



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: 13 January 2016

**Committee:
Schools Forum**

Date: Thursday, 21 January 2016

Time: 8.30 am

**Venue: Shrewsbury Training and Development Centre, Racecourse Crescent,
Monkmoor, Shrewsbury, SY2 5BP**

You are requested to attend the above meeting.
The Agenda is attached

Claire Porter
Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

Members of Schools Forum

Bill Dowell (Chair)
Phil Adams
Austin Atkinson
Nicholas Bardsley
Michael Barrett
Mark Blackstock
Richard Bray
Hilary Burke
Colin Case
David Chantrey
Christine Harding
Christine Hargest
Ann Hartley
John Hitchings
Sandra Holloway

Colin Hopkins
Jo Humphreys
Peter Ingham
Pete Johnstone
Martin Jones
Sally Lill
Yvette McDaniel
Alan Parkhurst
Geoff Pettengell
Kay Redknap
Geoff Renwick
Mark Rogers
Philip Sell
Joy Tetsill
Ruth Thomas

Your Committee Officer is:

Philip Wilson Service Manager Business Support People

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AGENDA

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Minutes and Matters Arising (Pages 1 - 4)**
- 3 Schools' Budget 2016-17 and October 2015 Dataset - Update (Gwyneth Evans) (Pages 5 - 8)**
- 4 Shropshire Schools Forum Constitution (Phil Wilson) (Pages 9 - 12)**
- 5 Schools Forum Task and Finish Group (Phil Wilson) (Pages 13 - 18)**
- 6 Dedicated School Grant Monitoring (Stuart Waters)**
- 7 Communications**
- 8 Next Meeting**

Thursday 17 March 2016, 8.30 am, STDC, Monkmoor

Future Meetings:

Thursday 9 June 2016, 8.30 am, STDC, Monkmoor

 Shropshire Council	Schools Forum Date: 21 January 2016 Time: 8.30 am Venue: STDC, Monkmoor, Shrewsbury	<u>Item/Paper</u> <div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">A</div> Public
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MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2015

Present

School Forum Members

Bill Dowell (Chair)
 Phil Adams – Academy Headteacher
 Colin Case – Primary Governor
 Christine Harding – Early Years and Childcare
 Christine Hargest – Association of Secretaries
 Sandra Holloway – Primary Governor
 Jo Humphreys – Primary Governor
 Peter Ingham – Secondary Governor
 Martin Jones – Primary Governor
 Yvette McDaniel – Primary Headteacher
 Alan Parkhurst – Primary Headteacher
 Geoff Pettengell – Academy Headteacher
 Phil Poulton – Secondary Headteacher (left at 9.45)
 Kay Redknap – TMBSS
 Geoff Renwick – Academy Headteacher
 Mark Rogers – Primary Headteacher
 Philip Sell - Diocese

Members

Officers

Rob Carlyle
 Gwyneth Evans
 Gareth Proffitt
 Neville Ward
 Stephen Waters
 Phil Wilson
 Helen Woodbridge (Minutes)

Observers/Visitors

Hannah Fraser

		ACTION
1.	Apologies Apologies had been received from Austin Atkinson, Nick Bardsley, Michael Barratt, Mark Blackstock, Karen Bradshaw, Richard Bray, David Chantrey, John Hitchings, Pete Johnstone, Sally Lill, Ann Hartley and Joy Tetsill. Subsequent apologies were received from Ruth Thomas.	
2.	Minutes and Matters Arising It was confirmed that Alan Parkhurst had been in attendance. Phil Wilson advised of the need for a replacement for Sally Lill.	PW
3.	De-delegation 2016-17 Gwyneth Evans took Schools Forum members through appendix A and advised that this item was relevant only to maintained schools so voting was restricted to maintained primary and secondary schools (in separate sectors). Contingency Gwyneth Evans advised that contingency is currently on target as there seems to be a fair amount of mobility. Vote on Contingency The seven primary maintained representatives voted that this should be de-delegated in 2016/17.	

Maternity and Insurance

Mark Rogers pointed out that other LAs don't seem to do this. However he and other members of Schools Forum agreed that Shropshire's system works well. Phillip Sell added that some LAs buy insurance.

Vote on Maternity and Insurance

The seven primary maintained and the two secondary maintained school representatives voted that this should be de-delegated in 2016/17.

