

Norfolk Schools Forum

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 10 January 2018

09:00 - 12:30 hours

South Green Park Mattishall

Present:

Keith Bates, Eaton Hall Specialist Academy
Ashley Best-White
Holly Bowman
Chris Caddamy, City College
Alison Clarke, Robert Kett Primary (sub)
Bruce Connors
Sally Cutting
Carol Dallas, Taverham High School
Alan Evans, CWA Academy Trust
Mike Grimble, Avenue Junior School
Bob Groome
David Hicks
Fyfe Johnston, Clare School
Deborah Leahy
Alex Robinson, Millfield Primary School
Sarah Shirras, (Chair) St Williams Primary
Chris Snudden
Vicky Warnes

Marilyn Edgeley

Apologies

John Banbury
Martin Colbourne
Dawn Filtness
Mary Sparrow, City Academy Norwich
Alex Haynes (sub)

Representing

Special School Academy
Primary
Nursery Schools
(sub) 16 – 19 Representative
NPHA
NCC
NCC
Academies
Academies
Governors
JCC (Secondary phase)
Diocese of Norwich
Special Schools
NPHA
Governors
Primary Schools
Assistant Director (Education)
JCC (primary phase)

Minutes

Absent from meeting - no apology received

Christina Kenna, Des Reynolds

Sara Tough Executive Director Children's Services will take an active role in the Schools Forum and will attend meetings whenever possible.

1. Minutes of last meeting held on 24 November 2017

Kevin Haynes attended as substitute for Alex Robinson Primary Governor Representative.

The minutes were accepted.

Matters Arising

- Pupil growth – Richard Snowden head of admissions confirmed that the funding for pupil growth figure given out by Sally Cutting at meeting on 24 November was accurate at £950,000.
- Central Licences – will be discussed as part of agenda item 7.
- Secondary School Representative – will be discussed as part of agenda item 5.

2. School Forum Membership and terms of reference

The membership of the Schools Forum needs to reflect the proportion of pupil numbers in the different school sectors within Norfolk, after receiving the October census figures it has become apparent that the following changes need to be made to the membership:

1 less primary representative 5 down to 4

1 additional academy representative plus the vacancy from Linda Bennett retiring so we will need to hold an election for 2 new representatives.

We now only require one secondary maintained representative although we have not been able to find anyone willing to fill this role however Alex Robinson's term of office has expired and he agreed to put himself forward as the Secondary Governor representative. The terms of office of two other primary representatives (one governor and one headteacher) have also expired and will need to be put up for re-election.

Comment made by members that the Norfolk Schools Forum should have a proportional split of academy representatives but the authority can only make recommendations when seeking new representatives.

It is academy trusts that are given the vote for forum representatives.

Decision

It was agreed to contact the eight secondary schools and inform them that we do have an experienced school forum representative whose term of office has expired as a primary governor but who is willing to stand as the secondary representative.

Following this action will be taken to resolve the primary representative issues.

It was agreed that the vote for vice-chair will be delayed until the above issues are resolved.

It was agreed that attendance is important and that we will write to any member who misses 3 meetings without sending a substitute.

It was agreed that the primary representatives should be split between 3 headteachers and 1 governor.

3. High Needs update

The proposal to move 0.5% from the schools block to the High Needs block and recommendations presented to Forum on 24 November will be taken to the Children's Services Committee on 16th January. The authority will continue to work on the set of recommendations and look at other elements of the High Needs Block.

Members asked if their comments regarding the high needs block pressures would be passed on to council members and also the risk factor of carrying out these recommendations..

Officers said the paper reflects the views that Schools Forum had on the proposals and recommendations in the risks section of the paper and officers will verbally add comments at the meeting.

Officers pointed out that the demand on High Needs in Norfolk is very much under the spotlight and there would be a significant pressure to go to the Secretary of State to move additional funding and members of the council will be aware of this.

Chris Snudden said that the Schools Forum Member Liaison Group which along with many other meeting groups was disbanded last year will be resurrected in some form.

Forum members once again raised concerns over some cluster governance not being fit for purpose. Officers highlighted that Norfolk has more than the national average of Education, Health Care Plan referrals which will reach 1000 this year.

4. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

The purpose of the report is to update Schools Forum on the allocations of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

The total DSG allocation received for 2018-19 was confirmed in December 2017 and totals £559.457m before academy recoupment. This compares to a total DSG allocation of £581.240m in 2017-18.

The schools block shows an increase of £11.570m

There is a £4.5m increase for additional pupils

There is a 0.5% movement from Schools Block to High Needs Block as agreed by School Forum in November

The Early Years Block operates under the same formula as last year apart from the additional 30 hours allocation is now for a full year. The New Early Years Funding Formula states that the authority central costs should be no greater than 5% of the Early Years block for 2018/19.

Nursery schools have £100,000 less over the 3 schools and the authority is looking at ways of working with them to help them adjust.

The Nursery School representative said that the present situation is not sustainable.

Action

Schools Forum is asked to agree the central expenditure of 5% from the 3 and 4 year old Early Years Funding Formula.

Unanimously agreed

Action

Schools Forum noted for information the Dedicated Schools Block Allocations

5. Licences Paid Centrally on Behalf of Schools

This paper lists the licences that are paid centrally

Action

Sally Cutting to send out this information via an MI Sheet

6. Dates of meetings 2018-19

Members were given the 2018-19 draft year plan listing meeting dates from September 2018 through to July 2019.

Action

15th May date will need to be changed.

7. Communication

None

8. A.O.B

- Central ITV will be showing a program on asbestos in schools anyone who wishes to be involved should contact Bob Groome at:'bgroome@norfolk.atl.org.uk'
- The time frame for the first meeting of the New National Funding Formula Task and Finish Group will be Spring.

9. Date of Next Meeting

16 March 2018 09:00 – 12:30 at South Green Enterprise Centre Mattishall

DRAFT

Topic	By Whom	Action
School Forum Membership	SC/MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact secondary schools re. secondary school forum representative • Following this organise process to re-elect primary representatives • Vote for vice chair at March meeting • Hold academy elections
Licences paid centrally	SC	Send out MI Sheet
Future Agenda Item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote for vice chair of Schools Forum 		