

**DEVON EDUCATION FORUM
(Devon's Schools Forum)**

23 January 2013

Present:-

Schools Members

Primary School Headteachers

Mr M Boxall	Exeter Montgomery Primary
Mrs J Evans	Exeter St Leonard's CE Primary
Mr P Walker	Sidmouth St Nicholas CE Primary
Mrs J Baker	Barnstaple, Orchard Vale (<i>Academy member</i>)

Primary School Governors

Mrs P Barnard	Sandford Primary
Mrs P Furnival	Ivybridge, Woodlands Park
Mr R Butler	Axminster Primary
Mr M Dobbins	Exmouth Marpool Primary

Secondary School Headteachers

Mr D Chapman	The Dartmoor Federation
Mr A Lovett	Tiverton High School
Mr V Game	Teign School (<i>Academy member</i>)
Mr D Sharratt	Braunton CC (<i>Academy member</i>)

Secondary School Governors

Mr I Courtney	The Dartmoor Federation Chairman
Dr C Woodhouse	The Axe Valley CC
Ms J Elson	Exmouth CC (<i>Academy member</i>)

Special School Headteacher

Mr K Bennett	Bidwell Brook School
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Special School Governor

Mrs F Butler	Marland School
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Non-Schools Members

Mr M Gurney	Teachers Consultative Committee
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Observers & Attendees

Councillor J Hart	Leader, Devon County Council
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Apologies

Mrs S Baker	Westexe (Nurseries)
Commander M Bamborough	Gt Torrington School (<i>Academy member</i>)
Mrs A Blewett	Kings Nympton Primary
Councillor A Davis	Cabinet Member – Children, Health & Wellbeing
Mr A Dobson	Marwood Primary
Mr N Way	Central Devon Personalised Learning (PRU)
Mr J Peart	14-19 SLG
Mrs J Warne	Ellen Tinkham School

619 Minutes

DECISION:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2013 be signed as a correct record.

620 Membership

DISCUSSION:

The Chairman welcomed new member Ms Gemma Rolstone (Chairman, Devon National Day Nurseries Association), Early Years, Private Voluntary Independent representative.

Mr Nigel Way, Central Devon Personalised Learning Service - Pupil Referral Unit Schools Member (new position introduced by the 2012 Schools Forums regulations wef 1.10.12) had also been appointed but was unable to be present for this meeting.

621 Matters Arising from the Last Meeting and Report back on Issues Raised with Cabinet

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622 Head of Planning, Transport & Environment's Update Education Infrastructure Plan (EIP 2012-31)

DISCUSSION:

Members considered the report of the Head of Planning, Transport & Environment (PTE/13/1) on the development of the EIP, setting out the County Council's approach to pupil place planning and capital investment in schools, to deliver its statutory responsibilities in a more diverse and autonomous education system.

Discussions included:-

Section 106 agreements policy (developer infrastructure monies) had been rewritten to be robust in times of austerity;

Housing and infrastructure developments and school places in the Newton Abbot, Exeter and E Devon areas (including Cranbrook, Newcourt and Monkerton) and Sparkwell (in the South Hams);

Planning for 2016-18 secondary school places;

Cranbrook to be an academy or free school in accordance with government policy;

School provision being phased in in a timely but sustainable manner;

Potential new free schools opening in September 2013 at Sparkwell, Exeter (Steiner) and Route 39 (Bucks Cross nr Bideford);

Inclusion of weblinks to S106 policy and local information in EIP consultation;

Supporting small schools, balanced with ensuring viability and quality for all schools in Devon;

Schools working with the local community for bids eg joint provision/dual use.

DECISION:

(a) that further details about potential new school openings in September 2013 be forwarded to DAPH and DASH;

(b) that SFG consider the access to Local Learning Communities funding by free schools (classed as academies).

