

SCHOOLS MANAGEMENT FORUM
MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON, WEDNESDAY,
18 NOVEMBER 2020 @ 9:15AM

ATTENDING:

Andrea Crawshaw	Chair / Acklam Grange School
Judi Libbey	Head of Resources and SEN – MBC
Dianne Nielsen	Senior Accounting Officer – MBC
Sara Davidson	Head of Achievement and Inclusion
Amy Young	Captain Cook Primary
Beverley Hewitt-Best	Newham Bridge Primary School
Mary Brindle	Macmillan Academy
Helen Steele	Caldicotes Academy
Julia Rodwell	Park End Primary School
Kevin Duffy	Diocese of Middlesbrough
Joanne Smith	Breckon Hill Primary
Jackie Walsh	Green Lane Primary School
Kate Barkley	Viewly Hill Primary
Sarah Lymer	Linthorpe Primary School
Anita Jeffries	Archibald School
Janis French	Priory Woods School & Arts College
Leanne Chilton	RTMAT
William Guthrie	PVI
Jennifer Cairns	Middlesbrough College
Sheila Marley	School Readiness Team Manager - MBC
Louise Davies	Linthorpe Primary
Helen Dalby	Nicholas Postgate
Trevor Dunn	Head of Access of Education - MBC
Tracey Houston	Observer
Meika Smiles	Executive Member for Communities and Education

1.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence / Any Items for AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob Brown – Director of Education, Prevention & Partnership • Emma Watson - • Adam Cooper – Abingdon Primary
2.	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting / Matters Arising</u></p> <p>WG raised the point about Early Year Flexibility payment. WG advised that he had received notification that the supplementary payments criteria would not be changed for the foreseeable future. WG noted that schools are</p>

	<p>getting flexibility by default, schools should actually be paid for what they are providing. SM advised that schools who were eligible for flexibility would receive this payment as per terms and conditions of the grant. WG requested via the Chair if this can be looked in to further. Chair agreed.</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SM to meet with PVI's to clarify flexibility payments and entitlement.
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Decision / Action Log</u></p> <p>Appointment of Vice Chair to be covered in today's meeting Liquid Logic to be covered in today's meeting Union Facility time to be covered in today's meeting DSG High Needs to be covered in today's meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that all other items within the decision log were completed.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR/VICE CHAIR</u></p> <p>Members considered the appointment of Vice Chair of the School Management Forum and after discussion it was:-</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Helen Steele be re-appointed as Vice Chair of the Management Forum for a period of one year (Autumn 2021).</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Appointment of new Primary Academy member</u></p> <p>Members considered the appointment of new Primary Academy member and after discussion it was:-</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Kate Barkley will replace Helen Malbon as new Primary Academy member for a period of one year (Autumn 2021)</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><u>UNION FACILITY TIME / BENCHMARKING</u></p> <p>DN presented the union facility time benchmark paper. A small number of local authorities (LA) were approached. The benchmark highlighted how much each authority charged schools for union facility time, at what rate they were reimbursed for union representatives supporting members and whether the budget was supported from LA budget or DSG CSSB.</p>

	<p>Member's attention was drawn that Darlington has 41 schools and they currently fund their Union Facility time from the Central Schools Block, which will be disappearing in future. Stockton has 62 schools and they have a Budget of £39,000. They charge £1.45 per pupil in Primary and £1.83 per pupil in Secondary school.</p> <p>Discussion followed in which it was acknowledged that in the daily rate be paid rather the actual salary.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>2021/22 Dedicated Schools Grant - National Funding Formulae</p> <p>Members considered the report circulated which provided an update to the forum regarding 2021-22 Dedicated Schools Grant, National Funding Formulae.</p> <p><u>Schools Block National Funding Formula</u></p> <p>As in previous year the schools block of the DSG will providing funding for both school budget shares and the growth fund.</p> <p>The ESFA have confirmed the following key elements for the schools National Funding Formula (NFF) in 2021-2022:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Funding Formula (NFF) funding units will be updated for the 2021/22 values (see table below). • The IDACI data will be updated for the 2019 dataset and will change the banding structure to reflect the new data. This change will ensure that the amount of funding allocated through IDACI does not decrease. The new banding methodology will ensure that the proportion of pupils attracting funding through each band will remain broadly unchanged. • Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grants (TPECG), including the supplementary fund, to mainstream schools for pupils from reception to year 11 will be allocated through the schools NFF. This will add £180 per pupil at primary and £265 per pupil at secondary to the DSG allocation. • The minimum per-pupil levels will be set at £4,180 for primary and £5,415 for secondary. These include both TPG and TPECG allocations. • Sparsity NFF unit rate will increase to £45,000 for primary schools and £70,000 for secondary schools to improve support for small and remote schools. • There is no NFF gains cap. • Growth funding with the formula will be allocated on the same basis as 2020-21. <p>Government have confirmed its intention to move to a single hard national funding formula. In 2021-22 this is to be set by the local authority in consultation with schools. The government will, later this year put forward</p>

plans to move to a “hard’ NFF in the future, which will determine school funding allocations directly, rather than local funding formulae.

School Budget Shares 2021-2022:-

- Can set a minimum funding guarantee (MFG) in local formulae between +0.5% and +2% per pupil,
- The MFG calculations will require that the formula baseline (i.e 2020-21 funding) is updated to mirror the additional funding for TPG and TPECG, so that schools at the MFG can benefit from the addition of these grants.
- Local authorities can continue to be able to transfer up to 0.5% of the schools block to other blocks of the DSG, with schools forum approval. This will exclude the additional funding local authorities have been allocated for TPG and TPECG, therefore guaranteeing that all of this funding remains with schools.
- A disapplication is required to the Secretary of State for transfers above 0.5% or any amount without schools forum approval.
- The formula is set by the Local Authority, which is to be submitted to the ESFA by 21st January 2021.

