

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

24 October 2014

Present:-

Schools Members

Primary School Headteachers

Mr A Dobson	Marwood 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
Mr M Dobbins	Exmouth Marpool Primary
Mrs P Furnival	Ivybridge, Woodlands Park Primary
Mrs M Wallis	Whimble Primary

Secondary School Headteachers

Mr D Chapman	The Dartmoor Federation
Mr M Smith	The Axe Valley CC
Mr R Haring	Ivybridge CC (<i>Academy member</i>)
Mr M Shanks	Coombeshead CC (<i>Academy member</i>)

Secondary School Governors

Mr I Courtney	The Dartmoor Federation Chairman
Mr A Walmsley	Exeter, St James
Ms J Elson	Exmouth CC (<i>Academy member</i>)

Nursery School

Mrs G Brown	Chestnut Nursery (<i>substitute member</i>)
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Special School Headteacher

Ms C May	Pathfield School
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Special School Governor

Mrs F Butler	Marland School
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Pupil Referral Units

Mrs V Skelton	North Devon Personalised Learning Centre
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Non-Schools Members

Mr J Staddon	Teachers Consultative Committee
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>)

Observers/Attendees

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

Mrs B Alderson	Teachers Consultative Committee
Mrs T de Bernhardt-Dunkin	16-19
Mrs S Baker	Westexe
Mr P Mantell	Exeter Diocesan Board of Education (CE)

708 Minutes

DECISION:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2014 be signed as a correct record, noting Cabinet decision 9 July 2014 in relation to DEF minute 696(b):-

Cabinet minute extract 9 July 2014

***213 ...RESOLVED*

(a) Arising on Minute 696: Devon Education Forum (Universal Infant Free School Meals)

that, while acknowledging the views of the Forum, approval be given as appropriate to the minimum first year £3000 small schools transitional funding being taken into account when allocating UIFSM capital in order to minimise the funding shortfall;"

709 Membership

DISCUSSION:

The Chairman welcomed new members:-

Mrs Ben Alderson - Teachers Consultative Committee (TCC)

Mrs Gill Brown - Nursery Schools (Chestnut)

Mr Alun Dobson - Schools, Primary Headteacher (full member (previous substitute member))

Ms Claire May - Special School Headteacher (Pathfield)

Mr Matthew Shanks - Secondary Academy (Coombeshead CC)

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

Mr Mike Gurney (TCC)

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

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711 Head of Education & Learning Update

DISCUSSION:

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

Key Stage headline results – Devon schools were to be congratulated on good results across the key stages and every phase, notwithstanding difficulties/volatility affecting Key Stage 4 results nationally. However the Devon Free School Meals Gap had an average of 22.9% at KS4 (widest gap 35-40%) compared to Devon non Free School Meals and measures were being undertaken to address this.

Ofsted Inspections – HMI had advised of Deep Dive Inspections within LAs, all settings and cross slicing LA provision; Focussed/targeted Inspections; 14-19 area surveys; LA School improvement services.

Virtual School – Measures to address significant underperformance of Devon Children in Care, focussing on improving education outcomes including robust academic tracking and

rigorous quality assurance around the Personal Education Plans (PEPs) process. The proposed virtual school restructure would be put in place to support improvement measures. Progress of Children in Care was also considered further at 715 minute below.

712 Finance Update

DISCUSSION:

The Forum considered the report of the County Treasurer (DEF/14/15).

The Forum also noted the respective minutes of the Schools Finance Group (SFG) of 1 October 2014.

The report (DEF/14/15) covered:-

- 2015/16 Schools Revenue Funding Formula
- Delegation and De-delegation
- Centrally Retained Services
- 2015/16 Early Years Funding Formula
- Update on F40 - National Funding Formula
- Devon Children's Safeguarding Board
- Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Month 5 Budget Monitoring
- Update on the funding arrangements for maintained special schools

Whilst there was common agreement on the majority of the report and recommendations, there were different arguments put forward in relation to Local Learning Communities (LLCs) (section 3.3 – 3.7 of the report), with varying consultation responses for the remaining £3.04m (after top slicing £60k for the new emotional wellbeing service). SFG's unanimous recommendation (section 3.3.5) included from 2016/17 100% LLC funding distributed directly to schools. Whilst respecting SFG's views, the County Treasurer recommended a different course of action raising a number of issues to consider requiring further exploration and work before the implications and impact of the proposal could be fully assessed (section 3.3.6 and 3.3.7) and advised the SFG recommendation would not achieve anything, because there was nothing to take effect yet.

