

SCHOOLS FORUM
MEETING HELD ON 11th FEBRUARY 2014

PRESENT:

Primary School Headteachers: Mrs M Carlton, Mrs J Conway, Mr T Gittins, Mr G Leck and Mrs J Rea

Primary School Governors: Mr H Smith and Mr C Wilson

Secondary School Headteachers: Mr C Walker and Mrs J Wilson

Secondary School Governor: Mr L Wadey

Academy Representative: Mr B Jordon

Diocesan Representative: Dr P Mackie - Chair

L A Representative: Councillor Mrs C Clark

Trade Union Representative: Mr D Campbell

Officials: Mrs L Brown – Head Education, Early Years and Complex Needs
Mr D New – Senior Finance Manager
Mrs N Fletcher – Secretary to the Forum

1. **EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

Members noted the Evacuations procedures to be used to exit the building in an emergency.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs A Cains, Mrs E Horne and Mrs M O'Connor

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members were invited to declare any personal or business interests they may have in any item included on the agenda.

No interests were declared.

4. **MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING – 21st JANUARY 2014**

Following discussion members AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2014 be amended under agenda item 8 Delegation / De-delegation.

RESOLVED

- a) that the minutes of the 21st January 2014 be amended to indicate where voting took place under agenda item 8

- b) that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2014 as amended be approved as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Universal Free Infant School Meals

D New reported that a letter had been sent to all Headteachers from Mr M Gove – Secretary of State for Education, informing them that all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils were to receive free school meals from September 2014. Funding would be at a flat rate of £2.30 based on take up, measured at the next years school census, with transitional arrangements for small schools. If all eligible pupils took up the free school meal Stockton would receive approximately £2.4m.

Some Primary Headteacher representatives indicated that they had not as yet received the letter from Mr Gove.

5.2 SBC Website

D New informed members that under the Children and Young Peoples section of the SBC Website the statutory papers relating to Section 251 statement and the Scheme for Financing Schools had been published.

6. DELEGATION / DE-DELEGATION

J Wilson informed members that she wished to rescind the vote taken at the previous meeting on Contingencies following consultation with her Secondary Headteacher colleagues.

H Smith reported that at the recent Governors Voice meeting, to which all Chairs of Governors had been invited, those in attendance (12) had unanimously agreed to the de-delegation of all the outlined services.

J Wilson advised colleagues that at the recent Secondary Headteachers and Principals Meeting, the Headteachers of the maintained schools had unanimously agreed to the de-delegation of the outlined services.

T Gittins informed colleagues that at a recent Primary Headteachers CMT meeting Headteachers had received more information around the de-delegation of services from L Brown. Colleagues had also received information from Val Rudd – Headteacher of Rosebrook Primary School as to how School to School support was being used in the primary sector, including the Reading Recovery Program and Adviser Support. Some colleagues considered that this type of support should not be funded via the school to school support, they felt individual schools should fund this type of support from their own budget. The general view was that, with reservations the Primary Headteachers agreed to de-delegation of all the outlined services for the 2014/15 financial year. Some of the concerns raised by the Primary Headteachers were around Behaviour Support Services and Support for Ethnic Minority Groups, they had questioned what were these services providing and how could they be accessed. Concerns had also been raised around academies receiving additional support without being charged for the additional services they had received.

T Gittins reported that he had received 24 responses to the consultation with primary colleagues; the views received had been split.

L Brown advised colleagues that she had attended the recent Primary Headteachers CMT meeting to raise awareness of de-delegation and the services which were provided via the de-delegated funding. During the meeting she had been made aware of the concerns around Support for Ethnic Minority Groups, but did not recall any concerns regarding Behaviour Support Services. She informed members that she had investigated the concern raised that an academy had received additional support from the LA at no additional cost. She had been informed that the matter had been around a child being taken into care.

Following discussion, members,

RESOLVED

- a) to rescind the following resolutions from the previous meeting;
 - to delegate the £30,032 primary allocation for contingencies;
 - to delegate the £13,776 secondary allocation for contingencies;
- b) to de-delegate the £30,032 primary allocation for contingencies;
- c) to de-delegate the £13,776 secondary allocation for contingencies;
- d) to de-delegate the £76,502 primary allocation for Contingencies – Support to Schools Partnership Fund;
- e) to de-delegate the £35,101 secondary allocation for Contingencies – Support to Schools Partnership Fund;
- f) to de-delegate the £117,669 primary allocation for Behaviour and Support Service;
- g) to de-delegate the £91,807 secondary allocation for Behaviour and Support Service;
- h) to de-delegate the £47,125 primary allocation for Support to Underperforming Ethnic Minority Groups and Bilingual Learners;
- i) to de-delegate the £39,564 secondary allocation for Support to Underperforming Ethnic Minority Groups and Bilingual Learners;

6. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business raised.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting would be held at 1:30pm on Tuesday 6th May 2014 at the Media Centre, The Grangefield Academy.