

Minutes of the meeting of Herefordshire schools forum held at Online Meeting on Friday 10 July 2020 at 9.30 am

Present: **Mrs J Cohn (Academy Special School Representative) (Chairperson)**
 Mrs K Weston (Local Authority Maintained Primary School) (Vice-chairperson)

Ms C Bryan	Academies
Mr P Burbidge	Archdiocese of Cardiff
Mr A Davies	Academies
Ms N Emmett	Academies
Ms N Gilbert	LA Special Schools
Mr J Hedges	Primary Governors
Mrs S Jenkins	Local Authority Maintained Primary School
Mr S Kendrick	Local Authority Maintained Primary School (with Nursery)
Ms T Kneale	Local Authority Maintained Primary School
Mr C Lewandowski	Trade Unions
Sian	Diocese of Hereford
Mr N Moon	Local Authority Maintained Primary Schools
Mr P Deneen	Trade Unions
Ms R Rice	Secondary Governors
Mrs K Weston	Local Authority Maintained Primary School

In attendance: **Councillor Carole Gandy**

Officers: **Director for children and families and Strategic Finance Manager**

60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the following forum members: Ed Gwillim, Kimberley Harley, Martin Henton, Tim Knapp and Rose Lloyd.

Apologies were also received from the Assistant Director - Education Development and Skills.

61. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)

Nicki Emmett attended as representative of secondary academies.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

63. MINUTES

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

64. UPDATE ON NATIONAL SCHOOLS FUNDING ISSUES (Pages 5 - 16)

The Schools Finance Manager gave a presentation to members outlining the latest information on schools funding. In particular it was highlighted that:

- There had been an overspend on the 2019/20 budget which had reduced DSG balances to £0.6m;
- A balanced budget had been set for 2020/21 but latest forecasts predicted an overspend in a range from £0.25m to £0.97m;
- Approximately two thirds of local authorities either already had or were predicting a DSG deficit, some of these deficits were significant sums;
- The presentation reflected previous announcements made by the Department for Education (DfE) with details of the 2021/22 funding package were expected by the end of the summer term;
- The timetable for the process of consulting on and determining the 2021/22 schools budgets would follow a similar pattern to previous years.

In discussing the points raised by the presentation forum members noted that all schools would be able to put their views forward via the consultation process.

The maintained special schools representative stressed the efforts that special schools made to keep within budgets but highlighted that the fixed amount per pupil of £10k had not been increased for the last 7 years. Although top up tariffs had been increased to try and reflect inflationary costs, the fixed sum represented half of the budget of special schools. The SFM noted that the outcome of the government review into SEND was expected and that any changes to the fix sum would have to come from DfE.

The chairperson of the children and young people scrutiny committee expressed her thanks to all schools for the efforts made during the past few months to respond to the coronavirus epidemic.

The director for children and families also thanked all those working in the education sector for their compassion, care and commitment which he described as humbling. The challenging environment was expected to continue and he wished everyone well.

Forum members expressed their thanks to the director for the close co-operation and support during the recent difficult period. It was noted that everyone had worked well together.

Post meeting note

The Minister of State for School Standards announced on 20 July 2020 the provisional funding allocations for 2021-22 through the schools, high needs and central school services national funding formulae (NFF) – see www.parliament.uk for the text of the announcement and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs-2021-to-2022> for technical details.

65. CONSTITUTION AND ANNUAL REVIEW OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP

Forum members received the outcome of the annual review of membership. It was noted that:

- the forum was required to review membership on a regular basis to ensure that representation by schools members broadly reflects the proportion of pupils in academies and local authority maintained schools;
- Analysis of the 2020 January School Census showed no significant change in proportionality and as a result no changes were proposed to the allocation of seats on the forum;
- There were some vacant seats and efforts would be made in September to recruit new forum members.

The clerk to the forum also outlined the new regulations that had been put in place in response to the coronavirus epidemic and resulting restrictions on physical meetings. Key points included:

- the new regulations took effect from 18 June 2020 and would remain in place until 1 April 2021 unless revoked;
- the forum was still required to meet on at least four occasions each year;
- the new regulations permitted the holding of meetings via video conferencing software provided that such meetings were made available to the public through an appropriate broadcasting method;
- the meetings of Herefordshire Schools Forum would be streamed live onto the Herefordshire Council YouTube channel and available as a recording shortly after the meeting;
- if the use of online platforms for holding forum meetings was felt to be successful it was possible that the DfE would consider extending their usage when the new regulations came to an end.

