

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

25 June 2014

Present:-

Schools Members

Primary School Headteachers

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

Primary School Governors

Mrs A Blewett	Kings Nympton Primary
Mrs F Collier	Culm Valley Federation ( <i>substitute member</i> )
Mrs P Furnival	Ivybridge, Woodlands Park Primary
Mrs M Wallis	Whimble Primary

Secondary School Headteachers

Mr D Chapman	The Dartmoor Federation
Mr D Fitzsimmons	Holsworthy CC ( <i>substitute member</i> )
Mr R Haring	Ivybridge CC ( <i>Academy member</i> )

Secondary School Governors

Mr I Courtney	The Dartmoor Federation <b>Chairman</b>
Mr A Walmsley	Exeter, St James
Commander M Bamborough	Gt Torrington School ( <i>Academy member</i> )
Ms J Elson	Exmouth CC ( <i>Academy member</i> )

Special School Governor

Mrs F Butler	Marland School
--------------	----------------

Non-Schools Members

Mr J Staddon	Teachers Consultative Committee
Mr R Maudsley	Exeter Diocesan Board of Education (CE)
Mrs G Rolstone	Early Years Private, Voluntary and Independent providers
Mrs M Beresford	Early Years Private, Voluntary and Independent providers
	( <i>substitute member – observer</i> )
Mrs T de Bernhardt-Dunkin	16-19

Observers/Attendees

Councillor J McInnes	Cabinet Member - Children, Schools & Skills
----------------------	---

Apologies

Mrs S Baker	Westexe
Mr M Dobbins	Exmouth Marpool Primary
Mr M Gurney	Teachers Consultative Committee
Mr B Pugh	Oaklands Park
Mr P Mantell	Exeter Diocesan Board of Education (CE)
Mr M Smith	The Axe Valley CC
Mrs L Heath	Uffculme ( <i>Academy member</i> )

**693 Minutes**

**DECISION:**

that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2014 be signed as a correct record.

**694 Membership**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Chairman welcomed new members:-

Mrs M Beresford	Early Years Private, Voluntary and Independent providers ( <i>substitute member</i> )
-----------------	--

Councillor J McInnes	Cabinet Member - Children, Schools & Skills
----------------------	---

and thanked retiring members for their service to the Forum and its working groups:-

Mr M Boxall	Exeter Montgomery Primary
Commander M Bamborough	Gt Torrington School ( <i>Academy member</i> )
Mr B Pugh	Oaklands Park Special School

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

-

**696 Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Forum considered the report of the Head of Highways, Capital Development & Waste (DEF/14/10) on the progress of the delivery of additional UIFSM capacity in schools to provide a free meal to all reception, year 1 and year 2 children that want it by September 2014.

There was an extremely tight implementation timescale from the Education Funding Agency resulting in less consultation with Devon schools than had been hoped. Whilst recognising that nothing could now be done to redress the situation DAPH remained concerned with the process and particularly the proposed use of the £3000 small schools funding. However the Diocesan Board of Education had utilised the small schools funding allocation for VA schemes to meet the programme which was consistent with Devon's approach.

The School Organisation, Capital and Admissions (SOCA), Standing Group had supported the use of the suspended "closed schools" devolved formula capital fund against the UIFSM implementation project. SOCA was not supportive of the suggestion of using maintenance funding in lieu of the small school funding as this would necessitate the cancellation of school capital projects already approved.

**DECISION:**

that Cabinet be recommended:-

(a) that the report be noted;

(b) that the taking into account of the minimum first year £3000 small schools transitional funding when allocating UIFSM capital in order to minimise the shortfall to £240,000 be not approved;

(c) that the option within paragraph 1.9 of report DEF/14/10 for meeting the capital shortfall, ie fund some of the capital shortfall from the centrally held "closed schools" devolved formula capital fund of £197,000 be approved;

(d) that the two schools referred to in 3.3 of report DEF/14/10 be supported from the contingency;

(e) that as a last resort any unforeseen costs eg relating to asbestos removal/fire safety required to ensure meal capacity is delivered by September 2014 to be at officer's discretion and only after all other funding sources have been explored (3.5 of report DEF/14/10).

**ACTION:**

Head of Highways, Capital Development & Waste (Chris Dyer) and County Treasurer (Karen Powlesland)

**697 Schools Estate Budget – School Organisation, Capital and Admissions (SOCA), Standing Group, Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2014**  
(Remaining SOCA business see minute 705(a)(ii) below)

**DISCUSSION:**

The Forum considered the Schools Estate Budget (SOCA minute 7) and whether costs relating to asset transfer for schools transferring to academy or Cooperative Trust status should be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant contingency rather than individual school budgets.

**DECISION:**

(a) that costs relating to asset transfer for LA maintained schools transferring to Cooperative Trust status after 1 April 2014 be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant contingency;

(b) that costs relating to asset transfer for LA maintained schools transferring to Academy status after 1 April be met by the individual school on the basis that the costs can be met from start-up support grant provided by the Education Funding Agency to the convertor school specifically to help with costs of converting;

(c) that for schools that are already in the process of transferring either to Academy or Cooperative Trust status, the costs be met centrally.

