

SCHOOLS' FORUM

15 March 2022

Commenced: 10.00am

Terminated: 10.50am

Present:	Karen Burns (Chair)	Primary Schools – Academies
	Susan Marsh	Governor, Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Gemma Patterson	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Kirsty Rimmer	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Lisa Lockett	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Lisa Gallaher	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Simon Brereton	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Richard O'Regan	Secondary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Simon Wright	Primary Schools – Academies
	Iain Linsdell	Primary Schools – Academies
	Andrew Foord	Headteacher, Special Schools – L/A Maintained
	Donal Townson	Governor, Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Gill McFadden	Business Manager – Secondary Academies
	Anthony Benedict	Pupil Referral Service
	Rosario Sarno	Governor, Special Schools – Academies
	Anton McGrath	14-19 Sector
	Anne Morgan	Tameside Teachers' Consultative Committee
	Tim Bowman	Director, Education (Tameside and Stockport)
	Caroline Barlow	Assistant Director, Finance
	Jane Sowerby	Head of Education Improvement and Partnerships
	Louisa Siddall	Senior Accountant, TMBC
Apologies for absence:	Cllr Leanne Feeley	Executive Member
	Cllr Oliver Ryan	Executive Member
	John Cooper	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Elaine Horridge	Diocesan Representative
	Heather Farrell	Primary Schools - Academies
	Steve Marsland	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members of Forum.

27 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the School's Forum, held on 19 January 2022.

It was noted that the costing of school improvement de-delegation had not yet been confirmed and that potential buy-in from academies may have an impact on final costings. Therefore, Members were advised that work was currently being undertaken in relation to this and that the final cost of this offer in terms of a per-pupil rate would be provided in due course.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of Schools' Forum, held on 19 January 2022, be approved as a correct record.

28 EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2022-23

Consideration was given to a report from the Assistant Director of Finance and Director of Education (Tameside and Stockport), which outlined the arrangements concerning the Dedicated Schools Grant Early Years Funding for 2022-23.

Members were provided with details of the current funding settlement for Early Years 2021-22 and 2022-23. It was noted that the 2021-22 settlement was currently based on published allocations from DfE, using census data collated in Summer 2021, Autumn 2021 and Spring 2021. The 2022-23 settlement was based on the Schools, Early Years and Alternative provision census data from January 2021.

Members were advised that a consultation had been undertaken throughout February 2022, in order to gather opinion based on a range of proposals for 2022-23.

It was explained that the hourly rate of funding for 3 and 4 year olds received by the Local Authority had increased from £4.65 in 2021-22 to £4.82 in 2022-23 for both universal and extended entitlement.

Members were informed that the local funding scheme must include a base rate, which applies to all children in all settings. Members were informed that there was a mandatory requirement to have a supplementary rate in relation to deprivation. It was explained that supplementary rates relating to rurality/sparsity, flexibility, quality and English as an additional language were also possible. However, it was noted that the total value of supplements could not exceed 10% of the overall funding within this block.

It was noted that the funding scheme for 2021-22 contained one supplementary element, which was in relation to deprivation. Members were advised that this would continue to be the only supplement in 2022-23. With this in mind, Members were made aware that consultation had been undertaken regarding the method of allocation of deprivation funding.

It was acknowledged that it was essential to aim to ensure, as much as is possible, that funding effectively reaches the children living in families on very low incomes and that this funding should be used to provide additional support for the needs of eligible children, particularly as low-income households had been impacted most by the pandemic.

Members were made aware that the current method of allocation for deprivation was based on 3 bandings and a deprivation supplement was paid to all children. However, consideration had been given to a move towards a single rate of deprivation, which would potentially allow more targeted allocation of this funding. It was acknowledged that this would be important in ensuring that those children, who were the most relatively deprived were receiving the support they needed in order to develop. It was also noted that the Early Years Working Group were in support of this model.

