Rotherham Schools' Forum
Friday 17th June 2016

Present:- D. Naisbitt (Oakwood) (in the Chair).

Learning Community representatives: - T. Mahon (Saint Bernard's), D. Ball (Aston), P. Di'Iasio (Wales), L. Pepper (Clifton), P.Dobbin (Winterhill)

Other stakeholders: - P. Bloor (PRUs), J. Mott (Special Schools), M. Badger (Support Staff Trades Unions). J. Thomas (Trade Union)

Also in attendance: - P. Williams (CYPS), K. Borthwick (CYPS), C. Harrison (CYPS), D. Fenton (CYPS),
D. Ashmore (Teaching School), V. Njegic (Financial Services). A. Richards (Secondary Governors), P.R and M Group, Rachael McHaffie (CYPS – Minutes)

Apologies for absence had been received from: - S. Brook (Teaching Trade Unions), J. Morrison (Swinton), Kay Sherburn, (Rawmarsh), S. Scott (Early Years PVI, Fred Sprague (NUT), H. Etheridge (Democratic Services), Ian Holborn (Dinnington and Brinsworth), P. Gerard (Nursery), M. Young (Clifton),

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of interest were made

38. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PRECIOUS MEETING HELD 22ND APRIL 2016

HE sent apologies for absence and for being unable to provide hard copies of papers. RM has stepped in to minute the meeting. Any votes which may be required during the meeting will have to be deferred as there is no representation from Democratic Services.

DN noted that the Forum is taking a different shape, in a changing landscape, with changing relationships and less adversarial.

The minutes of the previous meeting were considered and reviewed with the following amendments to be made:

Item 34 – title to be amended to SEMH Update
Item 35 – amend 'Future financial year contributions would revert back to £60K. Should read 'In the first instance financial year contributions would revert back to £90K'.

SEMH Update

PW's report was very useful. PW to pull together a summary of High Needs.
Part one of the SEND Funding Consultation process is now closed and the second part is not yet open.
PW, VN and DN responsed to the first part of the Consultation.
DN thanked PW for her ongoing updates and welcomes further attendance at Forum.

PD commented that it is important that as many people contribute to the National Funding Formal consultation as possible.
In regards to funding, the size of the school will be very important and smaller schools may be disadvantaged if based on a per capital funding formula.

KB reported that partnership work with Lincolnshire CC will support work going into Rotherham's improvement journey.

DN welcomes colleagues bringing updates to Forum either via himself or HE on areas that they involved in.

39. EASTWOOD VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL – LESSONS LEARNED REPORT.

Dean Fenton, Service Lead for School Planning, Admissions and Appeals was in attendance to review lessons learned during the planning, development and opening on the Eastwood Village School. These will be valuable during the process to open new schools on the Waverley and Bassingthorpe Farm sites.

Circumstances are very different for the two new sites, as the need is being determined by new housing development, where as the Eastwood Village was built to fulfil basic needs for additional places within the Central area, especially where PAN were breached. DF thanked Heads for accepting increased pupils numbers until the school was opened.

Eastwood Village school project was undertaken over a two year period, the Waverley and Bassingthorpe projects will have four years and various stages of the development will be triggered by the number of occupied dwellings and funding will be released for each stage.

Admissions department will be able to provide updates to schools on applications weekly if necessary. DF to pull together a list of children that are currently within the Waverley catchment area that are attending other local schools. Brinsworth Howarth and Catcliffe are currently the temporary catchment areas for the Waverley estate.

Waverley School will open initially with one form entry, up to Year 4 only. This will limit impact on neighbouring schools and maintain Y5/6 friendship groups for transition to Secondary education.

KB commented that there are concerns that the new school will attract a drift of Sheffield applications for Waverley, which could cause difficulties for neighbouring Sheffield schools.

Reports will be presented to Cabinet in July on the proposed Waverley School plans and on increased capacity into Secondary Schools.

DN thanked DF for the report and for the work involved and encouraged further open, honest, transparent approach to the planning for the expansions.

40. INFORMATION SHARING AND DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA (NFF)

Key colleagues have an understanding of the NFF. DN asked colleagues to contribute to a list of questions to be sent to HE for collation and inclusion in the minutes for the next meeting during the Autumn Term.

The LA contributed to Stage 1 of the Consultation but the analysis has yet to be published. Stage 2 of the consultation has still to be started (delayed due to purdah) and will include more detail/values will be set within the formula.
16/17 budget will be re-aligned to the schools block.
The results of the EU Referendum may impact on Stage 2.

DAshmore is concerned about how many Heads are unaware of the NFF as they will need be to start planning for a potentially decreased budget.

The High Needs Block funds will remain with the LA to maintain economies of scale.

VN circulated data which was reviewed and commentary given.

DN thanked VN for her input and suggested that RSF colleagues raise awareness within their communities. Any questions to be emailed to HE and answers will be explored in time for the next meeting in the Autumn Term.

41. FUNDING FOR SPONSORED ACADEMISATIONS – INITIAL DISCUSSION

The Government, as set out in the white paper, an aim to have all schools academised. However thre has been a recent change in this policy drive.

Where schools convert as a sponsored, any deficit budget is picked up by the LA which is putting a huge strain on the budget and will impact on all Council services. The LA are looking at how other LA's are dealing with this issue and this will be shared with the RSF.

The LA will look at individual school balances

42. SEND UPDATE

PW gave a presentation update on the ongoing SEND partnership work (attached).

43. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS (ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/17)

Those present agreed that the time, venue and frequency of the RSF Meetings are still appropriate and DN will work with HE to timetable meeting for the 2016/17 academic year and to look for another member of Democratic Services to take over whilst HE is on Maternity Leave.

Chair and Vice Chair to be elected at the next meeting. The group do not currently have a Vice Chair and this will be addressed at the next meeting.

Members agreed to an emergency meeting should the consultation on NFF determine a need.

DN closed the meeting by extending thanks to all members for their support and challenge over the last academic year and wished everyone a good summer.