

## **DUDLEY SCHOOLS FORUM**

**Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 at 6.00 pm**  
**at Saltwells Education Development Centre,**  
**Bowling Green Road, Netherton, Dudley**

### **PRESENT:-**

Mr Ridney – Chair  
Mr Patterson – Vice-Chair

Mrs Belcher, Mr Conway, Mr Dallaway, Mr Derham, Mrs Hannaway, Mr Harris, Mrs Hazlehurst, Mr Hudson, Mr Nesbitt and Mr Platford

Persons not a member of the Forum but having an entitlement to attend meetings and speak

Director of Children's Services

### **Officers**

Children's Services Finance Manager, Senior Principal Accountant and Miss Helen Shepherd (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

#### **1. INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

Chair welcomed members to the meeting and welcomed newly appointed members Mr Nesbitt and Mr Platford to their first forum meeting.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Mrs Garratt, Mr Jones, Mr Kelleher, Ms Richards, Mrs Ruffles, Mr Shaw, Mr Ward, Mr Warren, Mr Weaver and Mrs Withers.

At this juncture, the vice-chair expressed his disappointment at the lack of attendance by Members at the meeting.

#### **3. MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That, the minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No issues were raised under this item.

5. SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP – UPDATE

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted on the appointments to the membership of Schools Forum and to highlight membership changes required in the Autumn.

The Children's Services Finance Manager presented the report and made particular reference to Table 1 of the report submitted and the impending school conversions to academy status and the impact this would have on the proportionality representation on the Forum. It was advised that from September 2013, the number of Secondary Head-teachers and governor representatives would need to be reduced by one each and an increase in the number of Academy representatives would be required to reflect the change in proportionality ratio should the estimated figures in Table 1 be confirmed. A further report updating members on the membership arrangements would be submitted to the Forum in September together with any necessary changes to the Constitution.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the information contained in the report submitted, in relation to Dudley Schools Forum membership appointments and the forthcoming changes in the Autumn, be noted.
- (ii) That a further report updating members on the membership arrangements for Dudley Schools Forum, be submitted to the Forum meeting in September 2013.

6. DUDLEY'S SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS – APPROVAL FOR CONSULTATION

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted on the proposed consultation with all schools in the Autumn Term 2013 regarding the proposed amendments required to Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the information contained in the report submitted, in relation to the Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools, be noted.

- (ii) That a period of consultation with all schools and stakeholders in the Autumn Term 2013, be approved.
- (iii) That the outcomes of the consultation be presented to the Forum at its meeting in January 2014.

7. DUDLEY'S PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT SERVICE REVIEW

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted on the review and restructure of Dudley's Pupil Referral Units.

Following the presentation of the report, members expressed their concerns in relation to the importance of the outreach service that is provided to primary school children and supported the investigation of funding options to enable this level of service to continue. The Director of Children's Services also referred to the importance of early intervention services for pre-school children that have behavioural and well being issues prior to attending school and stated that funding models would continue to be investigated and a further update report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Forum.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the information contained in the report submitted, in respect of the review and restructure of Dudley's Pupil Referral Units, be noted.
- (ii) That a further update on the Dudley's Pupil Referral Unit Service Review be provided by the Director of Children's Services at the Autumn Term forum meeting.

8. REPORT ON THE DfE REVIEW OF 2013/14 SCHOOL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted in relation to financial benchmarking data in respect of the Schools Funding arrangements for 2013/14 financial year.

The Senior Principal Accountant presented the report and made particular reference to Appendix A of the report submitted in relation to the benchmarking summary data and how Dudley MBC ranked in comparison with its statistical and geographical neighbouring authorities. She referred to the deprivation funding factor and how

Dudley ranked low in comparison with its neighbours and the change in criteria for 2014/15 in relation to the Low cost High Incidence funding and stated that the Head Teachers Consultative Forum - Budget Working Group in the Autumn term, would review both formula factors.

She also referred to the Lump Sum allocation and stated that Dudley was ranked mid-range in relation to value in comparison to its neighbours but low on percentage of total funding allocated. It was considered that the amount allocated was reasonable but would be discussed as part of the consultation and reviewed.

The Vice-chair praised the Local Authority for being the highest ranked authority in relation to pupil led funding, but stated that the Local Authority should learn from its neighbours in the factors where they had been ranked lower.

#### RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, in relation to Dudley's benchmarking data for the school funding arrangements for 2013/14 and the possible impact for the 2014/15 funding arrangements, be noted.

#### 9. REPORT ON THE DfE SCHOOL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2014/15

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted on the DfE School Funding Arrangements for 2014/15.

The Children's Services Finance Manager presented the report in detail, referring members of the Forum to paragraphs of specific importance.

Arising from a question raised in relation to Schools with falling rolls and to which of those schools would be considered to receive additional funding support, the Children's Services Finance Manager confirmed that it would be for schools that were considered to be in a 'good' or 'outstanding' Ofsted category.

In response to a further question raised it was stated that the 2012/13 central historic spend could not be increased for the 2013/14 financial year, however the allocation of this funding could be used to fund different services to the previous year if the dedicated schools grant was sufficient to allow further delegations, this could therefore be taken into consideration when investigating funding options for the Pupils Referral Unit and the Outreach service.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, in relation to the DfE School Funding Arrangements for 2014/15, be noted.

10. BUDGET FACT SHEET

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted in relation to Budget Fact Sheet No. 2 dated June 2013 and in relation to the review of 2013-14 School Funding Arrangements and proposed changes for 2014/15.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, in relation to Budget Fact Sheet No. 2, be noted.

11. SCHOOLS FORUM WEBSITE

The Children's Services Finance Manager reported verbally in relation to the creation of a Schools Forum Website.

She informed members that a website dedicated to Dudley Schools Forum was in the process of being developed and would be accessible to all members and the public. Relevant information that would be accessible on the site would include the constitution, DfE regulations and consultation information. It was anticipated that the site would be live from September 2013.

RESOLVED

That the verbal information presented at the meeting, in relation to the creation of a Dudley Schools Forum website, be noted.

12. SCHOOLS FORUM PROPOSED MEETINGS 2013/14 ACADEMIC YEAR

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted setting out a proposed timetable of meetings for the Forum and agenda meetings for the 2013/14 academic year.

RESOLVED

That the meeting dates set out in the schedule appended to the report now submitted, be approved.

The meeting ended at 7pm.

CHAIR