

**SCHOOLS FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2014
CANTELL MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE**

Present:

Primary School

Peter Howard	-	Headteacher
John Draper	-	Headteacher
Amanda Talbot-Jones	-	Headteacher
Julie Swanston	-	Headteacher
Mark Sheehan	-	Headteacher
Liz Mizon	-	Governor

Secondary Schools

Richard Harris	-	Governor (Items 5-7)
Ruth Evans	-	Headteacher
Graham Wilson	-	Headteacher

Special Schools

Andy Evans	-	Headteacher
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Academies

David Turner	-	Townhill Infant School
Anne Murphy	-	St Anne's Convent

Pupil Referral Unit

Alison Parsons	-	Headteacher
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Non Schools

Councillor Paffey	-	SCC Councillor
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Observers

Sue Thompson	-	Early Years/Sure Start
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Also in attendance:

Theresa Leavy	SCC - People
Ed Harris	SCC - People
Lynn Franklin	SCC - Finance
Dave Cuerden	SCC - Finance
Sharon Pearson	SCC – Democratic Services

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

David Turner was elected Chair for the purposes of this meeting only and Richard Harris, in his absence was elected Chair for the remaining 2014/2015 Academic Year.

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

Apologies were received from Anna Wright, Ewan Scott, Jeannie Gibbons, Pete

Sopowski, Alice Wrighton, Karen Waters and Councillor Jeffery.

The following members and officers were welcomed:-

Alison Parsons - Headteacher at the Compass School, replacing Jane Smith who had retired.

Ed Harris – Principal Officer Education, replacing Graham Talbot

Dave Cuerden - Finance Manager, replacing Sue Poynter and Lynn Franklin

The Forum passed a vote of thanks to Lynn Franklin and Sue Poynter for their professionalism and friendly efficiency over the past few years and wished them both well in their new roles.

Members also passed a vote of thanks to Ruth Evans who had very kindly provided the venue and refreshments for the meeting.

It was noted that the meeting scheduled for 22nd October had been cancelled and that Alison Parsons, the Compass School kindly agreed to host the meeting scheduled for 14th January 2015.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2014 were approved as a correct record.

4. **SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS FORUM CONSTITUTION 2014/15**

The Forum received and noted the amended Southampton Schools Forum Constitution 2014/15.

5. **PROPOSED DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT SAVINGS 2015/16**

The Forum considered the briefing paper of the Education Finance Manager requesting the Forum's views on the recommended proposals for achieving the challenging savings target required for 2015/16.

The following issues and concerns were noted:-

- that the People Directorate had been asked to make significant savings and in particular had a target to save £1 million from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded services in 2015/16;
- Special Schools Outreach – an amount of £617,000 was currently allocated to some Special Schools for carrying out outreach services in Maintained Schools. It was proposed that going forward Special Schools would start to charge schools directly for services provided from 15/16 in order to replace the funding from the DSG. The Forum expressed concerns that if charged, schools might not take up this service and it would have a detrimental effect on the most vulnerable children. It was felt that if the entire funding was taken away, Special Schools could lose the specialists they employed and once again the most vulnerable children would be detrimentally affected. It was AGREED that this saving cut would be phased in over 2015/16 before taking full effect from April 2016;

- Emotional Well-being Development Officers – the team would be fully funded by means of a Service Level Agreement (SLA). The concern was again raised that schools would not make use of the SLA and the service would fall away;
- Early Years Development – efficiencies would be made within Early Years Development by retendering contracts and reducing contingency budgets. Essential ad hoc costs from April 2015 would be funded on a one-off basis from the Dedicated Schools Grant carry forward; and
- the proposals submitted in the briefing paper would be formally submitted to the Council meeting in November 2014.

5. **SCHOOLS AND EARLY YEARS FINANCE (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2014**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant for Early Years and Education detailing the amended Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014.

6. **CHILDREN'S TRANSFORMATION UPDATE**

The Forum received a presentation from the Interim Head of Service providing an update on the Children's Transformation Programme.

The following comments and issues were noted:-

- all services had been redesigned and the Ofsted inspection had confirmed that the Local Authority's self-assessment in relation to service provision and quality was good;
- Southampton's greatest strength was its partnership working, with one of the most integrated provisions in the country; and
- the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) had gone live on 1 April 2014 and would take some time to bed down. However, repeat referrals had reduced and families were beginning to access services much more quickly, which was positive. Ofsted had commented that the Southampton MASH was one of the strongest in the country. As MASH consisted of integrated partnership working including social workers, health workers, police and many other agencies, this would help offset the issues relating to the savings cuts to Special Schools outreach services and the Emotional Well-being Development Officers.

The Forum thanked the Interim Head of Service for an informative presentation and wished her well with the ongoing progress of fully achieving the key priorities of the Children's Transformation Programme and the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.