

**Schools Funding Working Group**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Liz Williams, Grant Davis, Neil Baker, John Hawkins, Phil Cooke, Martin Watson, Andy Bridewell

**Apologies:** Catriona Williamson, Steve Clarke

	<b>Item</b>
1	<p><b><i>Minutes from Previous Meeting</i></b>            The minutes of the meeting from 27<sup>th</sup> September 2013 were reviewed.</p>
2	<p><b><i>Matters Arising from previous meeting</i></b></p> <p>Looked After Children Education Service – summary of expenditure on PPG and Personal Education Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EW circulated a summary of expenditure on Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for looked after children. Spend on PEPs is funded from a centrally held DSG budget and from the pupil premium grant (PPG) for individual children. The DSG budget was overspent in 2012-13 and is expected to overspend in 2013-14.</li> <li>• It was noted that the budget has not been increased as the numbers of looked after children has increased. The original assumptions behind the budget were made in line with the guidance of £500 per PEP. In reality some PEPs cost significantly more than that and some can be delivered within existing resources.</li> <li>• PPG is retained centrally until the needs are recognised as part of a PEP. PPG that is not allocated as part of a PEP is paid directly to schools. There was some discussion about whether payments to schools could be made earlier in the year although it was recognised that this may make it more difficult for the service to react quickly in relation to individual needs. There was also a discussion about whether the budget could be used to buy back in house services such as Behaviour Support.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b><i>Schools Forum Agenda</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that the Schools Forum meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December should be cancelled</li> <li>• The agenda for the January meeting was reviewed. In addition to the main budget setting paper it was agreed that there needed to be a paper on the issues associated with Alternative Provision and the DfE Pilot, particularly in relation to the numbers of pupils from out of County for whom places needed to be found.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b><i>Budget Setting 2014-15</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EW presented a paper outlining the key issues and decisions required at the January Schools Forum meeting.</li> <li>• It was agreed that             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ information on budgets for individual schools should be available at the meeting</li> <li>○ funding rates for prior attainment will be adjusted to reflect the changes in data to be used</li> <li>○ criteria for the growth fund should be reviewed in line with the EFA's request</li> <li>○ proposals should be brought forward for a Falling Rolls fund</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ proposals should be brought forward to make the exceptional top up for high needs pupils in mainstream schools more responsive to in year changes</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme – consideration of appeal</li> <li>• The appeal submitted by Bowerhill School was considered and it was agreed that the year end balance is in accordance with the criteria within the scheme and therefore should not be clawed back.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b><i>Date of Next Meeting</i></b></p> <p>It was agreed that no meeting will be held in January  Dates to be circulated for a meeting prior to March Schools Forum</p>