

<p><b>DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM</b>  <b>MINUTES OF MEETING</b></p>
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**DATE: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Keith Cotgrave (in the Chair); Craig Alderson (High Coniscliffe Church of England Primary School), Christine Boyce (St. Teresa’s Primary School), David Hall (Darlington School of Maths and Science), Dean Judson (Hurworth School), Peter King (Corporation Road Community School), Ian Maile (Flora House Day Nursery PVI), Lynn Millar (Borough Road Nursery), Martin Proud (St. Aidan’s Academy), Sue Richardson (Education Village), Mike Shorten (Carmel College), Catherine Thompson (West Park Academy), Brian Watkinson (Federation of Mowden Schools) Paul Wray (West Park Academy), Janine Gleeson (St Georges CofE Academy) Lynne Walden (Ferndene) and Jennifer Moorhouse (Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle)

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Judith Armes, Finance Officer, Jenni Cooke, Assistant Director – Children, Families and Learning, Rachel Kershaw, The Head of School and Pupil Support Services, Brett Nielsen, Finance Manager, Resources Department.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Councilor Hughes, Lindsay Long (PVI), Elizabeth Charlton (PVI)

**APPOLOGIES RECEIVED**

Mike Fryer (Hummersknott), Paul Richardson (14-19 Partnership)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<p><b>Welcome, Introductions and apologies</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, a round of introductions took place.</p> <p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b></p> <p>The Minutes (previously circulated) of the School Forum held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 were agreed as a true record.</p> <p><b>Matters arising and action log</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	

3.	<p><b>Early Years Single Funding Formula</b></p> <p>The Finance Manager presented Forum with the previously circulated paper.</p> <p>It was noted that the PVI providers would like to do some additional work, looking in detail at differences between provider types. This work would result in a paper been presented to Forum in November to inform on future payment rate levels.</p> <p>It was noted that providers will have included different levels of cost in the information they provided as part of the review of the rates, therefore any future figures need to try and create as level a playing field as possible to compare costs.</p> <p><u>Outcome of Recommendations</u> School Forum agreed to increase the rates from the Autumn term as per the table in paragraph 54.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Budget Update 2013/14</b></p> <p>Forum was presented with the previously circulated paper which was discussed.</p> <p><u>Outcome of Recommendations</u> School Forum noted the budget position and agreed to the adjustments in the budgets as detailed in paragraphs 11 to 14.</p>	
5.	<p><b>School Transport</b></p> <p>Forum was presented with the previously circulated paper.</p> <p><u>Outcome of Recommendations</u> It was agreed that a special forum would be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 2pm to discuss school transport.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>It was noted that this would be the last School Forum for members Ian Maile and Lynne Walden, with new representatives from the PVI attending future meetings. The Chair thanked Ian and Lynne for their contributions to the School Forum.</p> <p>It was also noted that this meeting would be the last Forum that Judith Armes would attend as she was leaving the Council. The Chair and Forum thanked Judith for the work she had done for the Forum and schools.</p>	

	<p><u>School Funding Formula</u>  Judith Armes notified the Forum that the EFA had sent out guidance for the 2014/15 funding formula in the last week. Judith highlighted to the group the key changes that would effect Darlington's formula as below,</p> <p>Lump Sum – Maximum £175,000 with different sums allowed between primary and secondary schools</p> <p>High Needs/SEN Funding  The £6,000 threshold is a mandatory requirement from 2014/15</p> <p>Sparsity Factor  Optional factor allowing funding for small schools</p> <p>Support for Schools with Falling rolls  Ability to top slice DSG with a central contingency. This cannot be used for schools that have an unpopular take up of places.</p> <p>Looked After Children</p> <p>School Forum  A requirement to have a representative from a institution offering post 16 education (not a school or academy). This replaces the 14-19 partnership representative</p> <p>The timetable for submission of the formula to the EFA was also detailed.</p> <p><u>Appeals Procedure</u>  It was agreed at April School Forum that the contingency held for VA/Trust schools would be limited to maintained schools, it was felt that this decision may impact on the provision of appeals across Darlington, therefore it was agreed that a new paper would be presented to the next Forum to discuss the options available.</p>	<p>RK</p>
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**Date and time of next meeting: Special Forum, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013, 2.00pm.**

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**11<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**SUMMARY OF AGREEMENTS & ACTIONS**

<b>AGREED</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Agreed to increase the Early Years hourly rates by 5 pence per hour from the autumn term. No changes to other payments. (as per the table at paragraph 54 of the report)</li><li>2. To make adjustments to the budget as per paragraphs 11 to 14 of the report</li><li>3. To hold a special Forum on 2<sup>nd</sup> July to discuss school transport</li><li>4. To have a paper return to the next scheduled Forum regarding the appeals process.</li></ol>	
<b>ACTIONS</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To write a report concerning the appeals process.</li></ol>	RK