

**Minutes of the Suffolk Schools' Forum held at 1.30pm on Monday 30 January 2023 via Microsoft Teams (and live streamed through YouTube)**

**Present:**

<b>Non-School Members</b>	Colin Shaw, 16-19 Provider Amanda Havers, PVI Pat Chapman, PVI Maria Kemble, RC Diocese
<b>Academy Members</b>	Andrew Berry, Mainstream Darren Woodward, Mainstream Angelo Goduti, Mainstream Paul Fykin, Mainstream Jennifer Hunwicke, Mainstream Steven Dewing, Mainstream Sue Prickett, Special Angela Ransby, AP Provision
<b>Maintained School Members</b>	Allison Coleman, Primary (Chair) Robert Lenko, Secondary Rowena Mackie, Secondary Ruth Coleman, Nursery

**Observers and Local Authority**

<b>Observers</b>	There were observers present at the meeting
<b>Local Authority</b>	Allan Cadzow Adrian Orr Sonya Harban Mike Quinton Gemma Morgan Christina Lewis Teresa Spilling Barbara Barraclough

Item No.	Item Description	
1.	Welcome – Virtual Meeting Etiquette	<p>The Chair welcomed members to this meeting.</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"> <li>• Daniel Jones, Karen Lodge, Wendy James, Cllr Rachel Hood, Lizzi Murphy</li> </ul>
3.	Minutes of the previous meeting & issues arising	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 November 2022 were agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting and signed off by the Chair.</p>
4.	Proposal to Formalise Schools Forum Substitute Arrangements	<p>Adrian Orr introduced this report asking Forum members to identify a formal substitute from their sector to be their regular substitute if they are unable to attend a forum meeting. Members may be able to use connections within their sector to identify who a formal substitute may be, but any member of Forum who is unable to find a substitute, may ask the Local Authority to assist.</p> <p>Questions raised by Forum members:</p> <p><u>Darren Woodward/Steven Dewing:</u>  Can the substitute be from within own trust?  <i>Yes, it can be from your own Trust, looking at the regulations essentially the key aspect is that a substitute is from the same sector e.g. the mainstream academy sector, mainstream maintained sector, special academy sector that is the only stipulation that a representative comes from the same group.</i></p> <p><u>Rowena Mackie:</u>  Does the substitute have to be at the same level of leadership?  <i>They should be from a leadership capacity such as Academy CEO, Academy Headteachers, Academy Deputy Principals and same applies for maintained sector. We try to keep a good balance between school and setting leaders and governors.</i></p> <p>From an LA perspective we would trust that members would identify substitutes from the appropriate body.</p>

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		<p>The number of Forum members is set in our constitution which is 22 and is split between academy and maintained schools.</p> <p>If the proposed substitution arrangements are agreed Teresa Spilling as the administrator of Forum would need to know if a substitute would be attending 24 hours before the meeting.</p> <p>Once named substitutes are known they will be sent the agenda and papers prior to the meeting along with the opportunity to attend meetings as an observer so that they have familiarity with the operation and activities of the meeting.</p> <p>A vote took place by Forum members.</p> <p><b>1. Do you agree to identify a formal substitute from your sector to be a regular substitute in the event that you are unable to attend a forum meeting?</b></p> <p>After voting <b>16 forum members in favour, 0 members against.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Schools Forum Members to email Teresa Spilling the contact details of their substitute or whether members require the LA to seek a substitute on their behalf, by end of February.</p>
5.	Early years national funding formula (EYNFF) 2023/24	<p>Christina Lewis, Head of Service – Early Years and Childcare is in attendance for this item to seek agreement from Schools Forum on the proposed changes as described in the report.</p> <p>The DfE have published the revised funding rates for the EYNFF. The LA needs to propose how this will be distributed. SCC then needs to publish the agreed rates for the Early years sector.</p> <p>We are proposing to put the maximum amount through to providers for the 2 year old and 3 year old funding rates, along with Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), deprivation and retain a higher payment for disability access fund than we are required to, which has worked in the last year and has helped to support children with additional needs access early education</p>

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		<p>funding.</p> <p>The options as described in the report were taken to the providers consultative forum where 3 early years Forum reps here today were present at that discussion. The option put forward today was the consultative forum preferred option.</p> <p>Questions raised by Forum members:</p> <p><u>Andrew Berry:</u>  Under section 11 there is a specific mention of 'the full amount of the maintained nursery school is paid to Highfield'  <i>All nursery schools across England receive an enhanced supplement which is the way the government funds them. Suffolk only has one maintained nursery school. They receive the normal funding rate, plus the enhanced supplement, to recognise uniqueness of maintained nursery schools.</i></p> <p>Teachers pay and grant – what is the calculated difference between that and the changes you propose?  <i>In the new funding rate 5p per hour would be the contribution towards pay and pensions element.</i></p> <p><u>Amanda Havers:</u>  As mentioned at previous meetings there is a substantial increase in costs for all providers. We are very grateful that the proposal is to pass as much through to providers as possible, which will help towards funding costs but does not meet those increased costs, therefore the sector is still struggling.</p> <p><u>Ruth Coleman:</u>  We have a retention and recruitment crisis in Early Years and the pay rise we are expected to deliver in April is going to be really tough across the sector. We fully appreciate that the Early Years Team do not hold back the full 5% and Christina always makes it really clear that she only keeps exactly what's needed and this position by the council is really appreciated.</p> <p>A vote took place by Forum members.</p> <p><b>Do you agree with the proposed funding rates for 23-24 as described in this report?</b></p>

