
Dudley Schools Forum – 20th June, 2023

Report of the Director of Children’s Services

Schools Forum Membership

Purpose

1. To provide Schools Forum with an update in respect of Schools Forum membership changes effective from 1st May, 2023.

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

2. 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, as amended by Regulation 3 of the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2015.

Recommendation

3. That the updated position in respect of the membership of Dudley’s Schools Forum effective from 1st May, 2023, be noted.

Background

4. Dudley’s current Schools Forum Constitution allows for 28 members; comprising of 14 School members, 10 Academy School members and 4 Non-schools members.
5. Governor Support team commenced an election process seeking nominations for one primary school governor, one secondary school

governor, six academy members and one non-school member representatives, the outcomes of which are detailed below:

School Member – Primary School Governor

6. Following one nomination Mrs Jill Belcher (Peters Hill Primary School) will continue in post as Primary School Governor Representative for a three year term of office to 30th April 2026.

School Member – Secondary School Governor

7. Following one nomination Mrs Susan Watson (Summerhill School) will continue in post as Secondary School Governor Representative for a three year term of office to 30th April 2026.

Academy Members

8. Following the receipt of six nominations across Dudley academies, the following Academy Member Representatives have been appointed for a three year term of office to 30th April 2026:

- Mr Chris Finnerty (DRB-Ignite Multi-Academy Trust);
- Ms Jo Higgins (Dudley Academy Trust);
- Mr Kevin Tranter (Dudley Academy Trust);
- Mrs Rebecca Cox (Hales Valley Academy Trust);
- Mrs Eve Stanton (Invictus Education Trust);
- Mr Alex Webb (Windsor Academy Trust).

Non School Member – Dudley 16-19 FE Providers

9. Following one nomination Mrs Joanne Williams (Interim Principal, Halesowen College) will continue in post as the Dudley 16-19 FE Provider Representative for a three year term of office to 30th April 2026.

Current Vacancies

10. Following the recent resignations received from Mr D Mcnaney (Academy Member Representative) and Mrs A Clarke (Primary School Governor), the vacancies will remain until the next elections process was undertaken in Autumn, 2023.

Budget Working Group

11. This report has been considered by the Budget Working Group on 13th June, 2023.

Finance

12. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018.

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 Forums (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.

Environment/Climate Change

19. This report has no direct implications on the environment or the Council's work in addressing Climate Change and achieving Net Zero target by 2041.

Council Priorities and Projects

20. 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.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – School Forum Membership from 1st May, 2023