

Schools Forum 16 October 2012

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Schools Forum Membership - Update

Purpose of Report

1. To update Schools Forum members on the current position relating to new appointments, current vacancies and future training to be carried out for Schools Forum members in early 2013.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. No.

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

3. Schools Forum are responsible for ensuring that the constitution and membership meet the legislative requirements detailed in the School Forum (England) Regulations 2012, which have now been laid before Parliament and are effective from 1 October 2012.

Action for Schools Forum

4. To note the membership updated.
5. To note future training to be carried out.
6. To note that the DfE intend to issue a best practice guide for Schools Forum by 30 September 2012.

Attachments to Report

7. Appendix A – Membership Update.

Karen Cocker
Children's Services Finance Manager
Children's Services Accountancy
2 October 2012

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1. To update Schools Forum members on the current position relating to new appointments, current vacancies and future training to be carried out for Schools Forum members in early 2013.

Schools Forum Membership

2. Since the Forum meeting on 11 September 2012 the following members have been nominated and their appointment is subject to the Cabinet Member's decision sheet and the Council's democratic process:
 - a. Mr M. Weaver, (Our Lady and St Kenelm Catholic Primary school) was elected to the position of primary Governor for the Halesowen township. This post is for the three year term of office to expire 30 April 2015.
 - b. Mrs J. Belcher, (Peters Hill Primary School) was elected to the position of primary Governor for the Stourbridge township. This post is for the two year term of office to expire 30 April 2014.
 - c. Mr C Derham, the PRU (Pupil Referral Unit) manager was appointed to as a Schools Member to represent the Pupil Referral Units.

The membership will be effective when approved through the democratic process.

3. Five vacancies remain:
 - a. One representative from the secondary Governors, within the Brierley Hill township or the Central Dudley township.
 - b. One representative of the Diocesan schools Worcester Diocesan Board of Education, nominated by the Board.
 - c. One representative of the Catholic Schools Commission, nominated by the Commission.
 - d. One representative of Dudley 14–19 Strategic Partnership, nominated by the Partnership.
 - e. One representative of the Academy schools, nominated by the governing bodies of the Academies in Dudley's area.

4. At the meeting in July, Forum agreed to extend the term of office for five Schools' members from 1 May 2012 to 31 October 2012 in order that head teachers could continue in post until such time that the term of office for head teachers was realigned in the Schools Forum constitution to be academic year related:
 - a. Mrs K Daley, Netherbrook Primary School, Central Dudley Primary head teacher;
 - b. Mrs P Rodgers, Hasbury Primary School, Halesowen Primary head teacher;
 - c. Mr N Shaw, Leasowes Community College, Halesowen Secondary head teacher;
 - d. Mrs A Elwiss, The Coseley School and Sports College, North Dudley Secondary head teacher;
 - e. Mr R Hinton, The Brier School, Special School head teacher.
5. A further update on membership will be provided at the November 2012 meeting.

Best Practice Guide

6. A best practice review of the role of schools forum is to be released by the DfE imminently. This will be circulated to Forum members when issued.

Schools Forum Training

7. Training for new or existing Forum members in respect of their role is proposed for the early part of the Spring term 2013. Members will be contacted shortly confirming these arrangements.

Finance

8. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2012 to be replaced in 2013 by the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013.
9. Schools Forums are regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.
10. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant; Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

11. 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

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

Recommendation

13. To note the contents of the report provided in respect of the:

- Membership update;
- Schools Forum best practice guide; and
- Timescale for future School Forum member training to cover their roles and responsibilities.

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

Jane Porter

Director of Children's Services

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