

## DEVON EDUCATION FORUM

21 June 2017

### Present:-

#### Schools Members

##### Primary School Head teachers

Mr J Bishop

Mr A Dobson

Mr J Stone

Cornerstone Academy Trust (*Academy Member*)

Marwood Primary

Denbury Primary

##### Primary School Governors

Ms M Wallis

Mr A Walmsley

Whimble School (**Chairman**)

First Federation (*Academy Member*)

##### Secondary School Head teachers

Mr D Chapman

Mr R Haring

Ms M Marder

Mrs J Phelan

The Dartmoor Federation

Ivybridge CC (*Academy Member*)

The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust (*Academy Member*)

Culllompton CC

##### Secondary School Governors

Ms J Elson

Exmouth CC (*Academy Member*)

##### Nursery School

Mrs S Baker

Westexe

##### Special School HeadTeacher

Ms B Caschere

Exeter Southbrook School

##### Special School Governor

Mrs F Butler

Marland School

##### Non-Schools Members

Ms G Rolstone

Mrs T de Bernhardt Dunkin

Early Years Private, Voluntary & Independent

16-19 West England School & College

##### Observers

Councillor J McInnes

Mr P Walker

Cabinet Member, Children's Services & Schools

Genesis Academy Trust (*Academy Member*)

##### Apologies

Mrs B Alderson

Ms S Acland

Mrs A Blewett

Mr M Boxall

Mr M Dobbins

Mr M Juby

Teachers Consultative Committee

Devon Schools Academy (Alternative Provision)

Kings Nympton Primary

Exeter Countess Wear

Exmouth Marpool Primary

Braunton (*Academy Member*)

**43**      **Minutes**

**DECISION:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2017 be signed as a correct record.

**44**      **Membership**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Chairman reported on membership changes:-

Ms Sarah Pickering – Special Schools Headteacher (SHAD) elected as substitute member.

End of term of office wef 31.8.17:-

-Mrs Gemma Rolstone EY PVI was standing down and the Chairman thanked her for her service over recent years;

-Mrs Tracey de Bernhart Dunkin 16-19, eligible to stand for re-election.

The respective appointment/election processes were in progress.

**ACTION:**

County Solicitor (Fiona Rutley)

**45**      **Head of Education & Learning Update**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Head of Education & Learning reported on and had circulated documents for members' information on the following, some of which arose from corresponding minute (38, 15 March 2017):-

(a) Draft Governor Briefing Devon Support for Schools 2017/18, covering Devon Direct Services and Babcock LDP Commissioned Services;

(b) Final Draft Babcock LDP Commissioning framework Key Priorities 2017/18;

(c) Babcock LDP Annual Report 2015/16;

(d) Draft Babcock LDP/DCC JV Annual Report 2016/17;

(e) Devon Education & Learning Summary Performance Report , Key Performance Indicators covered the following and in most areas was better than statistical neighbours/nationally:-

-Take up of Early Years Funding for 2 year olds

-Attainment/Attainment Gaps Post 16

-School Admissions

- Attendance

-Special Educational Needs & Disabilities, SEND (ECHPs improving)

-Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETS) - continued work with colleges eg entry requirements

-Quality of Provision - role of Babcock LDP in supporting schools and role of all Devon schools;

(f) Inclusion – A Better Way of Working . A full briefing would be provided to all schools as the Council was looking for engagement from this sector. In particular, interest would be welcomed from more isolated rural schools to come forward for this schools led review/project for pupils unable to access mainstream education. Secondary schools were also willing to contribute; Members discussed SEN reintegration, Exmouth CC reach centre and the Troubled Families Programme. Schools commented that with budget challenges and a reduction in AWPU unfortunately some Early Help (and staffing) was planned to be cut. Government lobbying continued regarding universal funding being insufficient to remove deprivation.

(g) Public Health Briefing Early Help for Mental Health, May 2017.

On the wider issue of school budget reductions which arose the Head of Education and Learning advised on the Outturn report considered by Cabinet 14 June 2017 and Cabinet decision to earmark up to £700,000 from the Budget Management Reserve to support Maintained schools where the impact in the delay, due to late notification of the pension increase for support staff, would cause hardship. The Council recognised that this delay would mean that schools' ability to secure any necessary savings would also have been delayed. Cases would be looked at on an individual basis at the Financial Intervention Panel, Schools (FIPS).

