

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held on Wednesday, 7 December 2016 at 4.30pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Karen Stocks	Head Teacher	Nurseries
Jackie Collins	Head Teacher	Primary Schools
Sue Wilson	Head Teacher	Primary Schools
Gareth Hughes	Head Teacher	Secondary Schools
Ian Hunkin	Head Teacher	Special Schools
Steve Labeledz	Academy	Secondary
Alison Beane	Academy	Special
Ruth Nabholz-Duncan	Governor	Nurseries
Clive Good	Governor	Primary Schools
Steve Sheehan (acting Chair)	Governor	Primary Schools
Bruce Marr	Governor	Secondary Schools
Lynne Stagg	Councillor	Liberal Democrat Party
Carole Damper		Early Years Providers

41. Apologies

Apologies were received from Fiona Calderbank, Councillor Galloway Councillor Hockaday, David Jeapes, Lee Miller and Sarah Sadler.

42. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

43. Membership Changes.

Richard Webb, Finance Manager informed members of the following membership changes:

- Abigail Eales, Anglican Diocese and Ursula Topp, Catholic Diocese have stepped down from their roles and so are no longer members of the forum.
- There are two other vacancies: Governor - special schools and the Labour Party Representative.

44. Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting held on 19 October 2016.

DECISION: the Schools Forum agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2016.

Matters Arising.

A letter had been sent to Chairs of governors for schools with decreasing budgets.

Richard Webb explained proposed that in future the Schools Forum receive notification when the following events occur:

- (a) A financial notice of concern is issued.
- (b) A forecast deficit is anticipated to arise which is expected to require funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant

The name of the school may not be reported to Schools Forum.

45. Apprenticeship Levy.

Roland Bryant, Learning & Development Business Partner introduced the report and in response to questions from the forum, he and Kate Brady, Apprenticeship & Work Placement Officer clarified the following points:

- This affects all maintained schools.
- The 0.5% levy will be applied from April 2017.
- Schools are encouraged to be represented on the Apprenticeship Working Group, of which Kate is the Chair.
- The council's Employment Committee has requested further plans on the levy implementation and the use of the fund be presented to the meeting in February 2017.
- The Department for Education's funding plan sets out the funding available for the different levels of qualifications ranging from £1,500 and £27,000. The council will only use approved training providers whose charges do not exceed these funding bands.
- The council is working with other Local Authorities to set up a dynamic purchasing system.
- Academies with payrolls less than £3m will pay only 10% of the training costs.
- Primary and secondary schools have been informed of these changes at recent meetings, but further communications will be issued as the implementation progresses.

Richard Webb added that the accounting treatment of the levy will be covered in the budget setting workshops in the new year. The levy charge will be processed via internal journal by central finance to schools and the charge will be coded to a specific "levy" account code.

DECISION: the Schools Forum noted the update.

46. Dedicated schools grant budget monitoring report for the second quarter 2016-17.

Alison Egerton, Group Accountant presented the report and in response to questions, she and Richard Webb explained that:

Officers are investigating the underlying reasons for the increase in the Element 3 funding provided to support children with high needs in mainstream schools.

DECISIONS

The Schools Forum:

- 1. Noted the forecast year-end budget position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at the end 30 September 2016, together with the associated explanations contained within this report.**

- 2. Endorsed the increase to the budget for 3 & 4 year olds in PVI settings and the DSG grant to reflect the increased numbers in the January 2016 Census, as detailed in paragraph 4.13**

47. Future school funding formula changes.

Richard Webb introduced the report asked the forum to note that there were 8 agreed commissioned places 2017-18 academic year for Devonshire School not 9 as written in the inclusion centres table on page 22.

The maintained primary school phase representatives reported that the feedback received from the other primary schools, was that they were not in favour of the de-delegation of the Behaviour support budget for 2017-18. A summary of the responses was provided by school type (i.e. infant, primary and junior).

In respect of the proposed change to the de-delegation of union duties, Richard Webb confirmed that discussions had been held with the union representatives from Teachers' Liaison Panel.

The Mary Rose Inclusion Centre is included in the first table shown in section 5.2.

DECISIONS the Schools Forum:

- a) Did not agree by phase to the de-delegation of the following budgets for central administration in 2017-18 and note the proposed rates for de-delegation (as shown at paragraph 4.2), which will be finally agreed in January:**
 - i) Behaviour Support - Primary Only.**
(Votes: 1 for; 2 against and 1 abstention)
- b) Agreed the proposed changes to the de-delegation of union duties, with de-delegation for the period April 17 to August 17 and the introduction to a traded service arrangement from 1 September 2017; and note the proposed transfer arrangements.**
(Votes: 7 yes; 1 against and 0 abstentions).
- c) Noted the potential impact on the funding arrangements for Secondary Schools of the opening of the University Technical College (due to open in September 2017).**
- d) Endorsed the high needs place numbers for maintained and academy special schools, resource units and alternative provision (AP) settings for the academic year 2017-18 as set out in the report.**
(Agreed unanimously).

48. Any other business

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 5:15pm.

Chair