

**TITLE OF REPORT: Schools Forum Association**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Schools Forum of an invitation to join “The Schools Forum Association” and the results of the completion of a short survey.

**Background**

2. Contact was made with the Chair of Gateshead’s Schools Forum with a request to complete a short survey to ask if Gateshead’s Schools Forum, its members, schools, nurseries or colleges that Schools Forum represent would like to join the Schools Forum Association.
3. The below is a quote of the information provided about the Schools Forum Association.

“All 152 schools forums have been invited to join The Schools Forum Association. The association will be independent and apolitical and could provide those involved with school funding:

- Help and advice
- A forum to share best practice
- Feedback on DfE consultations and proposals
- A quarterly “Funding Matters” newsletter
- Help with policy campaigns

Coming together as a grass roots community, a national association will collectively have a more powerful voice in education debates than we would each have alone. This is particularly important at the moment, when providing feedback to the DfE on funding, and in the future, forum consultation proposals.”

4. The deadline for responding to the survey was 24 May, and the Chair of Schools Forum completed the survey as detailed in appendix 1.
5. Below is the link to the association’s website.

<http://www.schoolsforumassociation.co.uk/>

To date there has been no feedback on the results of the survey and no further contact has been received from the association.

## **Proposal**

6. It is proposed that Schools Forum notes the information in the report and the responses made by the Chair of Schools Forum in appendix 1. If there is any further contact received this will be brought back to Schools Forum for consideration.

## **Recommendation**

7. It is recommended that Schools Forum notes:-
  - the contents of the report
  - the information contained in appendix 1
  - that any further information or contact will be brought back to Schools Forum for consideration.

## **For the following reason(s):**

- To ensure that Schools Forum is aware of any contact or further information received from The Schools Forum Association.

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**CONTACT: Carole Smith**

## Appendix 1

Q1 Are you interested in joining the Schools Forum Association?

Schools Forum                      Yes  
Individual Forum member      Maybe

Q2 Things you would like it to offer (scale of 1 – 10 with 10 strongly agree)

E-mail help	8
Articles on funding	8
Advice on completing DfE consultations	6
Feedback on DfE consultations	8
Sharing of best practice	8
Quarterly newsletter	8
Funding research	8
Help with policy campaigns	5
Conference on funding	5
Training for forum members	7
Induction for forum members	7

Q3 Other services you would like from the association?

No answer given

Q4 Interested in joining a steering group?              Maybe

Q5 What interests could you share as part of the steering committee?

Funding issues and chairing forum meetings

Q6 Comments

This response has been completed by the Chair of Gateshead Schools Forum as, due to the survey deadline, there was no opportunity to consult with Gateshead Schools Forum.