

**SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS' FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2013
AT RICHARD TAUNTON'S 6TH FORM COLLEGE**

Present:

Primary School

Mark Sheehan	-	Headteacher
Julie Swanston	-	Headteacher
Colin Warburg	-	Governor
David Turner	-	Governor

Secondary Schools

Richard Harris	-	Governor
Joanne Anslow	-	Headteacher (Substitute for Ruth Evans)

Academies

Anne Murphy	-	St Anne's Convent School
Jeannie Gibbons	-	Ludlow Infant School

Special Schools

Andy Evans	-	Great Oaks
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Non Schools

Councillor Lloyd	-	Council Representative
Anna Wright	-	PVI provider of early year entitlement
Alice Wrighton	-	Post 16
Peter Sopowski	-	NUT Secretary

Also in attendance:

Graham Talbot	-	SCC - People
Sue Thompson	-	Observer – EYCP
Chris Keates	-	Union Rep NASUWT
Councillor Turner	-	Observer
Kevin Allan	-	SCC - People
Jo Francis	-	SCC - HR
Jason Taylor	-	SCC
Jane Altounyan	-	SCC
Sue Poynter	-	SCC - Finance
Sharon Pearson	-	SCC - Democratic Services

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

Apologies were received from Ruth Evans, Liz Filer, Graham Wilson, Peter Howard, Karen Dagwell, Jane Smith, Karen Stacey, Councillor Bogle and Lynn Franklin.

The following new members were welcomed:

Andy Evans, Special Schools
Anne Murphy and Jeannie Gibbons, Academy members

It was further noted that Liz Mizon had been nominated as a Primary Governor member and David Turner and Colin Warburg had been nominated as Academy members; this had resulted in 2 vacancies in the Primary membership of the Forum.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for 15th January 2014 and members would be informed of the venue in due course.

2. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2013 were approved as a correct record.

3. SCC ENERGY SERVICES FOR SCHOOLS

The Forum received a briefing paper from the Carbon Reduction Officer, providing an update on changes to the energy management services that were offered through the Energy Team at Southampton City Council.

The following was noted:-

- schools were no longer required to participate in the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) from April 2014; however schools would be required to continue to report on their energy consumption;
- **the DfE had informed local authorities that the funding for the CRC (£160000) would be deducted from the Delegated Schools Grant and therefore this could not be delegated to schools;**
- all energy and gas for SCC buildings and operations were procured through Kent Laser and a 4-year contract had been signed with them until 2016. An independent verification of the value for money of the contract had shown that Kent Laser had provided consistent good value for money and cheaper than average energy costs;
- additional energy efficiency training would be provided to site managers and business managers early in 2014; and
- a package that could be provided to schools which would be a “paid for service” covering procurement, reporting of energy consumption and cost data and a number of other services which would be managed by the Energy Team was being put together and once completed a further report and business case would be tabled at a future Forum Meeting.

5. PEOPLE TRANSFORMATION

The Forum received and noted a presentation from the Head of Education providing details and an update on the Children’s Services Transformation Programme – September 2013 - April 2017.

The following was noted:-

- that services would be transformed to ensure a stronger focus on early help with clearer pathways that allowed families to access services earlier and ensuring the pursuit of timely permanency for all our looked after children through a diverse range of routes;
- that the Tier 2 offer (prevention services) would be improved by moving funding from Tiers 3 and 4 (specialist services) and early intervention at Tier 2 should assist in preventing children from being moved to the specialist services;
- the changes to the management structure would not create additional posts but would be replacing current posts;
- that there would be:
 - a single point of contact for **safeguarding** concerns regarding children and young people through a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (**MASH**);
 - an Integrated Early Help service for 0-4 and 5-19 year olds;
 - a review of the threshold criteria to create 3 tiers ie Universal, Enhanced and Specialist;
 - the creation of an Integrated Family Assessment & Intervention Service (IFAIS);
 - an Integrated service offering for 14+/Care Leavers Service and Permanent Care of our Looked After Children; and
 - a Quality Assurance Unit built on national best practice.
- that tracking of information received by the MASH was of extreme importance and would need rigorous monitoring and responses within fixed timescales; and
- as systems were put in place and changed it was important that headteachers were made aware of what services were available and where they could be accessed.

