

# SCHOOLS FORUM

---

MINUTES of a MEETING of the SCHOOLS FORUM held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE on THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2010

PRESENT: Mr N Baker, Mr C Dark, Mrs A Ferries, Mrs J Finney, Mr J Hawkins, Ms I Lancaster-Gaye, Mr N Owen, Mr J Proctor, Mr C Smith, Mr M Watson, and Mrs C Williamson.

OSBERVERS:

Voluntary Providers Representative: Mr T Hatala

Cabinet Members: Cllr L Grundy (Cabinet Member for Children's Services), Cllr A MacRae (Portfolio Holder for Schools).

OFFICERS: Mrs E Williams, Mr P Cooch, MR S Burke, Ms J Cramp, Mrs C Godfrey.

---

## 26. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received for Mr J Foster, Mr J Smith, Mr C Zimmerman and Mrs J Bird substituted by Mrs A Ball.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs J Cramp, newly appointed Service Director for Commissioning and Performance, and Mr T Hatala, a member of the Early Years Reference Group who had been invited to attend the Schools Forum as an observer representing Voluntary Providers (PVI)

## 27. Minutes of Previous Meeting

### Resolved:

**To confirm and sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 03 December 2009**

## 28. Matters arising

None

## 29. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman explained that there had been no meeting of the School Services group therefore there would not be a verbal update.

He informed the Forum that due to the nature item 11.1 School Funding Group and 11.2 SEN / Deprivation Working Group they would be considered before item 8 Special Schools Funding 2010/11 – Outcome of Banding Moderation (minutes 33.1, 33.2 and 34 refer)

He also informed members of the Forum that if they required a door pass they should contact the Department for Children and Education.

**30. Budget Monitoring 2009/10**

Mrs E Williams introduced the report detailing the projected expenditure against the dedicated schools budget in 2009/10 as at the 30 November 2009.

In doing so she highlighted the fact that overall placement budget was expected to be on target despite the overspend on EOTAS (Education Other Than At School) placements.

**Resolved:**

**To note the expenditure projections for 2009/10 as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

**31. Standards Fund update**

Mr S Burke introduced the report and drew members of the forum's attention to the Grant 1.5: Making Good Progress and Grant 2.1a: Devolved Formula Capital.

The Forum felt that clarification should be sought as to whether the Making Good Progress grant also applied to Special Schools and Special Educational Needs (SEN) in general.

The Forum was informed of a proposal that the total of £865,000 of the Grant 2.9: Harnessing Technology be allocated to schools at a flat rate of £1,000 per school and the remainder pro-rata to the number of pupils.

The Forum was also requested to consider commissioning the work on Federated, Amalgamated and Split-site Schools within its future work programme.

**Resolved:**

**(a) To approve the devolution of the £865,000 Grant 2.9: Harnessing Technology and the formula for its allocation**

**(b) To refer the work on Federated, Amalgamated and Split-site Schools to the Schools Funding Group**

**(c) To note the report**

**32. Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF)**

Mr S Burke introduced the report presenting the response to the consultation and the revised proposals from the Early Years Reference Group. Two hundred, out of three hundred and sixty, accredited early years providers took part in the consultation.

The Forum accepted that the Early Years Reference Group had resolved not to amend the scheme in respect of the proposals with which a significant majority of respondents agreed [ namely 1; 2a; 2b; 3b; 4a; 4b; 5; 6a; 7].

Members of the Forum asked for further information regarding the inclusion of any element to reflect profit or goodwill in the needs-led model and were informed that Mr P Cooch had checked what some comparator authorities had decided to do regarding profit and good-will and that around half had decided to include it in the needs-led model. To enable them to make an informed decision members of the Forum agreed to consider the Headroom 2010/11, appendix to the Budget Priorities for 2010/11, at the same time as the Early Years Reference Group's recommendations.

