



Minutes of the Schools Forum

17 October 2013

-: Present :-

Schools: Primary Roger Hughes, Debbie Main, , **Schools: Secondary:** Daneian Rees,
Non-School: Early Years Jean Cook, **Non-Schools: 14-19** Daneian Rees, **School**
PRU: James Evens , **Officers:** Matt Redwood, Suzie Franklin, Rob Parr
(Also in attendance: Dorothy Hadleigh and Susan Moses (notes)

1. Apologies/Changes to Membership

Apologises were received from Jessica Humphry and David Theobald

Daneian Rees was asked by the Chair to be the Secondary representative for the meeting.

The Chair welcomed both Debbie Main, Primary representative and Dorothy Hadleigh, Service Manager, SEND to the meeting.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the School's Forum held on 4th July 2013 were agreed to be a true record.

4. Update on SEN high cost places and Joint funded places- Report on updated position for 2013/14.

Dorothy Hadleigh, Service Manager SEND introduced a paper regarding High Cost SEN Placements following a request from School Forum for an update on 7th March 2013.

The School Forum was given the opportunity to question the two elements relating to :-

Joint Funded Places: Budget £840k due to higher placement levels. All residential placements budget costs are shared between Education, Social Care and Health. These residential placements are for secondary age pupils with very significant needs. A Panel assesses individual child's needs.

Independent Special Schools: Budget £1,060 to reflect the number of placements. 42 pupils are currently placed at 8 schools across the Country.

Suzie Franklin, Head of Schools, informed the School Forum that there was a growing concern about the number of social care referrals for primary school children pointing out that there were not so many packages available for primary children with complex needs and questioned whether the Chestnut provision could meet this need.

The Chair thanked Dorothy for her contribution to the School Forum

5. Feedback from FAR7 and consultation on proposed changes to the 2014/15 Torbay school funding formula

The School Forum noted that FAR 7 had meet and considered the position on using pupil mobility rates within the formula and using the new flexibility with regard to school lump sums and set a different primary and secondary lump sum.

The School Forum acknowledge and considered the FAR 7 recommendations that:-

- mobility is not used in the 2014/15 funding formula and supports the idea of using mobility in the formula, but given the constraints of the current DfE regulations the view was that this was not appropriate for Torbay funding formula at this time.
- no change is made to the primary school lump sum but that the secondary lump sum should revert to the level of 2011/12 before the national changes imposed in 2013/14.

The School Forum considered and noted the spreadsheet details relating to the comparison between remaining at 13/14 lump sum level or going back to different levels of lump sum for Primary and Secondary.

Following discussion the School Forum were happy to endorse the recommendations of FAR 7.

The School Forum noted that the timetable for Consultation on this change would be in October 2013 followed by the results being reported to School Forum on 5th December.

Action

- i) **Consultation on changes to the Torbay Schools Funding Formula 2014/15 to be brought back to meeting on 5th December**

6. Projected 2013/14 DSG outturn

The School Commissioning Manager informed the School Forum that the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was forecasted to underspend by £1.1m due to further DSG funding being received after April 13. He outlined the main areas of under/overspends and asked the School Forum for agreement to a detailed debate at the Dec 5th meeting on how the funding should be used.

The School Forum agreed to the proposal and reminded members the importance of attendance at next meeting.

Action

- i) **Detailed report on options outlining for DSG underspend to be prepared for School Forum meeting on December 5th.**

7. Use of the planned pupil growth contingency-Report on the use of this contingency.

The Head of School Commissioning asked the School Forum to consider changes to the funding criteria for planned pupil growth in year due to pressure on primary places in Paignton and Torquay. Two examples illustrated using the budget in a slightly different way.

The School Forum acknowledge the changes to the criteria for use of the planned pupil growth funding to ensure that there were enough school places available for children across Torbay.

8. Securing appropriate representation on School Forum

The Chair asked everyone to consider the existing membership and vacancies for School Forum.

The following representatives were discussed:-

Primary School: Jessica Humphry has resigned. Debbie Main new representative

Primary Governor: Maurice Codd to be invited to re-join School Forum

Secondary Academy Governor: vacant – consideration to be given to all schools but Academy preferred

14-19 Provider: to be sought from Studio School or South Devon Collage

Action

- i) **Secondary academy governor vacancy to be sent out to all secondary schools. 14-19 representative invitation to be sent to South Devon College (MR)**

9. Appropriate protocol for dissemination of information from school forum

The Chair recommended to School Forum that action points from decisions of School Forum meeting should be sent out via the Primary School newsletter and distributed to secondary schools.

Action

- i) **Both Primary and Secondary Schools to receive copy of newsletter which will include actions of the School Forum (Chair)**

- ii) **What's New newsletter produced by Children's Services Finance Team to include internet link to School Forum papers and agendas (RP)**

10. Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting: 5th December 2013