

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

16 October 2013

Present:-

Schools Members

Primary School Headteachers

Mr J Bishop	Broadclyst ( <i>Academy member</i> )
Mr M Boxall	Exeter Montgomery Primary
Mr J Stone	Denbury Primary
Mr P Walker	Sidmouth St Nicholas CE Primary

Primary School Governors

Mrs P Barnard	Sandford Primary
Mrs A Blewett	Kings Nympton Primary
Mr R Butler	Axminster Primary
Mr M Dobbins	Exmouth Marpool Primary

Secondary School Headteachers

Mr D Chapman	The Dartmoor Federation
Mr M Smith	The Axe Valley CC
Mr D Sharratt	Braunton CC ( <i>Academy member</i> )

Secondary School Governors

Mr I Courtney	The Dartmoor Federation <b>Chairman</b>
Commander M Bamborough	Gt Torrington School ( <i>Academy member</i> )

Special School Headteacher

Mr B Pugh	Oaklands Park School
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Special School Governor

Mrs F Butler	Marland School
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Nursery School

Mrs S Baker	Westexe (Nurseries)
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Non-Schools Members

Mr M Gurney	Teachers Consultative Committee (TCC)
Mr P Mantell	Exeter Diocesan Board of Education (CE)
Mr J Peart	14-19 SLG

Observers & Attendees

Councillor W Mumford	Cabinet Member – Children, Schools & Skills
Ms B Pennekett	Education Funding Agency (EFA)

Apologies

Ms J Elson	Exmouth CC ( <i>Academy member</i> )
Mrs G Rolstone	Early Years, Private Voluntary & Independent (PVI)

**658 Minutes**

**DECISION:**

that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2013 be signed as a correct record.

**659 Membership**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Chairman welcomed new members appointed from 1 September 2013 (following the summer elections process). Other members also indicated below had changed from substitute to full member (and vice versa) as a result of the summer elections.

Schools Members

Devon Association of Primary Heads (DAPH):-

Mr Jamie Stone (Denbury Primary) full schools member (former substitute schools member)

Mr Alun Dobson (Marwood Primary) substitute schools member (former full schools member)

Devon Association of Secondary Heads (DASH):-

Mr Martin Smith (The Axe Valley CC) full schools member (former substitute schools member)

Academies Members

Devon Association of Primary Heads (DAPH): -

Mr Jonathan Bishop (Broadclyst Primary) full academies member (former substitute academies member)

Mrs Jan Baker (Barnstaple, Orchard Vale Primary) substitute academies member (former full academies member)

Devon Association of Secondary Heads (DASH):-

Mr R Haring (Ivybridge CC) full academies member (former substitute academies)

Special School Headteacher

Mr Bob Pugh (Oaklands Park)

Pupil Referral Units

Mrs Vicky Skelton (North Devon DPLS).

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

**(a) DfE School Funding Arrangements 2014/15 - Schools Fourm Arrangements (minute 653)** – noted that member training would take place on the day of the next meeting 22 January 2013;

**(b) Governance of £50k Babcock Education Fund (minute 655)** - noted that this was to be considered by the Head's Liaison Group in November 2013 for recommendations to DEF.

**ACTION:**

HLG - Head of Education & Learning (Heidi Watson-Jones), Forward Plan

**661 Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Pathfinder and Local Offer**

**DISCUSSION:**

14-19 SLG representative reported that as part of the Government's national pathfinder programme for the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Green Paper, Devon was reviewing and testing the integration of education, health and social care, to enable early decision making and processes around Special Educational Needs and including:-

- co-ordinated approach to single assessment;
- single plan for age 0-25;
- personal budgets;
- support to parent carers and young people;
- support to vulnerable children, including children in care and children with complex health needs up to age 25.

The programme was required to be in place by September 2014 and Devon was planning to implement a phased approach operating within locality teams starting with North Devon in November 2013 and covering the whole county from 1 April 2014. A Code of Practice was published on 4 October 2013.

