

Schools Forum 13 November 2012

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Schools Forum Membership - Update

Purpose of Report

1. To update Schools Forum members on the current position relating to the new appointments, current vacancies, the DfE Best Practice Guide and future training to be carried out for Schools Forum members in early 2013.

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 have now been laid before Parliament and are effective from 1 October 2012.

Action for Schools Forum

4. To note the membership update and welcome new members.
5. To note future training to be carried out on 29 January 2013.
6. To note that the DfE have updated and re-issued a best practice guide for Schools Forum together with a roles and responsibilities template.

Attachments to Report

7. Appendix A – Membership Update.
8. Appendix B – DfE Best Practice Guide
9. Appendix C - DfE Roles and Responsibilities template.

Karen Cocker
Children's Services Finance Manager
30 October 2012

Schools Forum 13 November 2012

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Schools Forum Membership - Update

Purpose of Report

1. To update Schools Forum members on the current position relating to the new appointments, current vacancies, the DfE Best Practice Guide and future training to be carried out for Schools Forum members in early 2013.

Schools Forum Membership

2. Since the Forum meeting on 16 October 2012 the following members have been nominated and their appointment will be formalised through the Council's democratic process on 7 November 2012:
 - a. Mr M. Weaver, (Our Lady and St Kenelm Catholic Primary school) was elected to the position of primary Governor for the Halesowen township. This post is for the three year term of office to expire 30 April 2015.
 - b. Mrs J. Belcher, (Peters Hill Primary School) was elected to the position of primary Governor for the Stourbridge township. This post is for the two year term of office to expire 30 April 2014.
 - c. Mr C Derham, the PRU (Pupil Referral Unit) manager was appointed to as a Schools Member to represent the Pupil Referral Units.
 - d. Mr D. Kirk, (Rosewood Special School) was elected at the Special Headteachers meeting on 2 October 2012 to the position of Special School Headteacher representative to replace Mr R. Hinton. This post is for the three year term of office to expire 31 October 2015.
 - e. Mr N. Shaw (Leasowes Community College) was elected at the Secondary Headteachers meeting on 27 September 2012 to continue in post as the Secondary Headteacher representing the Halesowen township. This post is for the three year term of office to expire 31 October 2015.
 - f. Mr D. Ward (Sledmere Primary) was elected to the position of Central Dudley Primary Headteacher representative to replace Mrs. K Daley from 1 October 2012. This post is for a three year term of office and to expire 31 October 2015.
 - g. Mrs P. Rogers (Hasbury Primary) is to continue in post as the Primary Headteacher representing the Halesowen township. This post is for the three year term of office to expire 31 October 2015.

- h. Mrs A. Hannaway (Halesowen Primary School) was elected to represent the Worcester Diocesan Board of Education. Mrs Hannaway replaces Mrs L Griffiths who recently resigned from this position. This post is for a three year term of office to expire 30 April 2015.
3. Four vacancies remain:
- a. One representative from the secondary Governors, within the Brierley Hill township or the Central Dudley township.
 - b. One representative of the Catholic Schools Commission, nominated by the Commission.
 - c. One representative of Dudley 14–19 Strategic Partnership, nominated by the Partnership.
 - d. One representative of the Academy schools, nominated by the governing bodies of the Academies in Dudley's area.

Best Practice Guide

- 4. The best practice review of the role of schools forum has now been released by the DfE. This is attached at Appendix B together with a roles and responsibilities template at Appendix C.

Schools Forum Training

- 5. Training for new and existing Forum members, which will cover the requirements of their role and the latest funding position in respect of the Dedicated School Grant, will be hosted by the Children's Services Finance Manager on the evening of 29 January 2013 commencing at 6pm Saltwells EDC. Further details will be circulated to all Members regarding this training event.

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.

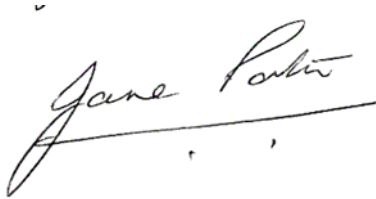
Equality Impact

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;
- Schools Forum best practice guide; and
- Timescale for future School Forum member training to cover their roles and responsibilities and an update of the Dedicated Schools Grant funding arrangements.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Porter". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Jane Porter
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Karen Cocker, Children's Services Finance Manager
Karen.cocker@dudley.gov.uk Tel: 01384 815382