

Schools Forum 17th September 2013

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Schools Forum Constitution

Purpose of Report

1. To present to Schools Forum a revised Schools Forum Constitution for approval.

Discussed at HTCF – BWG

2. Yes – 9 September 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, which were effective on 1 October 2012.
4. The Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013 were issued in draft on 1 August 2013. Regulation 4 includes an amendment to the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 to require the election of a representative of providers of 16 to 19 Education to the Schools Forum, and to remove the inclusion of a representative of the local authority's 14 to 19 Partnership on the Forum. These draft Regulations are expected to be effective by 1 January 2014.

Actions for Schools Forum

5. To consider and agree the revisions to the Schools Forum Constitution, this will be effective by the statutory deadline of 1 January 2014.

Attachments to Report

6. Revised Schools Forum Constitution – Appendix A.
Changes are highlighted and shown in italics and underlined.

Karen Cocker
Children's Services Finance Manager
3 September 2013

Schools Forum 17 September 2013

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Schools Forum Constitution

Purpose of Report

1. To present to Schools Forum a revised Schools Forum Constitution for approval.

Background

2. The current Schools Forum Constitution was updated in line with the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012, agreed at the meeting on 11 September 2012 and was effective from 1 October 2012.
3. The Schools Forum Constitution is now required to be updated for two reasons:
 - a. The Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013 were issued in draft on 1 August 2013. Regulation 4 includes an amendment to the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 to require the election of a representative of providers of 16 to 19 Education to the Forum, and to remove the inclusion of a representative of the local authority's 14 to 19 Partnership on the Forum. These draft Regulations are expected to be effective by 1 January 2014 therefore a member to represent the providers of 16-19 Education in the Borough will be elected and the vacant 14 to 19 Partnership position will be deleted.
 - b. The Schools Forum Regulations stipulate that Primary schools, Secondary schools and Academies must be broadly proportionately represented on the Forum in relation to pupil numbers. At the meeting in July 2013, a report was presented to highlight the anticipated changes in pupil numbers by the Autumn 2013 term due to a number of maintained schools converting to Academy status. Therefore, the Schools Forum Constitution will need to be amended to reduce the number of secondary school members from eight to six and to increase the Academy membership from two to four.

Maintained Secondary School Members

The reduction of maintained secondary school members will reduce both the Head teacher representatives and the Governor representatives from four to three.

There is an existing secondary Governor vacancy therefore this will be deleted. The secondary Head Teacher nominations can be reduced to three when these decisions are agreed in the Autumn 2013 term.

Academy Members

The two additional Academy members will need to be elected to Schools Forum by the governing bodies of the Academies in the authority's area.

4. The revisions outlined in 3a and 3b above have been incorporated into the Schools Forum Constitution which is attached at Appendix A for Forum to consider and approve. The highlighted changes are shown in italics and underlined.
5. It is recommended that the Constitution is effective from 1 January 2014, which will comply with the DfE changes in respect of the 16-19 Education provider member and allow time for the membership changes to secondary schools and Academy schools to be managed.
6. The Constitution will need to be formalised through Dudley's democratic process by a decision sheet to be signed by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services together with the Director of Children's Services. This will be actioned when Schools Forum have agreed the revised Constitution.

Finance

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

Law

10. 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.

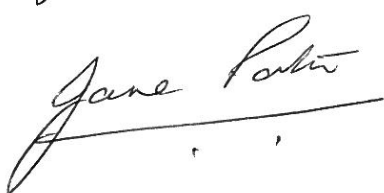
Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

12. Schools Forum to consider and approve the revised Schools Forum Constitution at Appendix A, this will be effective by the statutory deadline of 1 January 2014.

13. An update in respect of the three new member representatives will be presented to Schools Forum in due course.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Porter". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jane Porter
Director of Children's Services

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