

Norfolk Schools Forum

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 12th September 2018

09:00 - 12:00 hours

South Green Park Mattishall

Present:

Mark Adamson
 John Banbury
 Keith Bates, Eaton Hall Specialist Academy
 Holly Bowman
 Chris Caddamy, City College
 Alison Clarke, Robert Kett Primary School
 Carol Dallas, Taverham High School
 Sandra Govender
 Mike Grimble, Avenue Junior School
 Bob Groome
 David Hicks
 Fyfe Johnston, Clare School
 Clare Jones
 Howard Nelson
 Sarah Porter

Sarah Shirras, (Chair) St Williams Primary
 Fiona-Louise Tilden
 Joanna Tuttle
 Vicky Warnes
 Michael Bateman
 Martin Brock
 Paul Cook
 John Crowley

Sally Cutting
 Marilyn Edgeley
 Lucy Pattinson
 Chris Snudden
 Sara Tough (09.45)

Samantha Williams

Apologies:

Alan Evans

1. Welcome

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Representing

Academies
 Early Years
 Special School Academy
 Nursery Schools
 (sub) 16 – 19 Representative
 Primary
 Secondary Academies
 Engage Trust
 Primary Governors
 JCC (Secondary phase)
 EMAT (substitute for Alan Evans)
 Special Schools
 Academies
 Diocesan Board of Education
 Academy Representative (substitute
 for Christina Kenna
 Primary Schools
 Academy Representative
 Maintained Secondary
 JCC (primary phase)
 Head of Education High Needs
 Accountant
 Interim Finance Business Partner
 Head of Education, Achievement &
 Early Years Service
 Senior Accountant
 Admin Officer
 Admin Officer (Minutes)
 Assistant Director (Education)
 Executive Director Children's
 Services
 Schools Finance Manager

Accepted with minor corrections.

3. Matters Arising

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) – Martin Brock and Bob Groom met to discuss.

Changes to SEN top-up funding - Chris Caddamy confirmed the 16-19 funding was discussed with Steph Askew

Updated Scheme for Financing School - Sally Cutting confirmed an HR business partner came to the National Funding Working Group.

4. School Forum Membership

Due to the terms being out of date changes have been made to the membership of the School Forum Membership and new appointments are:

Joanna Tuttle - Maintained Secondary Representative

Alison Clarke and Sarah Shirras - Maintained Primary Representatives

Mike Grimble and Alex Robinson Primary Governors until the Governor issue is resolved.

There is a requirement for 2 primary and 2 secondary governor representatives.

5. High Needs Block

Chris Snudden presented on the High Needs Block and the following points were noted:

- Norfolk County Council faces a £90m gap in the 2021/22.
- Whilst Children's Services are having to make savings there is a strong recognition from Norfolk County Council of pressures on demand-led services
- This is Norfolk County Council's first Transformation Programme and Strategy
- £12-15m is available to undertake some transformation work.
- Benchmarking data shows more children in maintained schools who should be in complex maintained schools
- Capital investment intention is that no child is travelling a long distance to have their needs met and every group of schools has the capacity to access specialist provision needed for each child locally
- Cultural shift and quality provision – this work is in place and we are looking at a longer term building programme over 3 years
- There is a SEND Strategy with a Strategy Board – the format will be circulated to schools second half of term
- Real challenges around cultural and quality thinking – best people to challenge are school leaders, communication should be a school led strategy
- 0.5% transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block will need Forum agreement however the Authority can go to the Secretary of State in the event that this is not agreed.

Action

Michael Bateman agreed a summary of the SEND Strategy will be sent out as soon as possible and before second half of term.

Michael Bateman continued the presentation and advised early intervention is the key as a large amount of the budget is taken up by exclusions. The following figures on the high needs block overspend were provided:

£m	15/16	16/17	17/18
High needs block	68.055	68.914	77.048
Expenditure	72.667	77.039	87.642
Overspend	4.612	8.125	10.594

Sara Tough said the Authority needs to have a better system of allocation - £20m requested up from £9m. The Authority would then have more leverage with members on future challenges.

6. Fair Funding Consultation/National Funding Formula

Martin Brock presented papers on the proposed changes to the distribution formula of the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. Martin advised that feedback from today's meeting would help influence Martin's team to prepare paperwork for the consultation which opens on Friday 14th September. Currently there are six options being put forward. From the discussion that followed the following points were noted:

- Martin to use a percentage in the paperwork submitted for consultation instead of figures, as this gives a clearer picture.
- The final decision should be announced as having Schools Forum agreement. Consultation opens Friday.
- The option of none of the money going into the High Needs Block was unanimously voted to be removed

Forum members were asked to formally vote on the proposal that 0.5% will be transferred from the Schools Block and into the High Needs Block and that this was agreed by Schools Forum and therefore not included in the consultation.

For 15
Against 0
Abstain 2

There was an informal vote on whether the £4.5m available in April 2019 should go straight into the High Needs Block and the majority voted in favour of this. Sarah Tough explained that there was no guarantee that the £4.5m can go straight into the High Needs Block even if it is requested, but if it is not requested there is no guarantee it will go into schools at all.

7. Growth Fund

The following proposals were put to the meeting:

Proposal 1 – To increase the growth fund for 2019/20 by £80k and to add the following criterion to the existing growth fund criteria:

- Pupils moving from a closing school in advance of that school's official closure date will be funded at their new school at up to 5/12th of the AWPU value where the number of pupils received early is the greater of 10% of a year group or 5 pupils. The number of pupils on roll does not need to exceed the PAN.

Proposal 2 – To increase the growth fund for 2019/20 by £120k and to add additional criterion to the growth funding for significant growth:

- Where demographic growth (excluding popularity) in the new academic year exceeds the greater of 15% of the funded number on roll or 10 pupils, additional funding will be given at the relevant AWPU value x 7/12th. The number of pupils on roll does not need to exceed PAN.

Martin explained that historic data shows there has not been more than 1 school closure in a year and that the figures were based on a school closure with significantly higher numbers than usual. The proposals would mean an estimated 76p reduction per pupil across the mainstream schools.

Forum agreed that the criteria and level of fund will be decided as part of de-delegation at the October meeting and will not be included in the Fair Funding Consultation.

Action: As requested by the meeting, Martin Brock to return to the next meeting with additional information.

8. PFI Formula

Martin Brock presented 2 proposals to the meeting on the changes to the distribution of PFI funding within the funding formula from April 2019.

Proposal 1 – Increase delegation through the PFI factor of the mainstream formula in line with RPIx annually, as per the National Funding Formula.

Proposal 2 – Increase per-pupil delegation through the PFI factor for years 7-11 to bring it in line with the years R-6 per-pupil allocation.

Forum agreed that there is a need for these proposals and therefore they should be taken forward.

9. Any Other Business

Support Staff

All support staff will be getting a 2% pay increase. A consultation on this is continuing and UNISON are involved in these discussions.

10. Dates of Meetings

17th October 2018 – 9am-12pm – South Green Park