

 Shropshire Council	Schools Forum Date: 20 March 2014 Time: 8.30 am Venue: STDC, Monkmoor, Shrewsbury	<u>Item/Paper</u> <h1 style="text-align: center;">A</h1> Public
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MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2013

Present:

School Forum Members

Bill Dowell – 14-19 Forum
 Phil Adams – Academy headteacher
 David Chantrey – Primary governor
 Chris Davies – Special school headteacher
 Sheila Halsall – Secondary governor
 Christine Harding – Early Years Provider
 Christine Hargest - Association of Secretaries
 Jo Humphreys – Primary governor
 Peter Ingham- Secondary governor
 Pete Johnstone – Secondary headteacher
 Martin Jones – Primary governor
 Sally Lill – Primary headteacher
 Phil Loveday – Academy headteacher
 Yvette McDaniel – Primary headteacher
 Kay Miller – Primary headteacher
 Ian Nurser – Primary headteacher
 David Ravenscroft – Secondary governor
 Kay Redknap – TMBSS Headteacher
 Mark Rogers – Primary headteacher
 James Sparkes – Secondary governor

Members

Cllr Ann Hartley

Officers

Phil Wilson
 Rob Carlyle
 Gwyneth Evans
 Neville Ward
 Deborah Fern
 Graham Moore
 Helen Woodbridge (Minutes)

Observers/visitors

Cllr Hannah Fraser

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Austin Atkinson, Karen Bradshaw, John Hitchings, Sandra Holloway and Phil Poulton.

The Chair welcomed Sally Lill to her first meeting.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising (Paper A)

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2013 were accepted as a true record.

Gwyneth Evans provided an update on the High Needs Targeted Allocation and the effect of MFG. Schools Forum had requested that MFG be dis-applied from this and this has been agreed. The total reduction from Primary AWPU (based on real data) will be £4.02. Secondary AWPU will be reduced by £1.63 as one school does trigger the funding when real data is used.

ACTION

3. **Lobbying**

Ann Hartley advised that she would be meeting with the local MPs the following day. She had asked if the Chair could attend but this had not been allowed. She agreed to report back to the next Schools Forum Meeting. Phil Adams asked if there was any more news of the national funding formula.

Phil Wilson advised that he had attended a Westminster Forum last week where the Chief Executive of the EFA had avoided that question.

The Chair and Gwyneth Evans will attend a briefing at the House of Commons on the funding formula in early February and will then prepare a briefing paper.

Mark Rogers had noticed a change over the last 10/15 years. Lower funded authorities used to perform well but now this performance is dropping comparatively as other authorities have been better funded. Perhaps F40 could press on this issue.

Phil Adams spoke of the difficulties of small schools which are categorised as RI as due to lack of funding they don't have the capacity to improve.

Peter Ingham advised that during the recent Ofsted inspection at his school Ofsted had not been interested in the funding.

The Chair thought that 'the capacity to improve' is key.

It was agreed that Ann Hartley would report that Schools Forum is concerned re the maintaining of standards and the capacity to improve.

Chris Davies reminded Schools Forum of the fact that a curriculum led model can not be afforded.

4. **Post 16 Funding Issues – Graham Moore (Paper B)**

Graham Moore talked through his paper which was presented in response to issues raised at Schools Forum. Some Schools Forum members were confused by the move to 540 hours and what can be included. There was some discussion. The Chair advised that schools were being brought into line with colleges.

Phil Loveday commented that colleges have many more economies of scale.

Martin Jones asked about the third strand – training in employment. It was confirmed that training has to be for at least one day per week.

Graham Moore advised that it was possible for a student to be working/studying for 1,000 hours but schools would only be funded for 540 hours.

Phil Loveday and the Chair spoke of the enormous impact of these changes on the budgets of schools with sixth forms. Phil Loveday's school needs 144 students in the sixth form to be viable. Transport is also an issue.

The Chair saw that the financial problems in primary and secondary schools are now being replicated in Post 16.

