

INFORMAL MEETING OF DUDLEY SCHOOLS FORUM

Tuesday 22nd January, 2013 at 6.00 pm

**At Saltwells Educational Development Centre, Bowling Green Road,
Netherton**

PRESENT

Mr L Ridney - Chair

Mrs J Belcher, Mr J Conway, Mr C Derham, Mrs L Jeynes-Bates, Mr J Kelleher,
Mrs H Ruffles, Mr B Warren, Mr M Weaver.

**Persons not members of the Forum but having an entitlement to attend meetings
and speak**

Councillor Crumpton - Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services,
Director of Children's Services

Officers

Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education Services) (Directorate of
Children's Services); Children's Services Finance Manager, Senior Principal
Accountant and Miss H Shepherd (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

1. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair stated that as the meeting was not quorate, recommendations
would be made for ratification at the next quorate meeting of the Forum.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Mr P
Harris, Mr S Hudson, Mr P Jones, Mr M Lynch, Mrs J Quigley, Mrs A
Richards, Mr N Shaw, Mr R Timmins, Mr D Ward and Mrs G Withers.

3. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBER

It was noted that Mrs Jeynes-Bates was serving as a substitute member
for Mr M Lynch, for this meeting of the Forum only.

4. MINUTES

RECOMMENDED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Forum Held on 13th November, 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No issues were raised under this item.

6. SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP - UPDATE

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted on an update on the appointment of an Academy School representative.

The Chair welcomed Mr Kelleher, Academy Representative to the meeting.

RECOMMENDED

That the information contained in the report and appendix to the report submitted in relation to Schools Forum Membership, be noted.

7. BUDGET FACT SHEET NO.2 NOVEMBER 2012

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted on the latest Budget Fact Sheet, which had been issued to schools in November 2012.

In response to a question raised by a Primary School Governor representative, the Children's Services Finance Manager undertook to obtain examples of Pupil Premium reports that had been published on other Local Authority schools webpage's.

RECOMMENDED

That the information contained in the report and appendix to the report submitted in relation to the latest Budget Fact Sheet, be noted.

8. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET PROCESS 2013/14

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted in relation to the 2013/14 Dedicated Schools Grant budget process. Appendix two to the report, the Education Funding Agency's Local Authority Funding

Reform Proforma for 2013/14 was circulated to members at the meeting.

The Children's Services Finance Manager presented the report and made particular reference to paragraph 16 of the report submitted and stated that funding arrangements for the affected Schools had been deferred for 2013/14 implementation to ensure that the best process could be identified and addressed separately.

Reference was then made to paragraph 26 of the report and the three-step element funding process was explained to members. The Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education Services) explained that once funding had been paid to the provider, it would be difficult to reclaim the funding if the student decided to change providers, the responsibility would then fall on the Authority to pay all three elements which could exceed its budget if not properly managed. The Director of Children's Services stated that the Authority had been shadowing the process for a two-year period, prior to implementation, to help with the transition.

In response to a question raised by a Secondary School Governor representative, the Children's Services Finance Manager stated that the funding allocation process for cross-boundary students was complicated, and that instead of the Local Authority having to recharge or pay other authorities for services provided, the DfE would now adjust each Local Authorities budget dependent on their predicted number of cross-boundary students and that a similar process would be used with regard to Hospital Education.

In response to a concern raised by a Primary School Governor representative, the Senior Principal Accountant stated that two workshops would be held during March to provide schools with guidance and to explain budgetary arrangements.

The Senior Principal Accountant then gave a brief explanation of Appendix two, the Education Funding Agency Proforma that was circulated at the meeting.

RECOMMENDED

- (i) That the information contained in the report and appendices to the report submitted, be noted.
- (ii) That the submission of the Education Funding Agency's Local Authority Funding Reform Proforma for 2013/14 on 22nd January, 2013, be approved.
- (ii) That the top slice from mainstream and special schools

budgets of £76,116 for 2013/14 to hold as a centrally retained budget on behalf of the copyright licensing payment for all schools, as advised by the DfE in December 2012, be approved.

9. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE DIRECTORATE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN RESPECT OF SCHOOLS EQUAL PAY LIABILITIES

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted outlining the proposal to use the Directorates Dedicated Schools Grant unallocated reserve to provide financial support to schools in respect of equal pay liabilities.

The Children's Services Finance Manager explained to members how the criteria in allocating the funds would be identified and stated that on current values, any schools that ranked at 2.4% or above would be eligible to receive the additional support to a maximum of £2 million.

The Director of Children's Services reiterated her comments made at the previous meeting stating that consideration of support would only be provided to those schools that had taken on board the advice that was provided and had set aside funding from their delegated budgets. Those schools that had deliberately disregarded the advice would not be considered and be requested to provide reasons as to why provisions had not been made.

RECOMMENDED

- (i) That the information contained in the report and appendix to the report submitted, be noted.
- (ii) That the issue be considered further at a subsequent meeting of the forum.

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE FORUM

RECOMMENDED

That the dates and venues of the remaining future meetings of the Forum in 2012/13 municipal year be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.20 pm