

SCHOOLS FORUM

14 February 2017

Commenced:	1.30pm	Terminated: 2.55pm
Present:	Janet Rathburn (Chair)	Primary Schools – Academies
	Lisa Gallagher	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Scott Lees	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Steve Marsland	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Karen Burns	Primary Schools - Academies
	Anthony McDermott	Governor, Primary Schools- L/A Maintained
	Pam Hirst	Governor, Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Susan Marsh	Governor, Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Richard O'Regan	Secondary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Brendan Hesketh	Secondary Schools - Academies
	Betty Jones	Governor, Secondary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Robin Elms	Special Schools – L/A Maintained
	Jeffrey Mellor	Governor, Academy Special Schools
	Maureen Brettell	Pupil Referral Services
	Elaine Horridge	Diocesan Representative
	Lorna Meredith	Early Years Private Voluntary & Independent Sector
	Anton McGrath	14-19 Sector
	Anne Slater	NUT
	Stephen Wilde	Head of Resource Management
	David Thompstone	Senior Resource Manager
Apologies for absence:	Des Howlett	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Bev Alford	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Janet Burns	Secondary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Gill McFadden	Secondary Schools – Academies
	Councillor J Fitzpatrick	First Deputy (Performance and Finance)
	Councillor L Travis	Executive Member – Lifelong Learning

61. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 17 January 2017, having been circulated, were approved as a correct record.

62. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT FUNDING FORMULA 2017/18

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Executive Director, Finance, giving details of the arrangements concerning the Dedicated Schools Grant Funding Formula proposals for 2017/18. It was explained that a report on the changes to the schools funding process was initially brought to the Schools Forum in May 2012 following consultation by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Education Funding Agency (EFA) which started in March 2012. The DfE/EFA had continued to amend School Funding Regulations and to consult on potential changes to the funding formula over the intervening years, but some of their initial aims were:

- Ensuring that 'funding followed the pupil' by restricting the ability to direct funding towards school organisation or premises issues;
- Rewarding schools that attract pupils;

- Ensuring transparency, so schools in similar positions received similar levels of funding;
- Being simpler than the current process; and
- Maximising delegation.

In this context, and as agreed with the Heads and Chairs of Governors, the priority for the 2013/14 local funding formula was to work within the parameters established by the DfE, whilst trying to secure financial stability for local schools as they moved from one funding regime to another. This approach was continued between 2014/15 and 2016/17 where only minor changes were made to funding unit rates in Tameside.

The report contained a summary of the DSG allocations from the DfE/EFA and how they had been used in Tameside in 2016/17 and the estimated use in 2017/18.

The proposed funding formulas for Mainstream Schools in Tameside in 2017/18 and pre and post 16 High Needs, were also provided.

Details were given of the services where the Council was proposing to centrally retain funding. The services concerned were: Admissions, Schools Forum Support and Retained Duties funding that had been transferred from the Education Services Grant (ESG) into the DSG for the first time in 2017/18.

Members were further asked to consider the de-delegation of mandatory charging to all Council Maintained Schools of the following school services:

- Behaviour for Learning and Inclusion Service (BLIS)
- Equality, Multiculturalism and Access Team (EMAT)
- Staff Cover for Trade Union Support; and
- Schools Contingency.

The de-delegation rates in 2017/18 were detailed in the report and members of the Primary and Secondary Maintained sectors respectively were asked to indicate for each sector whether they supported the de-delegation of the services detailed above.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That the content of the report be noted.**
- (ii) **That the Primary Maintained School Members agree to de-delegate the costs of the following services in financial year 2017/18:**
 - **Staff cover for Trade Union Support; and**
 - **Schools Contingency.**
- (iii) **That the Secondary Maintained School Members agree to de-delegate the costs of the following services in financial year 2017/18:**
 - **Staff cover for Trade Union Support.**
- (iv) **That the following be approved in principle:**
 - (a) **The retention of £544,680 of DSG in 2017/18 by the Council in relation to former ESG funded Retained Duties;**
 - (b) **The retention of £158,000 of DSG in 2017/18 to support the cost of the Admissions service; and**
 - (c) **The retention of £5,000 of DSG in 2017/18 to support the cost of the Schools' Forum.**

63. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT EARLY YEARS FUNDING CONSULTATION 2017/18

The Assistant Executive Director, Finance, submitted a report giving details of the updated Early Years funding allocation proposals for 2017/18.

It was explained that the funding for placements for 2, 3 and 4 year olds attending both School and Private/Voluntary/Independent Nursery provision was provided through the Dedicated Schools

Grant (DSG). The Department for Education (DFE) issued an update of changes they had made to the associated funding regime through the draft Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) Regulations 2016. They also issued their summary of the responses to the associated Autumn 2016 consultation in relation to this area of funding and new operational guidance for the allocation of the associated DSG funding for 2017/18.

As part of the changes that were being proposed, the different elements of funding that would be available through the Early Years element of the DSG in 2017/18, were detailed.

It was further explained that the comparable estimated Early Years Funding being allocated through the DSG in Tameside for 2017/18 was £12,889,639 and the equivalent amount was £10,759,597 for 2016/17. These figures only included the funding for the universal 15 hour offer for 3 and 4 year olds, the 2 year old offer and the Early Years Pupil Premium. This was because the Disability Access fund and the Extension to 30 hours for working parents were not comparable to 2016/17, as they were new elements of the funding.

Further details of each element of Early Years funding through the DSG were detailed in the report and a summary of the DFE estimate of the funding changes between 2016/17 and 2017/18 was given.

Forum members were informed that a copy of the report was issued as a consultation document to Schools with Nursery Units and Private, voluntary and Independent Nursery providers, with a deadline of return by 14 February 2017.

Discussion ensued with regard to the above and Forum members welcomed the increase in funding, however concerns were expressed that Tameside had, historically, received a relatively low level of funding and there was still not enough to cover costs.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the content of the report be noted; and**
- (ii) That the results of the consultation be circulated to all providers.**

64. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr McDermott, Governor, L/A Maintained Primary Schools, sought information with regard to the availability of Governor Training. The Senior Resource Manager agreed to contact the appropriate officer and respond to McDermott outside of the meeting.

The Chair informed the Forum that she would be retiring as a Head Teacher in the summer and therefore, would also be stepping down as the Chair of the Forum.

She further informed everyone that David Thompstone, Senior Resource Manager, was leaving the Authority in April 2017. The Chair thanked David for his very valuable support and, on behalf of Forum members and colleagues, wished him well for his future endeavours.

65. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

To note the date of the next meeting of the Schools Forum as Tuesday 11 July 2017.