

**SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**MEETING HELD ON 5 MAY 2015**

**PRESENT:**

Primary School Headteachers: Ms M Carlton, Mrs J Conway (Chair), Mrs S Randle and Mrs J Rea

Primary School Governors: Mrs S Symington and Mr C Wilson

Secondary School Headteachers: Mr C Walker and Mr S White

Secondary School Governor: Mr J Thompson

Academy Representatives: Mr B Jordan, Mrs M O'Connor and Ms B Atkinson

Special School Headteacher: Mrs E Horne

Diocesan Representative: Mr C Hammill

L A Representative: Councillor Mrs C Clark

14-19 Representative: Ms J Bailey

Pupil Referral Unit Representative: Ms L Chilton

Officials: Mr D New – Senior Finance Manager  
 Miss J Humphreys – Corporate Director CESC  
 Mrs L Brown – Head of Education, Early Years and Complex Needs  
 Cllr A McCoy – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People  
 Mrs E Barrett – Secretary to the Schools Forum

1. **EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

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

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence submitted.

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 – 27 JANUARY 2015**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2015 be approved as a true record.

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

5.1 **Pupil Premium**

D New confirmed he had contacted the DFE regarding the question raised

around the future potential criteria for FSM Ever 6 Pupil Premium funding and information collected on Early years Pupils.. It was noted that no consideration had been given around inclusion of two year's or 3 & 4 years olds (ie using info from the new Early Years Pupil Premium) funding at this stage. Further consideration may be given to this after the General Election in May 2015.

## 6. DFE ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA 2015 - 2016

Thirteen factor values were used in the formula to fund mainstream Primary and Secondary Schools for 2015 – 2016. Two of these factors were mandatory, Deprivation and Basic Per pupil entitlement. The remaining eleven factors were optional.

### **Basic per pupil entitlement**

Age weighted pupil unit (AWPU) for Primary was £2,566.48. This was at the lower end of the guidelines. At Key Stage 3 the AWPU was £3,286.96 which again was at the low end of the guidelines. Key Stage 4 the AWPU was £4,789.67 which was at the higher end.

The average amount allocated through basic entitlement was between 61 – 88%. Stockton allocated 70.17% although this was still compliant with the national minimum.

### **Deprivation**

12.54% of schools block funding was allocated through the deprivation factor. This included Free School Meals. There was a national range of between 1% and 21% allocated for this factor. *A member noted it was difficult to analyse the data as Primary and Secondary were added together and would it be useful to compare with statistical neighbours.* D New would investigate this along with data regarding the performance of Pupil Premium children.

D New

### **Looked After Children (LAC)**

£1,295.09 was allocated to this factor per child. This was the in the top percentage of LA allocations. It was noted that LAC had always been a priority for the authority.

### **Prior Attainment**

This was an optional factor and was used as an indicator at both Primary and Secondary level of under performing pupils. £1,037.06 was allocated per Primary pupil and £1,032.75 was allocated per Secondary Pupil. This equated to 4.23% of the schools block funding allocated to prior attainment.

### **English as an Additional Language (EAL)**

£601.04 per Primary pupil and £2,623.77 per Secondary Pupil was allocated for EAL. Proportionately this was a small factor at 0.46% of schools block.

### **Mobility**

This factor was not used in Stockton.

### **Pupil Led Factors**

The Pupil Led Factors as above accounted for 87.65% of the total Schools Block funding. This was 2% lower than the national average of 89.56%.

### **Lump Sum**

The LA allocated £169,409.67 to both Primary and Secondary sectors although the need to have equal allocations had been removed. This equated to 10.7% of the total funding compared to 8.7% nationally.

### **Sparsity**

This factor was not used by Stockton.

**Primary : Secondary funding ratios**

The funding ratio was 1:1.3 therefore Secondary Schools received 30% more funding than Primary Schools. Nationally this was 29%.

**Notional SEN**

This was not a separate formula factor however funds must be specified against each relevant factor for Notional SEN. 8.8% of the total schools block was allocated, this was compared to the median national allocation of 8.9%.

**Growth Fund**

This factor would be discussed at agenda item 8.

**Falling Rolls fund**

This factor was not used by Stockton.

