

GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM

15 October 2015

PRESENT:

- Ken Childs – Special School Governor
- Pater Lague – Teacher Unions
- Fraser Turnbull – Secondary Academies
- Sarah Diggle – Primary Governor
- Chris Richardson – Maintained Secondary Heads
- Mustafaa Malik – Primary Heads
- Ethel Mills – PVI Sector
- Julie Goodfellow – Primary Academies
- Elaine Pickering – Secondary Governor
- Denise Henry – Nursery Sector
- Linda Alder – Secondary Academies
- Steve Williamson – PRU

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Carole Smith – Corporate Resources
- Frank McDermott – Corporate Resources
- Alan Foster – Corporate Resources
- Rosalyn White – Corporate Services and Governance

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Steve Haigh, Alan Symons, Jane Bryant, Jim Thomson, Matt Younger and Steve Horne.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

3. DSG OUTTURN

The Forum received a report outlining the quarter two position of DSG for 2015/16. It was noted that there is a projected underspend of £132,000, with £29,000 of this for the High Needs budget. It was acknowledged that the quarter three position will provide a more accurate picture. It was noted that there was an overspend on CLA/MPA licences that were topsliced from DSG, Schools Forum had previously been advised of this.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum noted the contents of the report.

4. EDUCATION CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Forum was provided with the result of the Gateshead Education Funding Consultation that went to all Headteachers and Chairs of Governors. It was reported that 23 responses were received, with an average 'yes' response of 76%, 'don't know' response of 21% and an average 'no' response of 3%.

Following the results of the consultation it was proposed that the Forum accept the proposals made and agree the draft Authority Proforma Tool be submitted.

It was acknowledged that this was a good response in comparison to previous consultations and that a lack of response has been taken as acceptance.

- RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum noted the content of the report and accepted the proposals for;
- Mainstream School Formula
 - 2 year old funding
 - 3 and 4 year old Early Years Single Funding Formula

5. DE-DELEGATION OPTIONS

The Forum received a report around options for de-delegation. There are a number of areas that can be de-delegated;

- Maternity credits
- Trade Union facility time
- Support to underperforming Ethnic Minority Groups (EMTAS)
- Behaviour Support
- Primary Fair Access Process

It was proposed that the Forum agree to de-delegate current areas; maternity and Trade Union cover, EMTAS, In School Support and Fair Access and then bring back to the next meeting further information around notional agreed items.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Schools Forum consults with its respective phases on the areas of de-delegation.
 - (ii) That the Schools Forum consult with maintained colleagues for their views on the continuation of de-delegation and note that further reports will be brought to Schools Forum for consideration.

6. DRAFT AUTHORITY PROFORMA TOOL

The Forum received the draft school funding formula prior to it being uploaded to the DfE. It was noted that this will not be final until the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) is received in December, however this is indicative. It was noted that data will change so actual totals will change as well as possible funding units.

It was confirmed that the notional SEN has been left as it was, however there is the possibility of using this in a different way in the future if necessary.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum approved the draft APT.

7. EARLY YEARS FUNDING

A report was presented around early years funding following the report that went to Schools Forum in September around amending two year old funding to make it similar to three and four year old funding.

Data was looked at for late starters but there were none, therefore early leavers were looked at. It was felt that the impact on small settings was significant therefore it was proposed to leave two year old funding as it was.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum noted the proposals to fund on a participation basis and that this aspect of the current funding arrangements for two year olds will not change.

8. NOTIONAL SEN INFORMATION

The Forum received a report outlining the data on Notional SEN following comparisons made with regional and statistical neighbours. It was reported that the factors used in Gateshead are broadly in line with statistical neighbours.

In terms of Gateshead's statistical neighbours and their notional SEN calculations, Gateshead is ranked four out of 11. Therefore it would seem that the calculations are currently reasonable.

It was reported that two officer groups are currently looking at the way schools are recording SEN in the consensus. It was agreed that the findings of these groups would be fed back to the Schools Forum in due course.

RESOLVED - (i) That the Schools Forum noted the report and agreed that the officer groups feed back to the Forum its findings on how SEN is recorded.

- (ii) That the Schools Forum agreed that the current calculation method is used for the October submission of the APT.

9. SCHOOLS AND EARLY YEARS FINANCE REGULATIONS CONSULTATION 2015

The Forum received the proposed response to the School and Early Years School Finance Regulations consultation. It was noted that there was nothing particularly contentious in the consultation.

The Forum was asked to note the response and decide whether a response should be sent on behalf of the Forum.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum agreed a response to the current Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations consultation be sent on its behalf.

10. GROWTH FUND APPLICATION

The Forum was advised that an application for Growth Funding has been received from St Philip Neri RC Primary School. It was noted that this school has increased its planned admission number from 16 to 30, in September 23 pupils were admitted into reception. The school has seen general growth across the school due to the population growth in the area.

It was noted that the funding will support the expansion of the school as well as the increase in pupil numbers and the increased planned admission number.

The funding has been calculated as AWPU pupil number 7/12, this equals £39,000 however is capped at £35,000.

It was questioned whether the school had any carry forward. It was confirmed that the school did have a carry forward that was not over the threshold.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum noted that funding has been awarded to St Philip Neri RC Primary School for growth in pupil numbers.

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 10 December 2015 at 2.00pm.