Various training events commencing in the north area in October 2013 for schools (SEN Coordinators) and parents, together with management training on finance and the high needs funding block.

The Forum considered training was important for schools and governors, noted the significant implications of the project at secondary level and that further consideration was being given to where the West Devon area would fit within the new structure.

**DECISION:** that training dates and details of Devon's local offer be made available for schools and all the associations as soon as possible.

**ACTION:** Head of Education & Learning (John Peart)

## **662 Update on DCC response to Ofsted Inspection on Child Protection**

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Head of Child & Adult Protection reported on progress since the last meeting of the Forum. Progress was good across work streams (eg initial assessments rates had doubled, child protection cases had risen from 477 to 615 by end September 2013, Devon was significantly above its statistical neighbours).

Professor Ray Jones had now been appointed as Chairman of the Safeguarding Improvement Board, meeting monthly and focussing on how the partnership with other agencies responded to Ofsted.

Devon's Quality Assurance framework was now being rolled out with internal cases audits, to serve as the basis for a robust quality assurance process across the Child Protection Service. An external review of processes recently looked at 100 cases and highlighted three key issues - a need for a systematic risk assessment tool, supervision, and importance of the voice/experience of the child. The aim was also to reduce the burden of bureaucracy on social work staff. The programme of external audits was now looking at supervision, reporting in November.

A team of social work staff had been drafted in to clear the backlog of assessments to help to relieve some of the current pressure on staff. A number of initiatives had been agreed to stabilise the workforce and a wide range of targeted training continued to be rolled out.

The Devon Safeguarding Children's Board (DSCB) met in September under its new chairman, Mr David Taylor. The system wide Early Help Strategy and Threshold Tool produced by the DSCB was now being implemented, with early help on a multi-agency level critical (see minute 663 below).

The Cabinet Member Children, Schools & Skills added that the final improvement notice from the Department for Education (DfE) had now been received with improvement required in 6

months (from September 2013). Communications were also critical to ensure key messages on progress reached a wide audience.

Other comments included:- the factor of drugs and alcohol in child protection cases (preventative work being carried out by the Drug and Alcohol Action group); concern at the reduction in the number of advanced professionals within learning communities; importance of inter-agency local relationships as highlighted in recent national serious case reviews; changes to the Back to Social Work Plan reorganisation plan; increased capacity in schools needed for more proactive referrals.

**DECISION:**

that the Head of Child and Adult Protection's summary of today's presentation be forwarded to members.

**ACTION:**

Head of Child and Adult Protection (Rory McCallum)

**663 Early Help Strategy ( for Children and Families) and Threshold Tool**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Director of Public Health reported on documents endorsed by the Devon Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) as part of the response to the requirements of the recent Ofsted inspection and improvement notice. The critical contribution of the early help offer from agencies and organisations including schools was discussed in the context of weaknesses found in the child safeguarding system in Devon. The documents presented were:-

-Early Help Strategy for Children and Families: Consultation Document;

-Threshold Tool (Multi- agency practice guidance form improving outcomes for children and young people through the early identification of need and vulnerability).

As part of the early help offer, creating "My Plan" for the child and family and enabling choice for the child of lead professional where possible were intended to increase the successful outcome of the plan, building in learning from the Targeted Families programme. It was suggested that the child might wish for someone from their school as lead, with resource implications for schools.

The Director would welcome the opportunity to present these documents to the associations and to ensure colleagues were aware of this work.

Training would be commissioned by the DCSB and was an important aspect to the roll out (either alongside or prior to). Members commented that these were two significant rollouts impacting on staff time which would be assisted by carefully planned training tailored for schools (including governors).

These documents were available at  
<http://new.devon.gov.uk/ofsted/supporting-documents/>

**DECISION:**

That the Director of Public Health meet with the associations about the Early Help Strategy and Threshold Tool, the rollout and training.

