
Dudley Schools Forum – 25th June, 2024

Report of the Director of Children’s Services

Schools Forum Proposed Meetings and Forward Plan for the 2024/25 Academic Year

Purpose

1. To provide Schools Forum with a schedule of proposed meeting dates and Forward Plan for the 2024/25 academic year.

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

2. The current Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 state that a Schools Forum must meet at least four times a year and are quorate if at least two fifths of the total appointed membership is present at a meeting.

Recommendation

3. Schools Forum to consider the schedule of meetings proposed for 2024/25 academic year in Table 1 together with the proposed Forward Plan attached at Appendix A and to advise the Director of Children’s Services if any variations are required.

Background

4. The June meeting is the last scheduled meeting of the Forum for the 2023/24 academic year.
5. Whilst the Schools Forum Regulations state that a Schools Forum must meet at least four times a year, the Dudley Schools Forum normally meets six times a year and more frequently if there are strategic funding decisions to be made.

6. The proposed meetings will be held remotely with the option of a physical meeting if deemed necessary by the Forum or the Local Authority and will commence at 6pm, as outlined in Table 1 below.
7. Table 1 – Proposed Schools Forum Meetings for 2024/25 Academic Year

Schools Forum Meeting	Venue
1 st October 2024	Microsoft Teams
12 th November 2024	Microsoft Teams
14 th January 2025	Microsoft Teams
4 th March, 2025	Microsoft Teams
1 st April, 2025	Microsoft Teams
24 th June, 2025	Microsoft Teams

8. Appendix A includes details of the proposed Forward Plan agenda items at this time, together with meeting dates for Head Teachers Consultative Forum – Budget Working Group for the 2024/25 academic year.

Schools Forum Training

9. A workshop to provide Schools Forum training will be arranged for September 2024 to provide further information regarding the roles and responsibilities of Schools Forum along with an update on latest information released from the Department for Education. Invitations will be issued to all members.

Budget Working Group

10. This report will be considered by the Budget Working Group on 18th June, 2024.

Finance

11. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018.
12. From 1 April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

13. The Schools Forum is a statutory decision making and consultative body constituted in line with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and its associated regulations, including the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012, to enable members of the local school community to work in partnership with Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council when making decisions about school funding and finances.
14. Schools Forums are regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 as amended.

Risk Management

15. There are no implications to the Council's Risk Management Framework that result from the proposals contained within this report.

Equality Impact

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

Human Resources/Organisational Development

17. This report has no direct implications for organisational development, human resources or service transformation.

Commercial/Procurement

18. There is no impact on the potential to commercially trade and no impact on our customer base.

Council Plan

19. The Dudley Council Plan 2019-2022 is clear in its ambitions for educational outcomes including raising skills, educational and work potential, increasing good or better schools and closing the gap for disadvantaged pupils. The role of Dudley Schools Forum is to advise the Council on matters affecting schools funding, principally the allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), and the local Fair Funding Formula which distributes budgets to schools, early years providers and other maintained education settings.

Catherine Driscoll

Catherine Driscoll
Director of Children's Services

Report Author:

Gemma Gray
Democratic Services Officer
Telephone: 01384 815334
Email: Gemma.gray@dudley.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed Meetings and Forward Plan for the 2024/25
Academic Year