

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

21 October 2015

Present:-

Schools Members

Primary School Headteachers

Mr A Dobson	Marwood Primary
Mr J Stone	Denbury Primary
Mr P Walker	Sidmouth CE Primary

Primary School Governors

Mr M Dobbins	Exmouth Marpool Primary
Mrs P Furnival	Ivybridge, Woodlands Park Primary
Mrs M Wallis	Whimple Primary

Secondary School Headteachers

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

Secondary School Governors

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

Nursery Schools

Mr M Boxall	Chestnut Nursery
-------------	------------------

Special School Headteacher

Ms C May	Pathfield School
----------	------------------

Special School Governor

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

Non-Schools Members

Ms B Alderson	Teachers Consultative Committee ( <i>substitute member</i> )
Mrs G Rolstone	Early Years Private, Voluntary and Independent providers (EY PVI)

Observers

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

Apologies

Mr J Bishop	Broadclyst Primary ( <i>Academy member</i> )
Mrs A Blewett	Kings Nympton Primary
Mr D Chapman	The Dartmoor Federation
Mrs D Fontana	Exmouth Exeter Road Primary ( <i>substitute member</i> )
Mr M Juby	Braunton Academy ( <i>Academy member</i> )
Mrs V Skelton	Schools Company North Devon Academy ( <i>Academy member</i> )

**756 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

**DECISION:**

That Mr Ian Courtney and Mrs Faith Butler be elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for the ensuing year.

**757 Minutes**

**DECISION:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2015 be signed as a correct record.

**758 Fair National Funding for Education - Further Action request from F40**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Chairman decided that the Forum should consider this item as a matter of urgency in order that Members may be made aware of very recent developments in a fair funding parliamentary campaign with two main strands; a letter to the Prime Minister to be signed by MPs and public petition, as previously circulated to Forum members to promote.

The Cabinet Member advised members of the F40 news release regarding MPs petitioning the Prime Minister on fairer school funding (embargoed until 5pm today).

**DECISION:**

That members be advised of Devon MPs who had already signed up once the embargo was lifted so members could continue to encourage support.

**ACTION:** Office of the County Solicitor (Fiona Rutley)

**759 Membership**

**DISCUSSION:**

Members noted that Mrs Gill Brown (maintained nurseries) had resigned wef 16 October 2015 and that the two maintained nurseries had agreed that Mr Martyn Boxall (Chestnut Nursery) should represent them today, pending elections.

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

-

**761 Holiday Food Schemes (Free School Meals During School Holidays)**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Forum received the report of the Director of Public Health (DEF/15/18) on action that took place in Devon during the summer school holidays in response to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on School Food "Filling the Holiday Hunger Gap" report (March 2014) highlighting the challenge of school holidays to families reliant on free school meals.

Report DEF/15/18 gave examples of good practice in Devon, evaluation of successful holiday programmes for future development. Although schools could take a proactive role working within local communities, further consideration should be given as to how to support schools

where there was no infrastructure, funding or open door project already established in a community. Voluntary sector, not for profit and faith groups had assisted in some instances. Special schools would need to draw on available provision across the county as the local community model did not fit where children were drawn from a large geographic area.

A further briefing note was also circulated in response to a question arising from the Cabinet Member's Report to Council on 1 October 2015 when Cllr McInnes undertook to examine the evidence of the benefits of Free School Meals and report to this Forum.

**DECISION:** that the report be noted.

**ACTION:** -

**762 Emotional Psychological and Social Wellbeing Support for Children and Young People**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Forum received the report of the Public Health (DEF/15/17) on the implementation of this early prevention and early intervention service to promote good mental health and resilience and encourage a cultural change within the whole community. It was expected that the new support service would have a direct improvement in mental wellbeing for Devon school age children and young people, a significantly positive impact on their education and prevent escalation to Early Help, Speech and Language Therapies (SALT), Child and Adolescent mental health Services (CAMHS) and the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Evidence indicated that most impact would come from:-

Direct support for secondary age young people

School support for primary and secondary schools, including academies

Targeting parenting support for parents of primary aged children.

Lead providers were appointed July 2015 after tendering and evaluation, with a soft launch from September and full roll out October/November 2015.

In order to maximise the opportunity whilst funding was available (5 years) it was essential that all schools identified an Emotional Health and Wellbeing Champion and schools would be encouraged to undertake the free School Health Education Unit survey for school years 6, 8 and 10. Collaborative working and commitment would enable sustainable change for the future.

Members also discussed:-

Mechanism for identifying gaps in any schools appointing Champions

Schools working collaboratively eg siblings in both primary and secondary schools

Clear marketing on times specific services available for children and young people

Other local school consortiums providing mental health services

Briefings to include governors.

