

Rotherham Schools' Forum

Venue: Rockingham Professional Development Centre

Date: Friday, 27 April 2018

Time: 8.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 19th January 2018 (Pages 1 - 4)
3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes
4. Learning Community and Stakeholder Representation.
5. Early Education Rate 2018-2019 (Pages 5 - 9)
6. Provisional 2017/18 Dedicated Schools Grant Out-turn and 2018/19 Update
7. School Budgets 2018/19 (Pages 10 - 12)
8. School Admissions - Clarification of Funding 2018/19 and 2019/2020
9. Schools Forum Forward Plan (Work Programme).
10. Date of Next Meeting - Friday, 15th June, 2018, commencing at 8.30 a.m.

**ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS' FORUM
FRIDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2018**

Present:- Mr. D. Naisbitt (Oakwood High School - in the Chair); Learning Community representatives:- Mrs. D. Ball (Aston Learning Community), Mr. C. Harris (Wickersley Learning Community), Mr. P. Di'lasio (Wales High School) and Mr. D. Sutton (Maltby Learning Community).

Other stakeholders:- Mr. P. Silvester (Special Schools), Mrs. N. Towers (Diocese of Sheffield), Mr. S. Scott (Day Nurseries – Private, Voluntary, Independent), Mr. A. Richards (Secondary Governors), Mrs. J. Arechiga (RNN Group), Mrs. T. Brooke (Nexus Multi Academy Trust) and Mr. M. Stowe (UNISON).

Also in attendance:- Mr. M. Chambers (RMBC Assistant Director of Commissioning, Performance and Quality), Mrs. V. Njelic (RMBC Finance), Mrs. P. Williams (RMBC Head of Inclusion) and Mr. D. Fenton (RMBC Service Leader, School Organisation, Admissions and Appeals).

Apologies for absence were received from:- Mrs. S. Kent (St. Bernard's RC High School), Mrs. P. Dobbin (Redscope Primary School), Mr. S. Graves (Thrybergh Academy), Mr. P. Gerrard (Maintained Nursery Schools), Mr. W. Carratt (Nexus Multi Academy Trust), Mr. H. Thomas (Diocese of Sheffield), Mr. J. Austin (RNN Group), Mrs. S. Brook (NASUWT) and Mr. S. Mahmood (UNISON).

64. LEARNING COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES

Details were submitted of the current membership of the Rotherham Schools' Forum for the 2017/2018 academic year. A number of membership changes were noted and everyone was asked to notify the Clerk to the Forum of any additional changes which might occur.

Agreed:- That there shall be continual review of membership to ensure that the balance of academy and non-academy schools represented on the Rotherham Schools' Forum accurately reflects the balance of the sectors in the Rotherham Borough area.

65. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24TH NOVEMBER, 2017

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Rotherham Schools Forum, held on 24th November, 2017, be approved as a correct record.

66. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The following items were discussed:-

(1) Minute No. 58 (Dedicated Schools Grant Funding for School Admissions and Appeals) – Schools had been informed of the proposal to fund the School Planning, School Admissions and School Admission

Appeals services from the Dedicated Schools Grant and, although there had been relatively few responses, there had been no opposition from Schools to this proposal.

(2) Minute No. 57 (Contingency for Pupil Growth Funding Allocations) - (a) at the 24th November, 2017 meeting, the Schools' Forum had agreed to top-slice £530,940 from the Schools Block allocation for the 2018/2019 financial year; and

(b) the new Central Services block for the 2018/2019 financial year would fund the following items:-

:: Charge for National Copyright Licences - £249,547 as notified by the Education and Skills Funding Agency;

:: Servicing of the Schools' Forum - £3,000.

(3) Minute No. 62 (The Value of the Rotherham Schools' Forum) – The Forum was transacting business via the three Sub-Committees (High Needs; Finance and Early Years) and increased use was now being made of e-communications.

Agreed:- That the information be noted.

67. SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2018/19 AND UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA

The Rotherham Schools' Forum continued its detailed consideration of the Schools Funding Formula, the National Funding Formula and the Funding for High Needs (with reference to Minutes Nos. 59, 60 and 61 of the previous meeting held on 24th November, 2017). Since the last meeting, the budget issues and proposed transfer of funding had been the subject of consultation with all Schools (29 November to 15 December, 2017) and the Finance Sub-Committee had considered the responses to the consultation and had brought forward a recommendation to this meeting of the Schools' Forum.

The three options considered by the Finance Sub-Committee were in respect of the transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block during the 2018/2019 financial year:-

First option – the transfer of 0.5% out of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, with 2.5% cap on gains and -1.25% minimum funding guarantee.

Second option – the transfer of 1.3% out of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, with 1.5% cap on gains and -1.5% minimum funding guarantee.