Will we asked to transfer 0.5% of the school block

No, it is not intended to request a transfer from the schools block.

Central Schools Services Block

The Central School Services Block (CSSB) covers funding allocated to Local Authorities (LAs) to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in maintained schools and academies. CSSB funding is split into two elements: funding for ongoing responsibilities and funding for historic commitments. The total CSSB funding is made up of these two elements.

- Additional pension funding that LAs have claimed for centrally employed teachers will be added to the ongoing responsibilities element of the CSSB. The funding will be added as a per pupil amount to the per pupil rate. This has not been included as part of the indicative allocation for 2021-22. The DSG CSSB allocation will be updated later in the year to reflect this. Please note that this is new for 2021-22.
- As advised in 2020-21 the historic commitments funding has been reduced by 20%, compared to 2020-21. The ESFA will provide further details in due course regarding any further reduction in future years.
- The indicative allocation for 2021-22 is:-

CSSB	Per-pupil rate *	DSG Schools Block pupil count **	£
Ongoing responsibilities	£35.37	21,422	757,780
Historic commitments			238,080 ***
TOTAL			995,860

- Until the October census is finalised, it is not known if all elements previously funded through this resource can continue. A report will be brought to the January meeting.

Questions didn't arise.

DSG High Needs Block

The DSG High Needs guidance was received in September.

- For 2021-22 the teachers' pay grant (TPG) and teachers' pension employer contribution grant (TPECG) has been incorporated within the high needs NFF. The grants have been incorporated by increasing the basic entitlement factor for special schools from £4,000 to £4,660. The increase of £660 is the TPG and TPECG combined.
- For alternative provision (AP) the TPG and TPECG has been allocated through an additional factor as the basic entitlement factor does not include funding for AP settings.
- The indicative DSG high needs allocation for 2021-22 is £29,405m before recoupment. This is an increase of £3,045m on 2020-21, however please note that this increase includes an uplift for the incorporation of the TPG and TPECG of which this is £449.5k and elements of the formula will be updated in December, which will update the indicative 2021-22 high needs allocation.
- The DSG High Needs block allocations will be published in December 20.
- In 2019-20 the terms and conditions of the DSG require any LA with a deficit of more than 1% to submit a recovery plan to the department to show how the deficit would be recovered. The requirement to submit a plan was removed at the end of 2019-20, however the conditions of grant require any LA with an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of 2019-2020 financial year have to produce a DSG management

	<p>plan, which School Forum are required to be updated upon. In addition, DfE can require details of progress against the plan or further information regarding high needs planning at their request.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DfE recognises that the deficit may not be able to be recovered over a few years. Therefore the DfE will work with the LA to agree a plan of action to enable the deficit to be recovered over time. The DfE have created a template to assist LAs with this task. • The DfE made changes at the end of 2019-20 to the School and Early Years regulations, this change no longer allows deficits to be offset against their own general fund without the approval of the Secretary of State. <p>Questions didn't arise.</p> <p>DN informed SMF that the DSG Early Years had not been received, this was expected in December 20.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>That the Schools Management Forum note the changes to the DSG Schools Block, DSG High Needs Block and DSG Central Schools Services Block.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>South Tees Safeguarding Partnership</u></p> <p>No report was presented at the meeting.</p> <p>ACTION:</p> <p>To include South Tees Safeguarding Partnership Report in Agenda for next meeting</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>DSG High Needs Recovery Plan</u></p> <p>JL updated SMF on spend position this year. Spending is looking in proportion with expectations. There is no massive impact from COVID additional spending, everything is on track. There is plan to invest additional provision locally, which is part of high needs provisional funding.</p> <p>ACTION:</p> <p>JL will present a written DSG High Needs Recovery Plan report at the next meeting.</p>

	<p><i>Can you please summarise Outwood Alternative Provision situation?</i></p> <p><i>The concern was that the schools will start to use their own Alternative Provision which will have impact on Middlesbrough Council recruitment figures going forward, but it doesn't seem to be a problem at the moment.</i></p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><u>LIQUID LOGIC –TREVOR DUNN</u></p> <p>TD provided a verbal update to SMF. Liquid Logic–is a database that council social team use to record all of the details around children that are open to social care. The stored data is used in the preparation of court files and papers, as well as to support day to day work with children and to help keep them safe. Social workers and other professionals are able to provide schools with up to date information on vulnerable children to support planning and decision making.</p> <p>Social workers can provide schools with chronological information and background, regardless of how many school moves the child may have taken part in.</p> <p>Historically this contribution comes out of the de-delegation budget and academy schools have the option to buy in or not. There is two aspects that schools need to be aware of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs - the annual cost of operating the LCS system for Children's Service is £71,317.49 and the LA is requesting a contribution from schools of 45% of the total annual cost of LCS, which amounts to £32,093. • Confidentiality - schools do not have access to the LCS system, however schools do benefit as the information can be requested from the social workers. <p>Members concern was that Liquid Logic is a Social Care tool, schools can't access confidential information and it has little impact on schools.</p> <p>DN advised that this form part of the de-delegation/buy back in 2021-22 as has done in previous years.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><u>ACTIONS FROM THIS MEETING</u></p> <p>8. To include South Tees Safeguarding Partnership Report in Agenda for next meeting.</p> <p>9. JL to present a report on DSG High Needs Recovery Plan at the next meeting.</p> <p>.</p>

12.	<u>AOB</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Chair wished to note the impact of COVID on financial and human resources of schools, lost income, dealing with track and trace. A discussion took place and concerns were raised regarding the on-going impact to schools.
13.	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</u> Date – Wednesday, 13 January 2020 Venue – Web Ex Meeting Start Time – 09.15am