6. **PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA 2014-15 – MOBILITY FACTOR UPDATE NAD CENTRAL EXPENDITURE REQUESTS**

The Forum considered a decision paper of the Principal Accountant Children's Services, requesting that the Forum recommend the preferred mobility factor basis of allocation, approved funding of the central expenditure items from the Schools Block and approved the de-delegation of a centrally held Trade Union Duties budget at a rate of up to £3.59 per pupil in 2014/15.

Mobility Factor

It was noted that officers had been requested to produce a revised set of options for the mobility factor which provided the most equitable outcome for the majority of schools and two further options were tabled. Option 1a gave a 25% movement between the original Option 1 and Option 2, with Option 1b giving a movement of 50% between the original 2 options.. Schools with the highest mobility gained the most under Option 1b. Option 1a offered the most equitable position with changes to individual school funding falling into a narrower band of variation. Those schools with a mobility factor marginally above or below the 10% threshold had a reduction

in funding under all options, with option 1a giving the lowest reduction.

A lengthy discussion ensued on what method of calculation should be used and a comment was expressed that schools with over 10% mobility should in essence be protected first. It was agreed that if the current calculation was scrapped the two options would be:-

- (i) only allocate the £1,433,200 to schools with the over 10% mobility strictly in line with Government recommendations, or;
- (ii) accept the principle of maintaining the status quo as far as possible (the current calculation – Option 1a).

The general view of the meeting was to **RECOMMEND** that:-

- (i) above should be rejected on the basis that schools marginally under the 10% would be the most adversely affected and although not perfect the status quo should be maintained as far as possible and therefore Option 1a be proposed; and
- officers investigate a further option of whether moving funding from the per pupil element to the mobility flat rate element would improve the distribution of funding to those with more than 10% mobility.

NB: The Schools Forum must be consulted on decisions relating to formula changes (including redistributions) but this is a local authority decision (officer decision) made in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

Contributions from the Schools Block to school focused services delivered by the Council

The general view of the meeting was to **RECOMMEND** that the Forum agreed that the following services should be funded from the Schools Block:-

- Admissions function (£422,100)
- Family and Parenting Practitioners (£426,800)
- Preventative Social Care Workers (£200,000)
- Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) and Music Publishers Association (MPA) licences purchased nationally by DfE (£44,300)

De-delegation of funding for centrally held Union Duties Budget

The following was noted:-

- the basis of calculation for Unison & GMB was 1.7 FTE and did not include PA support;
- that Academies would have the option to buy in to this budget via a contractual arrangement; and
- should a central provision not be provided, individual schools would have to make local arrangements.

The general view of the meeting was to **RECOMMEND** that the de-delegation of a centrally held Trade Union Duties budget at a rate of up to £3.59 per pupil in

2014/15 be approved.

NB: Decisions relating to Central Expenditure and de-delegation of funding are a Schools Forum decision.

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

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper and attached service level agreement of the Commissioning Lead, Children's Services providing details of the shared service covering Hampshire, Southampton and Portsmouth.

8. **FINANCIAL BENCHMARKING INFORMATION 2013/14**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Financial Accountant providing details on financial benchmarking information issued by the DfE based on the 2013/14 Section 251 budget statement returns made by each authority.

9. **AOB – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT COMPARISONS**

The Principal Accountant Children's Services provided information on proposed changes to the 2014/15 Service Level Agreement charges.

The following was noted:-

- the genuine increases in costs had been built into the proposed charges for example there was an above RPI increase in any charges that reflected staff time as the council was in the process of reinstating terms and conditions;
- no increase had been made to recover shortfalls in income from merging schools or academy conversions;
- reduction in charges had been built into proposed recharges not just the increases.