

14 January 2019

Dear Area Board

We are very grateful to the Area Board for the grant that was made in the academic year 2017-18 as this enable us to continue running the Bradford on Avon Schools Cluster - Multi Agency Forum which was under threat of stopping due to a lack of funding and a new co-ordinator.

The Bradford on Avon Schools Cluster includes the St Laurence secondary and 5 other primary schools across the Bradford on Avon community area.

The cluster hosts a Multi-Agency Forum (MAF) which brings together childcare specialists - such as educational psychologists, education welfare officers, special educational needs and disability experts, social workers, youth workers, drugs and alcohol service etc. – to share information and discuss the needs of children across the town and the villages on a case by case basis.

The MAF is continues to be under threat as there is no core funding for this and it has to come from the schools' budget. The grant in 2017-18 enabled schools to finance a person to co-ordinate MAF plus to provide the space to hold the meetings. The charge for the meeting room will be absorbed by the hosting school and the schools will split the costs for the co-ordinator. The "bare minimum" estimate is 5 days work to run the 3 MAF meetings each year and that this would make the annual staffing costs: £458.65. Total cost to run MAF in reality much more as we are absorbing costs of the venues and catering plus any other costs incurred through any hours that the co-ordinate has needed for each meeting.

MAF is essential to the town and the young people who live in it. It enables the work of the agencies who support the young people to share the thresholds to access their services, educate the attendees about particular issues in the town and that young people are facing; for example the problems with County Lines and drug use in the young people. By sharing good practice, learning what the current issues are and receiving support in approach particular situations the young people are supported and enabled to make appropriate choices. This will impact positively on the town. It also provides agencies with the opportunity to work together on join projects.

Once again we, the headteachers, are approaching the Area Board for help as our budgets have shrunk once again and there is no available funding to meet the running costs. We have tried to run MAF without a dedicated person undertaking the admin however the task is too huge for us as head teachers and we do not have capacity within our admin teams.

If the Area Board are able to continue the funding towards MAF the community will benefit from a co-ordinated approach by the schools towards child welfare and the continued sharing of good practice between them.

We would be very happy to answer any questions that the Area Board have and we are grateful to you for considering our application for funding.

Yours faithfully

J Dunn

Tracey Dunn

On behalf of the Bradford on Avon Cluster Head teachers



St Laurence School



Westwood with Iford
Primary School



Winsley Primary
School



Churchfields
The Village School



Fitzmaurice Primary
School



Christ Church CE VC
Primary School