**Resolved:**

**(a) To endorse the Early Years Reference Group's decision not to amend the EYSFF implementation proposal on the following factors:**

- (1) Needs-led analysis**
- (2a) Different Base Rate according to Provider Type**
- (2b) Different Base Rate according to Provider Size**
- (3b) Sustainability / Rurality Supplement**
- (4a) Three Census / Headcounts each Year**
- (4b) Dates for Census / Headcount Details**
- (5) Estimating your Annual Budget**
- (6a) 12 Monthly Payments**
- (7) Transition Protection**

**(b) To endorse the Early Years Reference Group's amendments to the following factors:**

**(3a) Deprivation Scheme; that the supplement for deprivation be allocated for settings for each child with an index score which places them in a band which attracts the supplement. This will be calculated annually and paid as a distinct sum separately identified from the basic hourly rate.**

**(6b) Weighting of Monthly Payments; that payments will be made in twelve equal instalments (subject to adjustment for actual participation)**

**(6c) Payment Adjustments; that adjustment of payments to reflect actual participation will be all factored into the remaining instalments for the financial year**

**(c) To agree that the Headroom 2010/11 be used to meet the £272,000 cost of the Deprivation Supplement.**

**(d) To endorse the Early Years Reference Group's recommendation to recognise the need to generate profit and reflect goodwill (which may be temporary) by introducing a 2.5% factor into the needs-led model for all private, voluntary and independent providers. The additional cost of this factor was approximately £220,000.**

**(e) To adopt the EYSFF scheme in Wiltshire**

**(f) To apply for inclusion in the pathfinder programme to introduce the EYSFF in April 2010**

### **33. Reports from Working Groups**

#### **33.1 School Funding Working Group**

The Forum received the draft minutes from the 18 January meeting of the School Funding Working Group.

#### **Resolved:**

**To note the minutes**

#### **33.2 SEN / Social Deprivation Working Group**

The Forum received the draft minutes from the 15 January meeting of the SEN / Social Deprivation Working Group and the Named Pupil Allowances – Headroom proposals 2010/11 which had been considered by the Working Group.

#### **Resolved:**

**(a) To note the minutes**

**(b) To defer making a decision on the level of investment in the NPA budget until considering Budget Priorities for 2010/11**

**34. Special School Funding 2010/11 – Outcome of Banding Moderation**

Mrs E Williams introduced the report and stressed that this was a complex paper, highlighting a number of issues whilst providing the Schools Forum with an outline of the outcome of the banding moderation exercise carried out with Special Schools in November 2009 and the implications for the 2010/11 budget. She stressed the importance of considering the residential formula, the planned places and the cost of banding moderation as separate issues. She also pointed out that the figures shown in appendix 1 included the proposed increase by 5 of the number of planned places at Larkrise.

Public Participation:

Statement by Mr P Beaumont, head teacher at Downlands School

Members of the Forum asked numerous questions and asked for clarification of a number of issues; including the cost to the overall schools budget, the cumulative cost of the transition beyond the first year and the effect the transition would have on staffing and redundancies. In light of the information the Schools Forum received they considered the proposals within the report and it was:

**Resolved:**

**(a) To implement a new 1+ band to reflect the increasing needs of pupils within Wiltshire's special schools with a band value of £22,102.18;**

**(b) To change the values of Band 1 and Band 2 to £17,085.85 and £12,491.51 respectively;**

**(c) To amend the residential element of the special schools funding formula to reflect the full time equivalent boarders;**

**(d) To fund all planned places through the banding moderation methodology;**

**(e) That the outcome of the banding moderation with the new 1+ band and the revised band values be the preferred funding model with a net additional cost (full year) of £244,078 for 2010/11;**

**(f) To apply transition of 50% in the first year to the impact of the banding moderation to cushion the losing schools and that increases are funded in full.**

