

Dudley Schools Forum – 10th December 2013

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Schools Forum Membership Update and the DfE Operational and Good Practice Guides

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Schools Forum of the DfE Operational and Good Practice Guides issued in June and October 2013 and to provide a membership update.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. No.

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 from 1 October 2012.

Action for Schools Forum

4. To note that the DfE have recently issued two best practice guides for Schools Forums to include the roles and responsibilities template.
5. To note the updated position in respect of the membership of Dudley's Schools Forum.

Attachments to Report

6. Appendix A – DfE Guide for Schools and Academies on its Role and their Responsibilities June 2013.
7. Appendix B - DfE Operational and Good Practice Guide October 2013

Karen Cocker
Children's Services Finance Manager
25 November 2013

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DfE Operational and Good Practice Guide

2. The DfE have recently issued two best practice guides for local authorities and members of Schools Forums.
3. The June 2013 document is a new and short four page summary guide for schools and academies roles and responsibilities on the Schools Forum. This is attached at Appendix A.
4. The October 2013 document, which is an updated and re-issued best practice review of the role of Schools Forum is attached at Appendix B. The roles and responsibilities template, which was previously separate, is now shown at Table 2 of the document with a new Table 1 outlining a Schools Forum structure.

Schools Forum Membership Update

5. At the October meeting of Schools Forum members were advised that elections were underway in respect of three vacant posts to be effective from 1 January 2014.
 - Two new Academy School members.
The closing date for nominations from the Academy Schools was 22 November 2013. There were no nominations received at this stage. The next opportunity for nominations will be in the Spring term 2014.
 - One new Post 16 provider of Further Education in Dudley.
Two nominations have been received, from Halesowen College and the Glasshouse at Stourbridge. The outcomes of the election process will be reported to Schools Forum at the meeting.

Finance

6. 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.
7. Schools Forums are regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.
8. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant; Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

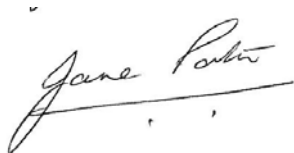
9. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

11. To note the contents of the report provided in respect of the:
 - Membership update; and the
 - Schools Forum best practice guides



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