Third option – the transfer of 2.4% out of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, with 0% cap on gains and -1.5% minimum funding

guarantee.

The recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee was that the Rotherham Schools' Forum should agree to the adoption of the second option, with the transfer of 1.3% of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block during the 2018/2019 financial year.

The Authority had now notified the Government Department for Education of this proposal to transfer 1.3% of the budget to the High Needs Block for the 2018/2019 financial year. The Department for Education had replied that it was minded to agree to this proposal and would monitor the position on an annual basis, but would first require additional information about the effect of the proposal upon individual Schools within the Rotherham Borough area.

During discussion of this matter, reference was made to the very large majority of responses from Schools to the consultation during November and December 2017 being in favour of the first option (ie: the transfer of 0.5% of the budget). There had been a much lower amount of support from Schools for the second option. It was confirmed that Finance Sub-Committee had deliberated at length on this issue, but after due consideration, the Sub-Committee believed that the second option (ie: the transfer of 1.3% of the budget) offered the most sustainable way forward. The third option had received no support from Schools and had been the least favoured option by the Finance Sub-Committee because of a possibility of some Schools being placed in financial difficulty.

The Rotherham Schools' Forum was informed of the significant pressure to reduce expenditure within the High Needs Block of funding and the intended formulation of a sufficiency strategy for High Needs which would apply to the next three financial years. As part of this intended sufficiency strategy, Finance Officers were asked to provide Schools with projections of budgets and funding for High Needs for the 2019/2020 financial year.

It was also noted that a sufficiency plan for pupils with special educational needs would be considered by the Council at a Cabinet and Commissioners' meeting to be held on 19th February, 2018. The proposal would provide for 125 additional places for pupils within Special Schools in Rotherham and at the same time significantly reduce the reliance upon and use of out-of-Authority placements of pupils with special educational needs.

Agreed:- (1) That the information be noted.

(2) That the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee be accepted and the Rotherham Schools' Forum agrees to the adoption of the second option, as now reported, with the transfer of 1.3% of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block during the 2018/2019 financial year.

(3) That, at each meeting, the Rotherham Schools' Forum continue to receive updates and progress reports about the High Needs Block of funding.

(4) That, in respect of the funding of service provision for pupils with special educational needs, the Head of Inclusion provide a presentation to the meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum to be held on 15th June, 2018, detailing strategic developments across the area and the impact of the transfer of funding (detailed at (2) above), with reference to a comparison of the service provision at 31 December, 2017 with the service provision at 31 May, 2018.

68. TRANSFER OF FUNDING TO HIGH NEEDS 2018/19

Consideration of this item had been included within the matters considered at Minute No. 67 above.

69. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- (1) That the next meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum take place on Friday 2nd March, 2018, at the Rockingham Professional Development Centre, commencing at 8.30 a.m.

(2) That future meetings of the Rotherham Schools' Forum shall take place at the Rockingham Professional Development Centre, commencing at 8.30 a.m., on the following Fridays:-

27th April 2018 and 15th June 2018.

BRIEFING PAPER FOR SCHOOLS FORUM

1.	Date of meeting:	March 2018
2.	Title:	Proposed Early Education Funding Rate 2018/19
3.	Directorate:	CYPS

1. Background

- 1.1 Following the outcome of the Department for Education's (DfE) Early Years national funding formula consultation in 2016 a single funding formula was introduced in 2017/18 for the allocation of early education funding to all schools and providers. Local Authorities (LAs) are required to allocate the funding to early education providers based on a local single funding formula made up of a single base rate and a mandatory deprivation supplement (for 3/4 year old early education). LAs can retain 5% of the 3 / 4 year old budget allocation to fund central services. Appendix 1 details the Government guidance on central retention of Early Years block funding. A local consultation was carried out in 2016/7 with all private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers and schools to gather views on the make-up of the local funding formula and the proportion of the budget to allocate to supplements.
- 1.2 As allowed within the funding guidelines and as required by the LA to contribute to the statutory early years and childcare functions, including managing the budget below and passporting to providers, the LA retained 5% of the 3 / 4 year old budget in 2017/18. for central services. Appendix 2 shows benchmarking information for statistical neighbours. Please note: the pass through rate to providers for Rotherham shows as 99% on the appendix. This is due to allocation of the Inclusion Support Grant from the High Needs Block being included within the pass-through calculation.
- 1.2 The DfE provisional budget allocation for the Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant (EY DSG) for 2018/19 is detailed below. This will provide the funding for early education places in schools and other early years providers. This budget will be adjusted based on January 2018 and January 2019 census returns.

