
Dudley Schools Forum – 21st June, 2022

Report of the Director of Children’s Services

Schools Forum Proposed Meetings and Forward Plan for the 2022/23 Academic Year

Purpose

1. To provide Schools Forum with a schedule of proposed meeting dates and Forward Plan for the 2022/23 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 2022/23 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 2021/22 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. In March, 2021, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) advised that The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2021 had amended The Schools Forums (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 to make permanent provisions to enable Schools Forum meetings to be held remotely. This includes (but is not limited to) telephone conferencing, video conferencing, live webcast, and live interactive streaming.
7. At the Schools Forum meeting held on 30th March, 2021, representatives were asked to consider future arrangements, and following discussion it was suggested that future

meetings be held remotely with the option of a physical meeting if deemed necessary by the Forum or the Local Authority.

8. Following approval at a previous meeting, the proposed meetings will commence at 6pm as outlined in Table 1 below.
9. Table 1 – Proposed Schools Forum Meetings for 2022/23 Academic Year

Schools Forum Meeting	Venue
4 October 2022	Microsoft Teams
15 November 2022	Microsoft Teams
24 January 2023	Microsoft Teams
28 th February 2023	Microsoft Teams
28 March 2023	Microsoft Teams
20 June 2023	Microsoft Teams

10. 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 2022/23 academic year.

Schools Forum Training

11. A workshop to provide Schools Forum training will be arranged for September 2022 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

12. This report will be considered by the Budget Working Group on 14th June, 2022.

Finance

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

Law

15. 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.
16. Schools Forums are regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 as amended.

Risk Management

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

Equality Impact

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

Human Resources/Organisational Development

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

Commercial/Procurement

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

Council Priorities and Projects

21. 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 – Proposed Meetings and Forward Plan for the 2021/22 Academic Year