***Vote: maintained primary and maintained secondary only***

**ACTION:**

County Treasurer (Karen Powlesland)

**698 Finance Update**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Forum considered the report of the County Treasurer (DEF/14/08)).

The Forum also noted the respective minutes of the Schools Finance Group (SFG) of 6 June 2014.

The report (DEF/14/08) covered:-

- DSG 2013/14 outturn position
- Growth Fund – allocations in 2013/14 and revised criteria
- Mutual Fund update

- Early Years Formula review update
- Permanent exclusions funding policy, including academies and free schools.

**DECISION:**

(a) that the DSG 2013/14 outturn position (subject to Statement of Accounts sign off) be noted;

(b) that the allocations of the brought forward DSG under spend as set out in section 2.7 and table 4 of report (DEF/14/08) as recommended by Schools Finance Group (SFG) be

(i) approved in respect of:-

(A) De-delegated budget allocations;

**Vote: maintained primary and maintained secondary only**

(B) Centrally provided services;

**Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI**

(ii) recommended to Cabinet:-

that the high needs and early years budget allocations be approved;

**Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI**

(c) that the Growth Fund 2013/14 Allocations Report as set out in annex A be noted;

(d) that the revised Growth Fund criteria as set out in section 3 and annex B and set out in section 3.7 as recommended by Schools Finance Group be approved, including 3.7 as follows:-

(i) that where the Authority requests a school to increase its place numbers and the Authority agrees that as a result an additional class is required, the school receive a one off lump sum payment of £25,000 to cover the incremental costs of the additional class; and

(ii) that the pre-opening lump sum for new secondary schools be set at £125,000

**Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI**

(e) that the Mutual Fund update as set out in section 4 be noted;

(f) that the Early Years formula review update as set out in section 5 be noted;

(g) that the Permanent Exclusions funding policy as set out in section 6 be noted;

(h) that the revised 2015/16 Schools Funding Consultation timetable be approved, subject to the Devon Education Forum meeting on 1 October 2014 being postponed until later in October (date to be agreed with Chairman and spokespersons).

**ACTION:**

County Treasurer (John Holme, Karen Powlesland)

**699 Standards and Performance of Maintained Schools (by keystage) (minute 689)**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Head of School Effectiveness, Babcock Learning Development Partnership (LDP) reported on education performance of maintained schools at all Key Stages for Devon in 2013, how Devon's performance compared with similar authorities and with national data and priorities for improvement. The summary of this was contained in a report (EL/14/04) to People Scrutiny, 3 April

[http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/decision\\_making/cma/cma\\_report.htm?cma\\_doc=report\\_el144.html](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/decision_making/cma/cma_report.htm?cma_doc=report_el144.html)

A full performance report had also been made available to members.

The Forum also considered Scrutiny and Cabinet Minutes:-

(a) Cabinet 9.4.14

**\*174 Minutes**

*(Councillor Connett attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).*

*It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor Clatworthy, and*

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Devon Education Forum held on 19 March 2014 be noted and the Forum be asked to consider the issues surrounding attainment levels at KS4, particularly for vulnerable groups and children in care.

(b) People's Scrutiny minute 3.4.14

**50 Devon Education Performance 2013**

*The Committee received the report of the Head of Education and Learning on the education performance at all Key Stages for Devon in 2013, the comparison of Devon's performance with similar authorities and national data and the priorities for improvement.*

*The Head of Service, in responding to matters raised or specific questions posed by Members stated:-*

*it was an improving picture but there were still areas where improvements could be achieved particularly with KS4, vulnerable groups and children in care*

*research was to be carried out into why there is drop in attainment between KS2 and KS4*

*virtual Schools practice were being reviewed*

*there needed to be a sharper focus on Personal Education Plans, placement stability, early intervention/support into schools, designated tutors/teachers*

*following the changes in Ofsted rules, schools that were classed as satisfactory last year were now described as requires improvement*

*It was **MOVED** by Councillor Randall Johnson, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hannaford*

*and*

**RESOLVED** that a Task Group be formed on Educational Outcomes with particular focus on Children in Care.

DASH comments in response to the above included:-

-In secondary schools there was a strong correlation between low per pupil funding and results and difficulty in recruiting particularly in N Devon and in English and mathematics;

-In recognising an improving picture and supporting the progress of CiC and vulnerable groups, there were limited resources for what was wanted to be achieved;

Other member comments included:-

-Schools were directing resources wherever they could to CiC, but with the emotional security and stability for the young person paramount;

-Potential for linking CiC with the troubled families programme;

-Working collectively with other professionals was the way forward to improve outcomes for CiC.