Initial 2018/19 Early Years Block Allocation	
3& Year old Funding (15 hours funding)	9,913,805
30 Hours Entitlement Funding	2,725,512
Early Years Pupil Premium	198,802
2 Year Early Education	3,219,497
Early Years supplementary Funding for maintained Nursery Schools	968,131
Early Years Disability Access Fund	81,795
Indicative Early Years Block	17,107,542

- 1.3 The above allocations are based on hourly rates which were set by Central Government as part of the National Funding Formula for 2017/18. The Department for Education has made it clear that there will be no increase in the hourly rates allocated to allow for inflationary pressure within the next 3 years. The hourly rates allocated for Rotherham are £4.30 for 3 /

4 year olds and £5.20 for 2 year olds. The Department for Education carried out a national Cost of Childcare Survey in 2015 to inform the National Funding Formula. The review focussed on the current cost of provision at the time but also examined the implication of future cost pressures facing the sector, in particular the introduction of the Living Wage from 2017.

1.5 **Proposal for 2018/19 Budget:** It is proposed to maintain the formula agreed in 2017/18 for 2018/19 as detailed below:

- Retain 5% of the 3 / 4 year old budget for central spend
- Allocate 2% of the budget to the deprivation supplement based on

Medium Deprivation Supplement – 3 / 4 year olds (10p per hour)
High Deprivation Supplement – 3 / 4 year olds (15p per hour)

- No additional supplements to be included
- Distribute the nursery school stability funding as an equal split between the three nursery schools

The resulting base rates are as follows:

- 3 / 4 year olds £4.00 base rate plus deprivation supplement if eligible
- 2 year olds £5.20

1.8 **SEN inclusion fund;** LAs are required to have a SEN inclusion fund to support providers to meet the needs of children with SEND. Rotherham has an inclusion support grant for a number of years which funded the private and voluntary sector; from 2017/18 the funding was also made available to school nursery/F1 provisions. A budget of £420k from the High Needs block was allocated for 2017/18 to include 2 terms of 30 hour childcare delivery. The anticipated budget required for 2018/19 is £470k to take into account a full year of 30 hour childcare delivery. Budget analysis is currently being undertaken and the requirement for 2018/19 will be confirmed by early February.

1.9 The budget proposals were shared with the Early Education Working Group on XX which includes representatives from the PVI sector (day nurseries and pre-schools) as well as academies, maintained schools and a maintained nursery. The proposal was approved by this group.

2. Key actions and relevant timelines

January 2018:

- Report to DLT proposing hourly rate and central retention

February 2018:

- Discuss proposals with Early Education Working Group

March 2018:

- Inform Schools Forum of agreed hourly rate and request approval for 5% central retention
- Re-contract with all early education providers

3. Recommendations to Schools Forum

It is recommended that Schools Forum approve the 5% retention of 3/4 year old funding to enable the LA to contribute to the delivery of early years and childcare functions.

4. Name and contact details

Aileen Chambers, Head of Service - Early Years and Childcare

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Appendix 1

Central Retention of Early Years Block Funding

There are new requirements on the amount of funding for three- and four-year olds that local authorities must pass to providers. This pass-through requirement is intended to ensure the maximum amount of funding allocated to local authorities by the EFA reaches providers.

The pass-through funding level is set at 93% in 2017-18. It will increase to 95% from 2018-19. This means that centrally retained funding (for central services or services in-kind) combined with any funding movement out of the early years block will be constrained to a maximum of 7% in 2017-18 and 5% from 2018-19.

In 2017-18 local authorities need to plan to spend at least 93% (95% from 2018-19) of the hourly rate they receive from the government directly on providers. Prior to each financial year, local authorities need to plan to meet this requirement in determining their planned budget allocations. (Please note that we also intend to monitor outturn data, and may change to assessing compliance based on outturn in future. We will also monitor provision on the ground in order to follow up any anomalous results).

(Department for Education, Early years National Funding Formula, Operational guide, December 2016)

Appendix 2

2017/18 Early Education Budget Statistical Neighbour Analysis (information from DfE Early Years Funding Benchmarking Tool)

	Average Funding Rate to providers per hour				Funding Paid Through Supplements	SEN Inclusion Fund	Amount Retained for Central Spend from 3/4 year old budget	Amount Retained for Central Spend from 2 year old budget	Total Amount Retained for Central Spend
	PVI	Nursery Schools	Schools	Pass Through Rate					
England	4.34	7.42	4.52	96%	5%				
Rotherham	4.07	8.63	4.09	99%	2%	420,000	510,862	0	510,862
Doncaster	4.30		4.23	98%	6%	74,880	730,600	0	730,600
Wigan	4.04	5.83	4.14	95%	1%	67,068	374,695	78,259	452,954
Dudley	4.03	8.80	4.04	94%	1%	100,000	614,600	0	614,600
Barnsley	4.07		4.12	97%	4%	100,000	297,093	135,336	432,429
Tameside	4.06		4.06	98%	3%	150,000	234,027	57,164	291,191
Telford and Wrekin	4.31	7.12	4.12	100%	10%	160,000	14,195	0	14,195
North East Lincolnshire	4.03	6.44	4.07	98%	1%	80,000	401,409	86,698	488,107
Redcar and Cleveland	4.10		4.11	100%	8%	80,000	0	150,100	150,100
Wakefield	4.18	7.26	4.09	96%	1%	76,667	496,147	0	496,147
North Lincolnshire	4.04		4.11	103%	2%	30,000	347,000	0	347,000
Median	4.07	7.19	4.11	98%	2%	76,667	347,695	0	347,695

