

**ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS' FORUM
FRIDAY, 24TH APRIL, 2015**

Present:- P. Blackwell (Dinnington) (in the Chair).

Learning Community Representatives: - T. Mahon (Saint Bernard's), A. Abel and D. Naisbitt (Oakwood), C. Roberts (Wickersley), H. McLaughlin (Saint Pius), K. Sherburn (Rawmarsh), L. Pepper (Clifton), P. Di'lasio (Wales), R. Burman (Winterhill), D. Sutton (Maltby), R. Fone (Brinsworth), D. Silvester (Wath).

Stakeholder Representatives: - D. Ashmore (Teaching School), P. Bloor (PRUs), J. Mott (Special Schools), L. Redmile (Secondary Business Managers), J. Gray (Early Years PVI), P. Gerard (Early Years), A. Richardson (Secondary Governors), S. Brooke (Teacher Trade Union Representatives), M. Badger (Unison), P. Sayles (Rotherham Colleges).

Officers in attendance: - V. Njegic (Financial Services), J. Robertson (Financial Services), K. Borthwick (Director of Schools and Learning, CYPS), C. Harrison (SEND Lead), H. Etheridge (Legal and Democratic Services).

Apologies were received from: - Gill Alton (Represented by P. Sayles), J. Fearnley (Wingfield), J. Morrison (Swinton), and G. Gillard (Sheffield Diocese).

109. ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS' FORUM FOR THE 2015/2016 FINANCIAL YEAR.

Resolved: - That Mr. D. Naisbitt, Oakwood Learning Community Representative, be appointed to the role of Chair of the Rotherham Schools' Forum for the 2015/2016 financial year from the June, 2015, meeting.

110. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS' FORUM FOR THE 2015/2016 FINANCIAL YEAR.

Resolved: - (1) That the role of Vice-Chair of the Rotherham Schools' Forum not be filled at the present time.

(2) That efforts continue to fill the role.

111. CONFIRMATION OF LEARNING COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE 2015/2016 FINANCIAL YEAR.

| Learning Community Representatives: - | | Voting (and phase) | Substitute: - |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Aston | Deborah Ball | Primary – maintained | |
| Brinsworth | | | |

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|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Clifton | Lynne Pepper | Primary maintained – | Mark Young Primary-academy |
| Dinnington | Chris Eccles / Ian Holburn | Secondary academy – | Chris Eccles / Ian Holburn |
| Maltby | David Sutton | Secondary academy – | Graham Hayward |
| Oakwood | David Naisbitt | Secondary academy – | Ann Abel |
| Rawmarsh | Key Sherburn | Primary academy – | |
| St. Bernard's | Terrance Mahon | Secondary academy – | |
| St. Pius | Helen McLaughlin | Primary maintained – | |
| Swinton | John Morrison | Secondary maintained – | |
| Thrybergh | | | |
| Wales | Pepe Di'lasio | Secondary academy – | |
| Wath | David Silvester | Primary maintained - | |
| Wickersley | Craig Roberts | Primary academy – | |
| Wingfield | Paula Dobbin | Primary maintained - | Joanne Cook |
| Winterhill | Roger Burman | Secondary maintained – | |
| Stakeholders: - | | | Substitute: - |
| Special Schools | Julie Mott | | |
| Nursery | Peter Gerrard | | |
| Pupil Referral Units | Paul Bloor | | |
| Teaching Schools | David Ashmore | | |
| PVI Early Years | Steve Scott | | Jo Gray |
| Primary Governor | Sue Mallinder | | |
| Secondary Governor | Alan Richards | | |
| Teaching Trade Unions | Susan Brooke | | Fred Sprague |

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Support Staff Trade Union | Unison / GMB | | |
| Diocese of Sheffield | Geoff Gillard | | |
| Diocese of Hallam | | | |
| School Business Managers | Laura Redmile | | |
| Colleges | Gill Alton (Rotherham College) | | Richard Williams (Thomas Rotherham College) |

112. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 6TH MARCH, 2015 AND MATTERS ARISING.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th March, 2015, were considered.

Discussion was held on the issues relating to moving some budget decisions to 1st July, 2015, including the effect on the 2015/2016 budget and communication with the EFA for academies budgets.

In relation to item 104 'Note the letter of the Strategic Director, CYPS, the letter to schools and outline the implications of moving some budget decisions back to 1st July, 2015', it was requested that the paragraph on page 3 of the agenda pack be amended to (amendments in bold): -

The Winterhill Learning Community Representative advocated that the decision was taken with the view that no schools would want to opt out of this work. It was firmly believed that they would be happy to pay more for these Services **where appropriate**. With a traded service, schools would buy-in, there was no suggestion ~~that some would opt-out~~ **services would not be seen as important work**.

