

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM HELD ON

Wednesday, 14 January 2015  
Robertson House, Stevenage

## ATTENDANCE

<b>Chair</b>	Alan Gray
<b>School Members</b>	Richard Haynes (Vice-Chair), Alisdair Skinner, Rob Staples, Ian Morris, Brian Frederick, Nick Daymond, Alison Saunders, Liz Hitch, Mark Watkin, Paul Johnson, Jan Liversage, Karen James, Christine Hall, Tracy Prickett, , Sarah Lalis, Jacky Webb
<b>Non- School Members</b>	Andrew Stevenson, Zoe Hancock, Helen Blay, Linda Collins
<b>Substitutes</b>	
<b>Officers</b>	Simon Newland, Jonathan Burberry, Cheryl Faint, Felicity Evans, Catherine Tallis, Melany McQueen, Jan Paine
<b>Apologies</b>	Carole Connelly
<b>Others</b>	Dave Williams, NUT

### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed and taken as an accurate record. Simon Newland reported the election of three new governor representatives to Forum, and announced that an inductions session was planned to take place immediately after the next meeting of Forum in February.

### 2. Schools Budget 2015/16

Jonathan Burberry presented this paper to seek the support of Forum for the 2015-16 Schools Budget.

Forum was informed that the overall position was similar to that reported to the November meeting, although within this there are a number of changes both to the DSG and the budget.

It is intended to defer consideration of Early Years budget bids until February when information from the January census will be available.

Forum supported the budget proposals outlined in the paper.

Vote:

For: 15          Against: nil

Forum agreed to the increase in the central budget for DfE arranged licenses outlined in section 13 of the paper.

Vote:

For: 16          Against: nil

The Authority will notify schools what licenses are paid for centrally to avoid schools duplicating this provision.

It was agreed that the forward work programme will include an analysis of the impact of capping and the minimum funding guarantee, and further discussion of the level of funding for the primary sector as compared with the secondary sector.

### **3. Supporting Recruitment in Hertfordshire Schools**

Cheryl Faint updated the Forum on the outcome of the Consultation on the de-delegation of funding in 2015-16 to support recruitment in Hertfordshire Schools.

Jan Paine then updated the Forum about the latest proposal for the recruitment service that HfL is intending to offer, which is informed by good practice identified in other local authorities. A steering group of headteachers is being established to support the recruitment initiatives.

Forum noted the outcome of the consultation outlined in Section 4 of the paper.

Forum agreed the de-delegation of £0.65p per primary pupil and £1.41 per pupil in maintained secondary and middle schools as set out in the paper.

Vote for primary sector:

For: 5      Against: nil

Vote for secondary sector:

For: 2      Against: nil

Forum agreed that Academies will be charged the same rate per child as their maintained equivalent, and that special schools and ESCs will be charged at the same rate as secondary schools.

Vote: 6      Against: nil

It was agreed that Jan will report back to a future Forum meeting on progress.

### **4. Finalisation of Primary and Secondary Formula Funding Factors 2015-16**

Jonathan Burberry presented this paper to seek support of the Forum for the final unit values for the primary and secondary funding formula. Jonathan also explained that the licenses previously covered by de-delegation will now be arranged nationally by the DfE and funded from the central budget for DfE arranged licenses.

The following recommendations were agreed:

- Forum supported the proposed final unit values in Annex B of the paper.

Vote:

For: 16      Against: nil

- Forum agreed to discontinue the de-delegation for licenses in 2015-16.

Vote for Primary sector:

For: 5            Against: nil

Vote for Secondary sector:

For: 1            Against: nil

- Forum confirmed its approval of the 2015-16 criteria for the Growth Fund and the Falling Rolls Fund, set out in Annex C of the paper.

Vote:

For: 14            Against: nil

## **5. Progress Report on 2yr old Programme and Early Years' Service Impact**

Melany McQueen attended to inform Forum of the current position regarding free early education for two year olds, and of the current position regarding the full time places scheme for vulnerable three and four year olds.

There was a discussion of the issues raised by the paper, and of the extent to which the current level of take up of places for 2 yr olds was reasonable. This is difficult to judge in the light of the absence of any national comparator data. It was noted that, when the Authority approached a targeted number of providers within a sector to expand provision, there was sometimes confusion as to whether the whole sector was affected. It was agreed that future papers should explain what schools or providers are being focussed on.

Forum noted the paper. There will be a further paper on the full time places programme at the next meeting, which will clarify the policy objectives which FT provision is intended to meet and thus the funding required..

## **6. Update on Impact of the Virtual School for Children Looked After in Hertfordshire**

Felicity Evans attended to inform Schools Forum of the outcomes of the Virtual School for Children Looked After in Hertfordshire.

Felicity briefly outlined the contents of the paper and answered questions.

The Chairman commended the work of the Virtual School as highly effective, thanked and invited Felicity Evans, Virtual School Head, to return in a years' time, to give a further update on outcomes and impact of Pupil Premium Plus.

Felicity asked for any immediate feedback on the arrangements for allocating the Pupil Premium Plus funding in 2014-15 to be sent to her.

## 7. Forward Work Programme

Forum noted the Forward Work Programme.

The following items have been added to the Forward Work Programme shown in the paper.

2015		
11 February	School Places Programme	
	Teachers Pensions Update	
29 April	Primary and Secondary balance and impact of capping	

## 8. Any Other Business

Teachers' Pension Arrears

Some schools have received letters re the payment of arrears of teachers' pension contributions. Simon Newland outlined the background to this issue.

It was agreed that the Authority will let schools know that the deadline in the letter for responses will be extended.

### Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Forum will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, 11 February 2015

Time: 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Venue: HDC, Robertson House, Stevenage