BRIEFING PAPER FOR SCHOOLS FORUM

1.	Date of meeting:	27th April 2018
2.	Title:	2018/2019 School Budgets
3.	Directorate:	Finance and Customer Services

1. Background

- 1.1 Following the outcome of the consultation on the Schools Block and the National Funding Formula (NFF) consultation held with all schools in November 2017 and the decision of the Secretary of State not to approve the LA's disapplication request to transfer 1.3% of funding from the School's Block to the High Needs Block Table 1 below confirms the distribution of the final 2018/2019 Schools Block allocation of £187,107,308.

Table 1

Schools Block 2018/2019	
Individual School Budgets	£185,639,995
Pupil Growth fund	£530,490
0.5% transfer to High Needs	£936,823
TOTAL	£187,107,308

Provisional 2018/2019 Schools Block published last year indicated a gain of £2.3 million on a 2017/2018 baseline of £182.5m (+1.3%) following the introduction of the NFF..

The actual allocation of £187.1m (£4.6m gain equating to a 2.5% increase) was due to the NFF and a year on year pupil number increase of 519.

1.2 The Individual School Budgets (ISB) have been calculated by the factors and values indicated in Table 2

Table 2

2018/2019 Rotherham Local Funding Formula		
Factors	Primary	Secondary
AWPU Primary	£3,037.00	
AWPU KS3		£4,690.00
AWPU KS4		£4,883.00
Dep Ever 6	£540.00	£785.00
Dep FSM	£220.00	£220.00
IDACI Band A	£195.00	£270.00
IDACI Band B	£140.00	£200.00
IDACI Band C	£130.00	£187.00
IDACI Band D	£120.00	£172.00
IDACI Band E	£80.00	£130.00
IDACI Band F	£67.00	£97.00
LPA	£457.00	£716.50
EAL 3	£515.00	£1,385.00
Lump sum	£117,000.00	£117,000.00
Mobility	£500.00	£1,250.00

Applying the above factors and values in 2018/2019 has resulted in a significant impact on the distribution of funding compared to 2017/2018 – Table 3 refers.

Table 3

Individual School Budgets	2017/2018	2018/2019
% Distributed through Basic Entitlement	83.29%	79.74%
% Additional Needs	6.47%	10.38%
% Premises	10.24%	9.88%
Primary: Secondary ratio	1:142	1:140

2. Proposal for 2019/2020 Budgets

2.1 The operational responsibility for the funding formula will remain with Rotherham for 2019/2020 . At April 2020 the responsibility will pass to the Government through the NFF.

Looking ahead to the 2019/2020 financial year and the calculation of school budget shares the LA will be consulting with all schools on the proposal to continue the transition to the NFF.

Table 4 sets out the proposed NFF factors and values published by the DfE:

Table 5 is the 2018/2019 distribution of funding (as shown in Table 3) compared to the NFF distribution

Table 4.

National Funding Formula (NFF)		
Factors	Primary	Secondary
AWPU Primary	£2,746.99	
AWPU KS3		£3,865.65
AWPU KS4		£4,385.81
Dep Ever 6	£540.00	£785.00
Dep FSM	£440.00	£440.00
IDACI Band A	£575.00	£810.00
IDACI Band B	£420.00	£600.00
IDACI Band C	£390.00	£560.00
IDACI Band D	£360.00	£515.00
IDACI Band E	£240.00	£390.00
IDACI Band F	£200.00	£290.00
LPA	£1,050.00	£1,550.00
EAL 3	£515.00	£1,385.00
Lump sum	£110,000.00	£110,000.00

Table 5

Individual School Budgets	2018/2019	NFF
% Distributed through Basic Entitlement	79.74%	72.90%
% Additional Needs	10.38%	17.80%
% Premises	9.88%	9.30%
Primary: Secondary ratio	1:140	1:129

The Government has kept the national average primary to secondary ratio of 1:129 in the NFF (funding per pupil is on average 29% higher overall in the secondary phase than in the primary phase).

3. Key actions and relevant timelines

Summer 2018:

- DfE guidance published for 2019/2020

Autumn 2018:

- Discuss and agree funding formula proposals with Finance sub-group
- Consult with all schools

January 2019

- Submit 2019/2020 budgets to DfE

4. Name and contact details

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