Some members were concerned about the timescale involved should this be deferred and that the arguments had already been rehearsed last year and that it was now time for certainty. School partnership/network arrangements were important although ongoing commitment to several networks was increasingly unsustainable and the LLC structure may no longer be an appropriate option.

Contrary member concerns included that small primary schools were hardest to reach and may be disadvantaged by supporting the SFG proposal for 2016/17 at this time.

DECISION:

(a) that proposals for the 2015-16 schools revenue funding formula in respect of the Growth Fund criteria as set out in Appendix B be approved;

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 2.2 and appendix A be approved;

Vote: maintained primary and

Vote: maintained secondary only

(c) that in respect of centrally retained services Local Learning Communities (LLC's) as set out in section 3 (3.3):-

(i) the centrally retained LLC funding be reduced to 30% of the current levels for the 2015/16 financial year which would equate to £930,000 (section 3.3.7(i)) be approved;

**(Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI -
All for (nem com) CARRIED**

(ii) from 2016/17 financial year 100% of LLC funding be distributed directly to schools, as proposed by the Schools Finance Group (section 3.3.5);

**(Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI -
15 for (4 against, 1 formal abstention) CARRIED**

(d) that other centrally retained services as set out in section 3(3.9) and appendix A be approved, ie:-

(i) allocation of £60,000 for the new Emotional, Psychological and Social Wellbeing Service to be co-commissioned by Public Health Devon and schools;

(ii) noting the new delegation of the funding for Speechlink and Infant Language Link, Thrive and the Broadband subsidy;

(iii) retention of the funding centrally at the same level as 2014/15 for:
The Schools Admissions Service;
Termination of Employment Costs;
Phase Associations;

Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI

(e) that the F40 and National Funding Formula as set out in section 5 be noted;

(f) that the Scheme for Financing Schools 2014-15 as set out in section 6 (6.2) be approved;
Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI

(g) that the update on funding arrangements for maintained special schools as set out in section 9 be noted;

(h) that the notification of remittances as set out in section 10 be noted and the Phase Associations highlight to their members that RM SecureNet was the only form of data transfer that the LA would use in relation to sensitive information (such as high needs top up funding details);

Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI

(i) recommended to Cabinet:-

(A) recommended that proposals for the 2015-16 schools revenue funding formula as set out in section 1 (1.9) and appendix A be approved:-

(I) the principles for allocating the additional funding;

(II) 1m be allocated to the Early Years Block to address the underlying structural deficit for funding 2, 3 and 4 year olds;

(III) formula factors for distributing the additional funding to primary schools (Note: that the final funding rates may change subject to affordability when the October 2014 pupil data and Schools Block DSG settlement are confirmed in late December 2014);

(IV) formula factors for distributing the additional funding to secondary schools to target KS4 and AEN (Note that the final funding rates may change subject to affordability when the October 2014 pupil data and Schools Block DSG settlement are confirmed in late December 2014);

(V) maximum sparsity threshold to a tapered £55,000 for primary schools;

(VI) no change to the sparsity lump sum threshold for secondary and all-through schools;

(VII) increase in the primary lump sum to £65,000; no change to the lump sum for secondary and all-through schools;

Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI

(B) recommended that the proposal for the 2015-16 Early Years Funding Formula as set out in section 4 (4.3.1 — 4.3.6 and 4.4) and appendix C be approved;

Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI

(C) recommended that Devon Education Forum allocate at £9,000 to support the work of the Devon Children's Safeguarding Board , using funding previously designated for the work of The Children's Trust as set out in section 7 (7.2) be approved;

Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI

(D) recommended that the DSG Month 5 budget monitoring position as set out in section 8.2 be noted and proposals for the utilisation of forecast under spend be approved:-

(I) noting the month 5 monitoring position;

(II) noting the planned carry forwards from the Early Years block to 2015/16;

(III) principle of allocating an appropriate budget to fund set up and initial allocations for new nursery provision – criteria to be considered in January;

(IV) bringing forward of the increase in the direct provider rate for 3 & 4 year olds to £3.70 per hour, effective from the autumn term 2014;

(V) £1.5m distribution of target funding for low cost high incidence SEN to all mainstream schools, academies and free schools based on AWPU.

Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI

ACTION:

County Treasurer (John Holme, Karen Powlesland)

713 **School and Early Years Finance England Regulations 2014**

The Forum noted proposed changes expected to come into force Jan 2015, apply 2015/16:-

“2.2 Regulation 3 makes amendments to the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012. The principal changes to membership of the forum are:

*That if there are any **special academies** in the local authority's area, there must be at least one member representing them;*

*That if there are any **alternative provision (AP) academies** in the local authority's area, there must be at least one member representing them.*

The purpose of these changes is to strengthen the representation on the forum of special provision and AP respectively.

In addition, more specificity is added to the provisions for the forum to discuss SEN and AP matters. In both cases, the forum must discuss places to be commissioned by the local authority – and in the case of AP also by schools – and the arrangements for paying top-up funding. The purpose of these changes is to ensure that the forum discusses the detail of local SEN and AP arrangements.”

ACTION:

Office of the County Solicitor (Fiona Rutley)

714 Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) – Implementation and Progress of new Code of Practice, Single Assessment and Arrangements in DCC

DISCUSSION:

The Forum considered the report of the Head of Education & Learning (DEF/14/16)) on the implementation of Education, Health and Care plans which replaced statutory statements from 1 September 2014.

The SEND process had had a successful implementation with schools and SEN Area Education Commissioning Officers working together, monitoring and developing this further.

DECISION:

(a) that the positive implementation of the SEND Devon Assessment Framework to support children and young people with SEN or Disabilities in School be noted;

(b) that the SEN transfer process implications for schools and colleges be noted.

ACTION: -

715 Educational Outcomes - Children in Care (CiC)

DISCUSSION:

The Forum considered the report of the Head of Education & Learning (DEF/14/17)) on Education outcomes for Children in Care, including % CiC with special needs, by Key stages, 1, 2 and 4, expected progress and attainment gaps.

Members noted the impact of % measurements on very small cohorts, Devon KS1 and KS2 results were positive. However the Devon KS4 picture gave concern with results declining and 5*A-C and expected progress and the attainment gap significantly below national average. KS4 was being looked at in depth and school data being monitored on a termly basis instead of yearly. Members also discussed:- academy numbers CiC on roll; CiC 18-19 year olds options; special schools data excluded; alternative ways of measuring CiC achievement, eg for pupils with highly complex cases coming into care late.

The People Scrutiny Committee was due to receive its task group final report into performance of Children in Care shortly.

716 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Working Practice (Arrangements and Indemnity) Agreement (For sharing information on children and families within the Devon Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH))

DECISION:

that the Chairman be authorised to sign, on behalf of the Forum, the MASH Working Practice Agreement, which recognised the good practice guidance in the Code of Practice for Sharing Children and Young People's Information [available on the Devon County Council website], noting that the County Council's Indemnity for Members and Officers would apply (DCC Constitution Part 6).

ACTION:

Office of the County Solicitor (Fiona Rutley)

717 **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 1 October 2014 (also considered under Finance Update minute 712 above).

Minute item - 1, Broadband

DAG was concerned at the ongoing poor internet coverage particularly for some small rural primary schools who were now left with no option but to look at an alternative provider to SW Grid for Learning (SWGfL), on the basis that their penalty and set up costs were not competitive. Some Forum members expressed concern that residual Harnessing Technology Grant was currently being used to assist with the set up costs of schools that 'transformed' with SWGfL but not available for those schools that could not afford to remain with SWGfL and sought an alternative provider. Whilst it was noted that the Harnessing Technology Grant had been designed to help all schools, the County Treasurer advised this was an historic grant that ended some time ago and no longer under their control. DAG may also be able to have separate discussions with SWGfL.

DECISION:

that the Associations forward details of the recent communications from SWGfL to the County Treasurer for further discussion at the Schools Finance Group.

ACTION:

County Treasurer (Karen Powlesland), Heidi Watson-Jones (Education & Learning)

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

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2014.

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

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718 **Dates of Future Meetings**

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

Wed 21 January 2015
Wed 18 March 2015
Wed 24 June 2015
Wed 21 Oct 2015
Mon 18 Jan 2016.

The meeting started at 10am and finished at 12.45pm.

The Schools Forum web is www.devon.gov.uk/schoolsforum