Trades Union Duties

There was significant discussion about how Trades Union/area representative duties are funded and whether maintained schools are subsidising academies.

The chair clarified that facility time is for representatives to work with schools/governing bodies.

Phil Adams added that these funds cover release time for representatives from schools.

Mark Rogers stated that the corporate work eg on pay policy saves time for schools.

Phil Wilson reminded colleagues of HR/Unions negotiations.

It was agreed that Phil Wilson/Christine Hargest should meet with Lorraine Edwards from HR to discuss.

They will need to clarify what the budget is covering and how the funding has been used in the past.

Peter Ingham suggested that he would be happy to vote if this investigation is going to be carried out.

It was agreed that detailed analysis of the use of this budget would be undertaken and reported back to Schools Forum.

Vote on Trades Union Duties

Six primary maintained representatives voted for de-delegation, one primary representative abstained.

Two secondary maintained representatives voted for de-delegation.

Vote on Administration of Free School Meal Eligibility

Seven primary maintained representatives and two secondary maintained representatives voted that this should not be de-delegated.

Vote on Public Duties

Six primary maintained representatives and two secondary maintained representatives voted that this should not be de-delegated. (One primary maintained representative voted for de-delegation.)

Vote on Library and Museum Services

Seven primary maintained representatives voted that this should not be de-delegated.

4. School Funding – Local Funding Formula

Gwyneth Evans went through the paper.

Geoff Pettengell was concerned that the difference between the academic year and financial year would mean a loss of funding.

Gwyneth Evans was able to clarify that the funding would follow the academy year.

Colin Case suggested that as the first year would be covered by the new legislation and the protection of the lump sums, could Schools Forum vote next year for 2017-18 onwards?

Geoff Pettengell spoke of the need for financial forecasting to be informed.

Geoff Renwick asked if there could be a tapering measure?

Gwyneth Evans advised that the proposal had been discussed with the accountant

PW

at the Shrewsbury Academies Trust.

Martin Jones spoke of the need for flexibility as it will depend on the site.

Geoff Pettengell suggested that it is likely that there will be more cases and therefore a need for a robust system.

Phil Adams supported the use of split site funding as it complies with the thrust of Schools Forum re sustainability.

Vote on use of a split site factor

Schools Forum voted in favour of using the split site factor to fund additional costs of operating on two sites up to a maximum value of the loss in lump sum funding of two schools amalgamating. There was one abstention.

Vote on MFG disapplication

Schools Forum unanimously voted in favour of applying to disapply the MFG for 2016-17 for one small school with a significant increase in number on roll.

5. Provision of Free Early Years Entitlement

Neville Ward went through his paper.

There is a strong push to pay PVI providers a higher rate as they employ teachers. However this is causing financial strain.

Christine Harding added that the majority of quality providers have already put qualified teachers in place and this is not proving financially sustainable.

The Local Authority has less information on the quality of individual EY settings as they are providing less support and guidance than previously. There is concern re this as some settings have not been inspected for five years.

When schools adopt pre-schools, they get the support of the school although funded separately.

DfE are relaxing the requirement for schools who have adopted to have a qualified teacher leading provision.

Maintained nurseries have to have a qualified teacher.

Neville Ward agreed to check the regulations as there is confusion.

A flexible sort of MFG formula is used to support unsustainable settings.

Christine Harding suspects that high number of providers are facing sustainability issues and some won't be able to offer 30 hours.

There is a capacity issue if already full and if the funding doesn't increase there will be issues.

There will be a positive impact if funding increases and is ring fenced.

Comprehensive spending review outcome - some capital funding to support creation of new places.

It is proposed to introduce a National Early Years Funding Formula in 2017/18.

Revised funding rates - 8 hours changed to 16 hours and n/a to earners £100,000+

It is hard to establish requirement for places.

Yvette McDaniel asked if there are many places not filled? Her current setting has lowest numbers for some time.

Neville Ward confirmed that there is capacity but some are providing for 0-11.

Martin Jones spoke of the need to get more 2 year olds in.

It was confirmed that Early Years funding is part of DSG but not ring-fenced. EY block is now based on participation. Neville Ward stressed that it is more difficult to set the EY budget because take up is not known. He added that there is some other funding available to support interventions.

Phil Wilson advised that from 2017/18 there will be a National Funding Formula for schools, high needs and early years.

