

DEVON EDUCATION FORUM

21 March 2018

Present:-

Schools Members

Primary School Head teachers

Mr A Dobson

Mr J Stone

Mr M Boxall

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

Whimple School (**Chair**)

Secondary School Head teachers

Ms M Marder

Ms A Mitchell

Mrs J Phelan

Mr M Shanks

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

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

Cullompton CC

Education South West (*Academy Member*)

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

Special School Governor

Mrs F Butler

Marland School

Alternative Provision

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Non-Schools Members

Ms B Alderson

Mrs S Barnett

Mr B Blythe

Teachers Consultative Committee

Early Years Private, Voluntary & Independent

16-19 West England School & College

Observer

Councillor J McInnes

Cabinet Member – Children's Services and Skills

Apologies

Mr J Bishop

Mr P Walker

Mr A Walmsley

Mr R Haring

Mrs T Sturtivant

Mr J Searson

Cornerstone Academy Trust (*Academy Member*)

First Federation Trust (*Academy Substitute Member*)

First Federation (*Academy Member*)

Ivybridge CC (*Academy Member*)

Tiverton High

Exeter Diocesan Board of Education

Minutes

DECISION:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2018 be signed as a correct record.

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

DISCUSSION:

Matters discussed within the Head of Education & Learning's Update minute.

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Membership

DISCUSSION:

The following membership changes were noted:-

Mr Arnet Donkin had resigned as 16-19 substitute member, with elections in hand for his replacement.

ACTION:

County Solicitor (Fiona Rutley)

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Head of Education & Learning Update

DISCUSSION:

The Head of Education & Learning reported on progress with:-

Public Health Nursing and Portage was to be in-sourced into Children's Services and Education & Learning respectively wef April 2019, with benefits from these services being joined up;

Safer Devon Partnership funding was to be available to support personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), with 100k over the two phases (education/core) to support staff to deliver the curriculum;

Devon County Council had met its target to transfer all Special Educational Need statements to new Education Health and Care Plans by 31 March 2018. However there was continued concern at the length of time taken to progress new assessments. The Council had approved an additional 10 staff to increase turn around and the quality of EHCP work, together with an additional 2 staff for the independent advice service and increases in the educational psychologist's team wef 1 April 2018;

Strategy Improvement Fund bids for mathematics, middle leadership mathematics and training and support for governors and other bids from teaching schools

Alternative Provision government review, where Devon Inclusion Project had already identified themes and the Regional Schools Commissioner was working with SchoolsCompany Trust and other providers to secure the provision.

The following documents (links below) were also drawn to members' attention:-

-CS/18/10 2017-18 Strategic Review of SEND Provision (to Cabinet, 14 March 2018), with funding schools could bid for, for small changes eg break out space.

<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s15084/Review%20of%20SEN%20Provision%202017%20CS1810.pdf>

-SEN Annual Report (to Children's Scrutiny Committee, 20 March 2018), showing that Devon was 9 out of 52 LAs nationally for its performance for children with SEN and EHCP at key stage 2. The Phonics dip was due to the cohort of children with particularly complex needs. Exclusions of SEN pupils remained an issue which was being picked up by the Devon Inclusion Project.

<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s15214/CS1813%20-%20Q3%20EAL%20Performance%20Report.pdf>

The associations congratulated the Head of Education & Learning on the positive action and progress above.

DECISION: that Devon's success in bids, SEN performance, EHCP target and SEN additional staffing resources for EHCP plans as above be welcomed.

ACTION:

Head of Education & Learning (information to DEF members awaited on universal cohort data as per page 3 of the CiC Annual Report)

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Finance Update

DISCUSSION:

(Ms Marder declared an interest in the Growth Fund proposals for Cranbrook by virtue of being the Chief Executive Officer of the Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust, of which Cranbrook Education Campus was a member - (c)(ii) below and refrained from voting on this matter only).

(Miss Mitchell declared an interest in the Growth Fund proposals for Cranbrook by virtue of being a Headteacher within the Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust, of which Cranbrook Education Campus was a member - (c)(ii) below and refrained from voting on this matter only).

The Forum received the report of the Chief Officer for Children's Services and County Treasurer (DEF/18/03).

The Forum also noted the respective minutes of the Schools Finance Group (SFG) of 7 March 2018 and issues highlighted by SFG including:-

Growth Policy, Cranbrook (SFG note 2a);
SEND/High Needs (SFG note 4) – discussed at minute 73 below;
Carry Forwards (SFG note 5).

The report (DEF/18/03) covered:-

Budget Monitoring Report Month 10 (2017/18) - Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG);
2017/18 Advanced Notice of Planned Carry Forward;
Growth Fund.

Budget monitoring month 10 summarised the forecast position and major variations and High Needs budgets and forecast position, where continued management action was starting to come through.

In response to the growth fund discussion the County Treasurer advised that the growth fund financial plan proposals included an additional allocation of £1m for 2019/20 to be top-sliced from the Schools Block with a review taking place in following years. This would effect the amount of funding on the lump sum for primaries and free school meal factors for secondary schools. The Department for Education were currently reviewing the treatment of Growth Funding as part of the National Funding Formula which may change future decisions on whether there would be a continued need to deal with the Growth Fund locally.

