

**SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS' FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 7th MARCH 2012
AT MANSBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Present:

Primary School

David Turner	-	Governor
Colin Warburg	-	Governor (Chair)
Liz Filer	-	Headteacher
Julie Swanston	-	Headteacher
Mark Sheehan	-	Headteacher

Secondary Schools

Ruth Evans	-	Headteacher
Karen Dagwell	-	Headteacher

Academy

Ian Golding	-	Principal
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Special Schools

Jonathan Howells	-	Headteacher
Suzy Foster	-	Governor

Nursery Schools

Karen Stacey	-	Headteacher
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Non Schools

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

Observers

Councillor Bogle	-	Bargate Ward Councillor
Councillor Turner	-	Swaythling Ward Councillor

Also in attendance:

Councillor Moulton	-	Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Learning
Clive Webster	-	Children's Services and Learning
Alison Alexander	-	Children's Services and Learning
Lynn Franklin	-	Children's Services and Learning
Carolyn Worthy	-	Children's Services and Learning
Chris Tombs	-	Children's Services and Learning
Karl Limbert	-	Children's Services and Learning
Julia Katherine	-	Children's Services and Learning
Simon Slater	-	Children's Services and Learning

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

Richard Harris, Susan Trigger, Chris Bulmer and Sue Thompson

The Chair welcomed observers, Councillor Bogle and Councillor Turner 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 25th April 2012 and Ruth Evans, Cantell Maths and Computing College had very kindly agreed to host the meeting.

As Richard Harris was not present, Colin Warburg chaired the meeting.

Members wished Carolyn Worthy well for her retirement and passed a vote of thanks for her friendly assistance and hard work over the years.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2012 were approved as a correct record.

3. **REVIEW OF PREVENTION AND INCLUSION TEAM**

The Forum received the briefing paper of the Principal Educational Psychologist, providing a review of the work of the prevention and inclusion social workers and the parenting and family teams for the Forum to consider and agree additional funding to increase the capacity of these teams during the financial year 2012-13.

It was noted that:-

- although there were no waiting lists, the teams were working to capacity and there was an awareness from discussions with schools and voluntary agencies that their safeguarding concerns and a significant unmet need that was not always identified through the CAF process;
- the funding would be in addition to the core funding arrangements agreed at the January meeting;
- the paper provided an excellent overview of the current work being undertaken and showed that intervention had a significant impact on school attendance;
- prior to the funding cuts schools had direct access to their own cluster social worker which had been more efficient than the CAF process at present;
- it would be difficult to provide an efficient service through a Service Level Agreement as requests for the service were unpredictable, making the service reactive to demand ; and
- early intervention would improve the situation and hopefully reduce the number of Tier 3/4 cases.

RESOLVED that a decision would be made on funding under Item 4.

PROVISIONAL DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT - 2012-13

The Forum received the decision paper of the Children's Services and Learning Finance Manager, detailing the estimated 2012/13 Dedicated Schools Grant, provisional Individual Schools and Central Expenditure Budgets and requesting the Forum's decision on the proposed recommendations.

The following was noted:-

- **Pupil Numbers** - there was considerable growth in the Early Years and Primary school numbers;
- **Contribution Reductions** - there would be no funding reductions for Pupils with Statements and Alternative Provision as they had been "repaid" by the additional contingency funding for Newly Qualified Teachers and Staff Maternity Cover which will now be allocated in the ISB;
- **Carbon Reduction Commitment** - more accurate estimates for the 2011-12 costs would be brought to the Forum later in the year;
- **Fair Funding Data** - "Prior attainment results" used in SEN funding and "Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index" would be frozen in order to reduce turbulence in the budget shares .
- If the proposed contributions were agreed there would be a small reduction in the ISB, but overall still 2.1% growth.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations be agreed:-

- (i) that the estimated Dedicated Schools Grant for 2012/13 of £148.4 million be noted;
- (ii) that the Central Expenditure Limit (CEL) be breached by £160,000 in 2012/13 to fund the schools' Carbon Reduction Commitment (0.12% of Individual Schools Budget);
- (iii) that the Central Expenditure Limit (CEL) be breached by £100,000 in 2012/13 to double the capacity of the Prevention and Inclusion Social Work team (0.07% of Individual Schools Budget) and to agree to classify this as a "Combined Service";

It was AGREED that the service -

- would be the same as the original model, prior to the funding cuts; and
- would be continuously monitored and an update provided to the Forum at a later date.