The chair asked if there is a forum meeting for early years?

Neville Ward confirmed that they will be meeting next week for an information exchange.

NW

The chair asked Neville Ward to report the interest of Schools Forum. It was agreed that an Early Years Funding Task and Finish Group is to be set up later next year. Volunteers included Christine Harding, Yvette McDaniel and Jo Humphreys. Additional PVI representatives will be sought.

NW

6. Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring

Stephen Waters went through the paper and it was clarified that it applies to maintained and academy schools.

Alan Parkhurst spoke of need for high needs specialists and asked if any underspend could be used for this.

The chair suggested the need for a task and finish group to consider this.

Phil Wilson agreed as there are also considerations to be made following yesterday's comprehensive spending review.

It was agreed that a task and finish group should meet sooner rather than later – possibly in early January to consider high needs issue and to confirm the timetable for work. Membership would include Jo Humphreys, John Hitchings, Mark Rogers, Phil Poulton, Pete Johnstone, Kay Redknap, Alan Parkhurst with the possible addition of a school business manager?

PW

Vote on Central Provision within the Schools Budgets for 2016-17

Schools Forum unanimously approved the central provision within schools budgets 2016-17 as set out in the appendix.

7. Communications

The Comprehensive Spending Review themes and a DfE press release were circulated. Some clarification will be needed.

The consultation process re the move to a National Fair Funding Formula (NFFF) will need to be responded to by Schools Forum when it comes through in the New Year.

The intention is to make LAs running schools a thing of the past. Sixth form colleges will be able to become academies. FE colleges will be protected.

It was suggested that the NFFF should work to Shropshire's advantage but its effect may be tapered.

The chair advised that the F40 group work continue to work tirelessly. The task and finish group can support them by responding.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21 January 2015

The meeting closed at 10.28 am

Future meetings: 17 March 2016, 9 June 2016



Schools Forum

Date: 21 January 2016

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Venue: Shrewsbury
Training and Development
Centre

Paper

B

Public

SCHOOLS' BUDGET 2016-17 AND OCTOBER 2015 DATASET - UPDATE

Responsible Officer Gwyneth Evans

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Summary

This report gives an update on the latest information available on schools' funding for 2016-17 and the dataset information provided by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) based on the schools' October 2015 census.

Recommendation

This report is an information item only.

REPORT

Schools' Budget 2016-17

1. Detailed information on school revenue funding for 2016-17 was announced by the Department for Education (DfE) on 17 December 2015.
2. As in previous years, the total 2016-17 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is allocated under three main non-ringfenced blocks: a schools block, an early years block and a high needs block. In addition there is a small additions/deductions block.
3. A summary of the 2016-17 DSG allocation as announced on 17 December 2015 is shown in the table below alongside the 2015-16 DSG allocation (before recoupment).

	2016-17 £m	2015-16 £m	Variation £m
Schools Block	153.047	153.332	-0.285
Provisional Early Years block	9.812	9.812	0
High Needs Block	25.941	25.453	+0.488
Additions/Deductions	0.050	0.052	-0.002
Total	188.850	188.649	+0.201

- **The 2016-17 DSG – Schools Block key financial headlines are:**

4. Shropshire's schools block pupil numbers at October 2015 were 34,769 (including non-recoupment academy). This compares to 34,833 (34,752 + 81 non-recoupment academy) at October 2014 – a reduction of 65 pupils and a reduction in funding of £0.285m.
5. As in previous years the October 2014 pupil numbers include a reception uplift to take account of deferred entry to Reception based on an increase in the count of Reception pupils between October 2014 and January 2015.
6. Shropshire's 2016-17 Schools Block Allocation guaranteed unit of funding (GUF) totals £4401.81 per pupil, a slight decrease from the £4402.56 GUF received in 2015-16, reflecting the inclusion of the non-recoupment academy in the overall pupil numbers and GUF in 2016-17. This is a presentational change and not a reduction to funding received.

