

SCHOOLS FORUM

TUESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2017

PRESENT: -

Maintained School Members: Janet Urban, Chair - Primary Headteacher
Rhian Cockwell, Primary Headteacher
Mark Edwards, Governor - Secondary
Charles Law, Special Governor
Alison Lowe, Primary Headteacher
Ben Slater, Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher
Jackie Smith, Special Schools Headteacher
Ray Williams, Primary Governor

Academy Members: Fiona Godfrey, Mainstream Academy
Andrew Henstridge, Mainstream Academy
Emma Leigh-Bennett, Mainstream Academy
Bob Linnegar, Mainstream Academy
James Povoas, Mainstream Academy
Karen Pyman, Mainstream Academy
Clive Zimmerman, Mainstream Academy

Non-School Members: Peter Smith, Trade Unions
Jo Morris, Early Years
Emma Lindsay, Diocese of Bristol

Officers: Peter Nathan (Head of Education)
Ian Burbidge (Head of Finance, Schools)
Anne Mackay (Finance Manager, Education)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member, Children's Services and School Attainment, and Nick Capstick (Special Academy).

18. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

19. Public Questions

In accordance with Standing Order 28, Mr Alastair Dixon - Patterson of Lydiard Park Academy, Swindon, submitted written questions regarding the number of permanently excluded pupils and how the value for money requirement of public expenditure was tested on the current level of exclusions spend. It was noted that written responses had been prepared in respect of Mr Dixon-Patterson's questions and that these had been tabled at the meeting.

20.

Oakfield Project Report

The Head of Education submitted a report providing an update in respect of education provision at Oakfield School and the funding needed to ensure that the Oakfield project can continue to provide a service to Swindon secondary schools. He advised that the project, established in 2009, to provide education for pupils at risk of exclusion, was at risk due to schools being less willing to fund places in light of their own financial pressures. It was noted that the management of Oakfield was taken over by secondary schools in 2010. Since 1st September 2017, the Council has taken over the management of Oakfield.

In response to queries regarding funding the project, the Head of Education elaborated on the project's funding for the previous three years and that expenditure was higher than income received. He confirmed that previously the service was block funded but now fixed places were bought as and when required.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That additional funding be provided for the Oakfield Project, as identified in the report, to ensure that the project has no budget deficit for the financial year 2017/18.
- (3) That additional funding be also provided to ensure the Oakfield project has no financial deficit until the end of term 6, 2018.
- (4) That a further report on the future funding of Oakfield be submitted to the Schools Forum meeting in May 2018, with a view to moving Oakfield to an agreed funding model within the Education Other Than At School setting (EOTAS).

21.

2018-19 Dedicated Schools Grant - Funding Protocols

The Forum considered a report submitted by the Head of Finance, Education, setting out the funding protocols that will be used to prepare the budgets for 2018/19. He explained that the report addressed (a) the Mainstream Funding Formula (b) the transfer of 0.5% Schools funding block to High Needs funding block and (c) it provided information regarding the statutory services carried out on behalf of all maintained schools. He advised that the Schools Forum was being given the opportunity to agree the approach to be adopted by the local authority when setting the Dedicated Schools Grant budget for 2018-19.

The Forum's discussion of this item centred on determining the approach to setting the principals to be applied. Members remarked on the impact the principles would have on the different school settings and how these would be implemented.

Resolved – (1) That it be agreed that the following principals be applied to the calculations of the Dedicated Schools Grant Budget for 2018-19:

- (a) The funding formula has a minimum per pupil value for primary schools and a minimum per pupil value for secondary schools.
- (b) The minimum per pupil values are to exclude premises factors.
- (c) The formula contains a Minimum Funding Guarantee ('MFG') that is between -1.5% and 0.5%.
- (d) That further to (c) above, the formula maximises the MFG percentage within the affordability envelope.
- (e) That the formula calculations move as close as possible to National Funding Formula by applying the principles above.
- (f) That the Primary Low Prior Attainment is-set at 100% weighting

(2) That it be agreed that:

(a) 0.5% of the Schools Funding Block be transferred to the High Needs Funding Block.

(b) The Local Authority retains the funding that will be announced in December as part of the Schools Block to meet its statutory duties for all pupils.

(3) That Maintained School Members agree that the Local Authority retains a £16 per pupil fee to cover the cost of providing its statutory duties for all maintained pupils.

(4) That further to (3) above, the charge will be adjusted prorata should a school become an academy during the financial year.

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Minute Item 19

In accordance with Standing Order 28, Mr Alastair Dixon-Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations, Lydiard Park Academy, submitted written questions regarding exclusion income and redistribution.

Questions:

The following question has been raised in advance of schools forum with a request that the answer be addressed as part of the December Schools Forum.

- 1 In the financial year 2016/2017 how many pupils were permanently excluded and how many days provision were made for each of those pupils by the Local Authority before the pupil was permanently placed.
- 2 How many days did it take to place each pupil in a new school after the sixth day of exclusion?
- 3 How has the value for money requirement of public expenditure been tested on the current level of spend on exclusions support?

Responses:

- 1 73 pupils were permanently excluded, only 2 of these were reintegrated and they received 42 and 52 days of provision respectively
- 2 See commentary above
- 3 The Local Authority's Head of Education & Education Commissioner, together with 3 secondary school head teachers and other community representatives sit on the overall EOTAS (Education Other Than At School) Management Board. They collectively review the budget on a termly basis (6 times a year) and ensure that value for money is being achieved. In addition the Local Authority's Head of Finance – Technical sits on the Finance Sub-Committee.

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