

SCHOOLS MANAGEMENT FORUM

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 27th February 2019, 8:15am at
Acklam Grange School Community Learning Centre.

ATTENDED:

Helen Steele	Chair
Andrea Crawshaw	Acklam Grange School
Emma Watson	The Avenue Primary
Adam Cooper	Abingdon Primary School
William Guthrie	PVI
Jenny Cairns	Middlesbrough College
Faye Revely	Middlesbrough Council
Andrew Humble	Middlesbrough Council
Judith Walls	SEND Financial Support
Mary Brindle	Macmillan Academy
Jackie Walsh	Green Lane
Beverly Hewitt-Best	Newham Bridge
Helen Malbon	Viewley Hill
Joanne Smith	Beverley School
Andrea Williams	Director of Education
Sarah Lymer	Linthorpe Primary
David Dawes	Kings Academy
Chris Wayne	Park End Primary
Afzal Kushi	PVI
Lindsay Thompson	Middlesbrough Council
Shaun Hogg	Observer
Nicola Russell	Observer
Ann McPartland	Beverley School
Vanessa Lazenby	RTMAT
Samantha Corbyn	Minute Taker – Middlesbrough Council

Apologies:

John Lees, Gemma Simon, Vanessa Lazenby sub. Christina Jones

1. **Apologies for absence:**

John Lees, Gemma Simon, Vanessa Lazenby sub. Christina Jones

2. **Any Items for AOB**

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting / Matters Arising**

4. **Decision/Action Log**

5. **Schools Block Budget 2019/20 (verbal update)**

A new version of the model was sent to SMF members on the 21st February which demonstrated the disapplication request to transfer 1% of the schools block to high needs was approved by ESFA. An adjustment was made regarding pupil mobility, the mobility rates usually vary when a school converts to an academy. With the transfer onto the new school system it looks as though the pupils have moved schools when in fact that is not the case. ESFA advised the LA to use the previous year's mobility rate as a proxy if the rate looked abnormally high, this freed up a minor amount of MFG to distribute across all schools. A report was also provided summarising the changes along with the new version of the model.

6. **High Needs Budget Block Report**

ESFA confirmed that the local authority will receive an additional £335,000 split over the next 2 years towards high needs.

JW presented a report on the high needs block.

Table 3.4 displays figures discussing high needs census. Information in regards to funding should be available within the next week. A subgroup will discuss additional funding, figures for the financial year and changes since the last discussion.

A paper discussing the high needs budget and educational inclusivity.

A realistic up to date budget recovery plan will be made available at the beginning of the financial year for 2019/20.

Four Early Help Practitioner posts were appointed in November 2018 and deployed into schools by January/February 2019. Funding for the continuation of the posts has not been confirmed and their impact is yet to be adequately measured. The posts were initially funded from the DSG or Central Blocks Budget however a definite funding stream was never agreed at SMF.

An earlier meeting needs to be convened to clarify the source of funding and the environment under which the initial decision was made. Impact and evaluation statements are required before an informed decision can be made.

Concerns were raised that there were no representatives or documents available to summarise the position of the practitioners.

The nature of work being carried out by the practitioners would be more suitable carried out by people within schools who understand the context of issues faced by the children.

SMF agrees to fund the posts for the year from the additional £335,000.

A decision regarding the permanency of the posts should be made in July 2019.

Current data illustrates that children that are being supported by the Early Help mechanism are not escalated through social care which would suggest a positive impact.

Sean Hogg will carry out an investigation into the initial decision to appoint the posts and the agreement on the exact source of funding. A report detailing the decision making process and procedure for future decisions will be constructed and presented to the SMF.

A report from Rob Brown and Gail Earl is requested for the July meeting.

The Local Authority accepts the schools cannot commit to a buyback without understanding the full impact of the posts.

7. De-delegation Budget Decisions 2019/20

Trade union - Report and representation is required for March SMF before decision can be taken on whether schools will buy into this service.

FSM eligibility service – SMF asked for a report on the buy in for 18/19 to be brought to March SMF.

Licenses - Historically the LA has procured a corporate Capita SIMS license on behalf of schools. However with the amount of schools converting to academies the number of maintained schools utilising this license has now dropped to 12. The cost to schools has increased each year as the license includes a lump sum charge which is spread across fewer schools. The current license expires on the 31st March 2019 and therefore all maintained schools will need to procure their own Management Information System (MIS) from 1st April 2019 onwards.

The preferred approach is flexible buybacks however this may adversely affect some schools. Services are being withdrawn from maintained schools ad hoc and are having to be procured outside the LA.

Agenda item will be transferred to the next meeting so that a decision can be made in regards to de-delegation.

Trade Union reports are to be requested in advance.

8. Early Years Budget Decisions 2019/20

Discussions were held between the local authority and the PVI sector in relation to the transfer of 5% of the high needs budget.

WG requested a meeting with AW to discuss any decisions made in respect of years beyond 19/20. AW agreed.

SMF were informed of the hourly rates for 3 & 4 year olds in financial year 2019/20 being £3.95 with providers continuing to receive flexibility and deprivation funding, it is then proposed that remaining funding is transferred to high needs.

SMF were informed of the hourly rate for 2 year olds in financial year 2019/20 being £2.95 and it is proposed that remaining funding is transferred to high needs.

Clarity in regards to the Virtual School retention of LAC Pupil Premium funding is required.

A report in regards to home and hospital is being compiled.

9. Central Services Budget 2019/20

A decision is to be made in regards to which services will be funded from the Central Services Budget 2019/20.

If funds are withdrawn IT services will no longer be provided to schools. It was commented that the report provided by IT includes several vague terms that need to be clarified. There is no certainty of what the bill pays for in terms of resources and staffing.

AH will communicate concerns to IT department and invite Andy Evans to the next SMF.

A standard and updated proforma should be circulated for the dedicated schools grant to all schools.

Agenda item will be transferred to the next meeting so that a decision can be made in regards to de-delegation.

10. **School Swimming Programme Report from the Integrated Transport Unit Manager**

Direct contact will be made with schools and issues will be fed back to Ged Faint through SMF or schools can make direct contact. Everyone Active have ended their contact however it is yet to cease.

Schools are welcome to procure Everyone Active for swimming contracts.

AH will discuss new ITU report with the relevant department.

11. **AOB**

12. **Date of next meeting: 27th March 2019, 8:15am, Community Learning Centre**

AOB: SMF meeting to be organised in March – meeting to accept a tabled document