Another issue is Shropshire students attending colleges out of county.

Graham Moore advised that Shropshire is a net exporter of students by around 20% of the cohort and there are varying reasons for this.

The creation of an extra sixth form in the north of the county will not help the issue and falling rolls will also exacerbate the situation.

Chris Davies advised of the growth in high needs pupils which is a huge draw on funding.

The Chair summarised that it is the LA's responsibility to ensure learners' needs are met. However, the LA has no funding and therefore no power. A Learning Plan is being created and the LA is working with the Shropshire Learning Network. Janine Vernon and Graham Moore are supporting schools in preparing for the October 2014 census.

The Chair suggested another report at the meeting after next.

It was agreed that Post 16 should be included in the remit of the School Sustainability Task and Finish Group.

5. Observer Protocol – Phil Wilson (Paper C)

Phil Wilson went through the paper which was generally approved subject to the amendment of Point 7 to make participation more limited.

6. Schools Budget 2014-15 – Update - Gwyneth Evans (Paper D)

Gwyneth Evans presented the paper and advised that a more detailed paper would be brought to the next meeting. She added that schools should receive their budgets for next year next week. £1900 per LAC will be available but Phil Adams was concerned that not all adopted children are known and there is no way of ascertaining this information. £53 pupil premium per FSM pupil will be added to this year's budget. Mark Rogers was concerned that the addition of these funds makes the funding gap wider.

7. Carbon Tax – Phil Wilson (Paper E)

Ann Hartley agreed to challenge the deduction of Carbon Tax which is a charge and leaves no incentive for schools to conserve energy.

It was advised that the Carbon Reduction Loan is still available and Phil Adams advised that academies can access low interest loans.

Ian Nurser felt that whilst MFG is still in place, this is another hit for the larger schools.

Phil Loveday wanted to ensure that in joint use sites, this charge was shared.

Sally Lill was concerned because Shropshire's old school building stock means that schools are stuck with poor energy performance.

David Ravenscroft asked about the LA's policy.

Phil Wilson advised that initiatives had been put in place working within the policy but were collapsing eg issues with suppliers of biomass boilers/the need for schools to be fully insulated before the installation of biomass boilers.

Pete Johnstone found the comparison interesting as the newest school did not seem to be energy efficient. This was explained as the school has a swimming pool.

Phil Adams suggested that LAs which had not been in receipt of any BSF funding should be prioritised and it was agreed that this should be raised with the MPs.

8. Communications

Ann Hartley will be meeting with local MPs. The Chair and Gwyneth Evans will be attending a Fair Funding Conference at the House of Commons.

This issue of lower funding leading to poorer performance was discussed

further. Chris Davies reminded colleagues that this had been predicted by Schools Forum.

Mark Rogers felt that this applied to most rural authorities and should be communicated as this – not just Shropshire.

Sally Lill suggested that the time taken by schools to come out of a 'requires improvement' category is a good measure.

Phil Adams advised that secondary schools have limited capacity to support other schools and therefore outstanding academy support is not available to Shropshire schools.

Ann Hartley surmised that this is the time to intervene.

The Chair added that Post 16 performance is not good with buildings that are not fit for purpose.

The primary curriculum is to be implemented with no additional funding.

Yvette McDaniel advised that in smaller schools, instead of having release time, headteachers are teaching more and having to spend the saving on the buildings.

Ian Nurser advised that teaching schools do not have the capacity to do everything.

9. Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring

Deborah Fern gave a brief overview.

There was discussion about the 2 year old funding as not all eligible children have taken up their place. It was confirmed that the barriers are being investigated.

10 Meeting Dates for academic year 2014-15

18 September 2014, 23 October 2014, 27 November 2014, 22 January 2015, 26 March 2015, 18 June 2015.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20 March 2014

The meeting closed at 10.40 am.

Future meetings:

19 June 2014, 18 September 2014, 23 October 2014, 27 November 2014, 22 January 2015, 26 March 2015, 18 June 2015.