

Leicester City Council Schools Forum - Minutes

Draft minutes of the meeting held at 1.30 p.m. on Thursday 28 November 2019 at The Tea Room – Town Hall Leicester.

Present

Schools members:

Mainstream Academies:

Special Academies:

Special School Governors:

Special School Heads:

Secondary School Governors:

Secondary School Head representatives:

Primary School Governors:

Primary School Head representatives:

Pupil Referral Units:

Name:

Mike Hobbs, Jane Ridgewell

Julie Aquilina

No attendee

Sarah Osbourne

Chandrika Patel

Julie Robinson, Anna White

Glenys Mulvany (Chair) Liam Mahoney, Chandrika Patel

Liz Warren, Nigel Bruen, Karl Stewart

Shaun Whittingham

Non-school members:

Teaching Unions:

School support staff Unions:

16-19 Providers:

Early Years PVI Providers:

Name:

≈

Sam Randfield

No attendee

Michelle Orton

In attendance:

Paul Tinsley

Martin Judson

Simon Walton

Joseph Wyglendacz

Martin Walsh

Role:

Director of Learning and Inclusion

Head of Finance, Education & Children's Services

Senior Accountant, Finance

NEU

Clerk to the Forum

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from David Wyatt, Jessica Edmonds and Steve Wilson.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 26th September 2019 were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

i) Substitute member Members suggested having a mechanism in place for notifying primary governors if a substitute was required due to a primary forum member being unable to attend.

5. Membership issues

The Chair welcomed Liam Mahoney to the Schools Forum as a new member. It was noted that a vacancy for a Special School representative had arisen and the election process was taking place.

6. De-delegation 2020/21 draft consultation document

The Head of Finance, Education and Children's Services explained that views had been sought regarding the draft consultation document. There had been some confusion regarding the dates. Cllr Cutkelvin had made it clear that she is keen for maintained schools to service this through de-delegation. He asked members for views on the document that was presented.

i) SEMH continuation level

Members noted that there were still no figures regarding what the SEMH team does in terms of statutory duty. There is a school's perception that the re-charge rate was high. However, this was a service that wants to continue one way or another.

The Director of Learning and Inclusion noted the concerns about work not in the remit and would be happy for it to state what staff should be expected to do.

Members agreed that the service was useful. However, a mapping of all costs to all services would be required to allow the real costs to be established.

ii) Free School Meals - Licence and Subscriptions

These services would now be offered as a traded service.

iii) Staff Costs for Trade Union facility time

The Head of Finance, Education and Children's Services noted that the rate charged had not changed for many years.

Members agreed that this was a good opportunity to understand what the union fees were paying for. It was suggested that the relevant groups could meet to discuss the issues. It was noted that there should also be an equally accessible offer for Academies. The consensus view was that there was a lack of clarity in terms of what schools were getting for their money.

The NEU representative explained that a percentage of pay had to be used for facility time and this was negotiated via the school budget. He noted that schools on the hourly rate had paid significantly more than paying through a subscription service. He also agreed to provide a report at the next schools forum and offered to help with any questions regarding facility time.

Action: (Joseph Wyglendacz)

Vote: Secondary (2) Primary (4) Against (0) Motion passed (With the proviso that the concerns were addressed)

iv) Closing the Gap

The Head of Finance, Education and Children's Services noted that the rate per pupil had reduced from £12.38 to £9.00.

Members noted that there is a balance that the Local Authority is holding.

The Head of Finance, Education and Children's Services explained that the balance was known. However, there had been no agreement on how this should be spent.

Vote: Primary (4) Against (0) Motion passed.

vi) Whatever it Takes

The Head of Finance, Education and Children's Services noted that there was no change in the rate.

Vote: Primary (4) Against (0) Motion passed

vii) Academic Coaching

Vote: Primary (4) Against (0) Motion passed

viii) Primary School Improvement

Vote: Primary (4) Against (0) Motion passed

ix) Assessment and Moderation

Vote: Primary (4) Against (0) Motion passed

The Head of Finance, Education and Children's Services asked for further comments on trading.

Members explained that by trading services there is more transparency and therefore more access to services needed.

7. Any Other Business

Members asked about plans for funding in the next financial year.

The Head of Finance, Education and Children's Services explained that the Local Authority had already adopted the national funding formula. This will provide schools with a minimum funding guarantee. Some schools will get a larger increase based on the formula. The Local Authority will try to mirror the DfE model.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.35 p.m.