

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

Thursday, 11 January 2024

PRESENT:	Peter Largue (Chair)	Trade Union Representative
	Sarah Diggie (Vice Chair)	Secondary Maintained Governors
	Julie Goodfellow	Primary Academy Headteacher
	Alison Hall	Primary Maintained Schools
	Steven Haigh	Secondary Academy Headteacher
	Christina Jones	Pupil Referral Unit
	Mustafa Malik	Primary Headteachers
	Ethel Mills	PVI Sector Representative
	Michelle Richards	Special Schools Rep
	Jacqui Ridley	Maintained Primary Governors
	Brendan Robson	Secondary Faith Academies
	Julie Vincent	Special Academies
	Dominic Volpe	Maintained Secondary Headteachers
	Cllr Sheila Gallagher	Elected Member
IN ATTENDANCE:	Terence Appleby	Gateshead Council
	Suzanne Dunn	Gateshead Council
	Kelly Flavin	Gateshead Council
	Barry Grenfell	Gateshead Council
	Councillor Gary Haley	Elected Member
	Victoria Lamb	Gateshead Council
	Carole Smith	Gateshead Council

33 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Paul Harris and Denise Kilner.

34 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th December 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

35 EARLY YEARS TEACHERS PAY ADDITIONAL GRANT

The Forum received a report to outline the proposals on the distribution of the Early Years Teachers Additional Pay Grant (EYTAPG).

In November 2023 the Department of Education issued allocations to support the September 2023 teachers pay award. Between September 2023 and March 2024 Gateshead Council received a total of £57,995 to allocate between:

Universal entitlement	= 5/12 of £0.04 * 2,693.45 * 15 * 38	=
£35,823		
Children of working parents	= 5/12 of £0.04 * 21,327.73 * 15 * 38	=
£17,659		
Maintained Nursery Schools	= 5/12 of £0.23 * 59 * 15 * 38	= £ 4,513

It was proposed that the mainstream school funding is to be passported to the schools and maintained nursery as per the allocations in Appendix 1 of the report.

- RESOLVED: The School forum notes the allocation of the Early Years Teachers Pay Grant funding and approves:
- The funding to mainstream school nursery classes on an hourly rate basis using Spring Term 2023 data.
 - The maintained nursery school funding is passported to the school using the allocation total provided by the DfE.

36 EARLY YEARS FUNDING - 2-YEAR-OLD FUNDING

A report was brought to the Schools Forum to give an update on the work undertaken and proposals for 2-year old funding from April 2024.

In September 2023 an Early Years Subgroup of Schools Forum was set up with representatives from nursery class, nursery school, day nurseries, independent nurseries, and childminders.

The group had two meetings; 1st and 18th December 2023 and agreed proposals to be taken to Schools Forum for approval.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) The School forum notes:
- The 2-year-old funding allocation in the DSG of £7.68 per hour to the local authority;
 - The information on the extension of SENDIF, EYPP and DAF to 2-year-olds; and
 - The information and notes in the appendices provided to the early years subgroup.
- (ii) The School forum approved:
- The principles and funding aims put forward by the group:
 - 2-year-old funding will be top sliced by 5% to fund the early years funding team and the SENDIF:
 - There will only be one funding formula for both disadvantaged 2-year-olds and for 2-year-olds of working parents:

- There will be a universal base rate of 90% of hourly rate funding for all settings receiving 2-year-old funding of £6.5664;
- Disadvantaged funding will be set at 5% of the total funding available for the formula, top sliced by £0.05 to be set aside for contingency – indicative rate of £0.86 per hour (£0.91 -£0.05 = £0.86);
- IDACI funding will be set at 5% of hourly rate funding – indicative average hourly funding range £0.10 to £0.55 per hour. This will change with actual data;
- The consultation document set out in appendix 5 to be sent to all settings 12 January 2024 for return 26 January 2024 (if the above proposals are approved); and
- That the 2-year-old formula be reviewed for 2025/2026 when more accurate data is available.

37 DSG FUNDING SETTLEMENT

A report was brought to the Schools Forum to provide information received from the Department of Education for the 2024/25 Dedicated School Grant Funding.

On the 19th December 2023 the DfE issued the 2024/25 funding settlement figure. Gateshead will receive an estimated £203.841m before recoupment and deductions. This is an increase in funding of £1.861m for the £185.980m received for 2023/24.

RESOLVED: The School Forum notes the Dedicated Schools Grant Early Years Block, Central Schools Services Block, Schools Block, High Needs Block allocations and pupil premium information for 2024/25 financial year.

38 SCHOOLS PFI UPDATE

A report was presented to the Schools Forum for their approval on the clarified Gateshead School PFI position.

RESOLVED: The School Forum approved the proposed charges to the PFI schools for 2024/25 which factor in a contribution to the increased charges in the final year of the contract and for an update report to be presented to the Schools Forum each year.

39 FORMER EDUCATION SERVICES GRANT

A report was brought to the Schools Forum for approval to centrally retain the former Education Service Grant (ESG) which was mainstreamed into the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) from April 2017.

The ESG retained duties funding rate for local authorities at a flat rate of £15 per pupil.

The retained duties funding is calculated using the total headcount of pupils in primary and secondary schools contained in December's settlement.

In December 2023 the DSG allocation received was based on 24,008 pupils and the retained and the retained duties is calculated $£15 \times 24,008 = £36,120$.

RESOLVED: The Schools Forum approves the central retention of funding allocated for retained duties.

40 MAINSTREAM SCHOOL FUNDING

A report was brought to Schools Forum on the proposed Proforma Tool (APT) for approval, prior to the submission of Gateshead's APT to the Department for Education (DfE) for approval.

After receipt of APT and the settlement, work has been carried out to calculate mainstream individual school budgets.

The schools block (SB) allocation for 2024/25 is £144.677m (before deductions) an increase of £8.777m from 2023/24, this includes an estimated £4.873m supplementary grant which is allocated to mainstream schools.

RESOLVED (i) Schools Forum approved the proposed factor values proposed in appendix 2 of the report, with an MFG of 0.5% without any capping or scaling.

ii) Schools Forum approved the allocation of the Growth Fund both within the mainstream formula and that held centrally for growth outside of the APT.

41 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 15th February 2023 at 2:00pm via Microsoft Teams.

Chair.....