

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

14 January 2020

PRESENT:

School Representatives

Mr E Gibbs (Chair), Mr B Lawrance, Mrs D West, Mr R Biglands, Mrs R Stephenson, Miss A Nuttall and Ms M Potterton.

Academies Representatives

Mr D Flowitt, Mr P Raspin and Mr D West

Non Schools Representative

Ms K Sargent on behalf of Mr M Lochran

PVI Representatives

Mrs M Drury and Mrs C Williams

Executive Elected Members

Cllr. D Rose

Local Authority Officers

Ms T Elliott (Strategic Lead – Servicedesk), (Head of Access and Inclusion), Ms R Maughan (Specialist – Commercial), Mrs S Burniston (Access Manager (Capital Buildings and Visits) Ms J Frost (Education Inclusion Lead Officer), Mrs J Flintoff (Head of Standards and Effectiveness), Ms N Raines (Early Years Sufficiency Manager) and Mrs A Dawson (Democratic Services – Secretary to the Forum)

The meeting was quorate.

The forum met at Church Square House, Scunthorpe.

880 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Miss Z Bidmead, Mrs T Millard, Mr M Lochran, Mrs S Thomas and Mr D Chaplin.

881 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – The Chair welcomed members, including the three new nominated representatives for the Primary sector.

882 MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING DATED 6 November 2019 - Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2019, having been printed and circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded, and be signed by the chair.

SCHOOLS FORUM
20 January 2020

883 MATTERS ARISING

Item 827 Membership update – The Secretary informed the group that three representatives had been nominated to fill the Primary vacancies on the forum.

The three potential members were in attendance and therefore left the room at this point in order that the nominations could be discussed.

Mrs Rachel Stephenson, Headteacher of Holme Valley Primary School, Miss Andrea Nuttall, Headteacher of Lincoln Gardens Primary School and Ms Maz Potterton, Headteacher of Castledyke Primary School were proposed as new primary representatives.

Information was still awaited on the vacancy for the Secondary Academy representative.

Resolved – (a) That Mrs R Stephenson, Miss Nuttall and Ms M Potterton be appointed as new primary representatives, and (b) that the Secretary writes to the three new members officially welcoming them to the forum.

The three new members returned to the room.

884 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2020/21 – Ms Maughan presented the report.

On 19 December 2019 the Education Funding Agency published the 2020-21 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations. This was based on October 2019 School Census data.

The allocation for North Lincolnshire was £142.236m after deductions from the direct funding of high needs places by the Education Skills Funding Agency.

The report set out information on the planned use of the DSG for 2020/21. Including details with regard to the four blocks of funding. Each block was determined by a separate national funding formula. The allocation for each block was as follows:

- Schools Block £112.670m
- Central Block £1.052m
- Early Years Block £9.573m – provisional
- High Needs Block £18.940m – provisional

The 2019 to 2020 import/export adjustment data published in June 2019 had been used for the provisional 2020 to 2021 allocations data. This would be updated in June 2020 with the January 2020 Census data and the February 2020 ILR data.

Discussion took place with regard to the high needs block and **it was agreed that** the forum hold further discussions in relation to alternative provision.

Further action – That Mr Lawrance e-mails Darren Chaplin with regard to further discussions as above, Ms Frost to follow up.

Resolved – That the centrally retained schools budget, as set out in appendix 1 to the report, be approved:

SCHOOLS FORUM 20 January 2020

- Central spend on the early years block provision
- School Admissions
- Servicing of Schools Forum
- Contribution to the responsibilities that councils hold for all schools
- Contribution to combined budgets.

885 **GROWTH AND FALLING ROLL FUND** – Mrs S Burniston presented the report.

The National Funding Formula allowed for an amount of funding to be set aside from the schools block in order to fund schools with significant pupil growth or temporary decline.

The report reviewed the growth fund that was agreed at the November 2013 and March 2014 meetings of the forum, in light of guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE) on 19 December 2019. This considered the establishment of funding to support schools with falling rolls. The growth fund was initially established to support the primary sector population growth. The higher pupil numbers were now feeding through to the secondary sector.

