

## SCHOOLS ORGANISATION, CAPITAL AND ADMISSIONS GROUP 28 February 2017

### ISSUES FOR DEF ON 15 MARCH 2017

<b>Item 9.</b>	<p><b>Sustainable Education in Rural Schools</b> SOCA Recommend that DEF formally ratifies and supports the proposal for the LA to work alongside the Diocese to re-engage with small schools to develop strategic plans and partnerships to ensure ongoing sustainability and educational performance.</p>
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## SCHOOLS ORGANISATION, CAPITAL AND ADMISSIONS GROUP Notes of meeting on 28 February 2017 at County Hall

		Attendance		
		28/2/17	10/01/17	27/9/16
<b>DCC</b>				
Chris Dyer (Chair)	Head of Built Environments	✓	✓	✓
Andrew Brent	Policy Officer	✓	✓	✓
Fran Butler	EY Childcare Sufficiency Lead	✓	<b>Apologies</b>	✓
Christine McNeil	School Organisation Policy Manager	✓	✓	✓
Heidi Watson-Jones	Service Support Officer (Education)	✓	✓	✓
<b>DAPH</b>				
Hilary Priest	The Grove Primary	✓	✓	✓
Caroline Boother	Hatherleigh Primary	✓	✓	<b>Apologies</b>
Alun Dobson	Marwood Primary	✓	✓	✓
Jan Reid	Yeo Valley Primary	<b>Apologies</b>	✓	✓
<b>DASH</b>				
Daryll Chapman	Okehampton College		<b>Apologies</b>	✓
Paul Cornish	Newton Abbot College	✓	✓	✓
Rob Haring	Ivybridge Community College	✓	<b>Apologies</b>	
<b>SHAD</b>				
Bronwen Caschere	Southbrook School	-	-	✓
Karen Rogers	Lampard School	<b>Apologies</b>	✓	-
<b>DAG</b>				
Ian Rogers	Secondary	✓	<b>Apologies</b>	✓
<b>Diocesan Representatives</b>				
Mary Cox	Plymouth CAST	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	✓
Christina Mabin	Exeter Anglican Diocese (Admissions)	✓	✓	<b>Apologies</b>
Richard Power	Exeter Anglican Diocese (Capital)		✓	✓
<b>Union Representatives</b>				
John Staddon	TCC	<b>Apologies</b>	✓	✓
Cora Woodhead	JCC			
<b>In Attendance</b>				
Nigel Coleman	NPS	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	✓
Simon Niles	Children's Services Strategic Manager	✓		

<b>1. Item/Focus: Minutes and Matters Arising from meeting on 10 January 2017</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes noted and actions reviewed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Decision/ Issues for DEF:</b>	Minutes of previous meeting agreed as an accurate record.
<b>Action:</b>	<p><b>FB</b> to circulate information re. Early Years SENCO support and extended childcare / early education eligibility criteria</p> <p><b>AB</b> to circulate research data re. children educated out of year group <i>(N.B. circulated 28/2/17)</i></p> <p><b>AB</b> to review online reception application form. <i>(N.B. completed: this IT feature was missed from the Primary application process. The Admissions team has sent a list of all applicants to each school and took the opportunity to ask schools to check their lists for children of staff. The issue has been resolved and will be checked again for the next intake)</i></p> <p><b>HWJ</b> to ensure SHAD representative has received capital maintenance allocation protocol.</p>
<b>2. Item/Focus: Admission Arrangements 2018/19 (Andrew Brent)</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Admission arrangements for 2018/19 and in year admission arrangements for 2017/18 have now been determined.</li> <li>Own Admission Authority schools must have their arrangements determined by 28February and published by 15 March.</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Decision/ Issues for DEF:</b>	Report noted
<b>Action:</b>	
<b>3. Item/Focus: Non-Standard Admissions Schools (Andrew Brent)</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previous discretion by LA to help parent make an informed decision has now been replaced by a duty on the LA to circulate information about non-standard admissions schools (South Devon UTC and Atrium etc.) to parents at an appropriate time.</li> <li>DASH suggested that it would be more equitable position for the LA to write to all parents outlining all provision available across the whole county, in so doing sharing all information with all parents, ruling out geographical focus where other provision exists.</li> <li>Noted Newton Abbot secondary schools are obliged to allow these schools to speak to Year 8/9 students outlining their provision offer. DASH protocols are unwittingly broken in 'encouraging' students to move school.</li> <li>Discussed whether the LA must post letters, and LA sought agreement from DASH that letters could be emailed to families instead, and considered how secondary schools could share email addresses. Noted that the data was originally passed from LA to school and anticipated no data protection issues in this regard. Alternatively, individually addressed letters could be sent to schools for distribution. DASH endorsed email distribution, to save LA costs.</li> <li>Schools in South Devon are particularly affected by this decision.</li> <li>Noted that letters to parents must be distributed by 14 March.</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Decision/ Issues for DEF:</b>	Report noted
<b>Action:</b>	<p><b>AB</b> to share draft letter to DASH representatives prior to circulation</p> <p><b>DASH</b> to confirm agreement to sharing email addresses or distributing hard copy letters via schools.</p>
<b>4. Item/Focus: Review of 2016 Admissions Round (Andrew Brent)</b>	