**DECISION:** that the report be noted.

**ACTION:** -

**763 Head of Education & Learning Update**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Head of Education & Learning reported (summary tabled) on:-

Ofsted Comparisons (7 LAs) Summer Term 2015 - upturn in the 37 schools inspected, with 86% schools judged "Good" or better.

Ofsted Grades August 2015

Devon exceeded national schools "Good" or "Outstanding" in primary, secondary and all Devon  
Early Years improvements on last year  
Take up of places for disadvantaged 2 year olds to be considered further (above national but below regional take up)  
Key stage 1 including Free School Meals and Key stage 2 good  
Key stage 4 wide variety of results  
Key stage 5 (further discussions on long term provision and working partnerships)  
Free school meals gap shows a reduction at Key Stage 2 but remains static at Key Stage 4.  
Children in Care GCSE results (provisional) early indications significant improvement following priority in schools and work of the Virtual School.

Phase associations requested to respond to Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC)  
Local Area SEND consultation (launched October 2015)

Prevent Duty

Innovation and Change - developing local capacity and provision for children with social and emotional needs.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) - to meet and ensure equity of access for the most complex needs.

**DECISION:**

That the update be noted and the phase associations be requested to respond to the above Ofsted/CQC consultation.

**ACTION:**

Head of Education & Learning (Sue Clarke), Phase associations consultation response

**764 DEF/DCC Funding Consultation Meetings Outcomes**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Forum considered the report of the Head of Education & Learning and County Treasurer (DEF/15/15) following Devon and the Phase Associations' consultation on proposals for 2016/17 schools revenue funding formula, during September 2015. An analysis of the consultation response for school crossing patrols, delegation and central services was also circulated.

The Teachers Consultative Committee/Trade Union representative also reported on de-delegation for supply cover costs for trade union facilities time. The forum had received a national joint TU letter dated 14 September 2015 and joint TU de-delegation toolkit. The Forum also noted LGA Update 14 October 2015 encouraging Schools Forums/authorities to retain a centrally managed fund where possible to enable schools to "de-delegate" staff costs or supply cover, including trade union facility time. Devon's consultation responses indicated that schools were in favour of de-delegating funding to DCC to commission Trade Union services (SFG 7 October 2015 note 6).

The Chairman drew attention to the LA's request to disapply the regulations in particular for SEN transport costs as detailed in section 4 of the report and that this Forum's support was sought.

**DECISION:**

(a) that Cabinet be recommended:-

(i) that the formula factors for distributing the funding to schools be approved (final funding rates may change subject to affordability when the October 2015 pupil data and Schools Block DSG settlement are confirmed in late December 2015);

- (ii) that a user-pays model be implemented for the provision of school crossing patrols;
- (iii) that a third party provider be used for school crossing patrols;

***Vote: all phases maintained schools and academies, PVI***

- (b) that the de-delegation of services as follows for maintained primary and maintained secondary schools as set out in section 2.2 of the report and consultation responses (option 1 clear outcome) be approved;

Contingencies (including schools in financial difficulties and exceptional events)  
Behaviour support services, Ethnic Minority Achievement and Gypsy Roma Traveller Achievement  
Support to under-performing ethnic groups and bilingual learners  
Free school meals eligibility  
Maternity  
Trade unions  
Jury Service / Magistrates duties  
Licences and subscriptions (note: Performing Rights Society for Music (PRS) – payments for performances of covered work; Phonographic Performance Ltd. (PPL) – playing recorded music; Mechanical Copyright Protection Society (MCPS) – rights to make CDs and DVDs containing copyright music; Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) – hymns and other Christian music is now covered by a national licence and the DfE charge the local authority)

***Vote: maintained primary***

***Vote: maintained secondary***

- (c) that in respect of the centrally retained services budget allocation (section 3 of the report and consultation responses option 1):-

- (i) that the remaining £930,000 centrally retained LLC funding be delegated to schools in 2016-17 financial year be approved;
- (ii) that £60,000 for the Emotional, Psychological and Social Wellbeing Service be continued to be co-produced by Public Health Devon and schools;
- (iii) that funding centrally at the same level as 2015-16 be retained for:
  - Phase Associations
  - The Schools Admissions Service
  - Termination of Employment Costs

***Vote: all phases maintained schools and academies, PVI***

- (d) (i) that the local authority's request to the Secretary of State for Education to dis-apply Regulation 4(d) Schedule 2 and Regulation 5 Schedule 2 of the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014 for Early Years feasibility costs relating to capital projects; and to charge SEN transport costs to the DSG where the revenue savings that would be achieved from making a placement were greater than the costs of such transport, as set out in section 4 of the report, be supported;

***Vote: all phases maintained schools and academies, PVI***

- (d) (ii) that the local authority's disapplication requests that have been applied and approved by the EFA for Small Schools and School Merger be noted.