**ACTION:**

Head of Education & Learning (Dawn Stabb - attendance by sector, post 16 examination retake data to DASH)

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**Finance Update**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Forum considered the report of the Head of Education & Learning and County Treasurer (DEF/ 17/08).

The Forum also noted the respective minutes of the Schools Finance Group (SFG) of 24 May 2017.

The report (DEF/17/08) covered:-

(a) Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2016/17 Outturn (Section 1 of the report):-

In paragraph 1.4 High Needs example of a recent tribunal affecting the control of spend updated position was noted as referred to by the 16-19 representative. Devon's practice was to always try to settle prior to a tribunal and this was achieved more than by most other LAs.

(b) Allocation of Carry Forward from 2016/17 (Section 2):-

It was noted that the adjudication by the Secretary of State in respect of the Forum's declined carry forward (minute 40, 5 March 2017) was still awaited, with significant additional information requested by the Minister and supplied;

In paragraph 2.1 the second sentence should be deleted as this was now the consideration of the final proposals;

(c) Mutual Fund;

(d) 2017/18 Early Years Funding Formula Consultation and Proposals:-

Discussion and feedback from the Consultation indicated overall support for the proposals.

The proposal for the removal of the lump sum, as well as Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) support and deprivation funding was to enable all settings to have a more accessible and fairer allocation as previously some funding could not be accessed by all sectors.

**DECISION:**

(a) that the DSG Draft Outturn position (subject to Statement of Accounts sign off) as set out in Section 1 be noted;

(b) that the allocation of the carry forwards from 2016/17 as set out in Section 2, Table 5 be noted/approved as follows:-

**Table 5: Carry Forward from 2016/17**

Budget Line	Amount £'000	Notes	Decision*
Mainstream School balances	17,308	Automatically carried forward in Individual School budgets	2.2 noted
<b>Total School balances</b>	<b>17,308</b>		
De-delegated budgets	1,964	Roll forward 2016/17 underspend into 2017/18	2.3 noted
<b>Total de-delegated budgets</b>	<b>1,964</b>		
Special School Balances	1,087	These are school's balances and are automatically carried forward	2.4 noted
Hospital Education	57	Specialised training for hospital staff and additional support in North Devon	2.5 noted
<b>Total High Needs</b>	<b>1,144</b>		
Early Years Pupil Premium	159	2016/17 Ring fenced grant – DfE have confirmed can be spent in 2017/18	2.6 approved
Tresillian Nursery	(20)	Nursery deficit balance to be met from 2017/18 budget	2.7 approved
<b>Total Early Years</b>	<b>139</b>		
<b>Total Carry forward requested</b>	<b>20,555</b>		

**\*(Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI)**

(c) that the year-end Mutual Fund position as set out in Section 3 be noted;

(d) that Cabinet be recommended:-

that the proposal for the 2017-18 Early Years Funding Formula as set out in Section 4 and Appendix A be approved. **\*(Vote: all phases maintained and academy, PVI)**

**ACTION:**

Head of Education and Learning (Dawn Stabb) and County Treasurer (Julian Dinnicombe)

**DISCUSSION:**

The Forum considered the Annual Report of the County Treasurer and Chief Officer for Children's Services (DEF/17/10). This included an analysis of submissions from schools to

FIPS. The trend for the main reason for submissions in 2016/17 was around redundancy with a rise of 180% from last year.

Funding from the Growth Fund which was under pressure, would be considered in detail at the next two Schools Finance Group meetings.

With the current uncertainty of the National Funding formula, continued challenging fiscal environment and a cash flat Dedicated Schools Grant settlement the role of FIPS was much more pro-active in identifying and engaging with schools with vulnerable budgets at an early stage.

#### 48 **Standing (and other) Groups**

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

##### (a) Schools' Finance Group (SFG)

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2017 (considered under Finance Update minute 46 above)

##### **DISCUSSION:**

(i) It was noted that under note 4 Finance Issues (Growth Fund last bullet point) "*... where a school is part of a MAT, that support could be provided from within the Trust*" that the following wording was to be added on the end of text for clarification "*where growth criteria has not been met.*"

(ii) The Early Years PVI representative thanked the LA for its comprehensive engagement with the sector on the Early Years consultation and with NDNA/PVI nationally regarding extended entitlement.

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

##### (b) School Organisation, Capital and Admissions (SOCA)

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2017.

#### 49 **Dates of Future Meetings**

To be held at 10am at County Hall, Exeter:-

Wed 18 October 2017  
Mon 15 January 2018  
Wed 21 March 2018.

The Meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.40 am

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