ACTION:

(a) Planning, Transportation and Environment (Simon Niles); (b) County Treasurer (Karen Powlesland)

623 Head of Education & Learning's Update

DISCUSSION:

The Head of Education & Learning updated members on the following (update as tabled):-

- (a) School Register (breakdown of type of schools in Devon - 69% pupils maintained, 31% academies);
- (b) New OfSTED Framework data – results of 41 schools inspected under (Sept – Dec 2012). 8% outstanding, 66% good, 26% requiring improvement. Concerns continued around the new OfSTED framework. Devon wanted to build on the capacity to have more outstanding schools. OfSTED considered LAs had a role in school improvement;
- (c) Targeted Intervention and Support Programme (TISP) Review – the review would consider continuum of school improvement and a broad traded offer with Babcock. Core commissioned intervention and support was provided for LA statutory children's functions and to address underachievement. Discussions were being held with DASH about academy protocols and an "open door" dialogue;
- (d) Local Learning Community (LLC) action plans emerging themes. DAG also summarised governor involvement in LLCs in 2012, which gave a positive picture of increasing governor involvement (attending LLC meetings, production of newsletter specifically for governors, role of governors holding LLCs to account for action plans, LLCs holding specific governor events/separate meetings and providing funding for governor training. There was some very fine work within LLCs which officers would report on at a future meeting - LLC data sets were useful and their use could be expanded on further, together with good practice within LLCs and the development of the LLC website;
- (e) Championing Children – the strategic vision and policy for education in Devon, January 2013 had now been published. An update on meeting targets for 2 year olds from September would be welcomed (which was also to be considered by SFG). The document is available at <http://www.devon.gov.uk/sc-jan128004.pdf>

DECISION:

- (i) that a report be written on analysis of Local Learning Communities plans and posted on the website;
- (ii) that an update be made on provision for meeting the statutory entitlement for 2 year olds from September 2013.

ACTION:

- (i) Head of Education & Learning (Sue Clarke), (ii) Claire Rockcliffe, Forward Plan.

624 Finance Update and Annual Budget Consideration DSG 2013/14

DISCUSSION:

The Forum considered the report of the Head of Education & Learning (DEF/13/01), which was in two separate parts, together with Appendices A and B.

The Forum also noted the minutes of the Schools Finance Group (SFG) of 9 January 2013 relating to the above.

The first part of report (DEF/13/01) Month 8 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget monitoring, forecast an under spend of £420k (after the in year distribution of £3m to schools and allocation of the 2011/12 carry forward previously approved by DEF). The main reasons for the forecast underspend relate to variances in the demand led budgets of independent

special schools and pupils with statements, offset by forecast over spend on early years due to increased take up by 3-4 year olds. The overall position did not take account of any potential under spend arising from disinvestment from the independent special school sector.

The second part of the report covered:-

The provisional DSG Notional Block allocations for 2013/14 as notified by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) on 19th December 2012;

The schools funding formula, updated for latest underlying pupil data and minimum funding guarantee (MFG) exemptions;

The proposed methodology for funding maintained special schools under the new "place-plus" system;

Special Schools place planning;

The allocation of the 2013/14 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget.

Section 2 and Appendix A of the report - The DSG notional block allocations for 2013/14 was £440.255m, with full details set out in appendix A of the significant changes in the way schools and other educational establishments were to be funded from April 2013 with new funding streams now forming part of the DSG.

Section 3 of the report (MFG exemptions) - 3.2.1: for schools that experienced an increase in pupil numbers it was recommended that a stepped exclusion of the small school protection from the MFG calculation should apply. For schools experiencing a decrease in pupil numbers the basic entitlement funding per pupil in the primary sector to the pupil number reduction should apply. 3.2.2: Some unease was noted that academy schools were not permitted (EFA) to de-delegate funds for contingency to deal with schools in financial difficulty, despite an exemption request made. This was a national problem and academies may wish to raise nationally eg by contacting the Education Funding Agency (EFA). Also existing protection for schools with falling roles could not apply and individual cases may need to be brought to the Financial Intervention Panel (FIPS) for support. 3.4.4: The value of the Growth Fund would be considered each year, meanwhile regular in-year monitoring reports would be brought before the Schools Finance Group.

Section 4 special school funding formula – there were on going discussions with special school headteachers in view of the significant concerns around top up funding and admissions now permitted by EFA, which made it difficult to address the volatility in school budgets although it was planned to have transitional protection for the first year so that special schools would not see a reduction in funding. SHAD were lobbying government on this and to look into the disparity of treatment between the maintained and independent special school sector whereby maintained special schools would not be able to afford to hold places for late admissions but would need to place pupils in the independent sector at a higher cost. The Head of Education & Learning referred to a recently received letter from EFA she would forward on to SHAD.

The work on the budget of Schools Finance Group members and officers over many months was appreciated.

