

Brief- A Review of the Rotherham Schools Forum.

Schools Forum is a legal entity; it is a significant aspect of the strategic financial work of the local authority education provisions.

Beyond taking key decisions on the consultation and allocation of Delegated Schools Funds, the Forum can exercise its competencies in considering aspects of educational priority determined by its members. The Forum is competent to call on specialist advice; to commission reviews, and, in a limited way to target funding at what are agreed priorities.

The review we envisage has four levels of focus.

1. Composition and Representation.

This aspect is fairly well regulated and reflects the attendance from groups of schools and provider in the local authority. We are aware that there are gaps in the membership; and beyond these there is an opportunity to consider both representation, responsibilities, voting rights and arrangements for substitution.

2. Administration and Process Management.

Again, the re-statement of basic housekeeping rules on attendance, report writing and presentation, protocols on prior circulation of reports: and any limited scope for verbal updates.

3. The Duties, Powers and Competencies of the Schools Forum.

A review of both the guidance on good practice and the practical experience of effective Schools Forums. Here it would be useful to gather feedback from local authorities where they feel that the Schools Forum has a beneficial impact of the education, safeguarding and wellbeing of children and young people in its work.

4. Chairing the Schools Forum and the work of its sub Group.

A review of good practice in meeting management, and the role of the Chair. A think-piece of the function and activities of any sub-group of the Forum