

## **Dudley Schools Forum - 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

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

#### **Schools Forum Constitution**

##### **Purpose of Report**

1. To present to Schools Forum a revised Schools Forum Constitution for approval from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

##### **Discussed at HTCF – BWG**

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 on 1st October 2012.
4. The Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014 were issued in draft on 8th August 2014. These draft Regulations are expected to be effective on 1st January 2015 and apply to the 2015/16 financial year. Regulation 3 includes an amendment to the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012. The principal changes to membership of the forum are:
  - That if there are any special academies in the local authority's area, there must be at least one member representing them;
  - That if there are any alternative provision (AP) academies in the local authority's area, there must be at least one member representing them.

The purpose of these changes is to strengthen the representation on the forum of special school provision and AP respectively.

- In addition, more specificity is added to the provisions for the Forum to discuss SEN (Special Education Needs) and AP matters. In both cases, the forum must discuss places to be commissioned by the local authority, and in the case of AP also by schools, and the arrangements for paying top-up funding.

The purpose of these changes is to ensure that the forum discusses the detail of local SEN and AP arrangements.

**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 1st January 2015.

**Attachments to Report**

6. Appendix A - Revised Schools Forum Constitution. Changes have been highlighted and underlined.

Karen Cocker  
Children's Services Finance Manager  
2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014

**Dudley Schools Forum - 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

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

**Schools Forum Constitution**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To present to Schools Forum a revised Schools Forum Constitution for approval from 1st January 2015.

**Background**

2. The current Schools Forum Constitution was updated in line with the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012, agreed at the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013 and was effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014.
3. The Schools Forum Constitution now requires updating:
  - a. The Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014 were issued in draft on 8th August 2014. Regulation 3 includes an amendment to the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 to regulate that if there are any special academies or alternative provision academies in the local authority's area there must be at least one member from each SEN and AP academy in order to strengthen the representation of the forum.
  - b. The draft Regulations also enhance the Local Authority consultation requirement with Schools Forum to include the provision for the Forum to discuss SEN (Special Education Needs) and AP (Alternative Provision) matters. In both cases, the Forum must discuss places to be commissioned by the Local Authority, in the case of AP also by schools, and the arrangements for paying top-up funding. The purpose of these changes is to ensure that the Forum discusses the detail of local SEN and AP arrangements.
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 changes have been highlighted and underlined.

5. It is recommended that the Constitution is effective from 1st January 2015, which will comply with the DfE changes.
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 and Lifelong Learning together with the Interim Director of Children's Services. This will be actioned when Schools Forum has 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 2013 to be replaced by the draft Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014.
8. Schools Forums are regulated by Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.
9. From 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1st January 2015.



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