to ABPs for 2013/14.

3.2 The following comments were made:

3.3 It was noted that if the cost of educating pupils with “complex and acute needs” exceeds £125,000, the proposal that the over spend is charged to ABPs would cause considerable difficulties for ABP planning. It was asked whether any overspend could be funded from the High Needs Block and not ABP budgets. It was confirmed that in the event of an over spend, it is proposed that this would be reallocated to ABPs in the following budget year.

3.4 To date there has not been situations of an over spend on Alternative Provision budgets but costs cannot be predicted with certainty. However, the principle that all services allocated funding from the DSG live within their budget is imperative.

3.5 The decision was taken to establish other schemes in place of the PRU and the Local Authority should have the flexibility to allocate funding according to the needs of pupils. .

3.6 The ABPs have set up successful initiatives. The proposals to ABP funding made in March saw the Central area losing 14.4% and Northern Area losing 8.5% of their budgets compared with 2012/13 and this seemed harsh. The current proposals are an acceptable compromise in very difficult circumstances and address the variances between areas to a more reasonable level.

3.7 The proposals are a good compromise and have central area support. These are one year transitional arrangements. Lots of notice of any changes going forward is required.

3.8 Primary admissions are also an issue. There is inconsistency in the availability of ISGs for the Primary sector. If a cluster has no ISG there is a higher risk of permanent exclusions. The LA has a responsibility towards all pupils at risk of exclusion and therefore we should look again at ISG

provision. Simon confirmed that ISG provision was discussed at the last meeting and evaluation of the pilot will be provided at the October meeting.

3.9 There are a number of issues in Primary schools requiring a Primary strategy.

3.10 The following recommendations were agreed:

- **£125,000 (5.17%) of the ABP budget will be allocated to the Lead Improvement Manager for Vulnerable Children to pay for the education of pupils with “complex and acute needs”.**
- **Should the cost of the education of “complex and acute needs” pupils exceed £125,000, any additional cost will be paid for by ABPs in proportion to their allocations.**
- **Allocations to ABPs for the academic year 2013/14 will be determined on the basis of Free School Meals Ever 6 but with an adjustment to ensure that no ABP should receive less than 92.5% of that received in 2012/13.**
- **To ensure that no ABP receives less than 92.5% of the 2012/13 allocation, a cap of 3.63% is applied to ABPs receiving a larger allocation than they received in 2012/13.**

4.0 Review of the Warwickshire Schools Funding Formula and De-delegation for 2014/15

4.1 Sara presented a report. The following comments were made:

4.2 The LA has the option of having a sparsity factor within its formula. The suggestion is that a primary school whereby the pupils would need to travel on average more than 2 miles to attend their 2nd nearest school, may qualify for sparsity funding and for a secondary school, where the distance is 3 miles. The guidance suggests this might relate to primary schools with less than 150 pupils and secondary with less than 600 pupils but these thresholds can be reduced locally if required. Sara confirmed that on the suggested basis 23 Warwickshire Primary schools and 1 secondary school would be affected. It was asked whether any of those 23 primary schools were under threat of closure. Sara confirmed that no schools are currently under threat of closure but many of the smaller primary schools have either already amalgamated/federated or are discussing different organisational structures. Most have already made arrangements to reduce their costs.

4.3 It was asked whether the size of a school to measure sparsity factor is taken from the numbers on roll or the capacity. It was confirmed this was based on numbers on roll.

4.4 It was noted that an increase in the lump sum would provide further funding for Free schools. Sara confirmed that whilst this was the case, the Free School in Warwickshire is outside of the WCC DSG funding arrangements so any additional cost would be met from the EFA, not Warwickshire. This would also be the case for new Free Schools that may be opened in the county.

4.5 The process suggested in the report to manage the review of the main schools funding formula for 2014/15 was noted.

4.6 The process suggested in the report to gather schools feedback regarding de-delegation for 2014/15 was noted.

4.7 Agreed: In order to provide consistency for schools, only the newly revised options for the main schools funding formula will be considered for inclusion in the 2014/15 formula. Decisions regarding funding elements included in 2013/14 formula will not be re-visited.

4.8 Volunteers were requested to be part of the Schools Funding Working Party. It was suggested that a request for volunteers is made by email as some members were not present at the meeting. It was noted that the make-up of the working party should be representative of all sectors, academy and maintained.

5.0 Review of the Special Schools Pupil Funding Matrix and Nursery Funding for 2014/15

5.1 Sara presented a report.

5.2 The process suggested to manage the review of the Special Schools Pupil Funding Matrix and Nursery provision was noted.

5.3 No comments were made.

6.0 Academy Update

6.1 A current Position Statement on Status of Warwickshire Schools was provided.

6.2 Ranjit Samra, head teacher at Southam College, confirmed that Governors had decided not to pursue conversion to Academy and the school could be removed from the list.

6.3 It was noted that Haselor School and Queens Junior School have also submitted applications to the DfE.

7.0 Schools Forum - Forward Plan

7.1 A Forward Plan containing a provisional programme of possible issues for Schools Forum to consider over the next year was provided.

12.0 Chair's Business

12.1 None.

13.0 Next Meeting

13.1 The next main meeting will be held on Friday 11th October 2013, Conference Room, Northgate House, Warwick at 2pm.