

**Meeting of Schools Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group**

**24<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 8:30am, County Hall**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Neil Baker, Simon White, John Hawkins, Martin Watson, Susan Tanner, Grant Davis, Liz Williams

**Apologies:** Tracy Cornelius, Debbie Bennett, Carol Grant, Phil Cook, Catriona Williamson

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
1	<p><b><i>Minutes of Previous Meeting</i></b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. All items had either been presented at Schools Forum for decision, or were on the agenda for today's meeting.</p>	
2	<p><b><i>Budget Update 2017-18</i></b></p> <p>GD presented a report updating the group on final funding rates within the formula and on the numbers of schools currently subject to MFG or capping.</p> <p>It was noted that there was an impact of new schools skewing the MFG/capping calculation so the group requested that information be included in the report of the impact of MFG/Capping excluding new schools.</p> <p>It was also requested that the top up values for all types of schools be included in the report alongside the original values against which the 2016-17 reductions were made.</p>	<p align="center">GD</p> <p align="center">GD/EW</p>
3	<p><b><i>Review of Independent Special School Placements</i></b></p> <p>ST presented a report analysing current placements in Independent Special Schools (ISS) for pre-16 pupils. Placements were categorised according to the reasons for the placement and whether appropriate provision could have been made within Wiltshire schools.</p> <p>It was agreed that the paper should be presented to Schools Forum at the March meeting.</p>	
4	<p><b><i>High Needs Block – spending proposals for funding released from central schools block 2017-18</i></b></p> <p>Following the decision at the January Schools Forum meeting to release funding from the central schools block to support proposals to support the delivery of the SEN Supporting Schools Strategy, ST presented a report outlining a number of proposals to support the strategy and to support longer term reductions in expenditure.</p>	

	<p>The paper included the following proposals:</p> <p><b>Proposal 1</b> – Creation of specialist resource base provision (in-reach and out-reach) for SEMH KS1 &amp;KS2 - £600k  <b>Proposal 2</b> – Transition Funding £130k  <b>Proposal 3</b> – Funding to support development of peripatetic Hearing Impairment Service £20k  <b>Proposal 4</b> – Support savings</p> <p>The group supported proposals 1 to 3 but confirmed that the Schools Forum decision did not allow for the funding to be held within the high needs block to support potential overspends.</p> <p>A further proposal to allocated £10k to support a contribution being made by the LA towards development of alternative provision was also supported by the group.</p> <p>ST to update the paper for Schools Forum</p>	ST
	<p><b><i>Schools National Funding Formula – draft consultation response</i></b></p> <p>EW had circulated a draft response to the government's consultation on a national funding formula (NFF) for schools. As part of the discussion NB also fed back following his attendance at the Select Committee discussion at the Houses of Parliament on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.</p> <p>It was agreed that the response needed to offer solutions to elements of the formula that Wiltshire Schools Forum disagrees with. NB fed back that he felt changes would be made to the proposals based on the feedback at the Select Committee meeting and that there had been discussions in relation to the de-minimis amount that a school required to run the curriculum before additional needs are taken in to account. It was noted that the government had taken a similar approach when responding to the Early Years funding consultation earlier in the year and had set a minimum hourly rate in the final operational guidance.</p> <p>A number of amendments and additions were agreed to the draft response. EW to update for Schools Forum</p>	EW
	<p><b><i>High Needs National Funding Formula – draft consultation response</i></b></p> <p>The group considered the 8 questions in relation to the high needs national funding formula and agreed the response needed to include a clear message that high needs is insufficiently funded. EW to draft response for consideration at Schools Forum.</p>	EW
	<p><b><i>AOB</i></b></p> <p>JH expressed concern that the recent roadshows had not been open to governors to attend. EW confirmed that this year the roadshows had been set up as headteacher briefings as they had a wider remit than the budget roadshows from previous years. EW confirmed that any further roadshows on the impact of the NFF would include a wider audience.</p>	

	<p><b><i>Date and Time of next meeting</i></b></p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting should also be a joint meeting of the two groups and the date was agreed as:</p> <p>Date confirmed: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 8:30am, Longleat Room, County Hall</p>	