

A

Minutes of the Suffolk Schools' Forum held at 9.30am on Tuesday 22 November 2022 via Microsoft Teams (and live streamed through YouTube)

Present:

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| Non-School Members | Colin Shaw, 16-19 Provider Amanda Havers, PVI Maria Kemble, RC Diocese |
| Academy Members | Andrew Berry, Mainstream Daniel Jones, Mainstream Angelo Goduti, Mainstream Paul Fykin, Mainstream Gemma Andrews, Mainstream Wendy James, Mainstream Jennifer Hunwicke, Mainstream Angela Ransby, AP Provision |
| Maintained School Members | Robert Lenko, Secondary (Chair) Rowena Mackie, Secondary Karen Lodge, PRU Ruth Coleman, Nursery |

Observers and Local Authority

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| Observers | There were observers present at the meeting |
| Local Authority | Rachel Hood Adrian Orr Sonya Harban Mike Quinton Julia Grainger Izzy Connell Maria Hough Sally Blackman Katherine Moore Teresa Spilling Barbara Barraclough |

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| 1. | Welcome – Virtual Meeting Etiquette | <p>Robert Lenko (Vice Chair) welcomed members to this meeting. Robert Chaired this meeting as Allison Coleman was unable to attend due to a pre-planned operation. Allison has Chaired this meeting for many years and has not missed a meeting in 15 years. We wish Allison well and will send her a message from Forum to wish her a speedy recovery. Robert introduced himself as a Governor at Thurston Community College, which is a large local authority maintained secondary school with a separate sixth form. Robert has been a governor for eight years and at present the Chair of the Finance Committee.</p> <p>Thanks were passed onto Allison Coleman, Sonya Harban and Mike Quinton for meeting with Robert 10 days ago to bring him up to speed on the meeting and also to Teresa Spilling who took some time last week to take Robert through the agenda.</p> <p>This meeting is a public meeting being live streamed via YouTube.</p> |
| 2. | Apologies for absence | <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allison Coleman, Allan Cadzow, Cllr Chris Chambers, Darren Woodward, Steven Dewing, Sue Prickett. |
| 3. | Minutes of the previous meeting & issues arising | <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 October 2022 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and signed off by the Chair.</p> <p>Amendments are to be made to the minutes with regards to Page 6: <i>Our Cabinet Member, Cllr Rachel Hood has been very proactive in lobbying MPs and aligning that with the lobbying that the Academy Chief Executive Network has been doing as a joined-up campaign to try and shift this position.</i></p> <p>To read: <i>Our Cabinet Member, Cllr Rachel Hood has been very proactive in lobbying MPs and aligning that with the lobbying that the Suffolk Education Partnership has been doing as a joined-up campaign to try and shift this position.</i></p> <p>Page 9: In response to the action point: Gemma</p> |

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| | | Morgan will ensure to include any data on COVID for the next meeting. |
| 4. | Schools Block Funding Formula: 2023-24 | <p>The paper was introduced by Mike Quinton, Senior Accountant, CYP.</p> <p>This paper provides an update to the National Funding Formula (NFF) for 2023-24.</p> <p>Schools Forum is being asked to agree a £2.1m transfer from Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserve monies to help support the DSG deficit recovery plan. This funding is made up of pre NFF underspends, growth and recoupment underspends and central service schools block underspends specifically against the regulatory element of funding.</p> <p>This paper was published before the autumn spending review statement last week. Good news for education, at the moment possibly £2.3 billion in 2023-24 and £2.3 billion in 2024-25. Overall, this is about between a 4.3-4.5% increase on schools funding. We are currently unclear about how this will be distributed to schools, as soon as we have further information, we will share with colleagues and through the relevant channels.</p> <p><u>Schools Block</u></p> <p>A couple of changes to be aware of, the school supplementary grant, which was an additional grant in this financial year to help support the cost of living increases and national insurance increases will be rolled into the schools block funding, paragraph 14 shows how the DfE propose to roll this in. Increasing factor value, 4.3% added to the free school meals factor and 2.4% to the basic entitlement and low priority attainment, free school meals factor and English and additional language, mobility and sparsity. This sees an increase in the schools block and the minimum per pupil funding levels are also increasing by 0.5%.</p> <p>With regards the minimum per pupil funding levels, Suffolk being a low funded local authority, what we've seen in the past is that a lot of our schools don't actually meet the minimum per pupil funding levels, which means Suffolk are not getting the funding that we should be, although this has improved over the</p> |

