

**SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS' FORUM  
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2013  
AT BASSETT GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Present:

Primary School

David Turner	-	Governor
Liz Filer	-	Headteacher
Peter Howard	-	Headteacher
Mark Sheehan	-	Headteacher
Julie Swanston	-	Headteacher
Colin Warburg	-	Governor

Secondary Schools

Joanne Anslow	-	Headteacher – Substitute for Ruth Evans
Karen Dagwell	-	Headteacher
Richard Harris	-	Governor (Chair)
Graham Wilson	-	Headteacher

Special

Jonathan Howells	-	Headteacher
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Nursery

Karen Stacey	-	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

Sue Thompson	-	Early Years/Sure Start
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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
Sharon Pearson	-	Democratic Services

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

Apologies were received from Ruth Evans, Ian Golding and Clive Webster. The Forum noted that Suzy Foster, had to stand down as Special Governor

Representative due to work commitments.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013 and Jonathan Howells, Cedar School, very kindly agreed to host the meeting.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Peter Sopowski declared an interest under Item 7 and took no part in the discussion.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 were approved as a correct record, subject to the following:-

- Item 6 “New Delegations Schools Block” - a vote had been taken and a decision made, although it had not been a decision paper. However, it was noted that this item had been brought to today’s meeting to re-confirm the decision and to ensure that it was procedurally correct; and
- Item 3 “Home Education” - the extension of the school leaving age to 17 years in 2013 and 18 years in 2014 would further impact on Southampton’s Elective Home Educated (EHE) children/young people and a further report would be tabled at the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

4 **UPDATES TO THE SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS**

The Principal Accountant for Schools provided the Forum with a verbal update on feedback received after the consultation on the Scheme for Financing Schools. It was noted that there had been two responses, one relating to Service Level Agreements and one in relation to PFI Schools which John Spiers would clarify with the schools concerned.

5. **EARLY YEARS BLOCK**

The Forum considered a decision paper of the Principal Accountant for Schools to note the size of the Early Years block and approve the central expenditure elements of the Early Years Block.

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

- that in line with the DfE Regulations, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) had to be finalised by January 2013 and this was the reason for the lateness of the reports;
- the introduction of the new School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulation 2013, regulation 8 specified that Schools Forum approval was required for central expenditure within the Early Years Block;
- funding for 2 year olds was allocated to Local Authorities on a formula basis and it was recommended that it should be allocated to providers on the basis

- of a standard hourly rate;
- due to the forecast underspend on this year's PVI budget, it was proposed that an amount of £600,000 be transferred to the High Needs Block to cover pressures;
- in addition to funding of the existing central services within the Early Years Block, approval of funding to help meet the challenging targets for expansion of two year old provision in the city was required. In this regard the following was noted and AGREED:-
  - that the quality of the provision was an essential factor and that there should be a commitment to maintain and improve the standard of all providers as well as increase their capacity;
  - that provision was supplied where there was a need;
  - that an Early Years Provision Improvement Strategy had been developed and was going to Cabinet for approval in January;
  - officers to confirm the grades of the new posts required to manage the expansion of the two year old provision in the city; and, once they were appointed to
  - that the balance of the trajectory building capital would be allocated to capital investment.

**RESOLVED:-**

- i. that the proposed Early Years block of £13.6 million be noted;
- ii. to note that the proposed allocations to Early Years providers for 2 year olds would be finalised shortly; and
- iii. that the central expenditure elements of the Early Years Block summarised in Appendix 1 be approved.

**6. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Finance Manager for Children's Services and Learning outlining the proposals for the High Needs Block including funding for Special Schools, units in maintained schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) from April 2013.

**RESOLVED that :-**

- i. officers clarified the number of children funded from the Out of City Budget detailed as "Fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad"; and
- ii. the following recommendations be noted:-
  - A transfer of £600,000 would be made from the Early Years block to fund post 16 SEN and other potential pressures.
  - Maintained schools would be responsible for the first £6,000 of additional educational need (plus per pupil funding) before allocations were made from the High Needs Block.
  - Top-up funding for Special schools and units would be based on the 2012-13 budget for each school plus new places to avoid turbulence.
  - Special schools would continue to be funded on the basis of the existing three

place types.

- New pupils placed in Special schools and units would be assigned a place type by the Children and Young People's Development Service (CYPDS) Decision Panel, as part of the process of finalising the statement.
- Each pupil's type would be reviewed as part of the annual review of their statement of SEN.
- A vacancy factor would be applied for Special schools with traditionally low numbers in the autumn term and would be reviewed annually.
- Place funding would be paid annually by the City Council in April.
- Subject to the agreement of neighbouring authorities, top-up funding would be paid termly in arrears based on the forecast pupils in each school.
- Pupils placed at the Pupil Referral Unit would be charged on the basis of three bands.
- The authority would undertake a benchmarking exercise of other authority Special School top-up rates before deciding if any changes should be made to the 2014/15 High Needs funding formula.

## 7. **2013/14 SCHOOLS BLOCK**

The Forum considered the decision paper of the Finance Manager for Children's Services and Learning recommending that the Forum note the Schools Block for 2013/14 of £125.086 million and approve the central services listed in Appendix 1.

The following was noted:-

- all monies held centrally had to be approved by the Schools Forum;
- that officers would provide the Forum with feedback on the difference in numbers between the October census and the January 2013 figures; and
- that CLA and MPA licences would be held centrally for maintained schools and academies.

### **RESOLVED:-**

- i. that the estimated Schools Block for 2013/14 of £125.086 million be noted;
- ii. that the central services listed in Appendix 1 be approved;
- iii. that the liability insurances and staff costs budgets were no longer held centrally but instead operated via a Service Level Agreement; and
- iv. that officers would provide information on the reduction in funding schools will receive as a result of funding the £450,000 PFI factor;