**(g) That the overfunded residential element of the formula be removed from the Minimum Funding Guarantee calculation for Downlands School in 2010/11 and that transitional arrangements are then applied to mitigate the loss to the school and allow time to plan for the reduced level of funding.**

**(h) To recommend a transition period of 4 years for Downlands School.**

**(i) That the net cost of all of the recommendations, after applying transitional arrangements of £230,000 be applied from headroom.**

**(j) That the banding moderation process be reviewed for 2011/12 including a review of the financial value of each band, with any transitional arrangements to be self financed.**

Mr C Dark and Mrs A Ferries left at 3.20pm

[From 3.20 pm to 4.00 pm the meeting was suspended and members of the Schools Forum received a presentation on the review of special educational needs provision]

Mrs C Williamson left at 4.00pm

### **35. Budget Priorities for 2010/11**

Mrs E Williams introduced the report and reminded members of the Schools Forum that the meeting of the School Funding Working Group had had to be postponed until 18 January 2010 due to the weather which had led to a delay in issuing some of the papers.

The Forum considered the headroom priorities that had been raised through the working groups and through the previous reports on this agenda. Funding was allocated according to the proposals within the appendix to the report.

The Forum felt that an overview of the whole issue around SEN would be helpful before establishing further funding priorities. This should be provided at the briefing for the 4 March 2010 meeting.

The Forum also felt strongly that longer term priorities should be established before they come to decide the allocation of headroom in future years. It was noted that this may be an opportunity to consider the commissioning role of Schools Forum and therefore look again at the remit of the SEN, Schools Funding and Early Years Groups to ensure that they are able to take into consideration all priorities. It was also noted that the process of sharing and feeding information between the Schools Forum and Working Groups, should be reviewed.

Mrs E Williams reminded the Forum that the estimate of Dedicated Schools Grant was based on the Census figures for October 2009 and that the final grant would be based on the January 2010 census.

**Resolved:**

**(a) To agree Headroom Priorities for 2010/11 as set out in the table below.**

	<b>Amount £ million</b>
<b>Special School Banding Moderation</b>	<b>0.230</b>
<b>Secondary ELPs – increase in numbers</b>	<b>0.098</b>
<b>Secondary ELPs – relative value</b>	<b>0.045</b>
<b>Early Years Single Funding Formula – cost of implementing the model as proposed</b>	<b>0.272</b>
<b>Early Years Single Funding Formula – additional element for profit / goodwill following consultation</b>	<b>0.220</b>
<b>Named Pupil Allowance – increase in value</b>	<b>0.300</b>
<b>Demography for Early Years</b>	<b>0.200</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.365</b>

**(b) To agree to keep £380,000 uncommitted headroom to be kept unallocated until final settlement in June.**

**36. Changes to the Funding Formula**

Phil Cooch introduced the report and answered questions from members of the Forum about the changes proposed.

**Resolved:**

**(a) To agree to remove nursery pupils in maintained nursery classes from any funding drivers for which they are currently counted.**

**(b) To agree to apply abatement to each schools rates allocation calculated on a pro-rata basis as follows:**

$$\frac{\text{Total Rates}}{\text{Total NOR}} \times \text{nursery pupils}$$

**(c) To ask the 5 schools with nursery classes also receiving service school funding to re-submit their 2009 return excluding the nursery pupils.**

**(d) To use teachers' KS3 assessments for Year 10 onwards as the basis for allocating secondary school SENA funding from 2010-11 onwards.**

**37. Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings Resolved:**

To confirm the dates of the future meetings as follows:

- 4 March 2010
- 24 June 2010
- 7 October 2010
- 2 December 2010
- 20 January 2011
- 3 March 2011

**38. Urgent Business**

None

(Duration of meeting: 1:40pm – 4:35pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Marie Gondlach, Democratic Services Officer, direct line (01225) 713597, email [marie.gondlach@wiltshirecouncil.gov.uk](mailto:marie.gondlach@wiltshirecouncil.gov.uk)

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114 / 713115