The headteacher associations expressed their appreciation to officers for the ongoing collaborative working to improve outcomes.

DECISION:

(a) that month 10 DSG monitoring position as set out in section 1 of report (DEF/18/03) be noted;

(b) that in respect of the allocation of the deficit and surplus carry forward recommendations from 2017/18 as set out in section 2 of report (DEF/18/03):-

(i) tables 3 and 4 be approved/noted as indicated:-

Table 3: Deficit budgets to be carried forward

Budget Line	Amount £'000	Notes	Decision
Growth Fund	217	Deficit Balance – agreed to be carried forward by DEF (Note: Additional £175k highlighted not included at month 10)	2.1 Noted (Approved in principle 23.11.17)
High Needs Block	2,517	Deficit Balance – agreed to be carried forward by DEF	2.1 Noted (Approved in principle 23.11.17)
Total Central Provisions	2,734		

Table 4: Surplus budget carry forward requests

Budget Line	Amount £'000	Notes	Decision
Maternity	187	Rolled forward 2017/18 underspend to fund ongoing maternity cover	2.2 Noted
Schools and DSG Contingency	610	Rolled forward to fund contingency agreements in 2018/19 onwards	2.3 Noted
Total De-delegated budgets	778		
Phase Associations			
DAPH	82	Re-instated 2016/17 balances used against HNB	2.4 Approved
DASH	43	Re-instated 2016/17 balances used against HNB	
Total Central Provisions budgets	125		
Hospital Education	46	New responsibilities for Medical AP students will put pressure on existing funds in 2018/19	2.5 Noted
Mainstream SEN	19	Post 16 SEN – ESFA Funding that relates to summer term	2.6 Noted
Total High Needs	65		
Early Years Pupil Premium	137	PVI Pupil premium	2.7 Approved

Early Years Growth Fund	10	Slippage on Trinity start-up costs, funds are committed for 2018/19	2.8 Approved
Total Early Years	147		
Total C/forward requested	1,115		

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

(ii) table 5 option (b) be approved (as supported by the Schools Finance Group), to carry forward the £151,000 and be included as DSG Contingency, as this funding remained available to maintained schools:-

Table 5: Surplus budget no carry forward identified

Budget Line	Amount £'000	Notes
Licence and subscriptions	22	Accumulated savings no recognised demand in 2018/19
Trade Unions	129	Accumulated savings no recognised demand in 2018/19
Budget Underspends	151	

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

(c) that in respect of the Growth Fund, section 3 of report (DEF/18/03 and Growth Policy, Cranbrook (Schools Finance Group note 2a)):-

(i) the revised Growth Fund criteria (Appendix B of the report and paragraphs 10. 11 and 12) be approved and implemented from April 2018;

(ii) a new paragraph 33 be added to the Growth Fund criteria, ie that: For a secondary school opening Key Stage 4 classes for the first time, an additional £45,000 be paid as a lump sum at the start of year 10 and then as the pupils progress, a second lump sum be paid at the start of year 11 (ie a total of £90,000 over two years), to cover the incidental costs of the additional class;

(iii) that the financial plan to include an additional allocation of £1m per annum from 2019/20 from the Schools Block be approved;

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

ACTION:

County Treasurer (Adrian Fox)

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Implementation of Headteacher Associations (DASH & DAPH) Forming a Community Interest Company

DISCUSSION:

The Forum received the report from Headteacher Associations (Devon Association of Secondary Heads and Devon Association of Primary Heads) (DEF/18/04) outlining proposals to create a new "not for profit" CIC (named Schools Leadership Services), independent of the Local Authority, to provide a secure, sustainable future for association work on behalf of Devon's primary and secondary schools and their leaders, with a strong desire to keep schools across all phases, DA, SHAD and the LA working collaboratively together. A detailed commissioning specification was being worked up for the County Council to consider, with a view to agreement in principle end May 2018, in readiness for the November LA budget planning for 2019/20. Subject to testing the CIC would commence trading wef 1 September 2018 shadowing DASH and DAPH until 31 March 2019 with the Associations wound up once the CIC was fully established.

DECISION:

That the implementation of DASH and DAPH forming a Community Interest Company to represent school leaders and to work in a partnership agreement with Devon County Council be noted.

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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 7 March 2018 (considered under Finance Update minute 71 above)

DISCUSSION:

In respect of SEND/High Needs (SFG note 4) regarding the split of social care and educational costs for children in residential settings. Officers had identified and were looking into individual cases with some priority, but there was a general acknowledgement that if there was a care cost, that part would be paid for by the County Council.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2018.

DISCUSSION:

The Forum noted for information that primary and secondary schools would provide improved admissions information to the LA's Admissions team, to assist offers of school places for children moving into an area during the main school summer holidays and enable children to start at a new school sooner.

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Dates of Future Meetings

At 10am at County Hall, Exeter:-

Wed 20 June 2018
Wed 17 October 2018
Wed 23 January 2019
Wed 20 March 2019.

The Meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 10.55 am

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