

DEVON EDUCATION FORUM

20 June 2018

Present:-

Schools Members

Primary School Head teachers

Mr J Bishop

Mr A Dobson

Mr J Stone

Mr M Boxall

Cornerstone Academy Trust (*Academy Member*)

Marwood Primary

Denbury Primary

Exeter Children's Federation

Primary School Governors

Mrs A Blewett

Mr M Dobbins

Ms M Wallis

Kings Nympton Primary

Exmouth Marpool Primary

Whimble School (**Chair**)

Secondary School Head teachers

Mrs J Phelan

Cullompton CC

Secondary School Governors

Ms J Elson

Mrs J Larcombe

Mr T Newman

Exmouth CC (*Academy Member*)

Uffculme Academy Trust (*Academy Member*)

Chulmleigh Academy Trust (*Academy Member*)

Nursery School

Mrs S Baker

Westexe

Special School HeadTeacher

Ms B Caschere

Exeter Southbrook School

Non-Schools Members

Ms B Alderson

Mrs S Barnett

Mr B Blythe

Teachers Consultative Committee

Early Years Private, Voluntary & Independent

16-19

Observer

Councillor J McInnes

Cabinet Member – Children's Services and Skills

Apologies

Mr A Walmsley

First Federation (*Academy Member*)

Mr R Haring

Ms M Marder

Mr M Shanks

Ivybridge CC (*Academy Member*)

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

Education South West (*Academy Member*)

Mrs T Sturtivant

Tiverton High

Mrs F Butler

Marland School

Mr J Searson

Exeter Diocesan Board of Education

75 Minutes

DECISION:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2018 be signed as a correct record, subject to Mr Blythe's attendance at the meeting being amended to show him representing "16-19."

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

DISCUSSION:

The Chair congratulated Councillor James McInnes on becoming Deputy Leader of the County Council, whilst retaining his position as Cabinet Member - Children, Schools & Skills.

77 Membership

DISCUSSION:

The following membership changes were noted:-

Mr Malcolm Walsh – new substitute member (16-19)

Mr Paul Cornish – resignation (secondary academy).

78 Head of Education & Learning Update

DISCUSSION:

Mr Blythe (16-19) declared an interest in relation to (a) the Apprenticeship Levy, by virtue of PETROC College tendering for apprenticeship work at DCC.

The Head of Education & Learning reported on:-

(a) Apprenticeship Levy – developments and progress to date discussed as presented by DCC Human Resources. A key facts paper was being prepared to go out to all schools. Members who had appointed apprentices via the scheme offered to input into the key facts paper, together with the Devon FE colleges group.

Members suggested small schools might consider sharing apprentices to offer broader training and to share costs and also discussed other training needs within schools that might be linked to apprenticeships;

(b) Safeguarding Referrals to Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) – to be included in new HT induction. It was agreed to put forward a recommendation to DAPH/DASH/Sentient that the LADO could attend the autumn briefings to provide a brief refresher for existing HTs, to ensure a consistent approach;

(c) Early Help 4 Mental Health - funding secured until March 2019, with an aim to longer term funding and commitment to the longer term process in a draft Children's Scrutiny Report with proposals to finalise the report in the autumn;

(d) New Free Schools Opening/Planned and proposed dates:-

Proposed DCC and Section 106 funding – Trinity CE Primary VA maintained (Open), Sherford and Okehampton new primaries (September 2018);

DfE schemes - Kingsteignton and West Clys (temporary but permanent by September 2019);

5 further approved bids – W Barnstaple Primary (September 2019), W Bideford Primary (September 2020), Monkerton Primary (September 2020), Glendinning Special School Newton Abbot 2019/2020, SW Exeter All Through (September 2021);

(e) Babcock LDP Regional Leadership Team – staffing changes circulated. Most positions had now been backfilled;

(f) Alternative Provision – progress was being made as this had now been re-brokered with a new sponsor chosen by the Headteachers Board. Due diligence currently taking place work on the commissioning will follow with the new sponsor;

(g) Recruitment and Retention – working with Devon, Plymouth Torbay and Cornwall.

DECISION:

that DAPH/DASH/Sentient be recommended that the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) attend the autumn briefings to provide a brief refresher for existing HTs, to ensure a consistent approach.

ACTION:

(a) Head of Education & Learning: Apprenticeship levy key facts paper

(b) DAPH/DASH/Sentient - Safeguarding Referrals, LADO attendance at autumn briefings

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Finance Update

DISCUSSION:

The Forum considered the report of the Chief Officer for Children's Services and County Treasurer (DEF/18/05) and noted the respective Schools Finance Group minutes of 5 June 2018 (minute 83 below).

The report covered:-

Dedicated Schools Grant Draft Outturn position

Allocation of Carry Forwards from 2017/18 (previously approved in principle)

Mutual Fund Update

In respect of Tresillian Nursery (report Table 5 Carry Forwards) members queried why this was a special case for an individual setting when their deficit had also increased from the previous year. The County Treasurer advised this was historical and in approving the carry forward this stayed in Tresillian's own budget, but if it was not approved it would come out of the Early Years block. Tresillian's position could be looked at in greater detail next year if required.

Members comments further included:-

Changes to the growth fund proposals (paragraph 1.3 of the report) to be communicated to schools once the latest funding position was known in July 2018;

DAPH suggested the Schools Finance Group may wish to consider whether there should be any "Plan B" should there be a deficit (High Needs Block);

SEN mainstream (paragraph 1.4.4 of the report) bespoke to individual needs (not capped), but applied consistently;

Recognition that FE budgets were different from pre-16 settings and this should be reflected in how FE High Needs providers were funded;

Managing increased Independent Special Schools placements (paragraph 1.4.5 of the report) and some delay in additional settings eg Glendinning and Tiverton Charlton Lodge.