Forum members queried whether the forum would continue to have a role once a hard national funding formula was established. It was noted that changes were likely but that details were still awaited from the DfE. The number of local authorities who had not yet implemented the national funding formula in full was continuing to fall.

It was agreed that:

- (a) Herefordshire Schools Forum received the report on the constitution of the forum; and**
- (b) the outcome of the annual review of proportionality was noted and no changes made to allocations of seats on Herefordshire Schools Forum or the Budget Working Group.**

66. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND WORK PROGRAMME

The dates of meetings for 2020/21 academic year were noted as:

23 October 2020

15 January 2021

19 March 2021

9 July 2021

The draft work programme was noted as containing the standard regular items. The programme would be kept under review and amended as necessary during the year.

The meeting ended at 10.12 am

Chairperson

School funding update
2021-22
School Forum
10th July 2020

DSG Outturn 2019/20

Overspend of £1.1m due to

- Complex needs +£0.8m
- Out county special schools +£0.4m
- Top-ups tariffs PRU/post-16 +£0.2m
- Unrealised savings +£0.2m
- Income re PRU/H3 charges -£0.3m
- SEN support services -£0.1m

DSG balances reduce from £1.7m to £0.6m.

DSG Forecast 2020/21

- Balanced budget based set for 2020/21 based on last year's actuals.
- Early forecasts for complex needs indicate a range **low overspend of £0.25m** based on current approved placements and **high overspend of £0.97m** on all placements continuing to year-end.
- some high cost places will reduce as Covid-19 restrictions ease.
- So midpoint estimate is **£0.6m overspend** – which will use all our DSG balances.

School funding 2021/22

No announcement yet from DfE for 21/22 – so based on three year funding announcement;

- £2.6bn increase in 2020/21 i.e. +5.8%
- £2.2bn increase in 2021/22 i.e. +4.6%
- £2.3bn increase in 2022/23 i.e. +4.6%

Increase in 2020/21 was 5% for schools and 12% for high needs and 1.5% for early years.

School funding 2022/23

Assuming a similar breakdown as 20/21 the £2.2bn nationally is split locally for us as;

- schools £4.2m i.e. 4%
 - high needs £1.8m i.e. 10%
 - early years £0.2m i.e. 1.5%
 - central block £0m i.e. standstill
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- Total £6.2m i.e. 4.7% overall

Possible allocation to schools

Will cover costs approximately as follows:

3% teachers pay increase	£1.9m
2.75% Support staff	£0.6m
¹⁰ Below 2% for all other costs	£0.3m
Min funding primaries at £4,000/pupil	£1.4m
Total available	£4.2m

Possible high needs allocation

Based on current worst case cost pressures and trends e.g. **EHC plans increased by 32% in 5 years** - more detailed work is required but allocations could be used as follows;

pay rises re top-up tariffs at 2.75%	£0.3m
Continuing increase in complex needs	£1.0m
Increase in special school places/ out –county placements/post-16	£0.5m
Total available	£1.8m

Possible early years allocation

If DfE provide an inflation increase for early years then on the same basis as this year then

A 1.5% increase would be a 6p increase on the hourly rate to providers. This would be subject to consultation with providers and depends on DfE increasing our hourly funding rate.

Other considerations

- **Teachers pay grant and teachers pension employer contributions grant** are to be absorbed into the national funding formula from April 2021 (September 2021 for academies).
- 13 • **Minimum funding level for primary schools will increase to £4,000 per pupil** – this will provide a significant boost to our lowest funded primaries
- Yr 7 Literacy and numeracy **catch-up premium funding to be discontinued** and included in NFF
- Will review use of growth fund for secondary intakes in Golden Valley as a whole

Consultation in autumn 2020

- Aim to consult on **removing the reception uplift factor** which forecasts delayed reception intake between Oct and January census (27 pupils across 20 schools) but is not funded by DfE as grant paid on Oct pupil numbers.
- ¹⁴• Will consult on **reducing the claw-back percentage for locally maintained schools balance balances** from 25% down to 20%.
Currently excessively generous and schools with such high balances are not spending their budget on current pupils. Will apply to balances as at 31st March 2022.

Timetable

- August/September – DfE publish NFF details
- Early September - BWG draft consultation paper
- October – schools forum agree budget outline and consultation with schools
- ⁵¹ Early December – BWG prepare budget plan based on consultation and expected DSG monies
- January – BWG/Schools Forum finalise budget
- Late Jan – submit to DfE/Cabinet member approval
- March – BWG/Schools Forum recommend high needs budget to cabinet member

