

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING TUESDAY, 12TH MARCH 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D Judson (Swift Academies (Chair)); P King (The Federation of Mowden Schools); P Ayto (Reid Street Primary); M Butler (Education Village); S Welsh (Whinfield Primary); J Moorhouse (RC Diocese Hexham & Newcastle); K Reid (Polam Hall School); M Shorten (Carmel College); N Gibbon (St Aidans CE Academy) S Hudson (Rise Carr College); M Fryer (Governor, Hummersknott); P Richardson (Head of 16-19); E Calvert (William House Nursery); H Dummett (The Federation of Darlington Nursery Schools); M Taylor (St Bede's RC Primary)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

B Nielsen (Finance Manager); T Murphy (Head of Education & Inclusion); E Marshall (School Forum Officer)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Hughes (Lead Member Children and Young People); K Hull (Lingfield Education Trust); Jo Moxon (Interim Manager Education)

APOLOGIES

K A Lyle (Rydal Academy); S Crowther (Mt Pleasant Primary); D Vizzard (St George's Primary); C Large (St John's CE Academy) A Williams (St George's Primary).

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.

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2. ~~2.~~ Minutes of Meeting 15th January 2019

The minutes (previously circulated) of the Schools Forum meeting held 15th January 2019 were agreed as a true record.

Forum were updated that the move of £400,000 from the schools block to the high needs block had been approved. The Secretary of State had also approved moves in Middlesbrough of 1.0%, Stockton of 1.1% and Hartlepool of 0.9%. It was asked if those Local Authorities had Forum approval for their transfer.

It was mentioned that Durham's request had been turned down. Durham did not have School Forum approval.

It was confirmed that the Darlington 2019/20 funding formula had been approved by ESFA 1st March 2019.

3. Budget Update 2018/19

The Finance Manager outlined the current budget position. The main points were as follows:

- No change to the budget available
- Early Years underspend is lower than previously projected based upon the spring term upfront payments. Final figures are to be confirmed as the census data for January had not been received. It is expected that there will still be a reduction in the early years DSG allocation for 2018/19 once the final allocations are received which will reduce the underspend further.
- Overall the expected year end position is an overspend of £2.7m (including brought forward high needs pressures) which raises to £2.9m if the early years underspend is removed.

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- The in-year position is a £1.4m overspend of which arises fully from high needs pressures.
- It is expected that the overall high needs pressure at the end of the year will be £3.0m to carry forward into 2019/20.

4. **High Needs Update (Verbal)**

The Head of Education gave an update to Forum members on the progress that has been made with regard to the review of the high needs/SEN.

The strategy had been received by Cabinet on 5th March and approved. Cabinet had approved the banding system, with money following the child. There had been some amendments to the banding values following the consultation.

The Local Authority is working on implementation plans to introduce changes from September 2019, there may be some consideration of transitional arrangements.

Cabinet had also approved proposals for additional SEMH places for primary at Redhall Primary and for secondary at Rise Carr College. These proposals will now move to the feasibility stage.

The bid by the Tees Valley for a special SEMH free school has been successful following confirmation from the Secretary of State. This will provide Darlington with 20 additional places.

The Tees Valley Local Authorities will open competition with Trusts to provide the school, however the Secretary of State will decide on the submissions.

The location of the school is to be confirmed, as the original site may no longer be available.

The school will be on one site with 100 places across phases.

Forum will be provided with updates at future meetings.

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5. **School Forum Officer Update**

The School Forum Officer updated on a number of work areas as follows,

Resource Bases are forecast to be full in 2019/20, subject to applications made through the May Resource Base panel meeting.

The new Outreach referral system will start no later than Easter. Northwood Speech and Language base will relaunch the speech and language outreach, and the SF Officer will continue work with the CCG in opportunities to joint commission services

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including Speech and Language over the forthcoming terms (see below). The LINs service will participate in a longitudinal study for NATSIP (National Sensory Impairment Partnership).

The Gypsy, Roma Travellers service will be supporting the delivery of a project funded through the Careers Enterprise Fund "Moving on, aiming High!".

Joint commissioning. The CCG will be working with a group of schools to deliver a new service through TEWV to address gaps in mental health provision. Access to low level CBT will be delivered through Childcare Welfare Practitioners. 16 schools are involved in the process, if any school cannot commit, then opportunities will arise for other schools to take part.

The Healthy Lifestyle survey was discussed at the Primary Forum with requests for further data analysis and offers from schools of financial support. Discussions have commenced with Public Health who commission the survey.

6. Transforming Children & Young People's Mental health provision (Future in Mind Local Transformation Plan - LTP)

The attached LTP has been developed by the CCG in consultation with children young people and carers and a wider stakeholder steering group

There has been a significant increase in child mental health admissions from 44.2 per 1000 to 97.7 per 1000 in Darlington which is above the national rate.

Since 2015 £1m of funding has been invested in training and support for Darlington schools. The digital online platform "Koot" will be launched soon and TEWV will continue to build on the actions identified by the Anna Freud 'mental health and schools link' project delivered in 2017-18.

There will be a bid made to NHS England to be a trailblazer site.

A request was made to schools to have a representative upon the steering group. It was requested that a short brief be circulated to all schools to inform upon what the representative role will involve.

The Forum were informed that it is very important that schools have their views brought into the group as this helps to direct local provision.

It was noted that the report states that CAMHS attend the VPP, however this has not been the case as they have not been represented at the meetings.

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7. Any other business.

There was no other business.

Date/Time/Location of next meeting

17th June 2019, 2 pm Committee Room 1

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