**ACTION:**

Director of Public Health (Virginia Pearson)

**664 Finance Update**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Forum considered the joint report of the Head of Education & Learning and County Treasurer (DEF/13/15).

The report (DEF/13/15) covered:-  
2014-15 Schools funding formula factors  
De-delegation proposals for maintained schools  
An update on the MUMIS fund  
Proposals for centrally retained services  
Growth fund criteria  
Falling rolls fund criteria  
Revenue funding from growth fund to support Cranbrook and Newcourt new schools  
Allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant budget 2013-14  
Month 5 Dedicated Schools Grant budget monitoring

The Forum also considered minutes of the Schools Finance Group (SFG) of 2 October 2013 relating to the above.

The Schools Finance Group (SFG) formula task group considered the detail of the formula and full consultations held with all schools during September, which had proved to be very valuable in formulating this report.

Discussions included:-

De-delegation - this was not an option for academies, special schools nurseries or pupil referral units (PRU's) excepting where de-delegation had been agreed for maintained primary and secondary schools these services could be offered on a buy back basis to those schools and academies not covered and many academies had indicated during the consultation they would like this option to be available as without de-delegation some services may not exist. The Teachers Consultative Committee (TCC) representative raised concerns around de-delegation (support to under-performing ethnic groups and bilingual learners, schools which had voted against some of the de-delegation proposals, academies access to services). Officers advised that a minority of the consultation responses from schools had been opposed to de-delegation on any question, and of the votes against de-delegation, while, in some cases this could be because a respondent was considering the proposals on an individual school basis rather than the all Devon picture, in other cases comments made clear that a vote against was because the money was felt to be less effective than it should be.

Centrally retained services - some academies had voted against centrally retained services but overall school were heavily in favour, particularly when considering the whole school community.

Progress in developing the growth fund criteria (section 6 and Appendix E of the report) was noted and that this would be further refined before a decision was made.

**DECISION:**

(a) that Cabinet be recommended to approve the proposal for the 2014-15 schools funding formula factors as set out in section 2.5 (and appendix B) of report DEF/13/15:-

Basic per pupil entitlement (AWPU)	Single unit rate for primary schools and a single unit rate for both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. No change from 2013-14
Deprivation	Measured by Free School Meals Ever 6 (FSM+6) No change from 2013-14
Prior Attainment	Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) 78 for primary schools. No change from 2013-14 Pupils not achieving level 4 in English <b>or</b> Maths at Key Stage 2. Was English <b>and</b> Maths 2013-14
Looked After Children	Devon did not use this factor in 2013-14 but is proposing to use it from 2014-15
English as an Additional Language	No change from 2013-14
Sparsity	Primary schools thresholds: 60 pupils, 2 miles distance to next nearest school, £60,000 taper Secondary schools thresholds: 600 pupils, 3 miles distance to next nearest school, £100,000 lump sum
Lump Sum	Primary schools: £60,000 Secondary schools: £100,000*
Premises factors	Split sites, PFI, Dual Use Sports Halls

*\*subsequently corrected to £145,000 by Cabinet Member decision to correspond with Appendix B consultation question to schools*

***Vote: All phases maintained and academy, PVI\*\****

(b) that the de-delegation proposals for maintained primary and maintained secondary schools as set out in section 3.2 (and appendix C) be approved:-

- Contingencies (including schools in financial difficulties and deficits of closing schools)
- Behaviour support services
- Support to under-performing ethnic groups and bilingual learners
- Free school meals eligibility
- Maternity, trade unions and public duties
- Licences and subscriptions (note: Copyright Licensing Agency(CLA) and Music Publishers Association (MPA) is now covered by a national licence and the DfE charge the local authority)

***Vote: maintained primary, maintained secondary\*\****

(c) that the issues regarding the Major Unforeseen Maintenance Indemnity Scheme (MUMIS) as set out in section 4 be noted;

(d) Specifically agree the centrally retained services as set out in section 5.3 (and appendix D):-