- **The 2016-17 DSG – Early Years Block key financial headlines are:**

7. The 2016-17 Early Years Block allocation is provisional at this stage as it is based on January 2015 Early Years Census data. This provisional allocation will be updated in July 2016 and July 2017 and the final allocation will be based on 5/12ths of January 2016 pupil numbers and 7/12ths of January 2017 pupil numbers.
8. The amount per pupil for the early years' free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds in 2016-17 is the same as for 2015-16, £3,249.84 per fte. Based on January 2015 census of 2,393 ftes this delivers a provisional allocation of £7.777m.
9. The amount per pupil for 2 year olds from the most disadvantaged backgrounds in 2016-17 is also the same as for 2015-16, £4,607.50. Based on January 2015 census of 412 ftes this delivers a provisional allocation of £1.898m.
10. The 2016-17 Early Years Block allocation also includes the early years' pupil premium (EYPP). Shropshire has received a provisional EYPP allocation of

£0.137m. It is expected that any adjustments to the provisional allocation, based on actual take-up of the EYPP during the year, will be made in January 2017.

- **The 2016-17 DSG – High Needs Block key financial headlines are:**

11. The High Needs Block includes funding for local authority high needs pupils/students aged 0-24.
12. For 2016-17 Shropshire's High Needs Block is made up of:
 - Shropshire's total High Needs Block from 2015-16 of £25.453m; plus
 - An increase to place funding for the 2015/16 academic year resulting from the high needs exceptions process covering the final term of that increase (summer 2016). This relates to an additional 16 places at the Kettlemere centre at Lakelands school and equates to £0.067m; plus
 - An adjustment to reflect residency to location basis change for Post 16 and non-maintained special schools of -£0.057m
 - Shropshire's share of an additional £92.5m top-up funding made available nationally. Based on Shropshire's proportion of the 2-19 aged population projections for 2016 this equates to an additional £0.478m.
13. Increases to place funding for the academic year 2016/17 are not included within the 2016-17 DSG allocation at this stage. Notification of any increase to place funding is expected in March.

- **The 2016-17 DSG – Additions/Deductions Key Financial Headlines are:**

14. In addition to the three main blocks within the DSG for 2016-17, Shropshire will receive funding for induction for newly qualified teachers of £0.050m.

The October 2015 Dataset - for use within the Schools' Funding Formula for 2016-17

15. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has provided the local authority with the October 2015 dataset for Shropshire schools for use within the schools' funding formula for 2016-17.
16. Overall pupil numbers in Shropshire have reduced by 65 pupils from October 2014 to October 2015. However the variation at an individual school basis is significant for many of our schools with reductions in number on roll for some schools as high as 28%.
17. There are also, for some schools, significant variations in the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index IDACI data and free school meal (FSM) pupil data from October 2014 to October 2015.

18. Shropshire's October 2015 IDACI data has resulted in a 10% reduction to the funding allocated to schools on this formula factor. As Shropshire's 2015-16 local funding formula only allocated £220k on the IDACI factor in total across all Shropshire primary schools, the variations in data do not cause particularly significant variations in funding on an individual school by school basis.
19. However the FSM pupil data has also reduced by around 10% overall but because the total allocated on this factor in 2015-16 was £9.3m the impact on many individual schools is significant. Secondary schools FSM funding variations range from losses of £98k through to gains of £22k. Primary schools FSM funding variations range from losses of £42k to gains of £28k. The resulting £985k reduction to the funding allocated to individual schools through the FSM factor will be recycled through the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) factor across all Shropshire schools giving each school an additional £28 per pupil.
20. Variations in IDACI and FSM funding will be covered by the minimum funding guarantee, set at minus 1.5% for 2016-17. As a reminder, the MFG does not protect against a falling roll.



Schools Forum

Date: 21 January 2016

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Venue: Shrewsbury Training
and Development
Centre

Item

Public

Paper

C

SHROPSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM CONSTITUTION

Responsible Officer Phil Wilson

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Summary

At their meeting on 7 November 2013, Schools Forum approved the constitutional arrangements for the annual re-apportionment of membership to take account of the changing mix between maintained and academy schools. This report details the required re-apportionment from April 2016 based on the academy conversions up to October 2015.

Recommendation

To approve the re-apportionment of Schools Forum membership from April 2016.

