

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

Thursday, 9 February 2017

PRESENT:

Ken Childs (Chair)	Special Schools Governors
Julie Goodfellow	Primary Academy Headteachers
Steve Haigh	Secondary Academy Headteachers
Denise Henry	Nursery Sector Representative
Christine Ingle	Diocese Representatives
Mustafaa Malik	Primary Headteachers
Ethel Mills	PVI Sector Representative
Elaine Pickering	Secondary Governors
Andrew Ramanandi	Primary Headteachers
Chris Richardson	Secondary Headteachers
Allan Symons	Primary Governors
Steve Williamson	Pupil Referral Unit Representative
Clive Wisby	Primary Headteachers

IN ATTENDANCE:

Carole Smith	Corporate Resources
Alan Foster	Corporate Resources
Rosalyn Patterson	Corporate Services and Governance

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Peter Largue, Sarah Diggle, Jim Thomson and Michelle Richards.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

3 EARLY YEARS FUNDING FORMULA 2017/18

The Forum received an update report on the progress of the Early Years Formula sub group and the proposal for the Early Years Funding Formula for 2017/18.

The main changes in the guidance were identified;

- Maintained nursery school grant reduced
- Efficiency and additional 15 hours supplements removed
- Quality supplement and EAL have been added
- Inclusion fund is now mandatory – an officer group is currently looking at this.

It was reported that from April 2017 there must be a 93-95% pass through rate to providers, as well as a single universal base rate for all providers. In addition, supplements must not be more than 10% of the total value of planned funding to be passed through to providers, with deprivation being the only mandatory supplement.

The sub group looked at the optional supplements and it was decided that rurality and sparsity supplement was not required, flexibility was also discounted because it is hard to quantify. Quality supplement was agreed to be used to encourage settings to employ more highly qualified staff. EAL was discounted as currently there is no data, this will be collected from January 2017 and once available the supplement will be reviewed for possible use.

The sub group met on 28 November and looked at four models;

- 1) 90% base rate, 10% deprivation
- 2) 95% base rate, 5% deprivation
- 3) 90% base rate, 5% deprivation and 5% qualification
- 4) 90% base rate, 3% deprivation and 7% qualification

It was confirmed that at its meeting the sub group agreed model three should be taken forward for consultation with all settings.

RESOLVED -

That the Schools Forum noted the work undertaken by the group and approved Model 3 for consultation with all settings.

4 EARLY YEARS FUNDING FORMULA CONSULTATION DOCUMENT AND PROCESS

The Forum received a report on the proposed early years funding consultation document. It was noted that, if Forum agrees, the document will be circulated to all early years settings and the feedback brought back to the next meeting of the Schools Forum in March.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That the Forum reviewed the consultation document.
- (ii) That the Forum reviewed the information contained within the document for clarity.
- (iii) That the Forum agreed the consultation document to be circulated.

5 SPECIAL SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA REVIEW 2017/18

The Forum received a report on the proposed amendments to the Special School Funding Formula for 2017/18. The amendments are proposed following meetings of the Special School Funding Review Group, at which five out of the six schools must agree to changes.

It was reported that in this instance all six schools agreed to the proposals to even

funding out. It was noted that, in order to comply with regulations, there can be no losses of more than 1.5%. Eslington will lose 1.49% and it was also noted that there would be losses in terms of social, emotional and mental health, however gains in ASD and cognition and learning specialist areas.

It was proposed that there be an increase of £18,000 in fixed costs for Gibside for the increased space at Blaydon Children's Centre, this is due to the increase in pupil population.

The point was made that the Council should do more to support the schools by charging less rent for the Children's Centres.

RESOLVED -

That the Schools Forum approved the proposed changes to the special schools bandings and the increase to Gibside's fixed costs to reflect the additional space rented in Blaydon Children's Centre.

6 MAINSTREAM HIGH NEEDS TOP UPS 2017/18

A report was presented on the proposed mainstream schools top up rates from April 2017.

It was reported that top-up funding would be maintained at Teaching Assistant level 3. There is a projected 26% overspend of £139,000. It was proposed to calculate the 2017/18 bandings at the same rate as 2016/17 but with the deduction of 1.5% in line with minimum funding guarantee.

It was questioned whether this was looking at the need of young people or rather the rationing of funding, and what would happen if the Forum did not approve. It was confirmed that both factors need to be considered and if the Forum did not approve there would be an option of going to the Secretary of State for approval.

Concerns were raised that this position is cutting the support available in all settings and that the Ofsted area review may influence the decision. It was noted that agreement is needed before 1 April and that no feedback from the area review has yet been received. It was also acknowledged that no additional information would be available by the next meeting.

The decision on this item went to a vote.

RESOLVED -

By majority vote the School Forum approved the mainstream banding proposal for 2017/18.

7 HIGH NEEDS COMMISSIONED PLACES 2017/18

A report was presented on the proposed commissioning arrangements for High Needs Places for 2017/18.

There was a discussion around ARMS places and it was suggested that a representative from the commissioning team be invited to a meeting to discuss the issue further and provide clarity.

RESOLVED -

That the Schools Forum noted the report.

8 MAINSTREAM SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA 2017/18 (LATE PAPER OR VERBAL UPDATE)

The Forum received a short verbal update.

9 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date and time of the next meeting is Thursday 9 March 2017 at 2.00pm.