

School Funding Working Group and SEN working Group

18 March 2019

Minutes

Present: Marie Taylor, Grant Davis, Judith Westcott, Neil Baker, Lisa Percy, Nick Breakwell, Sam Churchill, John Hawkins, Phil Cook, Helean Hughes, Debbie Williams

Apologies: Catriona Williamson

1	Minutes from previous meeting The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed.	
2	Matters Arising Alternative Provision – LP raised this under matters arising. Helean and secondary heads are working together to examine the SLA arrangements. One of the issues identified is the late allocation information. This is because the allocation includes Service pupil data which is based on the January census data which is not distributed until April. GD confirmed he would share the January census data used as driver data to inform allocations & a letter would be sent to schools as soon as it was available. (Following the meeting, LA colleagues have confirmed that the January census data has now been made available and therefore the allocations will be calculated prior to the Schools Forum meeting on the 28 th March) Discussions will continue for future years formula arrangements e.g. is deprivation still a suitable funding factor? LP keen to have a business case approach, crossover SEN & AP funding	HH GD
3	School Budget 19/20 Report GD shared his report summarising the finalised budget for 19/20. The appendix is new for 19/20 and shows the total original budget position. The group noted the report and whilst the overall funding formula had been affordable, it was not without concessions and compromise being made against the Schools Block and the NFF values.	
4	New Deficit Procedures GD & DW provided a verbal update to the group. New procedures will be clarifying and tightening up current procedures and will be shared at PHF and WASSH. Recovery plans will be a focus and these will be monitored in order to ensure schools are achieving their objectives. The group supported the principle and level of rigour.	
5	F40 Questionnaire MT shared a questionnaire for schools which Devon had run with their schools and shared via the f40 fair funding group. MT proposed that Wiltshire adopt a similar approach in asking schools to complete a short funding survey through an electronic snap type survey. The group supported the principle.	

6	<p>Permanent Exclusions Report & Protocol</p> <p>MT shared the report highlighting the 8 permanent exclusions to date this financial year and the formulaic arrangements around the “money following the pupil.”</p> <p>MT has updated the protocol for approval and circulation to schools</p> <p>The group supported the proposals.</p>	
7	<p>Verbal Update – High Needs Block Update</p> <p>HH explained the progress since January around the consultancy and explained that ISOS would be attending Schools Forum to update on progress and have a discussion around next steps</p> <p>The group were pleased with progress of ISOS to date.</p>	
8	<p>Budget Monitoring Report to the 28th January 2019</p> <p>MT presented the report and appendices. The appendices will be shared in Part II of Schools Forum.</p> <p>The projected overspend has increased significantly since the last report shared with the group (31 December 2018) this is due significantly increased demand. The number of EHCPs as at the end of February 2019 is 3,400 which is a 23% increase since the time of setting the budget.</p> <p>The DSG deficit reserve is projected to be £2.060m to the end of the financial year – this is 0.6% of the total gross DSG allocation.</p> <p>The group had a in depth discussion around the presenting issues and the impact of the additional spend on the recovery planning.</p> <p>The work of the high needs working group and ISOS work is key and an action plan and recovery plan are urgently required.</p>	
8	<p><i>Date and Time of Next Meeting</i></p> <p>Next meeting proposed on Monday 3 June / Tuesday 4 June – TBC County Hall, Trowbridge – <i>guests to be collected from reception.</i> Marie to book meeting</p>	MT