The range of options for deprivation funding models were outlined for Members. These included:

Option 1 – Continue with the existing model

The allocation of deprivation could continue through the existing model where deprivation is allocated based on three bands and allocated for all children.

Option 2 – Model 1: Single rate of deprivation targeted to 30% of the most deprived children

The allocation of £0.30 per hour deprivation supplement will be targeted at eligible children identified in the 30% most deprived areas (as identified through the indices of deprivation 2019) in Greater Manchester.

Option 3 – Model 2: Single rate of deprivation targeted to Bands A to D of the School Funding Formula IDACI Bands

The allocation of £0.21 per hour deprivation supplement would be targeted at eligible children

identified in Bands A – D of the School Funding Formula IDACI Bands. The advantages and disadvantages of each model and proposed rates were outlined. Members were informed that this information had been included in the consultation document, alongside modelled, anonymised data. It was confirmed that this had been presented to the Early Years Working Group, who, in principle, were in agreement with moving towards a more targeted rate of funding.

A proposal to increase the SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF) was outlined for Members. They were advised that it was proposed to increase this fund to approximately £378k for 3 and 4 year olds and approximately £61k for 2 year olds, in response to increased demand for support from providers. It was explained that this would be affordable through increased rates provided by the DfE. Members were also advised that discussions with the Early Years Working Group were ongoing in order to review SENIF allocation and to ensure robust and clear criteria for the allocation of this funding.

With regard to 2 Year Old Funding, it was noted that the hourly rate of funding received by the Local Authority had increased from £5.46 (2021-22) to £5.67 (2022-23). It was further explained that, in 2021-22, the provider hourly rate was £5.30 with £0.13 per hour retained centrally and was proposed that the rate to providers be increased to £5.40 with £0.14 per hour retained centrally.

Members were informed that the allocation rate for Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) had increased from £0.53 to £0.60 per hour per eligible pupil (up to a maximum of 570 hours) and that the allocation for Disability Access Fund (DAF) had increased from £615 to £800.

In relation to the consultation, Members were made aware that a total of 80 responses were received out of a total of 261 providers and the outcomes were outlined as follows:

- a. Support was given for the proposals for 3 and 4 years olds. 50% (40 respondents) supported the proposals, 45% (36 respondents) did not and 5% (4 respondents) did not provide a response.
- b. Support was given for the proposals for 2 year olds. 60% (48 respondents) supported the proposals, 36% (29 respondents) did not and 4% (3 respondents) did not provide a response.
- c. The preferred option for the distribution of deprivation was Option 1, to continue with the existing model. 64% (51 respondents) preferred Option 1, 19% (15 respondents) preferred Option 2, 16% (13 respondents) preferred Option 3 and 1% (1 respondent) did not provide a response.

Members noted that a number of comments were received in relation to the consultation, which suggested that further clarity may be required. With this in mind, the increase in rate was broken down further, as follows:

- 3 and 4 Year Olds: Of the £0.17 increase in hourly rate from DfE, it was proposed there was a £0.10 increase to the base rate, £0.06 to increase the SENIF and £0.01 into central retention. The LA do not retain £0.47 centrally. Around £0.24 is held centrally (in line with operational guidance) and the remaining £0.23 supports SENIF and Deprivation.
- 2 Year Olds: Of the £0.21 increase in hourly rate from DfE, it was proposed there was £0.10 increase to the base rate, £0.10 to increase the SENIF and £0.01 into central retention.

Members were made aware that further consultation regarding the SENIF process would be undertaken with providers and that, although the general consensus had been to continue with Option 1 for deprivation funding, further work would be required in order to provide more information and clarity around the proposed models. This would form part of the annual review process and deprivation would be subject to consultation again for 2023/24.

RESOLVED

(i) That the contents of the report be noted and supported.

(ii) That the preferred option (option 1) for the allocation of deprivation be supported

29 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

That the next meeting of The Schools Forum be held on Tuesday 21 June 2022 at 10am.

CHAIR