

**SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS' FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 24th APRIL 2013
AT MANSBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Present:

Primary School

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

Secondary Schools

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

Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

Jane Smith

Nursery

Karen Stacey	-	Headteacher
--------------	---	-------------

Non Schools

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

Observers

Sue Thompson	-	Early Years/Sure Start
Cllr Turner	-	Swaythling Ward Councillor

Also in attendance:

Alan Mills	-	Schools Funding Network
Councillor Bogle	-	Cabinet Member, Children's Services and Learning
Alison Alexander	-	Children's Services and Learning
Lesley Hobbs	-	Children's Services and Learning
Chris Tombs	-	Children's Services and Learning
Oliver Gill	-	Children's Services and Learning
Kevin Allan	-	Children's Services and Learning
Sharon Pearson	-	Democratic Services

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

Apologies were received from Jonathan Howells, Graham Wilson and Ian Golding.

The Chair welcomed Alan Mills from the Schools Funding Network to the meeting.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for 19th June 2013 and Karen Stacey, Hardmoor Early Years Centre, very kindly agreed to host the meeting.

The Chair thanked Alison Alexander for her hard work, honesty and dedication whilst at Southampton City Council and the Forum wished her much success and everything of the best in her new role at Maidenhead and Windsor Council.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th March were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Page 3 - Item 4 – Pupils with Statements, Resolution (iii) a letter to the DfE making them aware that the current DfE model did not encourage inclusion was tabled.

Page 4 - Item 5 – Provisional Underspend of Dedicated Schools Grant 2012/13, Resolution (iii) – It was noted that data on take-up of 3-4 year old places at Early Years settings was not particularly robust as there were a number of voluntary providers. Officers were in the process of sending out questionnaires to all Early Years providers in an attempt to see if there was a general problem with vacancy levels and would be analysing health data which could also provide more robust information in this regard.

3. **SCHOOLS FUNDING NETWORK (SFN)**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant for Schools providing information on the Schools Funding Network and Alan Mills, a trustee of Schools Funding Network, provided members with further information in this regard.

The following was noted:-

- that the charity was a non-profit organisation and was the leading fundraising division at the SSAT from 2005 to 2012;
- £740m of Gift Aid was being lost every year and big funders were out of the reach of individual and small clusters of schools;
- SFN provided primary and secondary schools with all the tools and resource needed for successful fundraising;
- SFN were offering the service through local authorities at £2500 + VAT per 100 schools as opposed to £250 per individual schools and in the future if enough schools were signed up it might be possible that schools would not

be charged.

It was AGREED that the Forum supported the role and principles of SFN and a further paper would be tabled, providing additional information on how this could be funded.

4. **ANALYSIS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES SCHOOLS BLOCK FUNDING FORMULAE**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant for Schools, providing an overview of the formula factor values chosen by Southampton and comparing these to the ranges of unit funding chosen by other local authorities.

The Forum again expressed concern over the disparity between primary and secondary schools with regard to:-

- the low cost, high incident Special Educational Needs factor; and
- primary:secondary funding ratios. Southampton's ratio was 1.34 which indicated that secondary age pupils in Southampton received on average 34% more funding per head than primary age pupils.

5. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013/14 – FUNDING GAP**

The Forum considered the briefing paper of the Strategy & Capital Programme Manager, seeking the Forum's view on the proposal to meet a portion of the funding gap.

A discussion ensued and the following was noted:-

- that a report setting out the CSL Capital Programme for 2013/14 was scheduled to go to Cabinet for approval on 21 May 2013 and consideration would be given to the potential for SCC to fund one of Options 2 or 3 but that officers were required to investigate the potential for schools to contribute to projects at their schools from their DFC allocation;
- Forum members expressed concerns that some schools were barely able to fulfil their health and safety obligations and for schools in the programme to contribute to the funding gap by way of their DFC allocation, which had been further reduced, would not be possible;
- that all maintained schools were priority-ranked for capital maintenance and all recommendations were based on need and/or were critical;
- that condition surveys had been audited by the DfE and it had been agreed that they were consistent;
- that officers from the capital review board attend a Schools Forum Meeting in the future to explain how the Capital Programme was prepared;
- that Forum members would prefer Option 1; and
- that a letter be addressed to the DfE detailing the local authority's projects and priorities and the difficulties that were being experienced in this regard due to the reduced funding.

6. **OFF SITE ACTIVITIES AND EDUCATIONAL VISITS**

The Forum considered the briefing paper of the Commissioning Lead for Children's Services, seeking the Forum's support to continue to bulk purchase Hampshire County Council's offsite activities and educational visits service on behalf of city schools.

A discussion ensued during which members AGREED with the arrangement put forward and the following was noted:-

- that the £30000 cost of this agreement had been fully paid for until now by the City Council and that the cost now needed to be passed on proportionally to Southampton Schools;
- all schools, including academies had invested in this agreement;
- that a further report would be tabled at the September meeting providing details of the Service Level Agreement in this regard.

7. **PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK 2013/14**

The Forum received and noted the schedule detailing the provisional programme of work for 2013/14.

8. **REVIEW OF 2013-14 SCHOOL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant for Schools, providing a summary of feedback given to the Department for Education (DfE) in response to their request for views on how the 2013-14 funding arrangements had been implemented.