**ACTION:**

County Treasurer (John Holme, Karen Powlesland)

## 765 Finance Update

### DISCUSSION:

The Forum considered the report of the Head of Education & Learning and County Treasurer (DEF/15/16).

The Forum also noted the respective minutes of the Schools Finance Group (SFG) of 7 October 2015.

The report (DEF/15/16) covered:-

Allocation of carry forward from 2014/15  
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget allocation 2015/16  
Month 5 DSG budget monitoring.

### DECISION:

(a) that Cabinet be recommended:-

(i) that the allocation of the carried forward under spend from 2014/15 as set out in section 1 of the report be approved;

***Vote: all phases maintained schools and academies, PVI***

(ii) that the final allocation of the DSG 2015/16 budget (following the July 2015 settlement) be approved, subject to amendments arising from changes to the Early Years Census as outlined in section 2 of the report;

Application of 2015/16 DSG (£ millions)	December 2014 settlement	July 2015 settlement	Recoupment	Net DSG
Schools block	378.381	378.400	(135.790)	242.610
High Needs block	59.797	60.156	(5.505)	54.651
Early Years block	22.223	27.125		27.125
	<b>460.401</b>	<b>465.681</b>	<b>(141.295)</b>	<b>324.386</b>

***Vote: all phases maintained schools and academies, PVI***

(b) that DSG Month 5 budget monitoring position as set out in section 3 of the report be noted.

### ACTION:

County Treasurer (John Holme, Karen Powlesland)

## 766 Place Scrutiny Committee: Young People and Employment Task Group Final Report

### DISCUSSION:

The Head of Economy and Enterprise presented the final the report of the Scrutiny Task Group on how young people could be supported with independent careers advice, work experience and links between schools, careers advisors and the business community to access education, training and/or employment.

Members comments and discussions on the report recommendations included:-

Encouragement of early careers advice, business involvement prior to young people selecting options

Shift of work experience to year 12

Promotion of vocational careers where skills shortage

Apprenticeship requirement of C grade GCSE mathematics/English raising standards

Career SW draft report "Your Future Your Choice" options post 16, providing information about all post 16 pathways

Attracting governors from the business community

Cost effective ways of providing careers advice/alternative providers.

**DECISION:** that DASH be invited to respond to the report recommendations.

**ACTION:** DASH

## 767 **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 8 July and 7 October 2015 (considered under Finance minutes 764 and 765 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 29 September 2015:-

**(A) Capital Maintenance Budget (note 7)** - the Forum noted concerns relating to the deployment of the Capital Maintenance budget as contributions towards no maintenance school related projects.

**DECISION:** that a Task & Finish group comprising representatives from SOCA, the built environments team, strategic planning and SEN team officers meet to consider the revised criteria for the allocation of Schools Capital Maintenance fund.

**ACTION:** Head of Education & Learning (Chris Dyer/Heidi Watson-Jones)

**(B) School Organisation, Use of Schools Data (note 8)** - noted that school place planning data was already in the public domain.

**(C) Data Protection and Introduction of Egress Switch (note 2iii)** - Members sought technical guidance/communication to schools on the use of Egress Switch and on how schools could share unsecure/secure data and the handling of emails. The PVI representative requested Egress technical assistance should also be publicised in the Early Years newsletter. Egress was to be rolled out before Christmas.

**DECISION:** that the DCC Information Governance team work with schools and prepare appropriate guidance.

**ACTION:** Head of Business Strategy & Support Services (Amber Steer Frost)

**(D) Delayed Admission to School for Summer-born Children (note 2i)** - In advance of government proposals to extend delayed admission to school as a parental right anticipated September 2017, admission authorities could approve requests from parents to delay admission prior to that date.

The associations expressed concern that there were significant unintended consequences across both the primary and secondary sector and that parents would need full information prior to making a request to delay admission.

Issues to consider included:-

Cohort range 12-17 months

When funding effective for delayed entry/holding of places

PVI sector may not be registered appropriately for children to remain in PVI setting over age 5

Terminology guidance

Effect on Planned Admission Numbers

**DECISION:** that a brief be prepared by the Head of Education & Learning in consultation with the Associations to put case to MPs ahead of the government consultation.

**ACTION:** Head of Education & Learning (Andrew Brent)

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

-

**768 Correspondence**

**769 Dates of Future Meetings**

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

Mon 18 Jan 2016.

(b) Further meetings 2016/17 (confirmed)

Wed 16 March 2016

Wed 22 June 2016

Wed 19 October 2016

Monday 16 January 2017

Wed 15 March 2017

The meeting started at 10am and finished at 12.25pm.

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