

**SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS' FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2012
AT ST ANNE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Present:

Primary School

David Turner	-	Governor
Colin Warburg	-	Governor (Chair)
Mark Sheehan	-	Headteacher
Ian Taylor	-	Headteacher (substitute for Julie Swanston)
Peter Howard	-	Headteacher

Secondary Schools

Karen Dagwell	-	Headteacher
Ruth Evans	-	Headteacher
Graham Wilson	-	Headteacher

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Non Schools

Peter Sopowski	-	NUT Secretary
Beverley Murtagh	-	14-19 Partnership
Anna Wright	-	PVI for Early Years
Councillor Keogh	-	Council representative

Observers

Beverley Pennekett	-	Education Funding Agency
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Also in attendance:

Councillor Bogle	-	Cabinet Member, Children's Services and Learning
Alison Alexander	-	Children's Services and Learning
Lynn Franklin	-	Children's Services and Learning
Chris Tombs	-	Children's Services and Learning
Jane Altounyan	-	CRC Officer - SCC
Ian Davies	-	-Project Manager – Energy & Heating
Sharon Pearson	-	- Democratic Services

1. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

Apologies were received from Ian Golding, Jonathan Howells, Julie Swanston, Richard Harris and Karen Stacey.

The Chair welcomed Graham Wilson and Peter Howard, new members and Beverley Pennekett from the Education Funding Agency as official observer, to the meeting.

Members passed a vote of thanks to Beverley Murtagh who had very kindly provided the venue and refreshments for the meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for 17th October and Graham Wilson, St George's Catholic VA College, very kindly agreed to host the meeting.

2. **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2012 were approved as a correct record.

3. **PROPOSAL FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY INVESTMENT IN SCHOOLS FROM RESIDUAL CRC FUNDING**

The Forum received a briefing paper from the Carbon Reduction Officer, detailing various proposals on how the unspent amount of £42,805 could be utilised to improve schools' efficiency and knowledge relating to the Carbon Reduction Commitment

The following was noted:-

- That this was a "one-off" underspend for one year and if any proposal was ongoing, it would have to be done by way of an SLA.
- That any individual employed to promote CRC in schools should have a specific job description encompassing energy management and conservation experience as well as the ability to communicate issues to children.
- That the Forum was in favour of employing an individual to promote CRC in schools as well as providing training to site managers at schools.
- That if this was agreed, there may be the possibility of additional funding being available by way of Department for Transport grant.

RESOLVED that officers would progress the temporary appointment.

4. **REVIEW OF SLA – SUPPLY COVER FOR LONG TERM SICKNESS 2013/2014**

The Forum considered a decision paper of the Principal Accountant, Children's Services, providing a review of the Supply Cover SLA, for the Forum to provide a view on the withdrawal of the current SLA.

The following was noted:-

- There was an ongoing decline in the number of schools buying into this SLA which would continue in 2013-14.
- That on average, secondary schools received a larger amount of funding from the scheme, with less cost to the school than primary schools and that if the SLA was to be continued, a fairer pricing mechanism would have to be introduced which would inevitably lead to secondary schools paying more.

David Turner proposed that the current SLA for supply cover in relation to long term sickness be withdrawn, seconded by Karen Dagwell.

RESOLVED that upon putting to the vote, the following was agreed:-

- (i) that the current SLA for supply cover in relation to long term sickness should be withdrawn with effect from financial year 2013-

14; and

- (ii) that when SLA's were sent out to schools for review at the end of September, the current situation with regard to this SLA would be highlighted and a list of outside providers for this cover would be attached so that all schools were made aware of the situation.

For : 9

Abstained – 3

5. **SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM**

The Forum considered a decision paper from the Education and Economic Development Finance Manager detailing the progress made on the development of the new School Funding Formula for the Forum to agree the following recommendations:-

- the preferred option for the new School Funding Formula
- proposals to move funding between the Schools Block SEN Notional Budget and the High Needs Blok for pupils with low incidence SEN.
- Approve contributions from the Schools Block to school focused services delivered by the Council; and
- Recommend the maximum amount of funding be routed through the PFI factor.

A discussion ensued and the following issues and concerns were noted:-

- Two new factors had been introduced by the DfE, "reception uplift" taking into account the net difference between the October 2011 and January 2012 pupil census for Year R and "Mobility" which took into account pupil turbulence.
- That primary and secondary schools were funded at different rates.
- That the current formula allocated the two Academies too much grant funding and under the new formula they were protected by the MFG. Officers to have a discussion with the Principals of the Academies and make representation to the DfE to gain an exemption to the MFG.
- That Forum members had previously received an unanimous negative response from Primary and Secondary Heads to include the PFI factor in the School Funding Formula.
- That approximately 50% of authorities fund the PFI affordability gap through their Schools Budget.
- that representations be made to central government via the LGA to bring to their attention the serious problems that the reduced DfE funding was creating in Children's Services.

RESOLVED that upon putting to the vote, Option 1 should be incorporated into the new model with the following factors/additions:

- (i) that the primary and secondary funding ratio should be kept to a 1 to 1.33 ratio
For – Unanimous

- (ii) Looked after children factor introduced at the same rate as Secondary Free School Meals factor
For - Unanimous
- (iii) Deprivation Funding to be targeted at higher levels of deprivation
For – Unanimous
- (iv) Low cost, high incidence SEN factor and figure to be included
For – Unanimous
- (v) Uplift factor included
For – Unanimous
- (vi) Mobility factor included at figure of £679 to be included
For - 11
Abstained – 1
- (vii) EAL factor and figure to be included
For – Unanimous
- (viii) Lump Sum reduced to fund changes
For – Unanimous
- (ix) Split Sites not to be added as a factor
For – Unanimous
- (x) That the following central services be funded from the Schools Block:-
 - Admissions function - £346,900
 - Carbon Reduction Commitment - £160,000
 - Family and Parenting Practitioners - £426,800
 - Preventative Social Care Workers - £200,000
- (xi) PFI Factor - It was agreed that Forum Members would consult with all school heads on adding a PFI factor amount of £450,000 for one year only (the difference in the gap between £750,000 and £1.2 M).
- (xii) That all schools would be consulted on the above School Funding Formula model without the PFI factor; and
- (xiii) That officers would prepare a model showing the effect of a £450,000 PFI factor along with a briefing paper for a final decision to be made on the School Funding Formula Model.