



Minutes

BARNSLEY SCHOOLS FORUM

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FORUM HELD ON THURSDAY, 8th
MARCH 2018, AT KIRK BALK ACADEMY**

PRESENT

Headteacher Representatives

Nick Bowen (Chair of the Forum) and Alison Wilks

Governor Representatives

Mark Pawson and Michael Sanderson

Special Schools Representative(s)

Josh Greaves

Early Years Provision Representative

Linda Mathison

Local Authority Elected Member Representative

Councillor Andrew Millner

14-19 Years Representative

Dave Benbow

Officers

Josh Amahwe

Strategic Finance Manager (Core Services
Directorate) Barnsley MBC

Richard Lynch

Head of Children's Services Commissioning,
Governance and Partnerships, People
Directorate, Barnsley MBC

Shafeek Khan

People Directorate

1. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTEREST

Representatives of the Forum declared their interest concerning Agenda Item 4 (Schools Budgets: Forecast Outturn Position (2017/18)) together with Agenda Item 5 (High Needs Funding Arrangements and the Proposed Operating Model For Funding Permanent And Fixed Term Exclusions At The PRU)

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Formal apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Beever, Mr Buckley, Ms Drinkhill, Mr England, Ms Fitzpatrick, Ms Gilmour, Ms Libreri and Councillor Mitchell. However, since two fifths of the membership of the Forum was present, Mr Bowen declared the meeting as quorate and proceeded with today's order of business.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

The Forum considered the minutes of its meeting held on 18th January 2018.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Barnsley Schools Forum, held on 18th January 2018, be approved as a correct record.**

4. MATTERS ARISING THROUGH CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

No matters arose through consideration of the minutes.

5. SCHOOLS BUDGETS

(a) 2017/18 Forecast Outturn Position

Mr Amahwe presented a report on the latest outturn position and commented on the following:

- Overall DSG Budgets (including the carry forward of school balances, Pupil Premium Grant, Education Funding Agency Post 16 Provision and other specific grant funding)
- Schools Delegated DSG Budgets (including surplus school balances)
- Centrally Retained School Budgets (including reference to the carry forward of the net budget deficit in the High Needs Funding Block and expenditure on out of authority placements for children with special educational needs)

RESOLVED

- 2. The Forum notes the latest forecast outturn position for the Schools Delegated Budget and Centrally Retained DSG Budgets, together with the financial risks identified and the actions to be taken to manage and mitigate these risks.**

6. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK

High Needs Funding Arrangements (2018/19)

Mr Amahwe presented a report on the proposed funding arrangements for the High Needs Block, during 2018/19 and set out the following for the Forum's consideration:

- The operational guidance for High Needs Funding, published in January this year and any subsequent changes to the High Needs Block Funding Framework.
- High Needs places and funding allocations.
- High Needs funding proposals, including those relating to Pre 16 mainstream schools and academies; early years phase; specialist resource provision; special academies; additional commissioned specialist places; alternative provision; post school provision; SEN support services and out of authority specialist placements.
- Arrangements for the carry forward of the 2017/18 High Needs Block deficit.

Mr Amahwe and Mr Lynch responded to comments, firstly, from Mr Greaves on whether or not the basis for the proposed level of funding to be transferred from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, together with the continued lack of additional funding for SEN services/placements from central government would be sufficient in tackling ongoing challenges. Secondly, Mrs Wilks enquired whether or not a more challenging reduction target concerning the number of SEN pupil placements in specialist provision outside of the Borough, could be implemented.

RESOLVED

3 (a) The Forum approves the 2017/18 High Needs Block deficit, currently estimated at £5.2 million, be applied and set against the High Needs funding allocation during 2018/19.

3 (b) The Forum notes the following:

- **That top-up funding rates for mainstream schools and academies will be reduced by £500 for Ranges 4 and 5 and by £250 for Range 3.**
- **That £100,000 of exceptional funding currently set aside for additional support to mainstream schools and academies will be maintained during 2018/19.**
- **That a proposed reduction in place funding for specialist resource provision from £10,000 to £6,000 is to be implemented.**
- **Top up funding rates for places at Special Schools or Special Academies will be increased by 0.5% in line with the increase in Higher Needs Block funding, for 2018/19.**
- **A proposed charging model for the use of PRU places by schools and academies for permanently excluded pupils and for pupils allocated a PRU place for any reason other than a permanent exclusion (*Please see below*)**

Review Of Alternative Provision: Proposed Operating Model For Funding Permanent And Fixed Term Exclusion Places In The PRU

The Forum recalled that, at its previous meeting, Members considered Mr Lynch's options report on the future commissioning of places at the PRU and recommended that Option 3 be adopted.

Today's report outlined Mr Lynch's detailed proposals concerning the recommended option which, subject to the Forum's approval and with effect from 1st April 2018, would lead to schools being recharged a fee payable to the Local Authority for permanent and non-permanent exclusions. Access to PRU places, which were not the subject of a permanent exclusion, would be managed by the Fair Access Panel in order to ensure a fair and equitable availability and distribution of places.

The proposed range of tariffs for each category of exclusions was outlined in the report. Responding to comments from Mr Bowen and Mr Sanderson, Mr Lynch made clear that the primary focus of these proposals was to create a more sustainable system which (subject to ensuring the safeguarding and wellbeing of teachers and other pupils in mainstream schools) promoted the re-integration and inclusion of such pupils and prevented alienation and deprivation.

RESOLVED

- 4. The Forum endorses the introduction of the proposed tariff based charging system for the commissioning of PRU placements, with effect from 1st April 2018.**

7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No issues were raised. Members would be notified of the dates of the meetings of the Forum, during 2018/19, in due course.

Mr Bowen thanked members of the Forum for their attendance and contribution, in spite of today's weather and expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the staff at Kirk Balk Academy for their hospitality in hosting today's meeting.

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Signed by the Deputy Chair of the Barnsley Schools Forum