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Nottingham City Council

Schools Forum

Minutes of the meeting held remotely via Zoom, and livestreamed on YouTube on 16 January 2024 from 1.45 pm - 2.55 pm

Membership

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ✓ Kerrie Fox (Chair) | - HHELC (PRUs) |
| ✓ David Tungate (Vice Chair) | - Secondary Academies |
| ✓ Kerrie Henton | - AP Academies and Free Schools |
| Debbie Simon | - Early Years PVI |
| ✓ Judith Kemplay |) |
| ✓ Terry Smith |) Maintained Primary Head Teachers |
| ✓ Alison Tones |) |
| ✓ Patricia Lewis | - Maintained Special Schools |
| Laura Patel | - The Nottingham Nursery |
| ✓ Meeta Dave |) |
| ✓ Tim Jeffs |) Primary Academies |
| ✓ Rob Perkins |) |
| ✓ Andy Smith |) |
| ✓ Andy Gilbert |) Secondary Academies |
| Emma Howard |) |
| ✓ Sandra Stapleton |) |
| ✓ Phil Willott | - Special Academies |
| ✓ Sheena Wheatley | - Trade Unions |
| ✓ Adam Beazeley | - 14-19 Education |

✓ indicates present at the meeting

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Collins Elechi | - Interim Senior Commercial Business Partner |
| Jennifer Hardy | - Interim Head of Access to Learning |
| Julia Holmes | - Senior Commercial Business Partner |
| Mark Leavesley | - Governance Officer / Clerk to the Forum |
| Nick Lee | - Director of Education Services |
| Terry Shaw | - Interim Strategic Finance Business Partner |

25 Apologies for absence

None.

26 Declarations of interests

Kerrie Fox declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 5 (minute 30), 'Additional capacity at Hospital Home Education', as the Headteacher of the establishment, and left the meeting prior to consideration of the item.

27 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 05 December 2023 were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

28 Schools Budget 2024/25

Julia Holmes and Collins Elechi, Senior Commercial Business Partners, presented the report, and stated the following:

- a) the report details the proposed school's budget for the financial year 2024/25, prepared in line with parameters agreed previously by the Forum and with financial regulations issued by the Department for Education;
- b) as outlined in a report to the 05 December 2023 Forum meeting, for 2024/25 the Local Authority has continued to move away from the standard approach of setting a school's budget that balances the budgets by block to the Dedicated Schools Grant income received, as was the approach in 2023/24;
- c) indicative individual school budgets, Early Years and High Needs funding allocations, along with guidance notes, will be issued by 28 February 2024;
- a) some figures in the report are currently draft and a final version will be included in an appendix to these minutes.

Resolved

(1) Dedicated Schools Grant

to note:

- a) **the overall indicative 2024/25 Schools Budget to be spent incorporating the Schools, Central Schools Services, Early Year's, and High Need's blocks is £376.155m, funded by:**
 - i. **£374.246m provisional 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant allocation;**
 - ii. **reimbursement of £0.302m funding paid to academies for pupil growth for April to August 2024;**
 - iii. **£1.493m from Dedicated Schools Grant reserves to support the additional one-off distribution to mainstream schools, from the balance earmarked for distribution in the reserve for pupil growth (approved by Forum at the meeting held on 05 December 2023);**
 - iv. **£0.104m from the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve to fund the shortfall in funding in the Schools Block in 2024/25 as per resolution (2) below (and detailed in paragraph 2.6.1 of the report);**
- b) **that the budget will be updated in-year to reflect subsequent adjustments made by the Education and Skills Funding Agency to the authorities 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant allocation (as detailed in the report);**

- c) **that any balance remaining will be allocated to the Statutory School reserve, including a £2.669m balance of the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant allocation, which represents a proportion of the additional High Needs funding announced in the Autumn Statement, and that if any new High Needs budget requirements arise in year, over and above those planned from the budget outlined in the report, then separate in-year approval will be sought from Forum;**
 - d) **the impact to schools' budgets of the indicative allocation (as set out in Table 5, section 2.5 of the report);**
- (2) **to approve the allocation of £0.104m from the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve to fund the shortfall in funding in the Schools Block in 2024/25 (as detailed in paragraph 2.6.1 of the report);**

(3) **Additional one-off Dedicated Schools Grant distribution to mainstream schools**

to note that the budget detailed in the report includes the distribution of one-off additional funding to mainstream schools by leaving in for 2024/25 the additional £85 per pupil allocated in the financial year 2023/24 baselines, amounting to £1.748m;

(4) **Dedicated Schools Grant block transfers**

to note that the 2024/25 budget incorporates the £0.508m High Needs to Central School Services Block transfer approved by Forum at the meeting held on 05 December 2023;

(5) **Early Years**

to note that total planned Early Years central expenditure aligns to the £1.025m approved by Forum at the meeting held on 05 December 2023;

(6) **Pupil Premium**

to note that the allocation of Pupil Premium funding will be allocated to schools in accordance with the Dedicated Schools Grant conditions.

