

**Schools Forum 2 June 2009**

**Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services**

**Schools Forum Membership and Training Programme**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Schools Forum of the membership from 1 May 2009 together with the forthcoming training programme.

**Budget Working Group Discussed**

2. No.

**Action for Schools Forum**

3. To note the report and the dates for the scheduled routine training for members.

**Attachments to Report**

4. Appendix A – School Forum Members from May 2009.
5. Appendix B - Letter dated 5 May 2009.

Karen Cocker  
Children's Services Finance Manager  
18 May 2009

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### **Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services**

#### **Schools Forum Membership and Training Programme**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Schools Forum of the membership from 1 May 2009 together with the forthcoming training programme.

#### **Background**

##### Membership

2. The current School Member appointments are effective from 1 May 2009. These are outlined in Appendix A together with the terms of office.

##### Training

3. A report presented to the December 2008 meeting proposed that Schools Forum training be undertaken in two phases: 'ad hoc' and 'routine' training.
4. The 'ad hoc' training programme commenced in January 2009 and covered the following topics:
  - Evolution of Schools Forums ( David Yorath)
  - Inspiring Dudley's Children and Families (Jonathan Crossley-Holland)
  - School Improvement (Dave Perrett)
  - The Children and Young People's Trust in Dudley (Ian McGuff)
5. The routine training, to include 'the powers and responsibilities of schools forum' and the 'funding of local authorities' has now been organised by Dudley Financial Services and will take place at Saltwells Education Centre on 23 June 2009 and 29 September 2009 between 6 -7.30pm.
6. Invitations to the routine training were sent out on 5 May 2009 to all members, outlining the programme of events. A copy of the letter is attached at Appendix A.
7. All members are encouraged to engage in the programme. This is aimed at providing background information to the finance function which is necessary to ensure that Forum members can fulfil their statutory role. Feedback on the training event will be provided to Forum in the Autumn.

## **Finance**

8. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
9. Schools Forums are regulated by the School Forums Regulations 2002 as already amended by the Schools Forums (Amendment) Regulations 2004 the Schools Forums (Amendment) 2005 Regulations and the Schools Forums (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.
10. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DCSF 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. Schools Forum to welcome the new members and note the forthcoming training event.



**Jane Porter**

**Interim Director of Children's Services**

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