<b>Discussion:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted high percentage of parents offered a place at one of their highest ranking preferred schools.</li> <li>A range of reasons for parents not receiving a preferred place including late admission, and applications for admission to schools out of area.</li> <li>Noted 64 children took up places out of county during 2016, which is a large increase. Will review position in 2017 and look in more detail at possible reasons.</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Decision/ Issues for DEF:</b>	
<b>Action:</b>	<b>AB &amp; FB</b> to provide report on destinations of children being admitted to schools and early years settings out of county. <i>(N.B. action in hand)</i>
<b>5. Item/Focus: Admission Arrangements and School Websites (Andrew Brent)</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted suggested wording for school websites regarding Admissions procedure, which should include a specific contact name.</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Decision/ Issues for DEF:</b>	
<b>Action:</b>	<b>HWJ</b> to forward suggested wording to Clare Coates for distribution to schools
<b>6. Item/Focus: Early Years Update report (Fran Butler)</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 year old take up now at 92.9% which is a very pleasing outcome, as a result of the 'Golden Ticket' campaign.</li> <li>98.9% of 3 and 4 year olds accessing a place with 83.3% taking up full 570 hour entitlement; DAPH felt this was a very positive outcome.</li> <li>Sessions held for settings to prepare for 30 hour entitlement from September 2017.</li> <li>Clarification required of statutory guidance on how the funding may be used (i.e. number of providers, time frame for provision to be open, eligibility for the 30 hours, and extended eligibility where a family's circumstances change)</li> <li>LA has applied to the DfE for web-based eligibility check software.</li> <li>Noted that many providers (including schools) have not responded to the annual survey of Early Years providers. <b>FB</b> to re-send link to DAPH office.</li> <li>Noted that provider rate lump sum, deprivation factors and SEN are all being reviewed – to be discussed at SFG on 1/3/17.</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Decision/ Issues for DEF:</b>	Report noted
<b>Action:</b>	<b>DAPH</b> asked to remind schools to respond to the Annual Survey of EY Providers. <b>FB</b> to send link to Clare Coates for DAPH newsletter.
<b>7. Item/Focus: NPS Update report</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DAPH requested when schools will know the DMP rates for the current year, or whether there had been agreement to fix the rates as at 2016</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Decision/ Issues for DEF:</b>	Report noted
<b>Action:</b>	<b>NC</b> to circulate confirmation of 2017/18 DMP rates
<b>8. Item/Focus: Capital Programme Update (Chris Dyer)</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LA is still to receive capital maintenance announcement. This will have impact on the Summer holiday programme if no notification is received by end March. Unable to go to tender until</li> </ul>	

confirmation of funding has been received.

- EFA to begin programme of Condition Surveys. Condition Data Collection (CDC) to take place over 3 years. Expecting that results will drive future capital funding decisions.

<b>Key Decision/ Issues for DEF:</b>	Update noted
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<b>Action:</b>	
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### 9. Item/Focus: School Organisation Update (Christine McNeil)

**Discussion:**

- Still no information available about new Free School / Special Free School applications
- Sherford – first Primary School has been delayed. Consortium has suggested establishment of a temporary school, but DfE unwilling to issue funding agreement unless a plan for delivering permanent accommodation can be articulated.
- Payhembury - notice period (re. expansion) extended until premises issues are resolved.
- Burrington – awaiting Regional School Commissioner announcement re. future of the school.
- Tipton St John – will look to consult following County Council elections.
- Awaiting Cabinet approval for term dates; aligned with most neighbouring authorities (except Somerset)
- Okehampton – Noted that Free School bid submitted at request of DCC and anticipates LA support for that submission.
- Basic Need Capital Programme circulated. Noted a nominal figure has been included for 19/20 onwards, but confirmation of allocation still awaited.
- Noted some projects will be eligible for Growth funding

<b>Key Decision/ Issues for DEF:</b>	Report noted
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<b>Action:</b>	
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### 9. Item/Focus: Sustainable Education in Rural Communities (Simon Niles)

**Discussion:**

- Noted ongoing LA presumption against closing rural schools, with an understanding of their importance within communities. Sutcombe closure was a particularly challenging decision. Ongoing discussions in partnership with Exeter Diocese.
- Need to work with small schools (below 150) to ensure that governance is strong and that effective partnerships are established.
- Support will be prioritised to stand-alone small schools, but will include all VA, VC, Trust and Community small schools, beginning during the summer term, academies will be offered the same support.
- Noted that even where a group of small schools come together within a MAT there can be ongoing financial challenges through transition to different ways of working.
- Felt that Early Years needs to be fully considered within the process, and requested EY involvement in the new proposal. Children moving from EY to school provision is particularly important for small rural communities.
- The group felt that the DfE did not fully recognise Devon's landscape of schools of which over half are small schools.
- Particular concerns around the impact of parental preference on small schools, particularly where a significant number of pupils are from out of area.
- The group discussed how there remains a range of opinion

<b>Key Decision/ Issues for DEF:</b>	<b>SOCA Recommend</b> that DEF formally ratifies and supports the proposal to work alongside the Diocese to re-engage with small schools to develop strategic plans and partnerships to ensure ongoing sustainability and educational performance.
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<b>Action:</b>	
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**NEXT MEETING**

9.30am on Tuesday 6 June 2017 at Larkbeare House, Exeter