29 Chair

As the Chair, Kerrie Fox, had previously declared an interest in the following item, and left the meeting at this point, David Tungate (Vice-Chair) chaired the remainder of the meeting.

30 Additional capacity at Hospital Home Education

Jennifer Hardy, Interim Head of Access to Learning, presented the report, which detailed a series of proposals relating to the Hospital Home Education Learning Centre, including primary alternative provision places and an outreach programme to support vulnerable pupils deemed clinically unable to attend school, and stated the following:

- a) rates of permanent exclusion for primary school aged pupils have grown significantly in recent years, however, there is no Alternative Provision for Key Stage 1 children in Nottingham and only a handful for Key Stage 2 pupils;
- b) the proposed places at Hospital Home Education Learning Centre will offer therapeutic support for primary pupils to prevent a child from being permanently excluded and support their reintegration back to their mainstream school;
- c) when a primary aged pupil is permanently excluded from school, the full cost of their education will be funded by the High Needs Block until they are reintegrated back into mainstream education;
- d) preventing permanent exclusion wherever possible is often the best outcome for a young person and their family, and also reduces pressures on High Needs funding;
- e) pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties and medical needs already face significant barriers to access education when compared to their non-disabled peers and can face lengthy stays in hospital when picking up relatively minor infections and, on occasion, the complexity of their needs mean that picking up infections and bugs can also pose a risk to life;
- f) establishing a resource for outreach support for this vulnerable cohort will ensure they continue to receive an education during these extenuating situations.

Resolved to approve the allocation of High Needs funding of

- (1) £137,376 for 10 primary alternative provision places at Hospital Home Education Learning Centre for a period of two years;**
- (2) £36,742 per year for the establishment of an outreach programme for children with profound needs who have not been attending school.**

Appendix to minute 28

As stated during the presentation of item 4, 'Schools Budget 2024/25', the following amendments have been made to the report:

TABLE 8A: EY INDICATIVE BUDGET BREAKDOWN (£m)							
ELEMENT	3 & 4 YO	Disadvant aged 2 YO	2 YO Working Parent	Under 2 YO	DLA	EYPP	TOTAL
Base rate/hour	£5.16	£8.31	£7.63	£10.76		£0.68	
Base rate total	£17.251	£4.320	£3.728	£2.663			
Supplements							
-Deprivation/hour	£1.00						
-Flexibility/hour	£0.10						
DLA/annum					£910		
Supplements total	£0.836				£0.237		
MNS lump sum	£0.202						
SEN inclusion fund	£0.006		£0.173	£0.011			
Contingency	£0.314			£0.055			
TOTAL PROVIDERS	£18.609	£4.320	£3.901	£2.729	£0.237	£0.717	£30.512
Central Expenditure	£0.716	£0.025	£0.184	£0.100			£1.025
TOTAL	£19.325	£4.345	£4.084	£2.829	£0.237	£0.717	£31.537
Allocation excluding MNS Lump Sum	£18.407	£4.320	£3.901	£2.729			
Pass rate	96.3%	99.4%	95.5%	96.5%			
Settlement figure Excl MNS Lump sum	£19.123	£4.345	£4.084	£2.829			
Central Expenditure	3.7%	0.6%	4.5%	3.5%			

1. Central Expenditure

Central Expenditure has been revised and re-allocated as stated in Table 8A above, but the total allocation remains £1.025m as reported at the meeting and the Local Authority (LA) is still within 95% pass rate as required by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

2. 3 & 4-year-old funding

The LA has proposed a funding-base rate of £5.16/hour, as against £5.01 reported at the meeting.

Settings will receive £1.00/hour deprivation funding where the child attracts Early Years Pupil Premium funding (EYPP). The deprivation supplement for 3 & 4-year-olds is the only mandatory supplement the LA will pay.

In 2023/24, the LA also funded a £0.10/hour flexibility supplement. This is not mandatory, and the proposed local consultation suggests the removal of this supplement to simplify the formula and allow for this additional funding to be added to the hourly base rate formula.

This funding formula is the same for children accessing both the universal and the extended entitlements in this age group.

3. 2-year-old funding

The new 2-year-old working parent entitlement comes into force in April 2024 and the report proposed to use the same rate for both the 2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement and the 2-year-old working parent entitlement.

The LA is not allowed to fund 2-year-old working parent entitlements at a higher level than the 2-year-old disadvantaged entitlements, which could have been the case if both were funded at the same rate, but a working parent also attracted EYPP funding.