REPORT

Membership

1. All local authority School Forums are constituted in accordance with the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012. Shropshire Schools Forum approved the current Constitution at their meeting on 13 September 2012, with the new Constitution becoming operational from 1 October 2012.
2. At their meeting on 7 November 2013, Schools Forum received a report on a document from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) which referenced a requirement for regular reviews of Forum membership to take account of the pace of academy conversions and to ensure that membership remains proportionate (based on pupil numbers).
3. Following a report to School Forum on 23 October 2014, the following membership structure was approved to operate from 1 April 2015: 10 primary (5 headteachers, 5 governors), 4 secondary (2 headteachers, 2 governors), 5

academy (3 headteachers, 2 governors), 1 special school place and 1 pupil referral unit place (PRU). The special school and PRU places are not included in the apportionment calculation. The membership as at 1 January 2016 is attached.

4. In the November 2013 report Schools Forum agreed that a re-apportionment of membership should take place annually, from 1 April, using the pupil numbers from the previous October's school census.
5. In order to model the position from April 2016, the school census information from October 2015, and using the number of academies as at 1 October 2015, has been used to assess the impact on representation – see table below (noting that 19 school places are apportioned by excluding special and PRU members).

	Oct. 2015 NOR*	Apportionment	
Maintained Primary Schools	18,251	50.9%	10
Maintained Secondary Schools	6,273	17.5%	3
Academies (as at 1 October 2015)	11,301	31.6%	6
	35,825	100.0%	19

** excluding pupils in special schools and PRUs*

6. The analysis indicates that from April 2016 there will need to be a reduction from 4 to 3 maintained secondary representatives, and an increase from 5 to 6 academy representatives. It should be noted that the academy pupil numbers include 15.3% in the primary phase. It will be for the academy schools to consider whether the additional academy place should be allocated to a primary phase academy representative.
7. The EFA guidelines stipulate that the academy representation can be drawn from free schools in the local authority area. Equally consideration will need to be given to the balance of headteacher and governor representation in each of the constituent groups.
8. Severndale Specialist School converted to an academy on 1 January 2014. Schools Forum have previously determined that they are happy for the representative from Severndale to take up the special school place on Schools Forum, rather than an academy place..
9. The reduction from 4 to 3 members from secondary maintained schools will need managing. Precedent would suggest that this membership should be made up of 2 headteachers and 1 governor.
10. While the local authority will support the constituent groups through the facilitation and management of, for example, election processes, the responsibility for determining how nominations will be sought, the mix between headteachers and governors, and the balance of representation between phases and/or size of school, must rest with the constituent groups.

SCHOOLS FORUM – MEMBERSHIP – JANUARY 2016

Member Category	Name	School	Term to
Schools representation (21 members – 75%)			
Primary Headteachers (5 members)	Mark Rogers Yvette McDaniel Alan Parkhurst Vacancy Vacancy	Oxon Prees Crowmoor	31/03/16 31/03/16 31/08/19
Secondary Headteachers (2 members)	Pete Johnstone Phil Poulton	Belvidere Ludlow CE	31/03/17 13/09/16
Primary Governors (5 members)	Jo Humphreys Sandra Holloway David Chantrey Colin Case Martin Jones	St Mary's Shawbury Meole Brace St Lucia's St John the Baptist Much Wenlock	31/03/16 31/03/16 31/03/16 31/08/16 31/03/16
Secondary Governors (2 members)	Joy Tetsill Richard Bray	Meole Brace Thomas Adams	31/08/18 31/08/16
Special Schools (1 member)	Sabrina Hobbs	Severndale	31/03/20
Academies (5 members)	Phil Adams Geoff Pettengell Mark Blackstock Michael Barrett Vacancy	Corbet Shrewsbury AT Idsall Priory	31/03/19 31/03/17 31/03/19 31/08/19
Pupil Referral Unit (1 member)	Kay Redknap	TMBSS	01/10/16
Non-schools representation (8 members – 25%)			
SSGC Early Years & Childcare Diocese Association of Secretaries 14-19 Forum 16-19 Education Sector	John Hitchings Christine Harding Colin Hopkins Philip Sell Austin Atkinson Christine Hargest Bill Dowell Ruth Thomas	Daisy Chain Nursery Lichfield Hereford Shrewsbury NUT Derwen College	

Council Elected Members	Cllr D Minnery (C) Cllr N Bardsley (C)	CYP lead Education lead
Council Officers	Karen Bradshaw Phil Wilson Rob Carlyle Gwyneth Evans Neville Ward Stephen Waters Gareth Proffitt	
Observer appointed by Secretary of State	Paul Tynan	Education Funding Agency

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Schools Forum

Date: 20 March 2014

Time: 8.30 am

Venue: Shrewsbury
Training and Development
Centre, Monkmoor,
Shrewsbury

Item

Paper

D

SCHOOLS FORUM TASK & FINISH GROUP

Responsible Officer Phil Wilson

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Summary

At their meeting on 26 November 2015 Schools Forum agreed that the Schools Forum Task & Finish Group should be re-established and meet early in 2016. This will be the sub-group drawn from Schools Forum that will undertake the detailed work in relation to the consultation on, and subsequent implementation of, the proposed national fair funding formula.

