

Schools' Forum

Feedback from Meeting on 17 June 2008

Schools' Forum

16 October 2008

Author: Group Director, Children

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

To provide feedback on the recommendations made at the last meeting of the Schools' Forum on 17 June 2008

Recommendation

The Schools' Forum is requested to note this report.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The Schools' Forum has requested that feedback is provided at the following meeting on each occasion regarding the outcome of recommendations made by the Forum at its previous meeting.
- 1.2 This report, therefore, provides feedback about recommendations made at the last meeting of the Schools' Forum.

2. Detail

- 2.1 A copy of the notes of the last meeting of the Schools' Forum, on 17 June 2008, is attached to the Agenda.
- 2.2 Feedback on each of the Agenda items considered at the last meeting is as follows:

- CRB Policy - Review (Minute 3)

At the last meeting, the Schools' Forum welcomed the revised guidance relating to CRB clearance. However, the Forum did ask for it to be ensured that there were guidelines in place relating to supply agencies. The position on this is that all Employment Agencies have a statutory duty to ensure that any staff they recommend to schools have had all relevant checks including CRB and List 99 (where applicable). Schools are required to maintain a central single record of all staff (including supply staff) and agencies must provide written confirmation certifying that all the checks required have been satisfactorily completed. Where the CRB Disclosure contains information, a copy of the Disclosure must be supplied to the headteacher.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Ian Bickerton on 01793 465724 or Email ibickerton@swindon.gov.uk.

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- Schools Block Outturn 2007/08 (Minute 4)

The Forum agreed at the last meeting how the underspend of £705k should be allocated. This is now being implemented. It was also agreed that the Local Authority would undertake a detailed review of individual school balances at the end of 2007/08 and it is intended that a report on this will be made to the next meeting of the Forum.

- Single Status Arrangement for Schools (Minute 5)

The Forum considered a report on the latest position on the potential financial impact of single status. It was agreed that, once the job evaluations had been completed and the likely financial impact assessed, a further report would be brought to the Forum. It was also agreed that Frank Knight would regularly attend future meetings of the Forum to provide an update on single status. Frank Knight will, therefore, be at this meeting to answer any questions.

- Early Years Flexible Offer (Minute 6)

A report on this matter is attached to the Agenda.

- Parent Support Advisers (Minute 7)

At the last meeting, a model for the management of Parent Support Advisers and Senior Parent Support Advisers was agreed. Option A for the funding arrangements, as presented, was also agreed. This Option is now being taken forward.

- Educational Procurement Centre (Minute 8)

The Forum, at its last meeting, was informed about the pilot for an Educational Procurement Centre (EPC) and supported this proposal being explored further to improve schools' procurement capability.

The DCSF attended the Council's Schools' Finance Liaison meeting in June to demonstrate the EPC to schools. There was a lot of interest and really good feedback from the attendees of the meeting. This resulted in the establishment of a pilot group of twenty schools to trial the project. The DCSF are working very closely with the Council's Schools' Finance Team and they have arranged the first meeting in September to move this project forward.

The Schools' Forum will be kept up to date on the progress of this project.

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Alternative Options

The Schools' Forum requested this report to go to each meeting of the Forum and, therefore, no alternatives have been considered.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

There are no direct financial considerations for this report but, of course, there are for the individual items referred to above.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

None directly applicable to this report.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)

Promise 45: "We will make sure that schools will be at the heart of each community."

Consultees

The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law & Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

Background Papers and Appendices

Reports considered and Minutes arising from the last meeting of the Schools' Forum, on 17 June 2008