Therefore, the proposal has been amended to establish a separate 2-year-old formulae for the two entitlements, with a higher base rate for the 2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement, at a sufficient level to be higher than the equivalent of the base rate for a 2-year-old working parent entitlement that also attracts EYPP.

The higher base rate for the 2-year-old disadvantaged has been established through a higher pass-through rate and is necessary in recognising the additional costs associated with supporting children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Whilst not paid as supplement, LAs are expected to ensure funding for deprivation is reflected in the relevant formulae and this higher base rate support this.

The LA will fund Settings at £8.31/hour as against £7.46 reported at the meeting, for the 2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement and the newly funded 2-year-old entitlement for working parents' entitlement will be funded at £7.36/hour. These will be hourly base rates with no additional supplements.

4. 9 months and up to 2-year-old entitlement

The base rate for the under 2-year-old starting from September 2024 will be £10.76/hour as against £9.72 reported at the meeting. Again, this will be a simple, single funding formula of an hourly base rate with no additional supplements.

This is the highest hourly base rate to reflect the higher staffing ratio and costs associated for caring with children under the age of 2.

The base rates can be summarised as:

In summary, the proposed local funding formulae would be:

Under 2-year-olds	£10.76/hour + No Supplements
2-year-olds (working parents)	£7.36/hour + No Supplements
2-year-olds (disadvantaged entitlement)	£8.31/hour + No Supplements
3 & 4-year-olds	£5.16/hour + £1.00/hour Deprivation Supplement for eligible EYPP children

In addition, eligible children across all the entitlements may receive additional funding for EYPP, SENIF and DAF.

5. SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

A total allocation of £293,000, with £283,000 and £10,000 allocated to 3 & 4 and 2-year-old respectively, was reported at the meeting.

A revised allocation of £190,000 has been calculated.

This allocation has been retained across the early years' entitlements, as per Table 8A above, and will secure an overall SENIF allocation for all eligible children across the early years' entitlements.

6. Individual School budgets 2024/25

Following a request at the meeting, the table below shows the year-on-year movement on school's budgets between financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25, and the movement in post de-delegation and deduction of business rates (NDR), and after leaving in the additional funding given to mainstream schools and academies (£85 per pupil) in the 2023/24 Minimum Funding Guarantee per pupil in 2024/25.

Year on year movement between 2023/24 and 2024/25 on Post De-delegation and after the deduction of NNDR allocation

	Number of Primary Schools	Number of Secondary Schools	Movement in primary numbers on roll	Movement in secondary numbers on roll
Less than -2% but greater than or equal to -6%	1	0	Reduction of 16 pupils	
Less than -1% but greater than or equal to -2%	2	0	Reduction of either 9 or 17 pupils	
Less than 0% but greater than or equal to -1%	1	0	Reduction of 17 pupils	
Greater than or equal to 0% but less than 1%	4	1	Reduction of either 12,14 or 21 pupils	Reduction of 31 pupils
Greater than or equal to 1% but less than 2%	8	0	Reduction of either 4,6,7,8,9 or 11 pupils	
Greater than or equal to 2% but less than 3%	7	0	Reduction of either 2,3,4 or 5 pupils	
Greater than or equal to 3% but less than 4%	21	1	Reduction of either 1,2,3 or 4 pupils, pupil numbers stayed the same or the schools increased by 1 pupil	Reduction of 10 pupils
Greater than or equal to 4% but less than 5%	3	3	Increase of either 1 or 2 pupils	Schools gained pupils either 1, 2 or 7 pupils
Greater than or equal to 5% but less than 6%	11	1	Increase of either 1,3,4,5,7,14 pupils or the pupil numbers stayed the same	Increase of 9 pupils
Greater than or equal to 6% but less than 7%	8	5	Increase of either 1,5,6,12,13 or 14 pupils	Increase of either 12,18,19 or 20 pupils
Greater than or equal to 7% but less than 8%	2	1	Increase of either 11 or 25 pupils	Increase of 35 pupils
Greater than or equal to 8% but less than 9%	3	2	Increase of either 14,18 or 19 pupils	Increase of either 29 or 48 pupils
Greater than or equal to 9% but less than 10%	0	0		
Greater than or equal to 10% but less than 11%	1	1	Increase of 23 pupils	Increase of 40 pupils
Greater than or equal to 11% but less than 12%	0	1		Increase of 69 pupils
Greater than or equal to 12% but less than 13%	2	0	Increase of either 14 or 24 pupils	
Greater than or equal to 13% but less than 14%	0	1		Increase of 108 pupils
Greater than or equal to 14% but less than 15%	1	0	Increase of 17 pupils	
Grand Total	75	17		