This report provides the notes from a meeting of the group held on 13 January 2016.

Recommendation

To note the minutes from the meeting of the School Forum Task & Finish Group on 13 January 2016.

REPORT

1. On 26 November 2015 Schools Forum agreed to the re-establishment of a Task & Finish Group to carry out the likely detailed work required in the spring and summer of 2016 in relation to the proposed consultation and subsequent implementation of the Government's proposed move to a national fair funding formula from the financial year 2017-18. While, to date, no details have been released, it was considered appropriate to get the Task & Finish Group operational as soon as possible.
2. Another reason for the group meeting in early January 2016 was to consider the projected underspend of the centrally retained Dedicated Schools Grant in 2015-16 which was discussed at the meeting on 26 November.

3. The Schools Forum Task & Finish Group met on 13 January 2016. The notes of the meeting are attached for information.
4. There is clearly more work to be done on the issue of how any funding released through the High Needs budget is applied. The Task & Finish Group will therefore be meeting again on this specific issue, probably in late February/early March, following which a paper will be brought to Schools Forum for their consideration at the next Forum meeting on 17 March 2016.

Schools Forum Task & Finish Group

Notes of key points raised at the meeting held on 13 January 2016

1. In attendance

Bill Dowell (Chair of Schools Forum) [BD], Mark Rogers (Headteacher, Oxon CE Primary) [MR], Phil Adams (Headteacher, Corbet School Technology College) [PA], Kay Redknapp (Head of Service, TMBSS) [KR], Sandra Holloway (School Business Manager, Meole Brace CE Primary) [SH], Alan Parkhurst (Headteacher, Crowmoor Primary) [AP], John Hitchings (Vice Chair of Schools Forum) [JH].

Local authority officers:

Karen Bradshaw [KB], Tina Russell [TR], Gwyneth Evans [GE], Stephen Waters [SW] and Phil Wilson [PW].

2. Apologies

Phil Poulton (Headteacher, Ludlow CE School), Yvette McDaniel (Headteacher, Prees CE Primary), Nick Bardsley (Deputy Portfolio Folder, Children's Services) and Pete Johnstone (Headteacher, Belvidere School).

Bill Dowell, as chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting

3. Dedicated Schools Grant Settlement 2016-17

GE provided a brief overview of Shropshire's DSG settlement for 2016-17. Overall Shropshire's DSG has increased by £200k from 2015-16. The key points to note are that pupil numbers in Shropshire have reduced by 65 between October 2014 census and October 2015 census resulting in a reduction to the School Block funding of £285k. The High Needs Block has increased by £488k, mainly due to an additional £478k High Needs top-up allocation made available to Shropshire as part of an additional £92.5m made available nationally.

GE also explained that the local authority had received the school dataset information for 2016-17. There are, for some schools, significant variations in the IDACI and free school meal (FSM) pupil data. Shropshire's October 2015 IDACI data has resulted in a 10% reduction to the funding allocated to schools on this formula factor. As Shropshire's 2015-16 local funding formula only allocated £220k on the IDACI factor in total across all Shropshire primary schools, the variations in data do not cause particularly significant variations in funding on an individual school by school basis.

The FSM pupil data has also reduced by around 10% overall, and as the total allocated on this factor in 2015-16 was £9.3m, the impact on many individual schools is significant. The resulting £985k reduction to the funding allocated to individual schools through the FSM factor will be recycled through the AWPUP factor across all Shropshire schools giving

each school an additional £28 per pupil. The Task & Finish Group supported this approach.

