

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING TUESDAY 22ND MAY 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D Judson (Swift Academies (In the Chair)); P King (The Federation of Mowden Schools); P Ayto (Reid Street Primary); M Butler (Education Village); S Welsh (Whinfield Primary); J Moorhouse (Carmel College); N Gibbon (St Aidans CE Academy); K A Lyle (Rydal Academy); D Vizzard (St George's); C Large (St Johns CE Diocese); M Shorten (Carmel College); E Calvert (William House Nursery); M Taylor (St Bede's RC Primary)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

B Nielsen (Finance Manager); T Murphy (Head of Education & Inclusion); E Marshall (School Forum Monitoring and Support Officer); E Sayers (Finance Officer); S Lewington (Clerk)

APOLOGIES

S Crowther (Mt Pleasant Primary); P Richardson (Head of 16-19); E Hickerson (Rise Carr College)

1. Welcome, Introduction & Register/Declaration of business interests

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions took place.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes (previously circulated) of the Schools Forum meeting held 6th March 2018 were agreed as a true record.

3. Budget Update 2017/18

Forum referred to a previously circulated report.

The report provided details on the final position for the 2017/18 budget.

The final overspend of £1.2 million has reduced slightly since forum were last updated at their March meeting.

The Finance Manager directed Forum to paragraphs 4 – 6 of the report which provided details of further increases in overspend in the high needs budget. These

further pressures were mainly due to an increase in top-ups and the use of out of area placements because of the lack of local capacity.

It is expected that the high needs overspend will continue in 2018/19.

The Early Years budget currently has an underspend around £300K, however, as mentioned at the last meeting, some of this will be recouped by ESFA and it is likely to be left with an underspend of approximately £90K.

P King mentioned that he had recently undertaken a piece of work for the NHT, at the moment 12 out of 13 authorities within the North East area currently have a deficit within their high needs budgets.

Forum agreed the recommendations of the report.

4. Growth Fund 2018/19

Forum referred to a previously circulated report.

The growth fund criteria had been agreed by forum at their January meeting.

The Finance Manager noted to Forum that paragraph 3, bullet point 4 is proposed to be re-worded in order to provide clarity on that element of the growth fund criteria.

Forum agreed to the proposed rewording.

5. School Forum Officer Update

Forum referred to a previously circulated report. The School's Forum Officer provided Forum with an update on work to date.

It was clarified that there are 19 commissioned places available at Mount Please not 18 as stated in the report. There are eight resource base place applications which Panel will consider. The vacant places in September are therefore subject to change. It is intended to move to a new panel process from September 2019 which includes a move to an EHC only model.

The School Forum Officer updated on points not in the paper. Outreach services and resource base contracts are to be extended for 2019/20. A meeting with outreach leads will be held to discuss alignment of services to the graduated response ranges. Any changes and impacts on service delivery will be communicated to schools as soon as possible.

The Local Transformation Plan stemming from the Future in Mind Strategy (NHS England support of CYP Mental Health Services), has provided support to schools working with the CCG over the past 2 years. An action plan for the forthcoming

year is to be developed. A useful meeting was held on Friday 18th May which provided stakeholders with information on the progress to date and an opportunity to influence the future action plan. The CCG, Public Health and LA will meet to agree the next steps to develop the action plan before the end of term.

A DFE bid to support schools to work with the CAMHS service through means of workshops has been successful and well attended. There will be a trial starting for a new CAMHS referral process beginning after half term, if successful this will be rolled out to all schools.

Maintained schools were asked to confirm their attendance at Accessibility Plan monitoring meetings before the end of term.

The Education Consultative Group have asked for sight of the SEND Capital expressions of interest form before it is sent out within the next few weeks.

Forum noted the content of the report.

6. High Needs Update (Verbal)

A paper on the High Needs update was expected at this Forum, however the Head of Finance confirmed that the LA is not yet in a position to present this as further internal assurances are needed.

The Head of Education apologised for the delay but stressed that work is still ongoing with regard to the proposals.

An extraordinary meeting of School Forum may be called, after half term to present a paper, however in the interim updates will continue to be circulated through the various groups etc.

It was confirmed that some of the proposals were looking workable.

It was noted how urgently this information is needed as schools are currently budget setting.

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Date/Time/Location of next meeting

9th October 2018, 2pm Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Darlington