Resolved: - That, with the amendments above, the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

113. CHRIS HARRISON - REPORT AND OUTLINE OF HIS WORK ON INCLUSION AND SEND REVIEW.

Chris Harrison, SEND Consultant, was welcomed to the meeting and to Rotherham. Chris had prepared a presentation for the Rotherham

Schools' Forum on the scope of his work for the Local Authority.

A copy of Chris' presentation slides were distributed to attendees.

Questions to Chris followed the presentation. The following issues were raised: -

- Examples of 'models of displacement';
- Comparison with other Local Authority areas. Nationally school staff were being cut to pay for spiralling High Needs costs. This prevented early intervention, which should be the highest priority;
- Was it statutory to provide Post-16 provision ? - Yes this responsibility had transferred from the Learning Council, although funding was insufficient;
- Rotherham's Headteachers' hearts and minds were engaged for the task ahead;
- Working with Health Services to increase their contribution;
- The choice of the Nottinghamshire Local Authority to close their PRUs.

Chris outlined the SEND Working Group that he was setting up. Any nominations or expressions of interest should be emailed to Rachael.mchaffie@rotherham.gov.uk.

Resolved: - That the information presented be noted.

114. PROPOSED TOTAL SCHOOLS BUDGET 2015/16 (ESTIMATE).

The Director of Schools and Learning presented the report that showed the proposed Total Schools Budget for 2015/2016. This was based on the Dedicated Schools' Grant (DSG) settlement and the estimated Education Funding Agency (EFA) settlement.

The report stated that the Total School Budget for Rotherham was £220, 546, 522. An estimated recouplement in respect of Rotherham academies would be £81, 144,843.

The report outlined estimated adjustments and carry-forwards, including additions and reductions to the grant allocation and estimated the total funding available at £139, 441,555.

Appendix A showed the breakdown of the funding allocation to each service division.

Appendix B showed the proposed Total School Budget for 2015/2016 and how each Block contributed funding towards it.

The report outlined why, due to the pressures on the High Needs Block, it had been necessary to move £2.954m of funding from the Schools' Block and £432k from the Early Years' Block.

The Early Years' Block virement had been possible due to a lower take-up of the number of Two-year old places than originally estimated.

The movement of funding from the Schools' Block to the High Needs' Block still allowed the Minimum Funding Guarantee as required by the DfE. Year-on-year, no school would lose more than 1.5% funding per pupil in their delegated budget share. This action resulted in an increase maximum of 0.71% for those who had gained.

The estimated net forecast outturn position carried forward from 2014/2015 into 2015/2016 was an underspend of £173,901.

Discussion followed and the following questions were raised: -

- How was the Schools' Block reduction arrived at? - This had been based on consideration ensuring the protection for losers and capped gainers and with consideration for special school budgets;
- The AWPU value? - This would stay the same at a time of rising pupil numbers;
- The impact on capped gaining schools could be devastating.

Resolved: - That the report be received and its content noted.

115. EDUCATION SUPPORT GRANT.

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Director for Schools and Learning that outlined the use of the Education Support Grant (ESG) in Rotherham.

This grant was not ring-fenced. There was no requirement for it to be spent on central educational services. Local Authorities were able to determine how the funding was spent to support local priorities. In Rotherham, funding not used to support central education services was used to support Children and Young People's Services. The grant reduced as more academies opened.

The report outlined the uses of the ESG in 2014/2015. The budget headings funded were central support services, education welfare, school improvement, education asset management and education statutory regulatory duties.

Resolved: - That the report be received and its content noted.

116. SCHOOLS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY - UPDATE REPORT.

The Director for Schools and Learning presented the report that outlined the Schools in Financial Difficulty Funding (SiFD) that the Local Authority held on behalf of maintained primary schools. Maintained primary schools were able to apply for support from this contingency fund where

necessary.

A process involving colleagues from the School, Finance, Human Resources and the School Effectiveness Service was followed.

The 2014/2015 budget was initially £100,000. This was reduced in-year to £95, 609 following academy conversions. Only one School had been allocated funding during 2014/2015.

There was a surplus balance of £45, 609. It was proposed that this be carried forward into 2015/2016.

Increased teachers' pension costs may significantly impact on individual school budgets. During 2015/2016 there was the potential for a small number of schools to slip into financial difficulties.

The maintained primary sector members of the Rotherham Schools' Forum voted to de-delegate £75,000 from the 2015/2016 primary maintained individual budgets.

Resolved: - That the report be received and its content noted.

117. UPDATE ON EXTERNAL COMMISSIONERS.

An update was provided on the five Commissioners controlling Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council including their portfolios of responsibilities.

118. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: -

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum take place on Friday 26th June, 2015, to start at 8.30 am in the Rockingham Professional Development Centre.