

SCHOOLS MANAGEMENT FORUM

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 22nd May 2019, 8:15am at Acklam Grange School Community Learning Centre.

ATTENDED:

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| Andrea Crawshaw | Acklam Grange School - Chair |
| Andrea Williams | Middlesbrough Council |
| William Guthrie | PVI |
| Chris Wain | Pallister Park Primary |
| Helen Malbon | Viewley Hill |
| Faye Revely | Middlesbrough Council |
| Judi Libbey | Middlesbrough Council |
| Sheila Marley | Middlesbrough Council |
| Gemma Simon | Unity City Academy |
| Joanne Smith | Beverley School |
| Adam Cooper | Abingdon Primary |
| Julie Rodwell | Park End Primary |
| Helen Steele | Caldicotes Primary |
| Amy Young | Captain Cook Primary |
| Vanessa Lazenby | Observing |
| Nicola Russell | Observing |
| Ann McPartland | Observing |
| Samantha Corbyn | Middlesbrough Council (Minute Taker) |
| Jessica Connorton | Middlesbrough Council (Minute Taker) |

1. **Apologies:**
David Dawes, Jackie Walsh, Beverley Hewitt-Best, Emma Watson, Sarah Lymer,
2. High needs budget update from Judi Libbey
- 3.
- 4.
5. **Trade union representation response from NASUWT – Verbal update**

NASUWT were aware that the contract for 2019/20 may not be funded in the same way as 2018-19 due to significantly increased costs. The forum would like further clarity around why the 2 unions

(NEU and NASUWT) receive different amounts of money. The NEU is working for around £180 a day and this should be the same for each union.

The post should be around the same cost as an average teacher, not a senior post.

It is not clear how many members are represented. The last report was clear that the rep had represented significantly more teachers from Hollis, which is where he is based, than any other school. All schools pay into the union and members also pay a fee. This is for reps to support teachers through redundancy and disciplinary procedures.

FR has discussed Union Reps being funded under a case by case basis and is awaiting a response.

The SMF should be committed to supporting Union Reps however need to be made aware of how many members there are in Middlesbrough.

SMF is not in agreement with the current process. Moving forward the funding arrangement will be reconsidered and possibly split equally between both Unions.

6. **School Admissions Appeals**

The Middlesbrough Council legal team are maintaining that they are not in a position to provide services for school admissions appeals to academies. Academies are a separate entity from the Local Authority and are not covered by Professional Liability Insurance.

FR clarified that £190,000 was taken from the DSG Central Block for the admissions team only this did not include £25,000 for the appeals service which is being funded from council resources and is therefore compliant with the ESFA guidance.

Middlesbrough council legal team are willing to accept any challenges from schools in regards to their position on the provision of services.

Action: TD will provide a report in regards to how other Local Authorities are dealing with the issue.

7. **Proposed Dates**

- 18th September 2019 – Decision to be made on Early Help Practitioners.
- 13th November 2019
- 8th January 2020 – Subgroup for Funding Modelling
- 15th January 2020

- 26th February 2020
- 25th March 2020
- 20th May 2020
- 8th July 2020

December SMF to be replaced with January 8th Subgroup.

10. AOB:

High Needs Budget

Schedule of reporting to be agreed and how SMF would like reports to be presented.

Budget recovery plan needs to be monitored and reported on. A RAG briefing will be provided for every meeting and a comprehensive report every other meeting. Reports will include information regarding recruitment, targets and independent schools. First report will be a detailed report and then as above thereafter.

Withdrawn services from Local Authority Schools

AW is awaiting response from DFE in regards to the cost of additional places and this will be clarified in the July meeting.

DFE has offered support with the Growth Fund. An updates on places will be offered in December.

IT Support has not made contact with schools. Schools were due individual audits and a report is due to be presented in July.

Scheduling for High Needs Block:

DFE Guidance suggests that central services block will be reduced.

Kier have indicated that they will withdraw services from the end of August 2019. This should be queried as they are required to give 6 month notice. AW reassured that the Local Authority will assist with procurement however not take on further staff.

If schools choose to procure their own staff it is unclear if this will be supported by Local Authority legal services. This will be clarified.

AW discussed that the Tees Valley Combined Authority Funding will be tabled at the next head teacher briefing. The pot is primarily for secondary funding however this is not exclusive. Expressions of interest should be submitted as soon as possible. The date of the head teacher briefing is 11th June 2019 and venue TBA.

Big Weekend

Schools have made special arrangements for the day to end early to avoid traffic problems. A letter will be released by Leanne Littlewood detailing travel arrangements, especially for SEN children.

Further Information:

Sean Hogg has resigned and will no longer attend SMF.

New point of contact will be:

Craig_povey@middlesbrough.gov.uk or
faye_revely@middlesbrough.gov.uk