

RBWM CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SCHOOLS' FORUM

Lowbrook School

1530, Wednesday 26 September 2012

PRESENT

Forum Members

Kathleen Higgins	Headteacher Altwood School (Chair)
Gill Labrum	Headteacher, Windsor Girls' School
Nick Stevens	Headteacher, Wessex Primary
Liz Clark	Headteacher, Hilltop First School
Richard Pilgrim	Co Headteacher, Charters School
Cynthia Pitteway	Governor, Knowl Hill Primary School
Ania Hildrey	Headteacher, Manor Green School
Clive Haines	Chair of Governor
Helen McHale	Headteacher, Maidenhead Nursery School Federation
Gillian May	Vice Principal, BCA
Dave Rooney	Primary Academy Headteacher
Gina Kendall	PVI representative
Gill Cocklin	Headteacher South Ascot Primary
Gaynor Goodman	Headteacher, Churchmead School
Stuart Muir	Headteacher, Dedworth Middle School

Officers

Edmund Bradley	Finance Partner, Children's Services
Dominic Asater	Finance Consultant
Angela Wellings	I/Strategic Director of Children's Services

Apologies

Mark Eynon	Chair of Governors / Chair of Schools' Forum
Alison Penny	Headteacher, Woodlands Park Primary School

Minutes

Kathy Sadler, PA to Strategic Director of Children's Services

Item	Subject	Action
1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Kathleen welcomed everyone and said she has been asked to Chair in Mark's absence.Apologies given as above.	
2.	SCHOOL FORUM REGULATIONS 2012, new arrangements for RBWM School Forum meetings, review of membership <ul style="list-style-type: none">Forum were reminded of the new School Forum Regulations 2012 that come into effect on 01.10.2012, and the changes set out at	

	<p>paragraph 3.2, in particular: the requirement for schools and academies to have broadly proportionate representation according to pupil numbers in each category, the removal of the minimum number of 15 members, the restriction on LA attendees at Forum, and the requirement to hold meetings in public. Schools Forum would be serviced in future by Democratic Services, and meetings would need to held in Council meeting rooms. Public car parks will have to be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ania asked for consideration of Manor Green School having a second representative as she felt it would corroborate her input. It was agreed that Ania could have a named substitute to attend in her absence. Edmund explained that whereas in the past Forum had chosen not to have substitutes, it was clear this was out of line with the legislation. • Academy members were asked to nominate a representative to the vacant academy post, if necessary by holding an election for interested candidates. • Angela informed the meeting that full Council had approved the changes to the Constitution with the revised Schools Forum Terms of Reference on 25.09.12. Schools Forum had considered and approved the changes to the TOR at the meeting on 26 June 2012. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Dave Rooney and Clive Haines agreed to manage the process for the new appointment to the vacant academy post on Schools Forum, prior to the next Forum on 16.10.12. ii. Headteachers reps to seek endorsement from their colleagues for them to continue for the next academic year. Kathleen asked for this to be an agenda item of the next meeting to confirm this will have been done. iii. Edmund to ensure that a representative from the PRU be appointed to the Schools Forum in line with the new Regulations. iv. Named substitutes for a future agenda item. v. Maidenhead Federated Nurseries: details to be updated. <p>Recommendations of the paper, subject to the actions above, agreed.</p>	<p>DR/C H HT EB EB</p>
3.	<p>RBWM SCHOOL FUNDING CONSULTATION 2013-14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edmund referred to the paper currently out for consultation 	