- Admissions
- Servicing of Schools Forum
- Capital expenditure from revenue
- Termination of employment costs
- Contribution to combined budgets (includes Local Learning Community and Broadband funding)

***Vote: All phases maintained and academy, PVI\*\****

(e) that the growth fund criteria as set out in section 6 and appendix E be noted and that further refined proposals be considered by the Schools Finance Group in the first instance;

***Vote: All phases maintained and academy, PVI\*\****

(f) that the falling rolls criteria as set out in appendix F (and section 7) be approved;

***Vote: All phases maintained and academy, PVI\*\****

(g) that the need to allocate funding (estimated a further £3m over the next four years to the growth fund to support the new schools Cranbrook and Newcourt as set out in section 8 and appendix G be noted;

(h) that the allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant budget for 2013-14 as set out in appendix H (and section 9) be approved:-

**Table 1: Notional Block Allocation**

<b>DSG Schools Block</b>	<b>Per pupil funding rate</b>	<b>No of pupils</b>	<b>Allocation £m</b>
Schools Budgets, including Academies	£4,156.18	86,493	359.481
Induction for Newly Qualified Teachers			0.132
Less Academy recoupment			(109.144)
<b>Schools Block as at July 2013</b>			<b>250,468</b>

<b>Early Years Block</b>	<b>Per pupil funding rate</b>	<b>No of pupils</b>	<b>Allocation £m</b>
3 & 4 Year Olds – January 2013 census	£3,662.99	5,848	21.421
Disadvantaged 2 year olds			4.537
50% of 90% floor protection			0.197
<b>Early Years Block as at July 2013</b>			<b>26,155</b>

<b>High Needs Block</b>			<b>Allocation £m</b>
Pre -16			48,613
High Needs Growth – places			0.864
SEN Block Grant : April – July			1,338
Post 16 High Needs: August – March			5,510
Non Maintained Special Schools – share of grant			0.130
Less recoupment relating to Academies			(0.927)
<b>High Needs Block as at July 2013</b>			<b>55,528</b>

<b>Total DSG Allocation for 2013-14 as at July 2013</b>	<b>332,151</b>
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*Vote: All phases maintained and academy, PVI\*\**

(i) that the Month 5 Dedicated Schools Grant budget monitoring position as set out in section 10 be noted;

*\*\*PVI eligible to vote but representative not present.*

**ACTION:**

County Treasurer (John Holme, Karen Powlesland)

**665 Head of Education & Learning's Update**

**DISCUSSION:**

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

(a) Indicative results in national tests (unvalidated data compared to statistical neighbours and nationally for Key stages (KS) 1, 2, and 4) Particular strengths were foundation stage, KS1

phonics, KS1 2B+. It is a priority to further raise standards particularly at KS4, as well as for free school meals pupils and children in care. Children in care report also considered at minute 666 below. Ofsted school inspections showed that 80% leadership was good/better and whilst no schools were found to be inadequate too few were outstanding when compared to national data. Nationally driven changes to end of Key Stage assessment will be in place by 2016.

(b) Shared priorities and challenges ahead:-

- Accountabilities and assessment, raising achievement for underperforming groups and schools - post 16, KS results, secondary ready including new measures, vulnerable groups, underperformance of schools;
- Building local capacity and partnerships - early help and community leadership (including review of the role and function of Local Learning Communities, communications with parents and the equity and access of education for all children particularly those in schools outside other formal partnerships );
- SEND and Devon Assessment framework;
- Local Authority spending review – Shire counties facing significant budget reductions (Devon £110m savings over the next 4 years, with communities needing to work together to fill the gap. LA spending was being re-examined across various services including school transport, Learning & Development Partnership (LDP) contract and Early Years.

(c) DCC Projects and Initiatives which will involve schools:

- Service Children Project;
- World War I, Devon Remembers;
- Farmwise;
- National Music Project;
- Dementia friendly music project
- Freedom of Information (FOI) Service, new support available to schools.