The growth fund could be used to provide additional funding within a financial year when, at the request of the council, a school admits additional pupils over the published admission number to meet the demand for places.

The falling rolls fund could be used to support schools where the short-medium term projections demonstrated that the fall was temporary.

Councils were required to produce criteria on which any growth/falling roll funding was to be allocated, which must be agreed by the Schools Forum. Appendix 1 to the report outlined a methodology that updated the existing growth funding scheme and established a falling roll funding scheme. Both were based on the DfE minimum per pupil level funding and linked to the typical cost including on costs of employing a primary and secondary teacher.

Resolved – (a) That the methodology and values to be used on which any growth funding was allocated be approved; (b) that the methodology and values to be used on which any falling roll funding was allocated be approved; (c) that the level of funding set aside for each fund be endorsed, and (d) that utilisation of the funds be reported back to the forum on an annual basis.

886 **SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA 2020-21** – Ms R Maughan presented the report.

On 19 December 2019, the Education Funding Agency published the 2020-21 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Allocations, based on October 2019 School Census data. The allocation for North Lincolnshire was £142.236m (£132.661m in 2019/20) after deductions for direct funding of high needs places by Education Skills Funding Agency.

The element of DSG available for the Schools Block was £112.670m (£106.331m in 2019/20). The operational guide set out how individual school budget shares could be calculated.

SCHOOLS FORUM

20 January 2020

At the meeting of the forum on the 4 October 2017 it was agreed that there would be a move towards the implementation of the National Funding Formula (NFF) for the next two years 2018/19 and 2019/20 in order to maintain stability for schools.

At the previous meeting on 6 November 2019 it was agreed to fully implement the NFF to allocate funding to North Lincolnshire schools for 2020-21. However, since the notification of the final allocations a further option needed to be considered as the NFF left funding of £485k available for distribution. Details of both options have been modelled and were appended to the report.

The report had been submitted to the Children, Families and Culture Cabinet Member and was awaiting political ratification.

Resolved – (a) That the distribution of the schools block funding, as set out in Option 2 of the report, be endorsed, and (b) that the contribution of £7.80 per pupil towards the cost of education functions that the council provided on behalf maintained schools, be approved by maintained schools representatives.

887 **EARLY YEARS – DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT** – Ms N Raines presented the report.

Early Years funding was participation based. The early year's block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for each financial year was revised based on three census counts. Funding allocations were currently provisional for 2020/21, final allocations were based on 5/12 January 2019 part time equivalent (pte) child numbers and 7/12 January 2020 pte child numbers. Final funding allocations for 2020/21 were based on pte numbers of children recorded on the January 2021 census.

Funding allocations had increased for the 2020/21 financial year with an additional eight pence per hour per child on the hourly rate for two (£5.28), three and four year olds (£4.38). Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and Disability Access Funding (DAF) remained at 53p per hour per child and £615 per annum respectively.

Two year olds were eligible for a maximum of 15 hours funding early learning and care where their family circumstances meant that they were eligible for free school meals and where the family was in receipt of Universal Credit/Tax Credits with an income of approximately £16,000. Eligibility also applied where the child was in or had left the care of a council; was in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or the child had an education, health and care plan. Approximately 550 children were eligible each term in North Lincolnshire.

All three and four year olds were entitled to a maximum of 15 hours funded early education in the maintained, private or voluntary sector for 38 weeks of the year. Children with parents in employment could also be eligible an additional 15 funded hours, if they were both employed. Approximately 42 per cent of funded children took up the additional funded hours in North Lincolnshire.

Provider payments were determined using the Early Years Single Funding formula, comprised of a base rate and a number of supplements. EYPP and DAF were ring fenced funding supplements for children that met the eligibility criteria.

SCHOOLS FORUM
20 January 2020

Resolved – (a) That the provisional funding allocation in relation to the Early Years Block of the DSG for 2020/21 be noted; (b) that the proposed rate of £5.28 per hour per child for all funded two year olds be supported; (c) that the proposed local supplements of the Early Years Single Funding Formula, deprivation and a sufficiency lump sum, be supported; (d) that Option 1, the preference of the child care sector as identified via consultation, an increase to the base rate of 8p to £4.13 per hour per child, be endorsed, and (e) that the proposal that the Early Years Pupil (53p per hour per child) and Disability Access Funding (£615 per annum lump sum) were paid at the nationally required rates, be supported.