	<p>(closes 28.09.12) and said it was on the agenda to give members of the Forum the opportunity to raise any questions/concerns. Forum had discussed an earlier version of the consultation at their meeting in July 2012.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Rooney sought clarification on the data set used in the modelling. Dominic Asater explained that the final funding formula would be based on October 2012 pupil numbers and updated data from the DFE, not the January 2012 data currently available and used in the consultation. Individual schools budget figures would inevitably change as a result. • Responses to the consultation would be analysed based on the numbers of responses from schools and weighted pupil numbers. • Nick Stevens referred to the Head Teachers and Governors consultation meeting at Braywick on 19 September 2012. The feeling among Forum members was that there was a general lack of awareness among head teachers of the work that Schools Forum and its working groups had undertaken in developing the new funding model, and that there was a sense of negativity towards SF members. Kathleen emphasised the importance of Schools Forum business and its impact on schools, stating that it was the responsibility of any head teacher with concerns to ensure they are raised at Forum and as well as Forum members' having a responsibility to feed back to their groups. It was agreed that the new 'public' arrangements for Schools' Forum meetings should improve communication and awareness. • Clive Haines reminded Forum members that separate briefing meetings had been held over the last few months for head teachers, governors, and school business managers. <p>Recommended action for Schools' Forum: The Forum noted the contents of this paper and the final consultation issued to schools and other interested parties.</p>	
4.	<p>HIGH NEEDS FUNDING 2013-14 UPDATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominic referred to the information paper regarding proposed significant changes to SEN high needs funding from 01.04.2013 that will affect all providers of SEN services. He took the Forum through the key areas of the changes. He said the changes are complex and further information is still to come from the DfE. • There would be a greater focus on commissioning SEN provision by the Local Authority and schools. DSG funding for high needs would come through a new High Needs funding block although the 	

	<p>Early Years, Schools and High Needs blocks would not be ring-fenced. Other significant changes included the removal of existing SEN recoupment arrangements and changes to the way the PRU would be funded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominic explained the proposed 'Place plus' approach for funding SEN and the three elements of core education, additional support and top-up funding. He confirmed work is continuing on a document which describes what schools are expected to deliver with the first £6,000 of additional support delegated funding. Schools will be consulted on this. Gill Cocklin emphasised the need for provision mapping. Dominic said it was likely that existing SEN bandings would continue to be used in determining top-up rates, at least in the short term. • Dave Rooney repeated his concern that schools with high numbers of SEN children were not getting funding through the proposed SEN delegated formula linked to prior attainment, and that allocating SEN funding through the Basic Per Pupil Entitlement would have been fairer. • Dave Rooney queried whether a pupil with SEN going to a private school would attract £10k for that school, and made the point that, as a result, maintained schools with low levels of low prior attainment would be financially disadvantaged compared with private schools. Angela explained that her understanding of the Green Paper was that the direct payments / personal budgets approach currently used in Adult Services would be extended to children with SEN. <p>Action: Edmund and Dominic will clarify this area of funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum members were reminded that the Government would allow LAs to allocated from their High Needs Block additional funding where it could be shown that a school did not attract sufficient delegated funding through the formula. Such allocations would need to be based on clear criteria. Proposals would be taken to the High Needs Group in due course. • Gina expressed concern at the low level of funding compared with other sectors. <p>Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> High Needs Working Group dates to be arranged and circulated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ania Hildry referred the special school's responsibilities under the new arrangements for recovering top up funding from other local authorities for pupils placed at Manor Green, and the need for a new 'commissioning' skills set. A discussion followed 	<p>EB/DA</p> <p>EB</p>
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	<p>concerning the recruitment and retention of appropriate staff. She expressed concern about increasing levels of need at the school and whether the proposed place numbers at each band were appropriate. She had asked for a meeting with Rhidian Jones before December to model the levels of support the children need and noted that the figures included in the paper could change. Ania was also concerned that the 2013-14 High Needs funding block would be based on 2012/13 expenditure levels and was unlikely to take account of planned growth in the number of places at Manor Green. This was bound to create a funding pressure even before adjustments for increase levels of need. She added she understood the constraints but was being asked to take more children with ever increasing needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gillian May added that there was no reference in the paper to Berkshire College of Agriculture for which this is also a huge concern and like Ania she anticipates BCA numbers of High Needs students will grow. Edmund referred to the transfer of post 16 LDD funding from the EFA to LAs, and said that work was progressing on this. • A discussion followed covering a number of issues including financial pressures arising from students choosing to stay in full time education till 25, and the need for the LA, as commissioner, to be clear about its strategic direction. • It was made clear that the Exceptional Needs Outreach Service that Manor Green is now managing would be a separate service commissioned by the LA and funded from the central High Needs Funding Block. As such it was not part of the proposed special school funding arrangements outlined in the paper. • Dominic explained that pupils in Resourced Units would not be counted in the pupil count to avoid double funding. Richard Pilgrim Richard asked if admission numbers would be affected. Nick Stevens replied that RU numbers at Wessex were supernumerary. Work on RU funding was ongoing and relevant head teachers would be consulted. • Dominic stressed that the whole SEN agenda is work in progress. It is a huge shake up of SEN budgets involving an enormous amount of work. <p>Recommended Action for the Forum: The Forum noted the contents of this report.</p>	
5	<p>CHANGES TO SCHOOL FINANCE (ENGLAND) AND EARLY YEARS REGULATIONS 2013 AND DSG GRANT CONDITIONS</p>	

