

Minutes of the Suffolk Schools' Forum held at 9.30am on Thursday 5 October 2023 via Microsoft Teams (and live streamed through YouTube)

Present:

Non-School Members	Colin Shaw, 16-19 Provider (<i>Sub: Kate Sida-Nicolls</i>) Amanda Havers, PVI Emma White, PVI Maria Kemble, RC Diocese
Academy Members	Andrew Berry, Mainstream Daniel Jones, Mainstream Darren Woodward, Mainstream Gordon Jones, Mainstream Angelo Goduti, Mainstream Paul Fykin, Mainstream Wendy James, Mainstream (<i>Sub: Matthew Ferrier</i>) Steven Dewing, Mainstream Sue Prickett, Special Angela Ransby, AP Provision (<i>Sub: Ashlee Jacobs</i>)
Maintained School Members	Allison Coleman, Primary (Chair) Susan Shields (<i>attending on behalf of Robert Lenko, Secondary</i>) Rowena Mackie, Secondary Ruth Coleman, Nursery Emma Thake (<i>attending on behalf of Lizzi Murphy, Special</i>)

Observers and Local Authority

Observers	There were observers present at the meeting
Local Authority	Rachel Hood Adrian Orr Ros Somerville Gemma Morgan Sonya Harban Mike Quinton Julia Grainger Julia Haig Christina Lewis Teresa Spilling Jacqueline Dyer

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"> • Robert Lenko (<i>Sub: Susan Shields attending on behalf of</i>) • Lizzi Murphy (<i>Sub: Emma Thake attending on behalf of</i>) • Suzy Joyner <p>Resignation received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Lodge has resigned from Schools Forum. We would like to pass on our thanks to Karen for her contributions to Schools Forum.
3.	Minutes of the previous meeting & issues arising	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 June 2023 were agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting and signed off by the Chair.</p> <p>Page 2: Action for Daniel Jones and Gemma Morgan to agree where the best place would be to discuss the SEND Suffolk Education Partnership paper. <i>Daniel gave a presentation at last month's High Needs Working Group which he shared with the group.</i></p> <p>Page 5: CEON/SEP/LA Working Group to be set up, outside of this meeting, to see how support can be given and a stronger lobbying voice developed, as a community in Suffolk. <i>Adrian Orr met with Chief Executive Officers Network (CEON), Suffolk Association of Secondary Headteachers (SASH) and Suffolk Primary Headteachers Association (SPHA) and had discussions around Suffolk Education Partnerships (SEP) role. It is the intention for all groups that represents school leaders to do single lobbying, which Cllr Rachel Hood has been undertaking directly with Suffolk MPs.</i></p>
4.	Approval of Central School Services Block (CSSB) 2024-25	<p>Adrian Orr (AO) Assistant Director, Education, Skills and Learning introduced this item. It is important to note that this funding comes to the County Council to replace the former Education Support Grant. We are aware that some people may have previously thought that this was a top slice on school or academy</p>

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		<p>budgets, but it's the money that replaced the education support grant historically received by local authorities. The funding items in this paper are the historic element of the CSSB agreed by Schools forum in the past. The DfE have been progressively reducing this element over time. We continue to lobby for them to also remove the historic element around SEND and High Needs Funding elements of the DSG.</p> <p>Adrian handed over to Sonya Harban (SH), CYP Strategic Finance Lead at this point.</p> <p>Schools Forum are required to formally vote annually as part of the DSG guidance on continuing the historical element of CSSB. In the first two years, we had to make the savings and had to cut these services as it wasn't a priority from a corporate perspective. For the last two years and 2024-25 budget we have agreed that it is now on the medium-term financial plan therefore the reduction of 20% in historical elements will be replaced by Suffolk County Council core funding as part of appreciation that these services cannot be reduced or closed without significant impact to schools and the wider community.</p> <p>Question raised by Susan Shields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previously in the budget you talked about having the education and learning and virtual schools and understand the budget for that has moved over to the corporate budget. So, I assume those services are still run, but under the corporate budget? <p><i>SH: Yes, that is correct, it's just the funding stream changes because we have less grant coming in, but instead we replace that with core funding.</i></p> <p>A vote took place on the Early Help and Redundancies elements of the CSSB Budget by Forum members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree the funding for the services described in Annex A delivered by the Early Help team of £2.148m <p>After voting 18 forum members in favour, 0 members against.</p>

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		<p>2. To agree the funding of any residual long-term redundancy costs of £0.023m.</p> <p>After voting 18 forum members in favour, 0 members against.</p>
5.	Early Years final outturn 2022-23	<p>Christina Lewis (CL), Head of Service Early Years and Childcare in attendance for this item.</p> <p>At the last Forum meeting we were expecting from DfE a temporarily uplift in the funding rates to be implemented from September to April. The uplift has been issued as a one-off additional grant and therefore did not need Forum's agreement to implement. The principle was applied of passing the maximum through to the sector, as was previously agreed by Forum members.</p> <p>The report shows as of the autumn term 2023 what has been put in place. These are temporary rates and will change again in April, along with a new entitlement in April also.</p> <p>A paper will come back to Forum seeking approval for the funding rates to implemented from April, once known from DfE.</p> <p>Question raised by Gordon Jones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the logic behind rate for two year olds and the rates for three to four year olds with the rate for two year olds being somewhat 54% higher than the rate for three and four year olds? <p><i>CL: We have no control over that. We can't move it between funding streams, it is what the DfE have set for two year olds and for three and four year olds. It is a bit higher for two year olds because the ratios are smaller, you have to have more staffing to children for two year olds than you do for three and four year olds. But I agree with you, it is quite unbalanced at the moment.</i></p>
6.	AOB	None.
7.	Forward Agenda	<p><u>November</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of De-Delegated budgets 2024-25 (LA maintained schools only) • Schools Block Funding Submission: 2024-25 • SEND Provision Update

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSG Spend Finance Update 2023-24 <p>Adrian, Sonya and Mike will put together the forward plan for next year and will share at the November meeting.</p> <p>Chair recommended that new members look at last Novembers de-delegation papers to give an idea of process of looking at various funding streams that LA maintained Forum members are asked to agree the de-delegation of funding back to the Local Authority for the continuation of each service and these can be found here.</p>
8.	Date of the next meeting	The next meeting is confirmed as Thursday 30 November 2023, 9.30am Microsoft Teams (and live streamed through YouTube) .
		Meeting closed at 9.50.