



Minutes of the Schools Forum

30th June 2016

-: Present:-

Chair: Roger Hughes

Schools: Primary:- Debbie Main and Jim Piper **Special/PRU:-** Julie Shears and Mike Lock **Secondary:-** Daneian Rees and Lindsay Kings (Academy), **Early Years:-** Tim Stevens **Governors Primary:-** Maurice Codd **14-19 Partnership:-** Dan Hallam, **Officers:** Lisa Finn, Finance Manager, Rachael Williams, Head of Education, Learning and Skills, Richard Williams, Director of Children's Services

(Michael Freeman, Notes)

1. Apologies/Changes to Membership

Apologies were received from Adam Morris, Clive Starr and Simon Niles. Julie Shears has taken over as the named PRU representative, replacing James Evans. Richard Williams introduced the new Interim Director of Children's Services, Andrew Dempsey.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Schools' Forum held on 10th March 2016 were agreed, a show of hands was taken for those members no longer wishing to receive paper copies of agendas/items for forthcoming meetings.

3. Matters Arising

Rachel Williams advised that Public Health cannot commit the necessary funding for the project, it was agreed that £10,000 can be used from last year's underspend for this. Andrew Dempsey requested a follow up to the 2nd phase of the consultation, Lisa Finn will enquire on this with DfE.

4. Review of School Representation

The proposal put to the forum was that the current Standing Orders be changed to more accurately reflect the types of schools in Torbay. This means increasing the number of Primary Academy Heads from one to three, whilst reducing the number of Primary Maintained Heads from three to one. This proposal was agreed by all.

5. Finance Issues

(i) 2015/16 Dedicated Schools Grant – Final Outturn and use of DSG carry forward

(ii) The Forum agreed with the recommendations made in the paper, that the £130,000 underspend will be used to fund the Sexual Orientation Project, with the remaining £120k to be considered in the light of agenda item 6 (i).

(iii) 2016/17 Dedicated Schools Grant – Projected Outturn

The Board considered the written report submitted by Lisa Finn, Finance Manager setting out the forecast outturn for the 2015/16 DSG. The Board was advised that the key under and over spends were as follows:

1. Interim Tuition – underspend £41,000;
2. Joint Funding Placements and Independent Special Schools – underspend of £100,000;
3. Statementing/EHCP contingency – overspend £11,000. The forum noted that there was a review of SEN statements in place;
4. Special Schools contingency – overspend of £60,000, largely due to increasing placement costs.
5. Early Years/SEN Inclusion – overspend by £40,000.

It was agreed that at this stage any underspend be carried forward in the DSG earmarked reserve.

(iv) Statementing Funding for 2015/16 and 2016/17

The Forum was shown a breakdown of statementing funding.

(v) Early Years Funding for 2016/17

The Forum was shown a paper containing a breakdown of funding. It was noted that at present the local authority allocates more funding to early years providers than the allocation provides and that Torbay only retains approx. 6% of the Early Years Grant, not the 10% allowed by the DfE. The Forum agreed that potential issues raised in the paper are for the future, and will not be known until the national funding rate comes into effect in 2017. RW agreed that she would accept an invite to attend the Early years Forum to discuss this issue in more depth.

(vi) Equal Pay Reserve

£600k of this reserve will be used to fund the Vulnerable Pupils project as originally agreed. To date there has been no calls on this reserve. There is £30,000 left in the reserve to be allocated. It was agreed to consider using this sum to fund one of the proposals in item 6 (i).

6. Standing Items: Monitoring of Projects

(i) TESS

Rachel Williams, provided information on the meeting held on the 15th April. The general feedback was very positive; everyone involved was keen for the provision to continue. A review paper was shared with the forum, which detailed a number of options with regards to budget implications moving forward.

Proposal 1 (described as Option A) concerns the continuation of the current service; building on the strengths and respond to the outcomes of the review. The request is to increase the service by 1 full time equivalent Education Social Worker until August 2017. This would be at a cost of £40k to be funded from the remaining 2015/16 DSG underspend. This would leave £80k in the reserve for Option B below.

This was agreed by a vote of 8 for and 1 against, with 1 abstaining.

Option B

Roger Hughes recommended that the service be extended beyond the end date of August 2017 until August 2019, with three Social Workers and an Administrator, with a total DSG contribution of £225,000 for 2 years (Option B). The first year would be funded from £80k from the 2015/16 DSG underspend and £30k from the remaining unallocated balance in the Equal Pay Reserve. RW to ask the new DCS whether he would approve the use of £115k of DSG for the second year (2018/19).

This was agreed by a vote of 6 for and 1 against, with 3 abstaining.

In August 2017 the service is due to end. The proposal is to continue the service beyond August 2017 until August 2019 with 3 X FTE Education Social Workers and 1 X Administrator.

Year One

LA contribution	£ 50,000
DSG contribution	<u>£110,000</u>
	£160,000

Year Two

LA contribution	£ 50,000
DSG contribution	<u>£115,000</u>
	£165,000

Overall

LA contribution	£100,000
DSG contribution	<u>£225,000</u>
	£325,000

(ii) CAMHS

It was noted that a team leader is now in post, and that the budget is now on target, due to savings being made through redundancies.

(iii) Improving Outcomes for Vulnerable Children's Steering Group

The forum noted that there are now two outreach workers at Chestnut, and there is some pilot work going on in Kings Ash.

(iv) Challenging Behaviour

The in house Torbay provision, "On Track" has been held off for now.

(v) Autism

Tier One training has now been completed in all but two schools. KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) have now been set up, and a review in place.

(vi) STITCH

Debbie Pritchard is working up an implementation plan.

7. Response to the White Paper "Education Excellence Everywhere"

The forum noted that the Local Authority are currently working through the implications of their role, and remain committed to Academy conversion. Rachel Williams will be writing a 1st draft of a strategy paper for Council in September, prior to a consultation being held in October.

8. Items for next meeting?

2016/17 – DSG projected outturn
DfE Fair Funding Results of Consultation – If Available
DfE Education Excellence Everywhere - Update

9. Future Meeting Dates:

13th October 2016 - 09:00-11.30 Mezz 3, Tor Hill House
1st December 2016 - 09:00-11.30 Mezz 3, Tor Hill House
19th January 2017 - 09:00-11.30 Mezz 3, Tor Hill House
9th March 2017- 09:00-11.30 Mezz 3, Tor Hill House