DECISION:

(a) that month 8 DSG budget monitoring be noted;

(b) that the provisional DSG settlement for 2013/14 (section 2 and Appendix A of the report) be noted (including Appendix A DSG budget allocation as notified by the DfE for 2013/14, illustrative allocation for Pupil Premium, new funding arrangements for LA Block LACSEG Education Services Grant and timetable for data returns) be noted;

(c) that in respect of the schools funding formula:-

(i) DEF recommends to Cabinet:-

(A) that the implementation of the minimum funding protection exclusions from the MFG calculation as set out in section 3.2.1 of the report (subject to

confirmation that the EFA accept the proposal) be approved;
Vote - Maintained and Academy, all phases and PVI

(B) that the criteria for funding remote playing fields with the split site formula factor as set out in section 3.3.2 be approved;
Vote - Maintained and Academy, all phases and PVI

(ii) that in exercising its powers DEF approves:-

(A) the additional de-delegation of £8.42 per pupil in the primary phase as set out in section 3.2.2;
Vote - Maintained Primary phase only

(B) that the proposal to automatically fund reception growth at the AWPU (Age Weighted Pupil Unit) rate where the January NOR (Numbers on Roll) exceeds the growth baseline be approved;
Vote - Maintained and Academy, all phases and PVI

(d) that in respect of the special schools funding formula DEF recommends to Cabinet:-

(i) that the two band system for calculating top-up funding for day places be approved;
Vote - Maintained and Academy, all phases and PVI

(ii) that a non banded school specific rate methodology for calculating top-ups for residential placements be approved;
Vote - Maintained and Academy, all phases and PVI

(iii) that a reduction of 1.5% be not applied to the calculated banded top-up rates for 2013/14 be approved;
Vote - Maintained and Academy, all phases and PVI

(iv) that concern be expressed at special school funding for in year admissions;
Vote - Maintained and Academy, all phases and PVI

(e) that in respect of special schools planned places:-

(i) that DEF notes the planned increase in designated places as set out in 5.1 and Appendix B of the report (subject to Public Consultation);

(ii) that DEF notes the planned re-designation of Ratcliffe School as set out in 5.1 and section 3 of Appendix B of the report;

(iii) that DEF notes the planned re-designation of Southbrook School as set out in 5.1 and section 4 of Appendix B of the report;

(iv) that DEF supports the indicative 2013/14 maintained special schools budget, noting the planned disinvestment from the independent special schools budget as set out in 5.1 and section 6 of Appendix B of the report;
Vote - Maintained and Academy, all phases and PVI

(f) that in respect of the allocation of the 2013/14 DSG budget:-

(i) DEF recommends to Cabinet that section 6 and Appendix C of the report be approved in relation to:-

(A) Schools budget;
Vote - Maintained and Academy, all phases and PVI

(B) High Needs budget;
Vote - Maintained and Academy, all phases and PVI

(C) Early Years budget.
Vote - Maintained and Academy, all phases and PVI

(ii) that in exercising its powers DEF approves section 6 and Appendix C of the report in relation to:-

(A) De-delegated schools budget;
Vote - Maintained only, primary and secondary

(B) Central provision within schools budgets.
Vote - Maintained and Academy, all phases and PVI.

ACTION:

County Treasurer (John Holme, Karen Powlesland).

625 Standards and Performance Update Interim Annual Schools and Settings Performance Report 2012

DISCUSSION:

Members welcomed the accessibility of the document and noted that although un-validated data, there was a welcome increase in standards across all age groups. This document included all maintained establishments, including special schools and also academies. Devon continued to perform well at all key stages when compared to statistical neighbours and national averages. Initial data indicated performance was mainly above the national average showing sustained improvement. Outcomes in the Early Years Foundation Stage had improved significantly on past years including in the narrowing the gap measure which indicated differences between the lowest performing 20% pupils and their peers. At Key Stage 1 Devon pupils performed above national average. There was an improvement at age 11 with Devon ranked first among similar authorities for attainment in core subjects. Results in the secondary phase were more mixed. Key Stage 3 was very encouraging. However Key Stage 4 results were below expectations, initial data indicating a slight fall in pupils achieving 5+ A-C GCSE grades including English and maths and with the English grade boundary dispute still unresolved, a number of Devon secondary schools were affected by this with pupils not achieving grade C or above in English. This year's report included Year 1 phonics screening check and extended KS3 and KS5 data. Improvement work and good practice could be captured further through TISP as well as statistical benchmarking.

An Education & Learning Data Dashboard December 2012 summary was tabled (for rankings and quartile data).