Upon putting to the vote recommendation (iii) was carried, subject to the above agreement.

For	10
Against	1 – Beverley Murtagh
Abstained	1 – Jonathan Howells

- (iv) that a centrally held school contingency budget of £120,000 to fund rates adjustments and schools in financial difficulty as a result of changes in pupil numbers had been previously approved. Any unspent balances would be reimbursed to schools at the end of the financial year on the basis of numbers on roll; and
- (v) that two factors “Prior attainment results” and “Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index” in the Fair Funding Formula would be frozen in 2012/13.

5 **REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

Karl Limbert provided the Forum with an update on the present situation and the following was noted:-

- the Local Authority would not be operating a Repairs and Maintenance Service Level Agreement in 2012-13;
- schools would be provided with guidance relating to regulations, health and safety, insurance, providers and other details relevant to repairs and maintenance;
- a draft paper on the above would be electronically circulated to all Heads;
- a Term Servicing SLA which would cover all statutory compliance responsibilities would be offered by the Local Authority, either through Capita or another party and
- the reasons why the Repairs and Maintenance Service Level Agreement had not been successful were briefly outlined.

6 **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (SLA) TERMINATIONS MID-YEAR**

Schools had indicated that they were not happy with the wording on the Service Level Agreement Response Form allowing the Council the right to withdraw a service by giving three months notice and had requested officers to investigate the possibility of schools having a reciprocal right of termination with the possibility of being refunded if they did so. As a result of this officers provided the Forum with possible draft wording in relation to these two issues.

A discussion ensued and the following concerns were noted:-

- the Forum was not happy with the draft wording put forward;
- it was important that SLA's provided good quality service;
- some SLA's had previously been withdrawn by the Council during the year;
- if a number of schools terminated SLA's in mid-year this would lead to them becoming unsustainable and unable to be continued.

It was AGREED that the draft wording would be referred to the Executive Director of Children's Services for him to make a decision on the new wording, once he had satisfied himself on the reasoning behind the wording.

7 **PROPOSED MATERNITY SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT 2012-13**

Schools had requested that officers investigate the possibility of providing a Maternity Service Level Agreement. A discussion ensued and the following was noted:-

- the last time a Maternity Service Level Agreement had been offered 56% of schools had not received any reimbursement;
- in 2010/11 when maternity reimbursement was funded by contingency, the average paid out per school was £2,160
- the charging method would be complicated;
- external private companies could offer this provision which would be more competitive than the Local Authority.

Upon putting to the vote it was AGREED that this proposed SLA would not be taken forward.

8 **SCHOOL REVENUE BALANCES 2010-11**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant Schools, comparing Southampton Schools with their regional and statistical neighbours and published data from the Department for Education on School Revenue Balances for 2010-11.

The following was noted:-

- Southampton schools were in line with the national trend of increasing revenue balances;
- Southampton now had a higher percentage of schools in surplus;
- Southampton schools' average deficit balance had remained steady unlike its statistical neighbours; and
- the reported statistics indicated that Southampton schools were managing their finances well.

9 **ACADEMY LACSEG RATES, THE SCHOOL FINANCE (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012 AND CONSULTATION ON DIRECTED REVISIONS TO SCHEMES FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Children's Services and Learning Finance Manager, providing information on Academy LACSEG rates, The School Finance (England) Regulations 2012 and the DfE consultation on directed revisions to schemes for financing schools.

The following was noted:-

- **LACSEG** – the grant was being reduced as Local Authorities were monitoring the costs classified as LACSEG services to ensure that only those that related to the additional responsibilities of the Academy were included
- **The School Finance (England) Regulations 2012** – changes had been made to the Minimum Funding Guarantee, Pupil Premium, Deficits for

closing schools and Single budgets for Federation.

- **Local Authority Schemes: Directed Revisions 2012** – a number of revisions and key changes were being proposed by the Secretary of State and if approved all governing bodies and headteachers would be consulted on these directed revisions to the Southampton Scheme for Financing Schools.