

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

18 January 2016

Present:-

Schools Members

Primary School Head teachers

Mr A Dobson
Mr P Walker

Marwood Primary
Sidmouth CE Primary

Primary School Governors

Mrs A Blewett
Mr M Dobbins
Mrs P Furnival

Kings Nympton Primary
Exmouth Marpool Primary
Ivybridge, Woodlands Park Primary

Secondary School Headteachers

Mr D Chapman
Mr M Shanks
Mr M Juby

The Dartmoor Federation
Coombeshead CC (*Academy member*)
(Braunton Academy)

Secondary School Governors

Mr I Courtney
Mr A Walmsley
Ms J Elson

The Dartmoor Federation **Chairman**
Exeter, St James
Exmouth CC (*Academy member*)

Nursery School

Mrs S Baker

Maintained Nurseries

Special School Headteacher

Ms C May

Pathfield School

Non-Schools Members

Mrs B Alderson
Councillor J McInnes

Teachers Consultative Committee
Cabinet Member - Children, Schools & Skills
(EY PVI)

Apologies

Mr J Bishop
Mrs F Butler
Mrs J Evans
Mrs J Phelan
Mr J Stone
Mr J Thorndyke
Mrs Wallis

Broadclyst Primary (*Academy member*)
Marland School
Exeter, St Leonard's
Cullompton CC
Denbury PS
Marland School

770 Minutes

DECISION:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2015 be signed as a correct record.

771 Membership

The Forum recorded thanks to retiring member Mr M Smith and appointment of Mrs J Phelan (DASH)

The appointments of Ms S Baker and Mr M Boxall (maintained nursery representatives, alternating attendance) were also noted.

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

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773 Finance Update

DISCUSSION:

The Forum considered the report of the Head of Education & Learning and County Treasurer (DEF/16/01).

The Forum also noted the respective minutes of the Schools Finance Group (SFG) of 11 January 2016 and the minutes of the School Organisation, Capital & Admissions Group – Task and Finish Group on Prioritisation Criteria for Capital Maintenance Funding of 5 January 2016.

The report (DEF/16/01) covered:-

- Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2016-17 announcement
- DSG budget allocation 2016-17
- Schools Block
- High Needs Block
- Early Years Block
- Education Services Grant
- Other Schools Grant
- Growth Fund Criteria
- revised Permanent Exclusions Policy and
- Month 8 DSG monitoring position

The Forum discussed the budgetary impact of new minimum wage levels which would have to be borne by Schools, considerable budgetary pressures within the High Needs Block and management action being taken in consultation with parents/carers; and capacity building within maintained schools and implications of the Education Health and Care plan process. Any overspend within this Block would have to be clawed back in the following financial year.

The Forum also noted the urgent action which had been taken by the Head of Service as a result of the closure of Chelfham Mill School ensuring appropriate placement of all the children affected including special 'in-house' provision for local children in North Devon and associated cost and other benefits.

DECISION:

(a) that the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2016-17, Early Years and High Needs Blocks as announced on 17 December 2015 and as set out in report DEF/16/01 be noted as follows:

Notional Block Allocation at 17th December 2015

	Per pupil funding rate	No of pupils	2016/17 Allocation £m	2015/16 Final Allocation £m
DSG Schools Block				
Schools budgets, including Academies	£4,345.73	88,065	382.707	378.270
Induction for Newly Qualified Teachers			0.128	0.130

Notional Block Total	382.835	378.400
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Early Years Block	Per pupil funding rate	No of pupils	2016/17 Allocation £m	2015/16 Final Allocation £m
3 & 4 year olds	£3,662.99	6,116	22.403	22.403
2 year olds	£4,607.50	933	4.299	4.299
Early Years Pupil Premium			0.425	0.425
			27.127	27.127

High Needs Block	2016/17 Allocation £m	2015/16 Final Allocation £m
Baseline allocation	60.395	60.160
Deduction for direct funding of high needs places by EFA	(4.718)	(5.505)
	55.677	54.655

Total DSG settlement	465.639	460.182
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Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI

(b) that the revised Growth Fund criteria, as recommended by the Schools Finance Group, as set out in section 7 of report DEF/16/01 be agreed;

Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI

(c) that the revised Permanent Exclusions Policy set out in section 8 be noted;

Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI

(d) that the month 8 DSG monitoring position as set out in section 9 be noted.

Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI

ACTION:

County Treasurer (John Holme, Karen Powlesland)

774 The Virtual School and Children in Care

The Forum received a presentation from Dawn Stabb, Headteacher Devon Virtual School supporting children in care to achieve well at School and narrow the gap in the educational outcomes of children in care and care leavers covering:

the virtual school structure

Working Together partners and relationship with the Corporate Parenting Board

the role of Area Learning Advocates

Key developments: personal education plans, Innovate Project and GCSE Pod; mentor training and designated teacher networks, voice of the child, improving attendance and pupil tracking and information sharing

Development for 16- 18 Year Old Care Leavers

Educational outcomes in 2015 and all the key stages and the improving trends against national performance

Care leavers in Employment, Education or Training

The Forum also received the Virtual School's Annual Report and members noted the importance of consistency of social work personnel and support for each child and young person, and the encouraging improvements and progress of the children in care and care leavers.

(N.B. Virtual School website available at:

[https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/young-people/children-in-care/education-of-children-in-care\]](https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/young-people/children-in-care/education-of-children-in-care)

775 Children, Young People and Families' Alliance Plan

The Forum received the report of the lead member for Children, Schools and Skills and the Head of Education and Learning (DEF/16/02) on the formation of the Children Young People and Families Alliance (the Alliance) and introduction of its Plan. The Alliance was a partnership of all organisations and services that worked with and for children, young people and families in Devon with the aim of working better together to improve outcomes for all children and young people and fulfilling the statutory 'Duty to Cooperate'.

An Executive Group had been established to provide a formalised structure within the wider Children, Young People and Families Alliance responsible for taking forward the work of the Alliance by giving strategic leadership and direction, acting collectively as a partnership and driving change.

In order to provide an overall strategy for Children, Young People and Families in Devon a five year Children, Young People and Families Plan "My Life, My Journey" had been developed based on existing needs assessments (e.g. the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment), engagement events with Children and Young People and input from partners of the Alliance.

The Alliance Plan had the following 6 priorities for the next 5 years:

- Safe
- Resilient
- Thrive
- Active
- Connect
- Give.

During the first year of implementation (2015-2016) the Executive had chosen the following outcomes as the priorities which the Executive group will focus on with a view to improving these:

Resilient; Children in Devon enjoy good mental health and emotional wellbeing
Thrive; Young people and their parents have excellent economic prospects in Devon
Connect; Young people influence the decisions that affect them

The Forum also received the summary sheet ' My Life, My Journey'.

Forum members discussed the composition of the Alliance (noting that education was well represented) and need for consistent attendance by individuals and noted the importance of regular reporting and assessments of outcomes both measurable and qualitative and asked that these be also reported to this statutory body. The Head of Education and Learning referred to the development of a 'Dashboard' reporting on outcomes which she would bring to a future meeting of this Forum.

Members also referred to the importance of CAMHS and access issues for children and young people noting that this was an area which should be given a high priority by the Alliance. This area was led by the Council's Public Health service and part of joint commissioning arrangements.

DECISION:

that as the cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Skills as Chair for Children, Young People and Families Alliance and the Head of Education and Learning report to this Forum on the progress and work of the Alliance, in particular (i) 'agreement of the Improvement Priorities' and (ii) 'review of outcomes to identify successes and issues that need to be addressed' at the Forum's meetings in January 2017 and June 2017 respectively and annually thereafter.

ACTION:

Head of Education and Learning (Katie Dalsgaard).

776 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 11 January 2016 (also considered under Finance Update minute 773 above).

ACTION:

Head of Education & Learning (Heidi Watson-Jones)

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

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2016.

ACTION:

Head of Education & Learning (Heidi Watson-Jones)

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

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777 Dates of Future Meetings

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

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 11. 50 am.

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