4. Central Retained Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Funding 2016-17

PW referred the group back to the last Forum meeting and the projected underspend of an estimated £1.0 million in the High Needs budget within the centrally retained DSG in 2015-16. He reported that there are reported pressures on pre- and post-16 place funding in 2016-17 of an estimated £888k. Further detailed analysis will be undertaken with SEN officers to assess and understand these indicative projections and the measures being taken to keep the costs in check. If the projections are realised then the majority of the one-off carry forward of £1.0 million from 2015-16 will be required to meet these additional costs.

PW then went on to look at the overall High Needs budget within the centrally retained DSG for 2016-17. As GE had reported in the previous agenda item, Shropshire has been allocated £478k High Needs top up allocation as part of an additional £92.5m made available nationally. PW also reported that there is scope for reducing the contingency budget for top ups – currently £850k – as this was based on historic and conservative estimates by SEN officers. Combined with the additional allocation of £478k, this adds up to £1.0 million in 2016-17 from the High Needs budget in the centrally retained DSG in 2016-17.

PW advised that there was a proposal that officers wanted to put before the group about a possible use of the £1.0 million, relating to Early Help.

TR provided the group with some background to the areas covered by Early Help, which include:

- targeted youth support
- Autism West Midlands commissioned contract
- Action for Children – shortbreaks for children with disabilities and SEN
- Lifelines – dedicated bereavement counselling
- Young carers – peer support and social activities
- the Solihull Approach parenting programme/family support
- Enhance commissioned programme
- Compass – multi-agency ‘front door’ regarding concerns for the welfare or protection of children and young people.

JH noted the worthiness of this programme of support to children and young people. He enquired where the current funding for these activities was coming from. TR advised that it comes from a variety of sources: local authority base budget, CCG, public health, Troubled Families funding and DSG. The challenge is sustaining the breadth and scope of the provision while faced with public expenditure constraints. KB reported that, in a recent peer review, Shropshire’s Early Help provision was commended, compares very favourably with other local authorities and is starting to make a difference.

In overall financial terms the provision is costing an estimated £6.0 million per annum, of which a significant proportion is the local authority budget.

AP stated that he was expecting that there would be more than one proposal being put forward. He reported that the message from headteachers, via CPG, was that extra capacity is required in schools to support children with High Needs. Detailed facts and figures would need to be provided, for example on the number of young people supported by Early Help.

BD stated that the purpose of this meeting was to initiate discussions and to begin unpacking the issues.

KR, as head of TMBSS, was keen to be more engaged with Early Help. She would welcome being more involved with the agencies than she is at present. Her sense was that things were being 'done to' schools and that it was not as linked up as it needed to be. KB indicated that schools were represented on the Schools Safeguarding Group and the Early Help Stakeholders' Group, and that the local authority were keen to engage schools.

MR felt that there was a need for greater clarity on the funding streams that make up the Council's funding for Early Help.

PA stated that there needs to be a clear message to local politicians that they need to do more to challenge Central Government re the cuts to such provision. He suggested that perhaps they need to see some of the services fail in order to better understand the consequences of continued cuts in provision.

Bill asked Karen to facilitate a meeting with the lead members in the Council's new Administration, including the new portfolio holder, to discuss the pressures being faced by schools.

Action: KB to arrange for chair and vice chair of Schools Forum to meet with senior members.

MR agreed that there is a case for the Early Help proposal. However, there is an alternative for additional support for addressing the challenges being faced by schools in dealing with the most 'difficult' children. He was suggesting, via the £1.0 million freed up in 2016-17, supporting both the ongoing sustainability of Early Help while putting additional funding into mainstream top up funding, for example some or all of the additional £478k.

AP suggested that CPG would not be able to support a single proposal.

PW advised that the notes of this meeting will be shared with the wider Schools Forum at their meeting on 21 January. A subsequent report will be presented to the Forum meeting on 17 March, following a further meeting of the Task & Finish Group in February at which the group will

receive and consider the detailed information they require, including further options, in order to take an informed view on the way forward.

Action: PW to arrange a further meeting of the group in February.

5. Government Education White Paper and National Fair Funding Formula

PW advised that there is no further detail yet on the Government's proposed consultation on a national fair funding formula. A paper produced by f40 last summer on a proposed formula was circulated to the group for information.

An Education White Paper is expected some time in the spring.

As and when the Government publishes information on their proposals, dates for further meetings of the Task & Finish Group will be diaried.

6. Any Other Business

As there was no further business BD closed the meeting, thanking all attendees for their time and helpful contribution to the discussions.