**ACTION:** Head of School Effectiveness (Bob Hooper)/forward comments (Fiona Rutley)

## **700 Education of Children in Care (CiC)**

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Forum considered the report of the Head of Education & Learning (DEF/14/09) on significant national changes for Pupil Premium Plus funding for CiC wef 1 April 2014, together with greater emphasis on good quality Personal Education Plans (PEP) to accelerate progress and secure funding and the role of the Local Authority (LA) and schools. There was clarification that it was the role of the Virtual School Headteacher to distribute the Pupil Premium Plus funding. Designated Teachers should be proactive regarding individual PEPs, supported by the social worker and Virtual School. The 15% CiC currently without a PEP should be prioritised. DCC and the Virtual School Headteacher as Corporate Parents had also retained the £500 maximum personal allowance for all CiC, when this had been reduced by other LAs. There was discussion about the urgent need to improve CiC educational performance, particularly at KS4 and for staff across the agencies to act collectively and ambitiously as Corporate Parents.

The associations expressed caution in the current performance indicators used for CiC and Ofsted inspection reporting for CiC - numbers and case studies could give a more accurate reflection than percentages given such a small cohort. Low attainment prior to entry to schools and early years/PVI settings was also a concern.

Both schools and early years/PVI settings would welcome half termly visits from social workers working with Designated Teachers.

### **DECISION:**

(a) that the role of the Local Authority, Headteachers and Designated Teachers in the use of Pupil Premium Plus for Children in Care from April 2014 be noted;

(b) that the expectations on Headteachers prior to the distribution of the Pupil Premium Plus funding be noted.

**ACTION:** -

## **701 Devon Education Fund Grants**

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Forum considered the report by Babcock LDP (DEF/14/11) on the work of an Awards Panel in reviewing applications from schools and other education organisations and agreed funding allocations. 12% of the 105 applications to date had been successful, particularly for innovative work. A number of applications demonstrated collaborative working cross-phase across a number of schools, which meant that primary schools benefited from the awards but did not show in all the statistics.

Suggestions for developing the process would be welcomed in light of two application rounds now having been completed.

### **DECISION:**

that the volume of applications, range of innovative projects and level of grants be noted.

**ACTION:** -

**702 Children's Centre Review**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Forum received the report of the Head of Education & Learning (DEF/14/13), on the public consultation closing 6 June 2014. The 1000+ responses/questionnaires analysis to date indicated key themes emerging:- Children's Centre Areas by District/City Council boundaries; Deprivation and Rurality; Accessibility.

The Cabinet member had attended a number of the consultation meetings and this had been a positive review, looking to bring more flexibility into the service for 0-5 year olds.

Once the final county wide model had been agreed, North Devon would be implemented first including a more in depth review, events to discuss final proposals, followed by tendering process, ready for service delivery from April 2015.

**703 Financial Intervention Panel (FIPS) Annual Report 2013-14**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Forum received the report of the County Treasurer (DEF/14/14) on the work of this officer panel over the last financial year, with support to schools through scrutinising budgets and recovery plans of schools at financial risk.

With a challenging environment, FIPS has become more pro-active in identifying and engaging with schools with vulnerable budgets at an early stage.

**704 Co-commissioning a Service for Emotional, Psychological and Social Wellbeing in Children and Young People in Devon - Task and Finish Group**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Forum received the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2014, noting that public health staff had begun visiting LLCs to discuss, with headteachers supporting a joint funded co-commissioning model. Early years/PVI wished to be included in part of the consultation and would be contacting Dr Youngman. Members were looking towards a sustainable in perpetuity model and DSG funding would need to be included within the autumn term funding consultation process.

**ACTION:** County Treasurer (Karen Powlesland)

**705 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 6 June 2014 (also considered under Finance Update minute 698 above).

Minute item 1 – Broadband

DAG raised concerns at the continuing poor internet coverage of some small primaries, even after upgrade, to the extent that eg either only the school office or pupils could use broadband at any one time.

Concerns about quality of service provided should be raised directly with SW Grid for Learning.

**DECISION:**

(A) that the County Treasurer bring proposals regarding the DSG broadband subsidy to SFG in due course once the full financial implications of the project were known and look into possible funding options for schools in this position to upgrade further;

(B) that thanks be placed on record for the long service to SFG by Mr Martyn Boxall and Mr Richard Newton-Chance.

**ACTION:** County Treasurer (Karen Powlesland)

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

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2014:-

Noted, excepting see minute 697, Schools Estate Budget above.

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

-

**706 Schools and Academies Elections 2014 (1.9.14 – 31.8.18)**

Following consultation with DEF members (by 3 April 2014), (a) the annual review of proportionality for schools and academies members remained unchanged and (b) there was a return to 4 yearly appointments (as amended in the DEF constitution), to assist with membership continuity and help with the administration of the elections process by all groups.

The elections process was now underway by the associations, for completion before the end of this summer term.

**707 Dates of Future Meetings**

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

October 2014 – 1 October date to be changed to later in October (to be advised)

Wed 21 January 2015

Wed 18 March 2015

**ACTION:** County Solicitor (Fiona Rutley)

The meeting started at 10am and finished at 12.30 pm.

The Schools Forum web is [www.devon.gov.uk/schoolsforum](http://www.devon.gov.uk/schoolsforum)