

# Leicester City Council Schools Forum - Minutes

Minutes of the MS Teams meeting held a 1pm on Thursday 25 June 2020

## 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, Danny Bullock

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Sarah Osbourne

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Anna White

Steve Wilson, Liam Mahoney

Matt Potts, Nigel Bruen, Karl Stewart

Shaun Whittingham

### Non-school members:

Teaching Unions:

School support staff Unions:

16-19 Providers:

Early Years PVI Providers:

### Name:

Jessica Edmonds (Chair)

Sam Randfield

No attendee

Matthew Leedham

### In attendance:

Sue Welford

Simon Walton

Martin Walsh

### Role:

Principal Education Officer

Senior Accountant, Finance

Clerk to the Forum

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from, Glenys Mulvany and Liz Warren

## 2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

## ***Matters arising***

### ***i) Dedicated schools grant***

The Senior Accountant explained that this was part of the out-turn report and this would be made available as quickly as possible.

### ***ii) Growth Fund***

The Senior Accountant explained that this report would also be made available as part of the out - turn report and would be made available as quickly as possible.

## **4. Schools Budgets**

The Senior Accountant explained that the report was not quite ready and needed to go through some internal processes and would be made available at the earliest opportunity.

It was suggested that a meeting could be arranged for late August to discuss the budget document.

**Action: (Clerk)**

## **5. Review of Forum membership**

The forum membership should be representative of the different sectors and is currently lacking a representative in the 16-19 sector. The PVI sector would like the forum to review their number of representatives to ensure that the membership is equitable.

It was noted that the Lionheart Trust would be providing sixth form provision, and this would add one more 16-19 provider.

It was agreed that contact would be made with the Lionheart Trust and 16-19 providers regarding membership of the forum.

**Action: (Clerk)**

Members asked if any financial decisions made by the forum had impacted on the PVI sector or pre-school sector based on the current voting rights.

The Senior Accountant explained that each party would only vote on issues involving their section.

The Principal Education Officer explained that the early years grant, and the level of funding would be one example of something that would be voted on.

It was agreed to go through the current membership ratio and bring it back to the next schools' forum.

**Action: (Clerk- JE)**

## **6. De-delegation report (Update)**

The de-delegation report regarding facilities time for trade union release will now be supplied for the September schools' forum meeting.

## **7. Covid-19 Update**

The Chair asked for any issues regarding the current pandemic.

Members asked about the latest guidance regarding schools funding and exceptional costs relating to Covid-19 and the impact of historic school reserves on eligibility for funding hinges on whether schools have a surplus or deficit budget. This hinges on how quickly schools' budgets get signed off by the LA.

The Senior Accountant explained that it is not about the time frame of passing the budget on.

Members clarified that if a historic surplus is projected to increase rather than decrease this year. However, if you are carrying forward a surplus, but it is coming down from what it was the previous year a claim can be made. It was also noted that there is a hard deadline of July 21 to make a claim with no extension.

Members asked if the guidance had explained what could be claimed due to additional costs.

The Principal Education Officer explained that increased premises related costs and support for Free School Meal costs, outside of vouchers, could be claimed. That would only be for Easter and Summer half term holidays and additional cleaning required due to confirmed or suspected cases. Other extraordinary cost pressures over the period of partial closure that cannot be met by existing budgets would have to be registered separately using the EFSA enquiry form.

Members noted that the early years sector had not received as much support as schools and asked if there was any help with additional costs, specifically PPI and cleaning in the PVI sector.

The Principal Education Officer explained that there were a range of different funds and acknowledged that some settings miss out because they do not meet the criteria. However, this has been raised as a big issue to allow support for specific settings that miss out on funding.

The Senior Accountant agreed to answer specific questions regarding early years additional funding. *(Simon Walton to provide update for minutes)*

## **8. Any other business**

### ***i) Growth fund***

Members asked what the process is for the growth fund this coming year.

The Senior Accountant explained that there is no application process as this is a Local Authority calculation based on the funds based on the DfE rate. Primary schools will receive £1,425.00 per pupil and Secondary schools will receive £2,130.00 per pupil. Schools will be informed about the amount and when they will receive their payment.

### ***ii) Teaching school hubs***

The Chair explained that there were currently pilot schemes in Sheffield and Rotherham for teaching school hubs aimed at providing support to local schools. There could be greater moves toward teaching school hubs, and this could have implications on decisions that the schools' forum make. There are six hubs planned for next year, a reduction from the original amount, eventually the money for school improvement would go to the teaching school hubs and not the local authority. This may cross border between many different local authorities with up to two hundred schools under their jurisdiction. This is limited at this time due to Covid-19 and financial reasons.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.00 p.m.