

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

Thursday, 18 May 2023

PRESENT:	Peter Lague (Chair)	Trade Union Representative
	Sarah Diggle	Secondary Maintained Governors
	Brendan Robson	Secondary Faith Academies
	Alison Hall	Primary Maintained Schools
	Paul Harris	Primary Maintained Schools
	Denise Kilner	Nursery Sector Representative
	Ethel Mills	PVI Sector Representative
	Michelle Richards	Special School Headteachers
	Domenic Volpe	Maintained Secondary Headteachers
	Christina Jones	River Tyne Academy
	Councillor Sheila Gallagher	Elected Member

IN ATTENDANCE:	Carole Smith	Gateshead Council
	Terence Appleby	Gateshead Council
	Melanie Maitland	Gateshead Council
	Rosalyn Patterson	Gateshead Council

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Julie Goodfellow, Andrew Fowler, Mustafaa Malik, Jacqui Ridley and Suzanne Dunn.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record subject to Christina Jones' representation being amended to 'River Tyne Academy'.

3 IMPLEMENTING THE DIRECT NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA - CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Forum received a report on the Government's response to the consultation on implementing the Direct National Funding Formula (NFF), which was published on 26 April 2023.

It was acknowledged that in terms of impact that would not be known until further details were received. Although, it was noted that falling roles funding could be good for Gateshead.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum noted the report.

4 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT Q4

The Forum received the final outturn position of the DSG for 2022/23.

The DSG budget for 2022/23 was £105.001m, spend was £103.248m meaning an underspend of £1.753m. Therefore, the DSG reserve balance has increased from £2.255m last year to £3.965m at 31 March 2023.

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

5 EARLY YEARS BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENTS

A report was brought to the Schools Forum on the Government's Spring Budget announcements for the early years sector.

It was reported that there were positive announcements, with an increase in funding rates for 2 year olds and for 3 and 4 year olds. There is an expected increase in the average funding for current 2, 3 and 4 year olds from September 2022. It was also announced that access to free entitlement will increase from September 2024.

It was noted that funding rates at a local level are not yet known and work will be required to implement these changes in settings within Gateshead.

RESOLVED - That Schools Forum noted the report.

6 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the remaining item.

7 SCHOOLS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY

The Forum received a report on the request for financial difficulty funding for Furrowfield Special School, following initial report to the last meeting.

Michelle Richards declared an interest in this item and left the meeting prior to the discussion. Sarah Diggle declared in interest in this item and did not take part in discussion on the decision.

RESOLVED - That Schools Forum agreed to fund the full £221,979.07 that relates to unavoidable additional costs for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

8 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 6 July 2023 at 2.00pm.