626 NEETS (Not in Education, Employment or Training), Employability, Skills and Apprenticeships

DISCUSSION:

The Forum considered the report of the Head of Education & Learning (DEF/13/04) on NEETS and participation in Devon, employability skills and apprenticeships. Devon continued to seek to address the prevention of NEET and those becoming disengaged at school. It was essential that training and education responded to employers' needs, giving young people the opportunity to add to the Devon economy. It was also suggested that more information should be available to younger pupils to help them make informed GCSE option choices.

DECISION:

(a) that the NEET and participation statistics for Devon as of December 2012 be noted;

(b) that the issues around skills training and apprenticeship for 16-18 year olds be noted.

ACTION:

Head of Education & Learning (John Peart)

627 FIPS (Financial Intervention Panel Schools) Annual Report 2011/12

DISCUSSION:

The Forum considered the report of the Head of Education & Learning (DEF/13/02) on the panel's work over the last year managing the quality, equity and effectiveness of financial support to maintained schools experiencing financial difficulties. In 2011/12 FIPS spent a total of £1,792,000 (£1,385,000 redundancies and £407,000 contingency). FIPS had also improved its processes and procedures to ensure these were robust and within a tightening financial climate FIPS was playing a more important role for schools in providing careful financial control and offering practical and timely support and advice.

This was an officer panel with a heavy and confidential workload but it was suggested this may include member representation.

DECISION:

- (a) that the FIPS panel composition be reviewed;
- (b) that the 2011/12 activity of the FIPS panel be noted;
- (c) that the review and improvement of FIS processes and procedure be noted;
- (d) that the final draft guidelines for issue to schools be noted.

ACTION:

Head of Education & Learning (Sue Clarke) and County Treasurer (Karen Powlesland)

628 Pupil Premium and Take Up of Free School Meals in Devon

DISCUSSION:

The Forum received the report of the Head of Education & Learning (DEF/13/03) on the DfE report "Pupils not claiming free school meals" in November 2012, free school meal (FSM) criteria and picture in Devon.

For Devon the DfE report indicates (January 2012) that of 88,600 pupils on role aged 4-16 years, 10,600 had claimed for FSM (12%), but DfE analysis suggested a further 300 pupils in families claiming benefits that were not applying for FSM. This was 3% of eligible pupils against a national average of 14%. National average level of claimants was 18% against Devon's 12%. There are just 20 LAs with a lower rate of under-claiming than Devon. Devon had encouraged both schools and parents to claim over the past two years since pupils would miss out on the pupil premium which schools now receive for each child claiming FSM. Pupils who have claimed for a FSM in the previous 6 years were also eligible to pupil premium ie £623 per pupil in 2012/13 increasing to £900 per pupil in 2013/14, with an indicative pupil premium grant for Devon 2013/14 of £16,047,000. Officers were also mindful that the government's proposed change to a benefits universal credit would have implications for this.

629 Standing (and other) Groups

(a) The Forum received the following minutes of its standing groups:-

(i) **School Finance Group (SFG)**

Minutes of the meetings held on 7 November 2012 and 9 January 2013 (considered under Finance Update minute 624 above).

(ii) **Schools Organisation, Capital and Admissions (SOCA)**

(replacing Schools Organisation and Policy Forum and the Local Admissions Forum)

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2013 – SOCA had requested DEF to review the membership of this group to include the Diocese, Teachers Consultative Committee, Early Years and Post 16 for consultation on school planning, organisation, capital expenditure and setting and monitoring of admissions arrangements (increasing group from 15 – 19/20).

DECISION:

that DEF review its proportionality from September 2013 together with standing group composition at its next meeting.

ACTION:

County Solicitor (Fiona Rutley) and Head of Education & Learning (Sue Clarke)

(b) **Representations and progress from various standing and task & finish groups**

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(c) **Other Groups**

14-19 Strategic Leadership Group

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630 Correspondence – School Funding

DISCUSSION:

Members noted correspondence a member had received from the Rt Hon Hugo Swire MP dated 14 January 2013 (enclosing a letter dated 21 December 2012 from the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education) regarding Devon's position below the England average guaranteed unit of funding per pupil.

631 Dates of Future Meetings

Meetings to commence at 10am at County Hall, Exeter (unless otherwise indicated)

W 20 March 2013

Wed 26 June 2013

Wed 2 October 2013

Wed 22 January 2014

Wed 19 March 2014.