



Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council People Directorate

Minutes BARNSLEY SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FORUM, HELD ON MONDAY, 22nd FEBRUARY 2016, AT KIRK BALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PRESENT

Headteacher Representatives

Nick Bowen (Chair of the Forum), Jane Gilmour, Jo Nolan, Alison Wilks and Dave Whitaker

Governor Representatives

Adrian England, John Gostelow and Mark Pawson

Special Schools Representative

Molly Beaver

Early Years Service Representative

Linda Mathison

14-19 Years Service Representative

Dave Benbow

Officers

Margaret Libreri	Service Director (Education, Early Start and Prevention) People Directorate, Barnsley MBC
Josh Amahwe	Strategic Finance Manager (People Directorate) Barnsley MBC
Colette Gollcher	Interim Head of Service (Assessment and Inclusion) People Directorate, Barnsley MBC
Anna Turner	People Directorate, Barnsley MBC
Shafeek Khan	People Directorate, Barnsley mbc

Members of the Public and Other Observers

Andrew Skiffington

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted from Mr Bowser, Mr Krause, Councillor Millner, Councillor Mitchell and Mr Sanderson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTEREST

All Headteacher and Governor representatives who were present at today's meeting, declared an interest in Agenda Items 4, 7 and 8.

3. PRIORITISATION OF AGENDA ITEMS

With the Forum's agreement, Mr Bowen proposed that Agenda Item 6, concerning reports relating to schools budgets, be prioritised for immediate consideration.

RESOLVED

1 The Schools Forum agrees to prioritise consideration of Agenda Items 6 (a-c).

4. SCHOOLS BUDGETS

Report 6(a): School Admissions

Further to its previous meeting, the Forum resumed consideration of the Service Level Agreement for admissions and noted the set of statutory requirements, therein which the local authority must comply with. Discussion, again, arose over the need for the Forum to be made aware of the impact of such funding and how this improved outcomes for parents and children.

RESOLVED

2 (a) The Schools Forum notes and agrees the budget allocation earmarked for school admissions, under the DSG, for 2016/17

2 (b) That a progress report on the outcomes achieved through this budget allocation, be presented to a future meeting of the Forum.

14-19 Years LLDD Service

Similarly, the Forum considered further, the proposed funding allocations for improving the skills and employability of young people, aged 14-19. Whilst noting the proposals in Mr Benbow's report, members of the Forum stated that, in order to fully consider allocations in future years, it would be helpful, to its deliberations, if an evaluation of the impact generated and outcomes achieved by such funding could be presented.

RESOLVED

3 (a) The Schools Forum notes and agrees the proposed funding allocations for raising the participation of young people in education, employment and training, in the Borough.

3 (b) That a progress report, reviewing the impact of funding allocations and the outcomes achieved, be submitted to a future meeting of the Forum.

3 (c) A progress report on the impact of the funding allocation for improving the attainment of children in care and the outcomes achieved, also be submitted to a future meeting of the Forum.

Support For Pupils With Whom English Is An Additional Language

Ms Libreri outlined how the proposed allocation would be used to help schools with such pupils, to access good practice through the Barnsley Alliance for Schools Board's 'Champions Schools' initiative. Responding to a query over what evidence was available to demonstrate how resources were closing the gap in attainment between EAL pupils and their peers, Ms Libreri referred to the recent Ofsted review of EAL provision in the Borough, the progress to date and the prospects for further improvement which the 'Champions Schools' Initiative, heralded.

RESOLVED

- 4 (a) The Schools Forum notes and agrees the proposed funding allocation for helping improve the attainment of EAL pupils and in closing the gap in attainment with peers.**
- 4 (b) That a progress report, reviewing the impact of the Champions Schools initiative and the outcomes achieved through use of the initiative's 'toolkit' be formulated for consideration at a future meeting of the Forum.**

Report 6 (b): Barnsley 'Building Schools For the Future' – Contracts Review

Owing to constraints on time, this scoping report had been deferred from the previous meeting of the Forum. Mr Bowen advised that the report be noted by the Forum for information and that it would be considered in detail at the meeting of Secondary Schools Headteachers, on 8th March 2016.

