

**SCHOOLS FORUM  
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014  
LUDLOW INFANT ACADEMY**

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Present:

Primary School

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

Secondary Schools

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

Academies

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

Pupil Referral Unit

Jane Smith	-	Headteacher
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Nursery

Karen Stacey	-	Headteacher
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Non Schools

Peter Sopowski	-	NUT Secretary
Alice Wrighton	-	Post 16 – Richard Taunton 6 <sup>th</sup> Form College
Councillor Paffey	-	SCC Councillor

Also in attendance:

Councillor Jeffery	-	Cabinet Member for Education and Change
Graham Talbot	-	SCC - People
Theresa Leavy	-	SCC - People
Sue Thompson	-	Observer – EYCP
Lynn Franklin	-	SCC - Finance
Sue Poynter	-	SCC - Finance
Jason Taylor	-	SCC
Freddie Collins	-	SCC
Delia Cuertis	-	Inspire Academy - Observer
Steph Smith	-	Community Language Trust
Sarwar Jamil	-	Community Language Trust
Kulvinder Lakhpuri	-	Community Language Trust
Councillor Turner	-	Observer
Sharon Pearson	-	SCC - Democratic Services

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

Apologies were received from Colin Warburg, Anna Wright, Mark Sheehan, Karen Dagwell and Andy Evans.

The following were welcomed:

Councillor Jeffery, the new Cabinet Member for Education and Change, Steph Smith, Sarwar Jamil and Kulvinder Lakhpuri from the Community Language Trust and Delia Cuertis from the new Inspire Enterprise Academy in Southampton who was observing.

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

Members noted that the meeting scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> April was cancelled as there was no business to discuss and therefore the next meeting was 25<sup>th</sup> June. Peter Howard, Fairisle Junior School very kindly agreed to host this meeting which would commence at 3.45 to facilitate parking for members.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were approved as a correct record.

3. **SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND UNIT PROVISION 2014/15**

The Forum received and noted a briefing paper of the Principal Accountant, Children's Services detailing the proposals for the funding for Special Schools, units in Maintained Schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) from April 2014.

The following was noted:-

- that the local authority had identified, based on current profile, the number of places required at the Special Schools, Special Free Schools and special units and that Great Oaks Special School would be expanded by 17 places in September 2014;
- Special Schools, Special Free Schools and Maintained Schools with a special unit would be funded on the basis of a flat £10000 per place plus a pupil top-up fund on the **actual numbers** of pupils in the school; 2013/14 was the first year of this basis of funding. Bandings for 2014/15 had been adjusted based on 2013/14 actual numbers.
- top-up funding per pupil would be paid on the basis of three place types, Band 1, 2 and 3; this varies from school to school mainly. Costs were higher per pupil for smaller schools and this was reflected in banding rates. If schools were funded at the same rate small schools would receive much less funding than the larger schools;
- that a vacancy factor would be operated to increase a school's top-up funding to compensate for low numbers in the Autumn term;
- outreach funding to be investigated as present funding was not sustainable and there was no outreach funding for secondary behavioural issues;
- any child transferred from one school to another would be transferred on the

- same band; and
- that further work would be undertaken by officers on the 2015/16 formula to ensure that top up funding was allocated on a fair and transparent basis between schools and that a further report would be submitted on these issues in Autumn 2014.

#### 4. **ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROVISION – THE COMPASS SCHOOL**

The Forum received and noted a briefing paper of the Principal Accountant, Children’s Services, outlining how placements would be commissioned at The Compass School (ALP) 2014/15.

The following was noted:-

- that 15 places for the KS1-2 provision for Primary – Band 1 was not enough;
- Primary Schools were paying more on a pro rata basis than secondary schools compared to the amount of funding received within the schools budget share per pupil; and
- that the statementing process caused place blocking which was slowing down the ability to move children on.

#### 5. **CHILDREN’S TRANSFORMATION**

The Forum received a verbal presentation from the Interim Head of Service providing more information on how the Preventative Social Care Workers budget (£200,000) and Family and Parenting Team budget (£426,800) fitted into the Transformation Programme and the MASH and how this service would be available in a different format.

The following was noted:-

- present challenges included gaps in and duplication of services;
- the change programme currently underway will mainstream the “Families Matter” programme into the new Early Help Team. Alongside a raft of other structural and service changes, including a MASH (multi-agency safeguarding hub), specialist teams of social workers, improved quality assurance and the new Early Help team would shift the focus and culture towards earlier interventions and a co-ordinated family service;
- the Early Help team would further expand the multi-agency working to include social workers, education welfare officers, school nurses and health visitors (for under 4’s);
- the new integrated model would strengthen safeguarding, increase health and social work expertise directly in the team and enable closer working between tiers of support, ensuring continuity of the programme while shifting towards earlier interventions;
- each family would have 1 lead practitioner which would ensure that there would be up to date and continuity of data on each family/child involved;
- structure charts would be published in the very near future and MASH would be live on 31 March 2014; and
- a further report/presentation would be submitted towards the end of the year,

providing information on how the programme was working.

## 6. **COMMUNITY LANGUAGE TRUST**

The Forum received a presentation from Steph Smith, Sarwar Jamil and Kulvinder Lakhpuri from the Community Language Trust providing information on the services that the Trust provided and requesting assistance and/or advice on how to continue this service.

The following was noted:-

- the service had been established in 1991, jointly funded by Southampton, Hampshire and Portsmouth Councils;
- this was not a statutory service and unfortunately due to funding cuts experienced by local councils, the service would only be supported until July 2014 ;
- that the service was a community lead organisation which had been created to safeguard the community language classes and taught more than 1300 children in 17 different languages;
- in Southampton, children from 33 primary, secondary , academies and colleges attended community language classes and on average every year, more than 50 students from Southampton schools and colleges passed GCSE, AS and A level examination in community language subjects;
- many studies since 1980 supported the positive effects of the maintenance of community languages and suggested learning their first language not only enhanced children's cognitive development, but also helped in the acquisition of a second language;
- families could not teach to GCSE standard, there was no mainstream provision and no provision for private tuition;
- in the absence of the Council's financial support, schools may be able to "rescue the community language classes" as they were safe, had a congenial environment and good equipment, were not aligned to any specific group or community and public liability insurance was provided by the Council.

It was AGREED that :-

- contact details of the Community Languages Trust would be provided to all Forum members; and
- that the request for assistance would be raised at the next Secondary Heads' Conference.

## 7. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME FOR SCC SCHOOLS**

The Forum received a briefing paper from the Project Coordinator, Sustainability, detailing a programme to increase the energy efficiency of the schools estate by capitalising on the Salix financing scheme, which would be managed by the Council with the aim of accelerating the reduction of school energy bills.

The following was noted:-

- an audit had been undertaken of 26 schools and they would be individually contacted over the next two months and advised as to what the potential savings would be and the size of the corresponding loan required ;
- the annual savings of the project were required to equal or exceed the yearly payment of the loan so there would be no overall impact on the finances of the school over the period of the loan;
- the Secretary of State had given permission that Academies could take part in this scheme;
- the Council was in a position to provide this service at a lower cost than the commercial sector and the overall cost of managing the programme would be incorporated within the loan; and
- officers would ensure that there would be no disruption to schools during the implementation process.

It was AGREED that officers would provide members with a list of schools audited and who would be contacted over the next two months as part of phase 1 of the programme.