DECISION:

(a) that the Dedicated Schools Grant Draft Outturn position (subject to Statement of Accounts sign off) as set out in Section 1 of report (DEF/18/05) be noted;

(b) that the allocation of the Carry Forwards from 2017/18 as set out in Section 2 and Table 5 of report (DEF/18/05) be noted/approved respectively;

Carry Forward from 2017/18

Budget Line	Amount £'000	Notes	Decision
Mainstream School balances	15,927	Automatically carried forward in Individual School budgets	2.2 noted
Total School balances	15,927		
Maternity	419	Balance to fund ongoing cover in 2018/19	2.3 noted
Schools and DSG Contingency	1,852	Roll forward 2017/18 underspend into 2018/19	2.3 noted
Phase Associations	82	DAPH (£82k) reinstated. C/fwd taken as part of 2016/17 funding of HNB DASH (£43k) taken as part of 2016/17 funding of HNB offset by £43k overspend in 2017/18.	2.3 noted
Total de-delegated budgets & Central Provisions	2,353		
Special School Balances	2,219	Automatically carried forward in Individual School budgets	2.4 noted
Hospital Education	83	Specialised training for hospital staff and additional support in North Devon	2.5 noted
Mainstream SEN	16	Post 16 SEN – ESFA Funding that relates to summer term	2.6 noted
High Needs	(1,637)	Deficit Balance – agreed to be carried forward by DEF	2.7 noted
Total High Needs	681		
Early Years Pupil Premium	188	2017/18 Ring fenced grant – DfE have confirmed can be spent in 2018/19	2.8 approved*
Early Years Growth Fund	184	Slippage on Trinity start-up costs, funds are committed for 2018/19	2.9 approved*
Tresillian Nursery	(53)	Nursery deficit balance to be met from 2018/19 budget	2.10 approved*
Total Early Years	319		
Total Carry forward requested	19,280		

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

(c) that the year-end Mutual Fund position as set out in Section 3 of report (DEF/18/05) be noted;

(d) that a cautious welcome be given to the improved outturn projected forward and appreciation to all staff involved in the management action;

(e) that the suggestion of whether there should be any “Plan B” should there be a deficit (High Needs Block) be forwarded to the Schools Finance Group.

ACTION:

County Treasurer (Adrian Fox) / (e) Heather A Bingham

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Dedicated Schools Grant 2018/19 Month 1 (High Needs) Update

DISCUSSION:

The Forum considered the report of the Chief Officer for Children’s Services and County Treasurer (DEF/18/06), giving an early indication of the budget pressure to be resolved, including the deficit carry forward of £1.6m from 2017/18 and management actions.

Discussion included:-

-Whilst this was currently only the Month 1 position and there was additional pressure for Alternative Provision placements and Independent Special Schools placements as mainstream primary and secondary schools found it more difficult to retain the increasing numbers of children with complex needs in a mainstream setting. These high needs areas were historically difficult to control, although other areas had been making savings. Consideration of a possible “Plan B” in case management actions and other factors were unable to sufficiently constrain expenditure whilst maintaining appropriate provision for individual children within the SEND Code was suggested by DAPH. The Head of Education & Learning commented that in view of the delay in some savings taking effect she recommended sustained management action as the way forward.

-In Devon much work was being carried out around Alternative Provision and the Devon Inclusion Project, including reducing the length of time children attended these settings, prevention, toolkits, reintegration, specific provision for children with medical needs.

-The number and complexity of cases was recognised nationally and the f40 local authorities campaign group was highlighted this to government and had recently produced a School Funding Briefing Paper – May 2018 <http://www.f40.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/f40-NFF-Briefing-Paper-6-June-2018-final.pdf>

The Cabinet Member - Schools & Skills was meeting education ministers 25 June 2018 when these issues would be raised.

The County Treasurer also reported on his meeting on 18 June 2018 with the DfE regarding national funding formula proposals for 2019/20.

DECISION:

(a) that a report on the Devon Inclusion Project’s work be made to the next meeting;

(b) that f40 developments be noted with great interest.

ACTION:

(a) above, County Solicitor (Fiona Rutley – next agenda)

81 Financial Intervention Panel Schools (FIPS) Annual Report 2017/18

DISCUSSION:

The Forum considered the report of the Chief Officer for Children's Services and County Treasurer (DEF/18/07)

The report covered governing body responsibilities, FIPS' purpose, analysis and outcomes of cases. The Panel continued to support schools in financial difficulty when governing bodies had taken every action they could. In continued times of school funding uncertainty and challenging budgets, FIPS continued to be pro-active in identifying and engaging with schools with vulnerable budgets at an early stage.

DECISION:

that FIPS' pro-active, robust approach and good outcomes during this current period of uncertainty of school budgets be welcomed.

82 DEF Proportionality and Elections 2018

Following consultation with Forum members no change in the proportionality of seats on the Devon Education Forum had been made wef September 2018, based on pupil census data 2018 (predicted to September 2018).

Elections of Schools and Academies Members (and some other appointments) were currently in progress for the 4 year period 1 September 2018 - 31 August 2022, with elections planned prior to the end of the summer term 2018. Details available via fiona.rutley@devon.gov.uk (DEF contact), or the phase associations.

83 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 23 May 2018 (also considered under Finance Update minute 79 above)

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2018.

DECISION:

In accordance with the NPS Update (SOCA note 5) where contractors' reasonable access was denied by schools during the school day when DBS paperwork was in place, the associations reiterate the message that:- schools would be expected to pay the extra contractor charge.

ACTION:

Phase Associations

84 Dates of Future Meetings

At 10am at County Hall, Exeter:-

Wed 17 October 2018

Wed 23 January 2019

Wed 20 March 2019.

The Meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.55 am

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