888 **DEDICATED SCHOOL GRANT (DSG) HIGH NEEDS FUNDING** – Ms J Frost presented the report.

The report provided an update on the DSG High Needs outturn figures for 2019/20 and information about developments in provision and the local offer.

It was anticipated that the DSG High Needs budget would have a small overspend; this related mainly to independent schools and colleges specialist provision budgets where there had been fee uplifts. However, it was felt that this could be managed within the reserves. Work was required to continue with mainstreams schools to develop local provision in order to keep children and young people stable in their communities.

Ms Frost advised that the SEND Annual Report was now available to view on www.northlincslocaoffer.com. The annual report provided an opportunity to summarise work that the council had undertaken to implement the SEND Inclusion Plan and celebrate shared success. The Schools Forum would play an important role in the development of the new plan.

The report included changes on the local offer; further information was available in the SEND Annual Report. Further capital funding had been allocated to develop two new inclusion support provisions, giving opportunities for schools to develop and meet needs locally.

The report gave information on work that had been done in partnership with the CCG. All 19 GP practices had signed up to deliver the Learning Disabilities Annual Health Check Enhanced Service for 2019/20. A streamlined service was also being co-ordinated between health and education to ensure standardised delivery of the Integrated Health Check.

Mrs West advised that information was going to be provided on home taught children, in particular with regard to monitoring visits and safeguarding. Ms Frost explained that a key person visited a home educated child after 12 weeks but the child would be referred to the case management service straight away, who made contact immediately. Intensive work was carried out in the first two weeks and a majority of children did go back into mainstream school. It was important to distinguish between those and children electively educated at home. If a child had an Education, Health and Care Plan there would also be statutory visits carried out.

Ms Frost also updated members on the progress with the proposed free school

The Chair asked for information on Wyedale Road, the Key Stage 2 support provision and tuition unit; Mrs Burniston updated the forum. Mr Flowitt advised that the legal paperwork

SCHOOLS FORUM
20 January 2020

was due for completion and was awaiting signature by both parties; consultation could then begin. A business case needed to be put forward to the regional school's commissioner.

Resolved – That the recommendations outlined in section 8 of the report be agreed:

- i) That work continued to be undertaken with Headteachers and Principals to implement and embed the area-wide solutions to High Needs challenges and pressures ensuring that children and young people's needs remained central;
- ii) that Key Stage 2 SEMH provision be fully functioning within the Spring Term 2020 (20 place SEMH provision – EHCP children); and
- iii) that small overspends of High Needs DSG be met through the use of reserves (High Needs DSG Reserves).

889 **CHANGES TO THE DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT** – Mrs J Flintoff presented the report.

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Historic Commitments funding had been used in North Lincolnshire to provide a range of school focussed support and activity including the provision of School Improvement Partners to every school in North Lincolnshire. For the last two years the Peer Leader Programme had also been funded through this element. Additionally, money was used to support workforce development such as the aspirant head programme, Safeguarding pro, and innovation grants for schools wishing to work with the Research School.

In Autumn 2019 the Department for Education announced the intention to make a year on year reduction to the Historic Commitments budget. The implications for the financial year 2020/21 were that the Historic Commitments budget would decrease by £55,000.

The report gave details of current budget usage and possible options to manage the necessary reduction in order to minimise adverse impact on children.

Discussion ensued on possible options.

Resolved – That reserves be used to manage the budget reduction for the next year, in order that a proper consultation can be carried out with all head teachers.

890 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – The Secretary advised the forum that in line with council policy, it had been agreed that no further paper copies of agendas and associated paperwork would be provided to members for future meetings.

891 **DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS** – That the next two meetings of the Forum be held on:

- Thursday 11 June 2020 and
- Thursday 1 October 2020.

Both to take place at 2.00pm at Church Square House, Scunthorpe.