#### **DECISION:**

that Babcock LDP report to the next meeting on the Targeted Intervention of Schools Programme (TISP) and broader school improvement offer for all schools.

#### **ACTION:**

Head of Education & Learning (Sue Clarke), Babcock (Bob Hooper) Forward Plan.

### **666 Interim Summary of Children in Care Educational Outcomes 2013**

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The Forum considered the report of the Head of Education & Learning (DEF/13/13) based on unvalidated data for Key stages 1, 2 and 4 in 2013 for OC2 pupils (in care continuously for at least 12 months as at 31 March 2013).

Outcomes (results) for Children in Care (CiC) included:-

KS1 results were significantly higher than in 2012 and above the England 2012 figures;

KS2 results in English and maths were higher than 2012, but significantly below the England 2012 level in maths. 72% - 89% CiC made 2 levels of progress in reading, writing and maths;

KS4 results were significantly below national and statistical neighbours.

The Corporate Leadership Team had recently agreed a more robust approach to corporate parenting including outcomes for children in care, prioritising some key areas of work including placement and school stability (eg: 10 CiC moved school in year 11 out of 71 cohort). The report also covered other issues affecting CiC included exclusions, Personal Education Plans (PEPs) and the use of pupil premium.



Members commented that the levels of progress made by CiC would be a useful benchmark, together with assessing the potential for children. Changes to the English examinations may also be one of the many factors affecting some of the KS4 results.

**DECISION:**

(a) that the report be noted and the need for a greater focus on educational outcomes for Children in Care;

(b) that educational outcomes for Children in Care become a standing item on future Forum agendas.

**ACTION:**

Head of Education & Learning (Deborah Booth), Forward Plan.

**667 Learning Development Partnership (LDP) Joint Venture Contract and Annual Monitoring Report**

The Forum considered the report of the Head of Education & Learning (DEF/13/14) giving the DCC and Babcock LDP Joint Venture annual report summary 2012/13 - the first year was built on delivery of historic service level agreements. Work measures RAG (92.3% green, 3.7% amber, 4% white (beyond control of joint venture's activity). In response to a question it was noted that a very small proportion of early years funding was allocated to Babcock. Given early years funding changes it could be timely to resurrect the Early Years Funding task and finish group.

For 2013/14 DCC had moved the commissioning framework from delivering a range of activity based SLAs to an outcomes based framework linked to statutory duties and core responsibilities of the LA. The largest proportion of the commissioned spend was targeted at closing the gaps for vulnerable learners. As spend diminished statutory duties would be focussed on the offer of high quality services to schools. The LA's role continued to evolve to support and challenge schools rather than deliver services.

Devon Audit Partnership undertook a review of Governance arrangements in February 2013 and identified the JV governance arrangements as "High Standard".

**DECISION:**

that the report be noted and consideration be given to resurrecting the Early Years Funding task and finish group.

**ACTION:**

County Treasurer (Karen Powlesland)

**668 Standing (and other) Groups**

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

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2013 (considered under Finance Update minute 664 above).

Also available at

<http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/learningschools/schoolsforum/schoolsfundinggroup.htm>

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

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2013  
Also available at  
<http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/learningschools/schoolsforum/soca.htm>

**(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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**669 Correspondence**

**670 Dates of Future Meetings**

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

(a) Existing meetings

Wed 22 January 2014 (**all day – member training, followed by Forum meeting**)

Wed 19 March 2014.

(b) Further meetings agreed by Chairman and Spokespersons (within DCC calendar)

Wed 25 June 2014

Wed 1 October 2014

Wed 21 January 2015

Wed 18 March 2015

**ACTION:**

Office of the County Solicitor (Fiona Rutley) (and County Treasurer, Karen Powlesland, training)

The meeting started at 10am and finished at 1pm.  
The Schools Forum web is [www.devon.gov.uk/schoolsforum](http://www.devon.gov.uk/schoolsforum)