

**SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS' FORUM  
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014  
CANTELL MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE**

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Present:

Primary School

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

Secondary Schools

Richard Harris	-	Governor
Ruth Evans	-	Headteacher
Karen Dagwell	-	Headteacher
Graham Wilson	-	Headteacher

Academies

Anne Murphy	-	St Anne's Convent School
Jeannie Gibbons	-	Ludlow Infant School
Colin Warburg	-	Springhill College
David Turner	-	Townhill Infant School

Special Schools

Andy Evans	-	Great Oaks
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Non Schools

Anna Wright	-	PVI provider of early year entitlement
Jane Smith	-	PRU – Compass School

Also in attendance:

Graham Talbot	-	SCC - People
Sue Thompson	-	Observer – EYCP
Lynn Franklin	-	SCC - Finance
Sue Poynter	-	SCC - Finance
Councillor Turner	-	Observer
Sharon Pearson	-	SCC - Democratic Services

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

Apologies were received from Karen Stacey, Peter Sopowski, Alice Wrighton and Councillor Lloyd.

The following new members were welcomed:

John Draper and Amanda Talbot-Jones, Primary Headteacher members and Liz Mizon, Primary Governor member. It was also noted that the new Cabinet Member for Education was Councillor Jeffery.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> March at Ludlow Infant School. It was agreed that the start time for future meetings would be **3.30**.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013 were approved as a correct record.

### Matters Arising – Page 3-4 – Item 6 – Decision Paper - Primary and Secondary School Funding Formula 2014-15 – Mobility Factor Update and Central Expenditure Requests

It was noted that two finance issues had been tabled at the above meeting for decision i.e. a proposal to continue to fund central services from the schools block and a proposal to de-delegate £3.59 per pupil from all maintained Primary and Secondary Schools for trade union duties. As the meeting was not quorate at this stage i.e. not enough voting members present, the information was circulated electronically and a decision to accept these recommendations had been obtained. It was also noted that after a further analysis of the mobility factor Option 1(a) which had been considered at the above meeting was deemed to have the fairest outcome.

## 3. **EARLY YEARS BLOCK**

The Forum received a decision paper of the Principal Accountant, Children's Services for the Forum to note the proposed allocation of the Early Years Block and requesting approval of the central expenditure elements summarised in the Appendix.

The following was noted:-

- that the Schools Forum had decision-making powers to approve Central Expenditure but the transfer of monies between Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Blocks was a local authority decision;
- that Early Years funding differed from school funding as providers were funded for the child's hours that they actually provided each term, rather than on an annual pupil count;
- nationally 20% of 2 year old children are currently funded, this is increasing to 40% from September 2014. Southampton is adopting the 40% changes from April 2014.
- that the transfer of £894,400 to the High Needs Block was a workable solution for 2014/15 but this would be reviewed again when setting the 2015/15 estimates.

A discussion ensued regarding the use of the available funding to meet the pressures within the high needs block and whether this should be used to support providers of Early Years Settings. It was noted that all Early Years settings would be receiving an increase in their rates for 2014/15. 3 and 4 year old providers will

receive a 1% increase on their individual rates and the flat rate for 2 year olds will increase from £4.85 to £4.95. Further increases cannot be offered at this stage as the impact of moving to 'participation' funding in 2015/16 needs to be assessed. In doing this it was agreed that a review of current rates to providers would be undertaken within the constraints of what will be affordable.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) to note the proposed Early Years block of £14.9 million; and
- (ii) that the central expenditure elements of the Early Years Block summarised in Appendix 1 be approved.

4. **2014/15 SCHOOLS BLOCK**

The Forum received a briefing paper of the Finance Manager, Children's Services, providing details of the 2013/14 Schools Block which funded Primary and Secondary school budget shares and central services retained by the local authority

The following was noted:-

- that the pupil count was based on the October 2013 census;
- that maintained schools in England will be withdrawn from the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme in April 2014, and a deduction had been made from the DSG to compensate the Treasury for the loss of this revenue;
- that the following budgets approved by the Forum to be held centrally were de-delegated from maintained schools. Academies are able to buy into them:
  - Support for schools in financial difficulties (£346,000); and
  - Trade Union Duties (£96,000);
- that any underspends in budgets had to be rolled forward and added to the following years central expenditure
- that after updating pupil data the school budget shares had an overspend of £43,400 which was as a result of a change in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile used in the Prior attainment factor.
- that the final Individual Schools Budget was £124,519,400

It was unanimously AGREED that the overspend of £43,400 would be offset by reducing the contingency for Support for Schools in financial difficulties.

A discussion ensued and the Forum expressed the following concerns and requested clarification:-

- **Intervention Fund** - written confirmation of the current policy of allocation as concern was raised that this should not be allocated to any Academies as the fund is created by de-delegating money from maintained schools only; and
- **People Transformation** - how the Preventative Social Care Workers budget (£200,000) and Family and Parenting Team Budget (£426,800) fitted into the Children's Transformation. Members were concerned that money was provided by the Forum for one purpose and used for another and were particularly concerned about the Preventative Social Workers as they felt

that they were doing a good job at present.

It was AGREED that Theresa Leavy would be invited to attend the March meeting to provide Members with more information relating to the Transformation Programme and the MASH, specifically relating to the Preventative Social care Workers budget and how this service would be available in a different format.

5. **HIGH NEEDS BLOCK**

The Forum received a briefing paper from the Finance Manager, Children Services, outlining proposals for the High Needs Block, including funding for Special Schools, units in maintained schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRU's) from April 2014.

The following was noted:-

- that Education Health & Care Plans (EHCP) would be replacing Statements;
- that despite the growth in high needs pupils the amount of funding did not increase comparatively and this would lead to a pressure which would be difficult to manage in future years. Local authorities are now required to meet the assessed high needs of 19-24 year olds.;
- that schools were responsible for the first £6,000 of a pupil's additional high need cost, equivalent to 12 hours of Learning Support Assistant time and were reimbursed from the High Needs Block if more support was required;
- that officers would be meeting with head teachers of Special Schools on 7<sup>th</sup> February. One of the proposals to be investigated was the operation of a vacancy factor which would increase the top-up funding to compensate for low numbers in the Autumn term and allow provision for empty places available for placing pupils during the financial year;
- Compass School would be funded for 160 places and although present numbers on roll were not at this level, numbers were rapidly expanding;
- that the Tremona Road medical unit now has a delegated budget. Officers considered that they had received an adequate and fair delegated budget which they needed to manage back into a positive balance before they could become an academy;

It was AGREED that officers would circulate electronically to all Forum Members figures for out of city pupils.

6. **SOUTHAMPTON CONNECT**

The Forum received a verbal update by the Chair, providing background information on Southampton Connect which was a forum where a wide range of providers and city leaders came together to engage in various projects. Jo Ash, SVS was the Chair and Southampton City Council's Chief Executive also attended the Forum. It was noted that the Chair had been approached by Southampton Connect to ascertain whether the Schools Forum would be interested in having a schools representative on their Forum. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that this suggestion would be discussed at the next Heads Conference as it might be useful to have both a Secondary and Primary Head to attend. Karen Dagwell agreed to attend the Southampton Connect meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February and provide feedback on the meeting.