

**Schools Forum**  
**School Funding and SEN Working Group**

**MS TEAMS MEETING**

**10<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Marie Taylor (Chair), (Finance, local authority ((LA)), Grant Davis (Finance, LA), John Hawkins (Teacher / Governor rep), Catriona Williamson (Mere), Lisa Percy (Hardenhuish), Rebecca Carson (Woodford Valley) Sam Churchill (Hilmarton) Georgina Theobald-Kiely (Downlands) Graham Nagel-Smith (Morgan's Vale & Woodfalls), Andy Bridewell (Ludgershall Castle), Helean Hughes (Director LA), Graham Shore (Holy Trinity)

**Apologies:** Simon Thomas, Gary Binstead (LA), Cate Mullen (Head of Inclusion & SEND, LA),

1.	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>MT welcomed the group to the virtual meeting. Various members had advised that they would be late / time limited and so the agenda was re-designed to accommodate and will be in a more logical order for Schools Forum later this month</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p>These were considered at Schools Forum in December – no actions outstanding</p>	
3.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Schools Funding Reports (GD)</b></p> <p>GD shared his reports – highlights, still a “soft” year with local flexibility, Year 3/3 of Boris Billions funding pledge, MFG set at 2% locally, means no drop in per pupil funding, Sparsity is the largest change, various agreements in principle were achieved in December SF meeting around de-delegated (excl. SIMB) and transfer to HNB. All schools will have their budgets by the end of February 2022.</p> <p><b>Schools Block</b>  Modelling £328M of which Growth funding set by the DfE at £1.913M, business rates now funded centrally at £3.034m and assumption around a HNB transfer at (£1.643m), sparsity only comprises 0.72% of the total schools budget. A mandatory uplift of 2% in the minimum per pupil funding levels.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Funding</b>  Support promised for the health and social care levy (1.25% on national insurance) and wider cost pressures in school (energy, rising inflation, unknown pay award etc) This will be paid to all schools in April (including academies) – funding is based upon number on roll. any maintained nurseries and post 16 pupils, additional support for FSM6 pupils and a lump sum per school.</p>	
5.	<p><b>DfE removal of the Schools Improvement Brokerage and Monitoring Grant and proposed de-delegation in 22-23 (at 50%) and beyond at 100%. (GD)</b></p> <p>Grant updated the group on the information briefings commentary and online voting  The DfE have not yet confirmed their response to the consultation.  Autumn Consultation 86% support for Option 2 – full de-delegation  Session 1 (Thursday) 100% support from attendees who voted  Session 2 (Friday) 86.6% support from attendees who voted</p>	

	<p>CW had helpfully carried out a consultation with PHF members. She fed back that some schools appreciated the service but felt that could not afford additional de-delegation. Value for money and a steer with service requirements was raised as something which schools may like to see evidence of for future years (time was not on our side for 2022-23) and it was agreed this would be very possible moving forward. GD and HH offered to meet separately with CW to look at specific feedback and have a closer look at solutions prior to Schools Forum.</p>	GD/HH/ CW
6.	<p><b>Early Years Block Update 2022-23 (MT)</b></p> <p>Marie shared her report including the national increases to funding rates. The options were consulted on with the EY reference group on the 5<sup>th</sup> January and the group supported the local authority recommendation – option 3. All options adhered to the 95% passporting requirements.</p>	
7.	<p><b>High Needs Block Update 2022-23 (MT)</b></p> <p>Marie shared her report around the high needs budget including the later announcement from the DfE around the supplementary grant. The demand on the high needs budget exceeds the funding available from the DfE, the budget is therefore set at the reduced (pro-rata'd) level with rates of top ups and named pupil allowances protected at the current level. There are assumptions in the report around transfers between blocks. LP suggested the report reiterated that these funding / demand pressures were national, not just local to Wiltshire and that the transfer from Schools Block assisted with protecting current Top up and NPA.</p> <p>With regard to the supplementary funding, it is proposed that due to the lateness of the announced funding, the funding is allocated on a temporary / interim arrangement for 2022-23 and any permanent changes feed into a banding review for 23-24. Grant and Marie are due to meet with SW colleagues on 12-01-22 to discuss approaches to allocating funding, to explore a consistent approach across the south west.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>MT/GD</p>
8.	<p><b>Central Schools Services Block (MT)</b></p> <p>Marie shared her report around the central school services budget*. The historic section has reduced by 20% and this CERA has been reduced. This minimises impact on central school services.</p> <p>*Note, apologies, an error post meeting was noticed in that VAT had been included in the copyright licences and this has since been corrected, reducing copyright and increasing the amount available to transfer to HNB.</p>	
9.	<p><b>AOB (MT)</b></p> <p>There was no AOB from the group – the meeting closed at 10.15am.</p>	
10	<p><b><i>Date and Time of Next Meeting</i></b></p> <p>IF there is Schools Forum business, the next SFWG meeting will be – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 @ 8.30am. This is planned as a virtual teams meeting. Papers will be circulated by Lisa Pullin Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022</p> <p>IF there is Schools Forum business, the next Schools Forum meeting will be Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 @ 1.30pm. This is planned as a possible virtual teams meeting.</p> <p>If there is no business, the next Schools Forum will be June 2022.</p>	MT