- Schools Forum's considered the a paper setting out the main changes to the Schools Finance Regulations 2013 which underpin school funding legislation. The main changes covered DfE decisions on school funding reform.
- The second part of the paper was to bring to Forum members attention the proposed changes to funding for 2 year old children, specifically the transfer of funding from Early Intervention Grant into Dedicated Schools Grant. The DfE were consulting on changes to the way in which the Early Years Single Funding Formula might operate for two year olds. Schools Forum would be consulted on any changes to RBWM's local EYSFF needed as a result of DfE's decisions on the issue..
- Gill Cocklin emphasised that a guarantee of place funding for two years olds rather than funding based on actual take-up would create greater financial stability in nurseries, improving provision and parental choice.
- New regulations will come into force in January. Kathleen commented that we missed the opportunity for consultation (ended 21.09.12) so we need to know the outcomes from the consultation.
- The Early Year Working Group would be convened to look at the specific issues arising out of the DfE consultation on two year old funding.

Action: To bring paper setting out a mechanism for the delegation of 2 year old funding back to Schools Forum on 06.12.12.

EB

Recommended action for Schools Forum:

- i. The Forum noted the changes the DfE propose to make to the Schools Finance Regulations 2012 set out in Appendix A of the paper.
- ii. The Forum noted the proposed transfer of two year old funding into the DSG from 2013-14 and the DfE's other proposals on how the Early Years Single Funding Formula might operate in respect of two year olds. Actions requested as above.
- iii. The Forum noted the additional terms of grant on which DSG is paid arising out of the funding reforms.

6.	<p>MINUTES OF MEETING 12 JULY 2012:</p> <p>Kathleen raised two issues:</p> <p>Minute 2.5: Pupil Number Growth -The Forum agreed to change the minute to reflect that the last sentence ("Kathleen supported Liz's view") related to past decisions of the Contingency Panel.</p> <p>Minute 2.6: The Forum clarified that the minute should read '..... 7 voted against and one for'.</p> <p>Action: Kathy to make these amendments and Kathleen will then sign them off.</p>	KS
7.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathleen thanked Edmund and Dominic and colleagues for their work on the school funding reforms and their support to Head teachers and the Forum on these complex changes. • Kathleen thanked Kathy Sadler for minuting the Schools' Forum meetings to date. In line with the changes in regulations from 01.10.12, this role will now be taken over by Democratic Services Officers. 	
8.	<p>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 16 October 2012 - Guildhall, Windsor • Thursday, 6 December 2012 - Desborough 2/3, Town Hall, Maidenhead • Monday, 28 January 2013 - Council Chamber, Maidenhead • Tuesday, 5 March 2013 - Ascot/Bray, Maidenhead Town Hall <p>All meetings commencing at 1530 hrs. Point of contact: Karen Williams, Democratic Services Manager and Clerk of Schools Forum (interim) - 01628 796529 karen.williams@rbwm.gov.uk</p> <p>MEETING CLOSED AT 1715</p> <p>DISTRIBUTION: All members of the Schools' forum RBWM website</p>	