

Dudley Schools Forum - 9 July 2013

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Schools Forum Membership - Update

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise on the appointments to the membership of Schools Forum and to highlight membership changes required in the Autumn.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes – 8 July 2013

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

3. Schools Forum is responsible for ensuring that the constitution and membership meet the legislative requirements detailed in the School Forum (England) Regulations 2012, effective from 1 October 2012.

Action for Schools Forum

4. To note the report and the appointments to the membership of Schools Forum.
5. To note the estimated changes to the membership composition for School Members as a result of schools converting to Academy status during 2013/14.

Attachments to Report

6. Appendix A – The current list of Schools Forum members.

Schools Forum 9 July 2013

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Schools Forum Membership

Membership

2. The Constitution of Schools Forum currently totals 29 members, of which there are 22 School members, 2 Academy members, and 5 Non-School members.
3. Members are elected on a three year rolling programme with Headteacher and the Pupil Referral Unit manager posts from the 1 November and all other posts from the 1 May.

Appointments, Amendments and Vacancies

School Members

4. There is currently one School Members vacancy relating to Secondary School Governors. This vacancy remained unfilled during the election process in January 2013 and relates to the Brierley Hill or North Dudley township.

Academy Members

5. This appointment of Mr S. Platford the Deputy Head at High Arcal Academy to a Schools Forum Academy representative has now been formalised through the Council's decision making process effective from 27 May 13.

Non School Members

Unions and Professional Associations

6. On the 30 April 2013 the Recognised Unions and Professional Associations Schools Forum member three year term of office held by Mr M. Lynch expired. The Director of Children's Services wrote to the staff side of the Directorate Joint Consultative Committee (DJCC) on the 3 May 2013 and invited them to nominate a representative.
7. The Director was informed on the 23 May that the DJCC had nominated Mr P Nesbitt of the Earls High School as the Recognised Unions and Professional Associations Schools Forum member to represent the Dudley NASUWT. The term of office for this post is for a three year period from 1 May 2013 to the 30 April 2016. However, the Mr Nesbitt's membership will be effective from the date the decision is formally published by the Council, which is estimated to be 2 July 2013.

Catholic Schools Commission

8. There remains a vacancy for a representative of the Catholic Schools Commission nominated by the Commission. This post has been vacant since July 2012.

Dudley 14–19 Strategic Partnership

9. There remains a vacancy for a representative of the Dudley 14–19 Strategic Partnership, nominated by the Partnership. However, the DfE are proposing to amend the Regulations in the Autumn 2013 to replace this mandatory requirement for a 14-19 Partnership Member with one elected representative from an institution (other than from a school or academy) providing education beyond age 16 (but may also be providing education for 14-16 year olds).
10. The Schools Forum Constitution will be updated when the DfE issue the Regulations and the new Member can then be elected.

Membership Changes Autumn 2013

11. The DfE Schools Forum 2012 Regulations state that primary schools, secondary schools and Academies must be broadly proportionately represented on the forum, having regard to the total number of pupils registered.
12. Currently, for School Members, there are 10 primary headteachers and governors, 8 secondary headteachers and governors and 2 Academy representatives.
13. Academy members must be elected to the schools forum by the proprietors of the Academies in the authority's area.
14. With impending school conversions to Academy status it is estimated that by September 2013 the pupil numbers could be as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1 Schools Forum Membership estimated at September 2013

Sector	Maintained Pupils	Academy Pupils—estimated by Sept 2013	Maintained %	Academy %	Maintained Schools Forum Reps	Academy Schools Forum Reps
Primary	24,043	801	96.7	3.3	9.7 = 10	0.3 = 0
Secondary	11,368	7,628	59.9	40.1	6.0 = 6	4.0 = 4
Number of schools	88	10				
Schools Forum Representation Estimated September 2013					16 (18)	4 (2)
Primary Headteachers					5 (5)	4 (2)
Secondary Headteachers					3 (4)	
Primary Governors					5 (5)	
Secondary Governors					3 (4)	
Academy Representatives						

The data in () indicates the current membership arrangements

15. The DfE advise that Regulations will be issued shortly to effect their proposed changes for the 14-19 Partnership Member to a Post 16 Provider. At this point Dudley's School Forum constitution will be updated and the proportionality ratio of School Members will be revised. It is estimated that this will be early in the Autumn term.

16. Assuming Table 1 represents the School Member representative numbers for September, then there will be a need to reduce both the secondary Headteachers and Governors each by one representative. The secondary Headteacher appointments are effective from 1 November and there is already a secondary Governor vacancy, paragraph 4 above refers, which will be released.

Finance

17. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2012.

18. Schools Forums are regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.

19. From 1 April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant; Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

20. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

Equality Impact

21. The Council's Equal Opportunities Policy is taken into account when considering the allocation of resources.

Recommendation

22. Schools Forum to note the contents of the report provided in respect of Dudley's Schools Forum membership appointments and forthcoming changes for the Autumn term.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Porter', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the signature.

Jane Porter

Director of Children's Services

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