RESOLVED

- 5 (a) That the Strategic Finance Manager's scoping report on the contracts review be noted by the Forum.**
- 5 (b) That a follow up, progress report be submitted on the contracts review, to a future meeting of the Forum.**

Report 6 (c): Pupil Growth Fund – Amendment To Funding Criteria

At its previous meeting, the Forum agreed that £300,000 be set aside from the Dedicated Schools Grant, for the establishment of the Borough's Pupil Growth Fund. In order to address schools concerns over the financial risks which could emerge should actual bulge cohorts prove less than originally forecast, Mr Amahwe recommended a change to the funding criteria. This would ensure that, in such an event, minimum funding would be accorded on a baseline of 10 additional pupils. Additional funding, amounting to between £2,500 and £5,000 would be available to cover the costs of materials and equipment for any bulge classes. The proposed change would, also, allow a school to meet the pro rata cost of an NQT in addressing a growth in the number of pupils.

RESOLVED

- 6 The Schools Forum notes the recommendation in Mr Amahwe's report and approves the change in criteria as part of addressing school's concerns over the potential financial challenges arising.**

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

The Forum considered the minutes of its meeting, held on 15th January 2016.

RESOLVED

- 7 **That the minutes of the meeting of the Forum, held on 15th January 2016 be approved as a correct record.**

6. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arose during the Forum's consideration of the minutes of its previous meeting.

7. REVIEW OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BARNESLEY SCHOOLS FORUM

Ms Libreri presented a further report on the Forum's ongoing review of its membership. In noting the queries over membership which had emerged during recent meetings, including those raised at today's session, the Forum considered that any changes to the membership should, at this stage, be confined to the Schools Group's representation. This would help resolve some of the queries concerning Schools Group representation raised at today's meeting and lead to more balanced representation between maintained schools and the increasing number of academies in the Borough.

Ms Libreri referred to the Schools Forums (England) Regulations (2012) with the aim of ensuring that the amended representation from the Schools Group, within the Forum, would be in place for its first meeting, during 2016/17.

RESOLVED

- 7 **Ms Libreri to write to the governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academy trusts in order to seek both headteacher and governor representatives to the Schools Group element of the Forum and to outline the next steps, following the receipt of nominations.**

8. HIGHER NEEDS BLOCK FUNDING

Higher Needs Block Funding Arrangements and Framework

Mr Amahwe presented a wide ranging report on the Borough's proposed Higher Needs Block Funding arrangements and framework for 2016/17. Reference was made to the number of forecasted high needs places; the level of top up funding for settings, including Greenacre School and Springwell Alternative Academy, together with areas of provision where funding challenges were emerging.

RESOLVED

- 8 **The Forum notes the proposed Higher Needs Block funding arrangements and framework for the Borough, during 2016/17.**

Alternative Provision for Pupils Either Temporarily or Permanently Excluded from School:

Ms Libreri consulted the Forum on a proposal to increase the number of alternative provision places commissioned through Springwell Alternative Academy from 99 to 120 places. The local authority would fund such provision prior to presenting a case for additional funding from the Education Funding Agency. These additional places would be provided by Springwell through a satellite arrangement, based at the Kendray Resource Centre.

RESOLVED

- 9 (a) **The Forum agrees with the recommendation to provide additional alternative provision places, to be commissioned through Springwell**

Alternative Academy, via satellite facilities at Kendray Resource Centre.

- 9 (b) That the local authority arranges for the necessary approvals to be obtained for the proposal.**

9. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Whilst no urgent business was raised, Mr Gostelow emphasised the importance, in future, of ensuring Forum members received papers for meetings of the Forum without any undue delay.

Mr Bowen invited Mr Skiffington to offer his perspective on the discussions which had taken place at today's meeting. Referring to the theme of how it could be demonstrated that funding allocations led to pupil progress, Mr Skiffington commented that reports, perhaps, needed to be more detailed and transparent in order to generate more meaningful discussion by the Forum.

10. SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE FORUM

Members of the Forum also indicated the importance of identifying a schedule of dates for its future meetings.

RESOLVED

- 10 That a schedule of meetings of the Forum, during 2016/17 be finalised and Forum members be notified as soon as possible.**

In concluding today's meeting, Mr Bowen thanked members of the Forum for their attendance and contribution and, also, thanked the staff at Kirk Balk Community College, for their hospitality in hosting the meeting.

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Signed by the Chair of the Barnsley Schools Forum