

Bristol Schools' Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 22nd November 2017 at 18.15 hrs at Future Inns

Present:

Jamie Barry	Headteacher, Parson Street Primary
Victoria Boomer	Headteacher, Oasis Academy, John Williams
Karen Brown	Governor, St Mary Redcliffe & Temple
Tim Browse	Headteacher, Air Balloon Primary
Colin Butterworth	Governor, Endeavour Trust
Emma Cave	Governor, Claremont
Graham Diles	Headteacher Rep, St Mary Redcliffe & Temple
Patricia Dodds	Governor, Fishponds Academy
Peter Evans	Headteacher, Knowle DGE
Alan Gould	Governor, Fairfield High
Tracy Jones	Headteacher, Bannerman Road
Sarah Lovell	Headteacher Rep, Cabot Learning Federation
Tom Merchant	Support Staff Representative, UNISON
Aileen Morrison	Headteacher, St Matthias Park
Chris Pring	Headteacher Rep, Cabot Primary
Dan Reed	Governor, Air Balloon Hill
Carew Reynell (Chair)	Governor, Henbury Secondary
Cedric Sanguinol	Governor Representative, Bishop Road Primary
Christine Townsend	Governor, Whitehall Primary
David Yorath	Governor, Cotham
Michelle Wills	Representative, Teaching Professionals
Sue Wilson	Headteacher, Ashton Gate Primary

In attendance:

Ian Bell	Place Planning
Billy Forsythe	Clerk to Schools Forum
Cllr Claire Hiscott	Councillor
Annette Jones	Service Manager, Additional Learning Needs
Sue Rogers	Service Director, Education & Skills
David Tully	Interim Finance Business Partner
Travis Young	Senior Accountant

Observers:

William Brown, Simon Eakins, Kevin Jay, Lisa Middle, Clare Pring, Anne Sheridan

Item	Action
1. Welcome and introductions	
The Chair opened the meeting at 18:15	

<p>2. Forum standing business</p> <p>Apologies Received from Marian Curran, Lindsey Fuller, Simon Holmes, Ruth Pickersgill, Anne Rutherford, Chrysta Garnett, Denise Murray,</p> <p>Clerk confirmed meeting was quorate.</p> <p>New members – Simon Holmes has been nominated by Nursery Heads to share the Nursery Head representative with Lindsey Fuller. Carew Reynell has been re-elected as Secondary Academy governor representative. Sarah Lovell has been nominated by the Academy Heads to be a Secondary Academy head representative.</p> <p>Vacancies: Currently one vacancy for the Clifton Diocese.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were expressed.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September</p> <p>Minutes were accepted as correct.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles – issued with minutes • South Bristol Catchment issue raised by CT. IB advised that Merchants Academy had changed their admission arrangements and this does leave some children without a catchment area. IB is talking to the trust in December about their admissions policy – this isn't currently making a difference but it could do. CT asked what can be done if they refuse to amend their policy. IB added that he had referred this to Legal who confirmed it wasn't an equality issue as students are not disadvantaged. CT specifically raised the public sector duty requirement as contained in the Equalities Act. • Special school reps - Nothing in constitution to stop two reps from same school. • BIS - SR reported that historically three teams (Behaviour Improvement, Learning Improvement & Education Psychology) were merged into Inclusion service. BIS service included 3.2 FTE – one resigned and the 2.2 FTE and all LIS team applied for Voluntary Severance which was granted by Paul Jacobs & Jackie Turner. The services had ceased to be popular with a majority of schools and were not profitable. Schools Forum had agreed to de-delegate in 16/17 and education psychologists advised they would provide behaviour support as part of Inclusion. The Alternative Learning Provision team would provide support for exclusions. JB raised a concern that the ALP team is not able to provide the service re exclusions. AJ advised that the Team is meant to be signposting. If schools needed additional support they should link with EPs. JB would like more info re de-delegated funding. SR will progress. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 9 – TwS surplus – SR advised that she saw it as part of her job is to make sure this is re-invested in school services – this is ongoing work. DY asked if ESFA had given an opinion on the growth fund and on PFI. DT advised that this would be covered in item 5 on the agenda. 	<p>SR</p>
<p>4. Correspondence</p>	
<p>CR advised that he had been asked whether representation on Forum could be changed so that Academy & maintained special schools were both represented. This will be picked up in New Year when we look at constitution.</p>	
<p>5. DSG Overview</p>	
<p>DT presented the report which builds on report at last Forum and Parkview meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forecast increase of £6m in Dedicated Schools Grant; 3 competing pressures on DSG. Individual schools deficits, HNB major overspend & PFI contracts; Members asked officers to reconsider PFI position to see if Council’s budget could help that; Asked DFE to recognise the increased costs in the funding formula and they will respond soon; Plan A or Plan B - both A&B give HNB £2m – from SB or General fund. <p>CP asked if lump sum was £110 or £125 – TY advised that £125 was now proposed. £110k was a previous worst case scenario.</p> <p>CR added that final proposals will come back to Forum in January when the final pupil numbers will be known and we also may have a decision from ESFA.</p> <p>Discussion took place on differences between Plan A & Plan B - both plans assume £2m headroom in school block as a result of revised projections for the Growth Fund and rates.</p> <p>PFI is a factor in the National Funding Formula based on funding formula for 2017. DT advised that not many LAs have the same scale of problem as Bristol.</p> <p>A number of questions were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What if PFI shortfall gets worse? - DT advised that is the issue the LA is grappling with, trying to persuade DfE that no PFI affordability gap increases straightforwardly by inflation each year. Is headroom liable to change? DT advised that there were still issues to be resolved, explained in the paper. This included the impact of the October 2017 census, final DSG figures from ESFA and the ESFA decision on PFI. Can we be confident that that planned savings will be achieved? SR advised that she understands concerns. We have the High Needs action plan and meet regularly to monitor this. Can never be absolutely confident but a great deal of activity is underway to try to achieve the savings. We have to have a plan that gets us in balance and stay in balance. 	

