Schools Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group 20 November 2017 – 1:30pm, Bowood Room, County Hall

Minutes

Present:Liz Williams, Grant Davis, Neil Baker, Catriona Williamson, Lisa PercyApologies:Tracey Cornelius, John Hawkins, Phil Cooke, Susan Tanner

- 1. Proposed local formula including:
 - i. Consultation outcomes
 - ii. Dedelegation proposals
 - iii. MFG disapplications

(Please note the consultation with schools finishes 16^{th} November, an analysis of the results will be carried out on 17^{th} and the results brought to the meeting)

- 2. Behaviour Support Budget & Spend
- 3. High Needs Place return
- 4. AOB Exeter House
- 5. Date of Next Meeting

		Action
1	Minutes from Previous Meeting	
	The minutes of the previous meeting had been considered by Schools Forum and there were no further matters arising	
2	Proposed Local Funding Formula 2018-19	
	EW outlined the approach taken in the consultation with schools and the specific consultation questions that had been asked.	
	35 schools had responded to the consultation and all but one had responded in favour of moving towards the national funding formula (NFF) factors for 2018-19. The remaining school had commented that it was not in favour of the 2 year "soft" formula period and that the NFF should be implemented more quickly.	
	84% of schools that responded were in favour of the proposed change to the criteria for the split site allowance.	
	95% of schools that responded were in agreement with the proposal to seek permission to set the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) at +0.5% for 2018-19.	
	It was agreed that the recommendation to Schools Forum should be that the 18-19 Wiltshire Formula should include the factors in the proposed NFF and reflect the proposed change to the split site allowance.	
	It was further agreed that the request to set the MFG at +0.5% per pupil should be submitted to the Secretary of State prior to the deadline of 30^{th} November 2017.	

	GD presented a summary of the impact of the proposed formula on the distribution of funding between different factors compared with the current Wiltshire formula. The group noted the shift in funding from the basic per pupil entitlement towards other factors, particularly the low prior attainment factor.	
	It was requested that this data be presented to Schools Forum and that data on the numbers of small schools not meeting the full criteria for sparsity funding also be included.	EW
	The group considered the outcomes of the consultation on the delegation/de-delegation of central budgets. The majority of those who responded had opted in favour of the current position with the following services continuing to be held centrally:	
	 HCSS Software Licence Trade Union Facilities Costs Maternity Costs 	
	Ethnic Minority Achievement Service	
	Traveller Education Service	
	Behaviour Support Service	
	The final decision will be made by representatives of maintained schools at the Schools Forum meeting on 7 December 2017.	
3	Behaviour Support Budget and Spend	
	EW presented a summary of the budget and expenditure for the Behaviour Support Service over the 3 previous financial years.	
	Members of the group had a number of questions in relation to the spend including whether the service was now supporting pupils in receipt of Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) and how the service links in to work being carried with special schools.	
	It was agreed that further information would be brought back to the meeting in January	EW
4	High Needs Place Return	
	GD updated the group on the process for agreeing High Needs places for maintained schools, academies and Wiltshire College for 2018-19 academic year.	
	A return had been submitted to the ESFA by the deadline of 17 November outlining any proposed changes to place numbers, primarily for Resource Bases and Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) in 2018- 19. Changes had been agreed with the schools concerned.	
	It was noted that a request had been included for additional places for the first SEMH Centre but that as places were not yet filled at the set up stage there was a risk this may not be approved in the first year. In previous years the ESFA has only supported increases in place numbers where pupils are already accessing the provision and additional places being funded by Wiltshire Council.	
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5	Any Other Business	
	NB stated that he had received a letter from Exeter House school requesting consideration of a split site allowance to be paid from the high needs block for the expansion of places on to a new site. It was agreed that no decision could be made by Schools Forum whilst the current work with Special Schools on meeting demand was being undertaken and that any need for a split site would be identified through that work.	
6	Date and Time of Next Meeting	
	The next joint meeting of the Schools Funding Working Group and the SEN Working Group is scheduled for 8 January 2018, 1:30pm at County Hall.	