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| | | <p>past couple of years. Paragraph 16 shows that based on the current data used to set the budgets for next year, we had 41 schools that were still being supported by the minimum per pupil funding levels, in this financial year was 77. This means that more money is going into the school's block and it is going into those schools that are least funded through the national funding formula. There is still about 2.4m needed to boost these schools used in the formula, but that possibly could change when we know more about the funding for 2023-24.</p> <p>The last paragraph reinstates that schools forum have been asked over the past three years to vote on a continuation of a 0.5% transfer from the schools block to support the deficit recovery plan. This year we are looking to transfer 2.1m from DSG reserves to support the DSG deficit recovery which means we are not taking any money from the schools block.</p> <p>The 2023-24 budget submission figures are likely to change, therefore Mike will bring an update to the January meeting.</p> <p>No questions were raised from Forum members, therefore a vote took place by Forum members.</p> <p>1. Do you agree a £2.1m transfer from Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserve monies to help support the DSG deficit recovery plan?</p> <p>After voting 14 (16*) forum members in favour, 0 members against and 0 abstained.</p> <p>*Allison Coleman and Sue Prickett were not in attendance at this meeting but have confirmed that they agree with this vote therefore making these 16 votes.</p> |
| 5. | Approval of De-delegated Budgets 2023-24 | <p>This paper was presented by Sonya Harban (SH), Strategic Finance Lead CYP. This paper is only relevant to those representing the maintained sector as academies have their own arrangements within the trust of how they manage these services.</p> <p>Sonya stated by de-delegating the recommended element of an individual schools budget to the local authority to provide the services attached, schools then benefit from economies of scale. Schools Forum</p> |

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| | | <p>members know we have previously spoke about some of the smaller schools who find it particularly difficult to financially manage. As an example, if a member of their teaching staff just happened to be a trade union representative that year and they then had to fund the entire cover costs without the support of the maintained school estate, so that's really what the de-delegated budgets is about and in previous years, the service leads from the local authority have provided detail on the annexes as how to how this funding is used within these services.</p> <p>Adrian Orr commented that voting will not take place with regards to Appendix D which is about the replacement of the Local Authority Monitoring and Brokering grant recently removed by the DfE. Discussions took place prior to the meeting and a small task and finish group will meet to address an important issue that was raised by school representatives. Therefore, voting is only required on Appendices A-C at this meeting.</p> <p>A vote took place by maintained Secondary school members only for the following de delegated items:</p> <p><u>Specialist Education Services (SES)</u> <i>(previously reported against County Inclusion Support Service (CISS))</i></p> <p>1. Do you agree the de-delegation of funding back to the LA for SES?</p> <p>After voting 1 primary maintained school in favour, 0 members against and 0 abstained to a per pupil amount of £12.18.</p> <p>After voting 2 secondary maintained school in favour, 0 members against and 0 abstained to a per pupil amount of £12.18.</p> <p><u>Support to underperforming ethnic groups and bilingual learners</u></p> <p>2. Do you agree the de-delegation of funding back to the LA for Support to underperforming ethnic groups and bilingual learners?</p> <p>After voting 1 primary maintained school in favour, 0 members against and 0 abstained to a per pupil</p> |

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| | | <p>amount of £1.91.</p> <p>After voting 2 secondary maintained school in favour, 0 members against and 0 abstained to a per pupil amount of £1.91.</p> <p><u>Trade Unions</u></p> <p>3. Do you agree the de-delegation of funding back to the LA for Trade Unions?</p> <p>After voting 1 primary maintained school in favour, 0 members against and 0 abstained to a per pupil amount of £1.50.</p> <p>After voting 2 secondary maintained school in favour, 0 members against and 0 abstained pupil amount of £1.50.</p> <p>This concludes the voting for de-delegation.</p> |
| 6. | AOB | None. |
| 7. | Forward Agenda | <p><u>January</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Delivering Better Value on SEND • Formal substitutes at Forum meetings • Update on School Budgets |
| 8. | Date of the next meeting | The next meeting is confirmed as Monday 30 January 2023, 1.30pm Microsoft Teams (and live streamed through YouTube). |
| | | Meeting closed at 9.55am. |