<p>It was decided at this point that the Schools Block paper and the High Needs Block papers would be considered before addressing the recommendations. The recorded decisions below were made later in the meeting.</p> <p>Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Schools Forum noted the 2017/18 position b) Schools Forum commented on and noted the developing financial strategy c) Schools Forum agreed by 13 votes to 3 to support the transfer of £2m of Schools Block funding in 2018/19 to the High Needs Block, subject to the Secretary of States agreement for the amount beyond £1.2m. 	
<p>6. Schools Block report</p>	
<p>DT presented the report.</p> <p>The LA is proposing to continue with the local formula used in previous years and propose to set Minimum Funding Guarantee as zero - Schools are guaranteed the level of funding they had this year. If DFE agree to PFI this will be included in the funding formula.</p> <p>DT confirmed the figures included the £2m proposed move to HNB.</p> <p>CP asked if a new budget ready reckoner could be produced. TY confirmed.</p> <p>Recommendations 2.1 & 2.2 were accepted.</p> <p>BF confirmed the six maintained primary delegates and two maintained secondary delegates who were entitled to vote for de-delegation</p> <p>The low response to the consultation was noted and CP asked if any future correspondence could be sent School Business Managers as well as Heads.</p> <p>MW outlined the positives for the Forum to de-delegate money for TU reps. TM outlined the positives for the Forum to de-delegate money for H&S reps</p> <p>CT asked if Forum did not de-delegate for schools in financial difficulty would these schools be left to manage. This was confirmed.</p> <p>SR asked Forum to de-delegate the money for T&L as she wanted the opportunity to improve the Team and enable them to better support Bristol schools - currently KS1 below national and KS2 just at national. Losing capacity could create difficulties. TD advised Forum that the Reading Recovery leaders run training for many programmes to support our young readers. If they go those programmes will not run in Bristol. They are making an impact on raising attainment.</p> <p>CP asked as R&R is a traded service why do we need to de-delegate? - TD advised</p>	<p>TY</p>

payment is for licence and the de-delegated funding is for the consultancy and training.

Voting took place as per the tables below:

MAINTAINED PRIMARY

Service	De-delegate	Not de-delegate
Premises & employee insurance	6	0
FSM assessment	6	0
Maternity Supply Cover	6	0
Schools in Financial Difficulty	4	2
Trade Union Facility time	5	1
Roving Health & Safety Reps	6	0
Education Psychology	5	1
Primary T&L Consultants	0	6

MAINTAINED SECONDARY

Service	De-delegate	Not de-delegate
Premises & employee insurance	2	0
FSM assessment	2	0
Maternity Supply Cover	2	0
Trade Union Facility time	2	0
Roving Health & Safety Reps	2	0
Education Psychology	2	0

The decision of the relevant Schools Forum members is that all of the above services should be de-delegated for maintained schools, as indicated, apart from Primary Teaching & Learning Consultants.

7. High Needs Update

AJ presented the report.

- Reductions have been made and additional savings are planned.
- Forecast is still serious. £12.1m cumulative overspending if we don't achieve the savings or put the deficit plans into effect.
- EFSA – LAs will have changes in their funding for college places. EFSA have taken this on board and we expect some changes.
- £746K extra spending projected for this panel, a lower increase than previous panels.
- Bristol sends fewer children out of authority and keeps children with their families.
- Provision is rated 100% good.

PE added that special schools have had budgets cut and they want to work closely with maintained schools on EIB provision. AJ welcomed the comments and recognised the work the special schools have done.

Discussion took place highlighting the vulnerability of children particularly in South Bristol. There is an urgent need to grow EIB provision.

AJ confirmed that the LA made the decision to contain more overspend for this panel.

<p>Most vulnerable would still be fully funded. This was agreed with the Inclusion Reference Group and was not a decision the Forum had made.</p> <p>Decisions:</p> <p>2.1 Schools Forum noted the budget forecast outturn for Period 6 2017/18 and the impact on the 2018/19 forecast</p> <p>2.2 Schools Forum commented on progress as above</p> <p>2.3 Schools Forum agreed for the Local Authority to submit a request to the Education and Skills Funding Agency to disapply the Minimum Funding Guarantee for special schools in the event that the new model being developed will require this to support implementation.</p> <p>Forum agreed to return to the DSG report and the final recommendation.</p>	
<p>8. Growth Fund</p>	
<p>This paper was not considered.</p> <p>CR advised that officers should revisit the Growth Fund report with the chair and vice-chair in order to produce a consolidated paper that addresses the issues and to bring that to Schools Forum at the next meeting.</p>	<p>IB/SR</p>
<p>9. AOB</p>	
<p>CT asked if the LA had considered linking FSM to benefits as other authorities had. SR will investigate and respond.</p>	<p>SR</p>

The meeting closed at 20:30hrs