*A member questioned stability if there was a move to a National Funding formula. D New confirmed that the Government may look at averages in the future if the funding moved into a national agreement.*

7. HIGH NEEDS REVIEW

L Brown provided a verbal report on the High Needs Review. A paper would be provided at the next Schools Forum meeting on the review. It was noted that as a result of the SEN reforms and a change from statements to Education Health Care plans, a review was needed particularly with reference to the funding. The pressures of high needs funding would impact on funding available in other areas.

Agenda

*A member asked what the breakdown of allocation of funding was between Special Schools, Resource bases, mainstream and out of county provision. This data could be gathered. More children were being placed out of Borough for educational needs.*

*A member asked about the timeline for the DfE review. This was unclear however it was agreed this would need to be linked to the Schools Forum review in order for the proposals to be streamlined.*

8. GROWTH FUND – PRIMARY ADMISSIONS

L Brown referred to the School Growth Fund report previously circulated as confidential. It was highlighted that there had been an unforeseen demand for Reception School places commencing September 2015 in Central and North Stockton and Thornaby. However in Yarm, Eaglescliffe and Ingleby Barwick there had been a decrease in demand for places. This equated to 120 pupils with no allocation for September.

L Brown had met with J Conway over the Easter holidays and contact had been made with specific Heads and Chairs of Schools who may be able to take additional Reception children into their Schools. Approval was given by all relevant Heads and Chairs by the end of Easter to offer these additional places and this was completed before National Offer Day 16 April 2015.

D New outlined the funding implications in these exceptional circumstances for the Forum. The Growth Fund had been in place since April 2013 where the Forum had agreed the criteria for this factor. However the agreed criteria would not cover the situation for September 2015. It was noted that this situation had been unforeseen and it was unclear if this was a blip or a trend.

Amendments to the criteria would be needed as currently if a School increased their PAN by 15 pupils or less they wouldn't be eligible for additional funding. £100,000 had

been the allocated Growth Fund for 2015 – 2016 however this would not be sufficient to fund the additional places needed. A Funding formula would therefore be needs driven including premises costs.

*A member asked how much it was likely to cost. D New estimated between £200,000 and £300,000 on top of the £100,000 already allocated. A Member asked if there were any savings from Schools who had a decrease in children allocated a Reception place that could be redistributed. D New confirmed that once a budget had been delegated to a School it could not be drawn back.*

L Brown highlighted that the LA were investigating why the numbers on application for Reception were so different to the data used to predict this. Analysis would be undertaken to try and ensure this situation did not occur in the following admissions round. *A member questioned the Admissions zones and their impact. It was confirmed this would be part of the review. A member asked if the Primary Appeals had been undertaken yet as this would impact on the numbers starting in Reception. It was noted they would be undertaken in June/ early July 2015.*

L Brown extended her thanks to all Schools and J Conway on their prompt and decisive actions particularly over the Easter holidays.

RESOLVED that the Forum agree the proposed approach for the Schools / Academies as set out in the report and that the paper does not need to be confidential as places have now been offered.

## 9. MULTI AGENCY CHILDREN HUB (MACH)

J Humphreys gave a verbal report on the MACH. The MACH had been developed in conjunction with Hartlepool Authority who would lead the project. A number of partner agencies were involved including the Police and Health Services. There would be a link to Schools and the possibility of a designated Schools Officer.

It was proposed that Hartlepool would pilot the MACH and to analyse the impact of this model. Schools Forum may be requested to approve an element of funding for this project at a later date. This pilot had begun only last week.

Operation Encompass had been running with the Police informing Schools of any domestic abuse cases. This would be rolled out across Cleveland and with a link into the MACH.

It was noted that Stockton had many more Schools than Hartlepool and as such feedback on the MACH would be provided to both Primary and Secondary Headteachers.

## 10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

### 10.1 CESC Review

Members noted that as part of the CESC Review, there had been two appointments made. Dianne McConnell would be the Head of Schools and SEN and Sean McLurg Head of Safeguarding. The third Head of Service post had gone out to advert.

L Brown confirmed that she would be undertaking flexible retirement from September 2015. She would continue to work on a small number of projects including a School Place planning review.

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting would be held at 1:30pm on Tuesday 7 July 2015 at the Media Centre, The Grange Field Academy.