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		<p>After voting <b>15 forum members in favour, 0 members against.</b></p> <p>A briefing will be circulated to the sector this afternoon advising them of the decision.</p>
6.	Schools Block Funding Submission: 2023-24	<p>Mike Quinton introduced this item.</p> <p>This is an information paper only and contains details of the final submission of schools' block budget to the Education, Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) and some further updates around funding for 2023-24.</p> <p>Table 1 shows DSG allocated for 2023-24 for Suffolk, which includes the total DSG income for next year amounting to £635m, this is felt to be still not enough for Suffolk and our young people. Suffolk's increase for DSG is 6.9%, which is less than the England average, East of England average and our statistical neighbours' average. We are doing our best to get more money for Suffolk including lobbying and letters to MPs.</p> <p><u>Schools Block Funding in isolation</u> £507.7m to allocate to all our schools, if we include the mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) which is an indicative allocation of £17.4m, which is a 6.2% increase on schools block. However, we are still below average on this compared with our statistical neighbours.</p> <p><u>Mainstream Schools additional grant</u> Additional information under bullets 8-11, as useful to share with colleagues to do some early planning on pupil numbers based on October 2022 census. Indicative allocations will be published early part of the new financial year.</p> <p><u>Pupil Premiums</u> There is a 5% increase on pupil premium rates for next year (see point 12) which shows the increase in primary, secondary and looked after children rates.</p> <p>Annex A shows the APT which was submitted to the EFSA last week. Toolkits will be circulated to LA maintained schools before February half term and Academies should get their budget information by the end of February.</p>

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		<p>The Notional SEN Budget, which schools receive each year, is a part of your schools block funding. For LA maintained schools this is included in their toolkit so we can see how much is allocated to notional SEN. Academy general annual grant (GAG) statements show how much notional SEN academies have. This is a notional budget which is a guide for schools on how to allocate some of their funding towards pupils with additional needs. Point 18 shows what the funding is and how we allocate it in Suffolk.</p> <p>Growth fund is remaining the same for 2023-24 at £1.8m, 2024-25 onwards potentially seeing an increase in the amount we need to spend due to new schools on the horizon.</p> <p><u>Falling Rolls Fund</u> Schools Forum agreed in June 2022, a small amount of money to be put aside of £200,000, where school rolls are falling but expected to recover. Working with the Admission Teams over the coming months to see what admissions are looking like moving forward and contact schools to see if they are likely to qualify.</p> <p>Questions raised by Forum members.</p> <p><u>Andrew Berry:</u> Gap getting wider in the other funding? <i>Schools block is historic funding level which transitioned from the first National Funding Formula (NFF) back in 2013-14, which has been carried over for the past 10 years. For High Needs Block it's the historical funding that has been locked-in based on 2017-18 spending levels which causes the greatest impact on our comparatively low allocations.</i></p> <p><u>Darren Woodward:</u> If MSAG funding is rolled into schools funding from April 2024, would you envisage that DfE may have to provide academies with 5 months of April-August 2024 funding? <i>Mike to find out and speak to Darren offline and feedback at the next meeting.</i></p> <p><u>Steven Dewing:</u> Falling rolls fund – requirement for good or outstanding, is that a DfE requirement? <i>Yes, it is a DfE requirement and is one of a number of</i></p>

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		<p><i>requirements from the DfE.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike Quinton to speak with Darren Woodward outside of the meeting with regards to MSAG funding.</li> <li>• Mike to speak with Steven outside of the meeting to see how the LA can help with regards to a school that has a falling roll and is not rated good.</li> </ul> <p>Thanks were passed to Mike Quinton and his team for all the work which goes into this each year behind the scenes to give the best balance that we can to allocate the funding to all schools/sectors in Suffolk.</p>
7.	AOB	None
8.	Forward Agenda	<p><u>April</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEND Provision Update</li> <li>• DSG Outturn</li> </ul>
9.	Date of the next meeting	<p>The next meeting is confirmed as <b>Thursday 20 April 2023, 9.30am Microsoft Teams (and live streamed through YouTube).</b></p>
		Meeting closed at 2:00pm.