

**GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING**

**Thursday, 1 October 2020**

**PRESENT:**

Ken Childs (Chair)	Special School Governors
Alison Hall	Primary Maintained Schools
Denise Kilner	Nursery Sector Representative
Sarah Diggle	Primary Governors
Martin Flowers	Special Academy Headteachers
Julie Goodfellow	Primary Academy Headteachers
Steve Haigh	Secondary Academy Headteachers
Christine Ingle	Diocese Representatives
Peter Lague	Trade Union Representative
Mustafaa Malik	Primary Headteachers
Ethel Mills	PVI Sector Representative
Andrew Ramanandi	Primary Headteachers
Michelle Richards	Special School Headteachers
Domenic Volpe	Maintained Secondary Headteachers
Councillor Sheila Gallagher	Elected Member
Andrew Fowler	Secondary Academies

<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Councillor Gary Haley	Elected Member
	Carole Smith	Gateshead Council
	Claire Reid	Gateshead Council
	Rosalyn Patterson	Gateshead Council

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Elaine Pickering, Margaret Rich and Christina Jones.

**2 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

The Chair welcomed Andrew Fowler to the meeting, who will replace Matt Waterfield as Secondary Academy Representative.

**3 EARLY YEARS UNDERSPEND**

Schools Forum received a report for approval of the use of Early Years Block of the DSG reserves. The reserves will be used to enable early year providers to give enhanced transitional support to children following the lockdown period.

It was noted that the Forum approved this use via email previously and Forum was asked to officially ratify the decision.

RESOLVED - Schools Forum approved the proposal to provide a small amount of additional funding to support enhanced transitional arrangements for early years children in the Autumn term.

#### **4 EARLY YEARS FUNDING AUTUMN TERM**

The Forum received a report on the proposed approach to the allocation of Early Years DSG. The proposal follows guidance and will hopefully support all settings.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That Schools Forum approved the proposed approach to funding childcare providers in the Autumn Term 2020.
  - (ii) That a further report be brought to the Forum outlining the financial implications of making further payment 'uplifts' later in the term when there is more certainty around the number of children and funding.

#### **5 SCHOOL FUNDING UPDATE**

A report was presented on the funding announcements made by the DfE. A summary was provided which outlined that; school funding overall will increase by 4%, consultation on a move towards a hard National Funding Formula will commence later in the year and LA's will still have the flexibility to transfer 0.5% of their schools block to other blocks.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum noted the information in the report and that further information will be brought to Schools Forum when issued by the DfE.

#### **6 MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS FUNDING**

Forum received a report summarising the first meeting of the sub-group which is reviewing the mainstream school funding formula for 2021/22.

The sub-group proposed to continue with the funding principles of; an affordable equitable and transparent mainstream school funding formula, focused on mainstream school age range in preparation for a NFF.

The funding aims were outlined as;

- Phased approach to fund the difference between Gateshead's funding for secondary FSMe6 (£41 per pupil)
- Modelling to ascertain impact on schools if NFF rate was used for mobility funding instead of Gateshead's rate (difference of £600)
- Current data and the NFF with MFG at 2% was unaffordable, therefore further modelling will be undertaken with different levels of MFG.

The estimated Growth Fund is £832,448 and would not meet secondary sector requirements so it was proposed that the Growth Funding Procedure be reviewed.

It was also noted that previously supply costs had been totally discounted during Covid, however from September this will become an issue which are likely to be expensive. The sub-group proposed that further work be carried out to ascertain the magnitude of the issue in Gateshead. Forum felt that this was a national issue that needed to be addressed as there is likely to be real problems ahead due to track and traced. A letter has been sent to MP's from Headteachers and it was suggested that there is an opportunity for the Schools Forum to do something similar. It was confirmed that Budget Officers can identify which costs relate to Covid. It was also suggested that a meeting be requested by Headteachers with local MP's once emerging costs are known and the restrictions and impact on the communities and the meeting should include representatives of the Schools Forum.

It was agreed that costs for maintained schools would be tracked and the headings provided to academies so information could be provided and collated for all schools.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That Schools Forum approves;
    - The funding principles
    - The funding aims
    - Additional modelling
    - Review of the Growth Fund
  - (ii) That Schools Forum notes;
    - The mandatory minimum per pupil amounts
    - The areas of possible funding pressures
    - The information in the appendices
  - (iii) That further work be carried out to ascertain the additional supply costs for the autumn term.

## **7 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT Q1**

Forum received the quarter 1 projected outturn position of DSG for 2020/21, this was the position as at the end of June.

At the end of the quarter the projected year-end outturn was £104.931m compared to the budget of £105.674m, an underspend of £743,000. The underspend is from the Early Years and HNB.

The reserve balance is forecast to increase to £1.757m at the end of March 2021.

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

## **8 GROWTH FUNDING ALLOCATIONS**

A report was presented advising on the successful application for Growth Funding by Ravensworth Terrace Primary School.

The school has been growing since September 2016, this year there has been an additional 15 children from September 2020. Using the previously approved growth fund criteria this amounts to £24,998.75.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum noted that funding has been awarded to Ravensworth Terrace Primary School for growth in pupil numbers.

## **9 APPLY TO SET A DEFICIT BUDGET**

The Forum received the updated procedure for Schools to apply to set a deficit budget.

The new procedure has added additional guidance for schools and made distinction between past deficits and in year deficits with the aim to help schools set a balanced in year budget.

RESOLVED - That Schools Forum approved the draft Apply for a Deficit Budget Procedure.

## **10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The next meeting of the sub-group was arranged for 12 October.

The Chair thanked all representatives on the sub-group for their work.

## **11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 12 November 2020 at 2pm.