

SCHOOLS FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 20th JANUARY 2016
TEST HUB, COMPASS SCHOOL, GREEN LANE

Present:

<u>Primary School Representatives</u>	
Ian Taylor	Oakwood Junior School (Nominated Substitute)
Peter Howard	Fairisle Junior School
Julie Swanston	Woolston Primary School
Amanda Talbot-Jones	St Denys Primary School
John Draper	Swaythling Primary School
<u>Secondary School Representatives</u>	
Toni Sambrook	Woodlands Community College
Jonty Archibald	Regents Park Community College
<u>Special Schools Representatives</u>	
Andy Evans	Great Oaks Primary
<u>Academy Representatives</u>	
Anne Murphy	St Anne's Convent School
Sean Preston	Hamwic Trust
<u>Pupil Referral Unit Representative</u>	
Alison Parsons	Compass School
<u>Nursery Schools Representative</u>	
Anne Downie	Startpoint Northam and Sholing
<u>Non Schools Representative</u>	
Chris Ode	TLP
<u>Observers</u>	
Jeanette Miller	SCC- Lead Officer, Children's Data Team
Anna Wright	PVI Provider
<u>Also in attendance:</u>	
Jo Cassey	Principal Officer Education and Early Years
Dave Cuerden	SCC - Finance Manager
Irfan Khan	SCC - Principal Accountant

1. APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)

The Forum noted the apologies of Richard Harris (Chair), David Turner (Vice-Chair), Mark Sheehan, Martin Brown and Councillor Keogh.

In addition the following vacancies were noted:

- Primary Group – 1x Vacancy
- Secondary Group – 1x Vacancy
- Academy Group – 1x Vacancy
- Special Schools – 1 x Vacancy

2. EARLY YEARS BLOCK

The Forum considered the decision paper of the Council's Finance Manager detailing the allocations within the Early Years Block.

School forum agreed the revised central expenditure within the Early Years block. The Forum AGREED the following:

2,3,4 Year Old Childcare Funding	£13,016,200
Early Years Development	£491,100
Contracts with National Childminding Association and Pre-school Learning Alliance	£100,000
EY funding for administration, staffing and systems	£64,400
Overheads	£172,600
Total	£13,844,300

3. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK

The Forum considered and noted the briefing paper of the Council's Finance Manager outlining proposals for the High Needs Block including funding for Special Schools, Special Units in Maintained Schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) from April 2016.

Noted that that the numbers on role for special school places had been reviewed and updated. The Forum NOTED that the total funding allocated to the High needs block was set at £21,499,000.

4. 2016/2017 SCHOOLS BLOCK

The Forum considered the decision paper of the Finance Manager detailing the 2016/17 Schools Block which funds Primary and Secondary School budget shares and Central Services retained by the Local Authority.

De- delegation

Schools in financial difficulties

The schools forum AGREED that £100,000 be delegated into a funding Support for schools in financial difficulties. It was also agreed that the Special Schools will be given an opportunity to contribute to this fund and they will be advised about their contribution in due course. It was further agreed that a report by the Head of Education and Early Years about the criteria for using this fund and options for 2016/17 allocations, will be

brought back to March school forum meeting.

Trade union duties

Primary Schools AGREED to de-delegate funding for Trade Union Duties, However the Secondary Schools did NOT AGREE to de-delegate funding for this.

It was noted that the balance of £71,600 would be adjusted to reflect the impact of this decision and the appropriate proportion of funding be held centrally. It was also noted that the Secondary Schools will be offered a Service Level Agreement (SLA) should any secondary school wish to buy back this service.

Central Services

The Forum AGREED the following funding to be held centrally

Primary Growth Fund (<i>in line with the criteria outlined in sections 9 & 10 of 2016/17 Schools Block report</i>)	£613,200
Admissions function	£422,100
MASH and Early Help	£626,800
CLA and MP licences	£128,200

It was NOTED that the Schools would need to recommend an approach to reduce the Schools Block by £1,105,600 in order to facilitate the transfer of funding to the High Needs Block.

The School Forum were presented three options to achieve the required reduction to meet the transfer to High Needs. It was noted that due to the Department for Education now using IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index) 2015, a number of schools are now at the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).

The Forum NOTED that the options were based on changes to the baseline 2014/15 Average Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) and adjustments to the cap on any schools that net gain.

The Forum AGREED that option 1 set out in papers would be used.