

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

**MINUTES of the meeting held at Loxley House, Nottingham on 25 June 2019
from 1.46 pm - 3.23 pm**

Membership

Present

Judith Kemplay (Chair)
Derek Hobbs (Vice Chair)
Meeta Dave
Tim Jeffs
Andy Jenkins
Stephen McLaren
Janet Molyneux
Cath Rowell
David Tungate
Sheena Wheatley

Absent

Kerrie Henton
David Holdsworth
Sean Kelly
Terry Smith
Debbie Simon
David Stewart
James Strawbridge
Mark Trimmingham
Bob White

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Kimberly Butler	- Behaviour Support Team Leader
John Dexter	- Director of Education
Jennifer Hardy	- Project Manager, Access and Inclusion
Julia Holmes	- Senior Commercial Business Partner
Jilly Horne	- Senior Educational Psychologist
Councillor Neghat Khan	- Portfolio Holder for Early Years, Education and Skills
Daniel Skurok	- Senior Performance Analyst
Kathryn Stevenson	- Senior Commercial Business Partner
Phil Wye	- Governance Officer

25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Kerrie Henton
David Holdsworth
Sean Kelly
Terry Smith
James Strawbridge
Mark Trimmingham
Robert White

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

27 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

28 UPDATE ON INCLUSION PROJECTS

Daniel Skurok began by delivering a presentation on exclusions in Nottingham City, highlighting the following:

- (a) Nottingham's permanent exclusion rate is twice as high as its region and England, and its fixed period exclusion rate is a third higher;
- (b) Nottingham's volume of permanent exclusions has dropped since 2016/17, however the outturn for 2018/19 is forecast to be the same as 2017/18;
- (c) the Timpson Review states that there is no optimum rate or number of exclusions, as exclusions must be considered in the context in which decisions are made;
- (d) excluded children have worse trajectories in the long term, with over one third going on to be NEET (not in education, training or employment) or to commit crimes;
- (e) 78% of permanent exclusions issued were to pupils who either had SEN, were classified as in need or were eligible for free school meals. Three quarters of those excluded are boys;
- (f) the level of permanent exclusion by school varies widely across the city, with a few secondary schools excluding the majority of pupils;
- (g) the data can be used to identify which pupils are at risk of being excluded, for example those that have received fixed period exclusions and those with poor attendance. With better management with schools the Council can better support schools in identifying pupils who may need extra support.

The following points were raised during the discussion which followed:

- (h) the Schools Forum Sub-Group will meet to look at the impact of Council services on reducing exclusion rates before the next meeting. Academy Trusts must work with the Council in a joined-up approach, including data sharing;
- (i) when looking at the schools that are high excluders, the number of pupils that they take through managed moves must also be considered;
- (j) reduction of exclusions is a top priority for the Portfolio Holder for Early Years, Education and Employment and will be monitored closely;
- (k) supported transition from primary to secondary education is important, as often the support is lost at this time and those at risk need to be identified.

Kimberly Butler, Behaviour Support Team Leader, delivered a presentation on Routes to Inclusion and the Intensive Support Team, highlighting the following:

- (l) Routes to Inclusion (R2i) was launched in October 2018, with waves 1 and 2 having commenced and working with 37 schools. Feedback has been very positive so far;
- (m) work has commenced with secondary schools, with pilot schools now chosen to work with from the Autumn term. A secondary school version of the toolkit will be developed;
- (n) a R2i Project Board has been established to look at commercialisation of the service;
- (o) the Intensive Support Team (IST) is for the small percentage of pupils who at risk of placement breakdown in spite of the R2i graduated response. Schools refer to the IST panel with evidence that the R2i process has been followed;
- (p) the IST is currently being piloted and its model and impact is being evaluated in order to demonstrate a reduction in the number of children at risk of permanent exclusion.

RESOLVED to note the proposed use of £174,296 from the DSG reserve to fund the establishment and running costs of the Intensive Support Team for the first 12 months.

29 UPDATE ON THE CONSULTATION ON THE REVISED SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS (FAIR FUNDING SCHEME) AND THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SCHEME.

Julia Holmes, Senior Commercial Business Partner, introduced the report updating on the findings of the consultation on the revised scheme for funding schools (Fair Funding Scheme) and to seek approval for the recommended changes to the scheme as required.

RESOLVED for maintained schools to approve the changes made to the Scheme for financing schools as outlined in the report and its appendix.

30 2018/19 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT OUTTURN REPORT

Kathryn Stevenson, Senior Commercial Business Partner, introduced the report setting out the 2018/19 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) outturn position and the updated reserve balance.

It is recommended that the underspend on 2,3 and 4 year olds in the Early Years Block be ring-fenced in the Statutory School Reserve as a contingency for discrepancies in future years.

Nick Lee thanked Kathryn for her work on regaining recouped funds from the college merger.

RESOLVED to

(1) note that the 2018/19 financial outturn position of the DSG was an under spend of £0.955m (0.35%) against a final budget of £269.212m, as shown in the table below:

	Budget as at 16 Jan 2018 £m	Final Budget £m	Actual Spend £m	(Under)/Over Spend £m
Schools Block	205.723	205.747	205.431	(0.316)
Central School Services Block	7.084	7.084	6.987	(0.097)
Early Years Block	22.510	22.161	21.374	(0.787)
High Needs Block	31.752	34.220	34.465	(0.955)
TOTAL SCHOOLS BUDGET	267.069	269.212	268.256	(0.955)
Less funding not included in DSG allocation:				
ESFA Income	0.156	0.189		
DSG reserves	1.560	2.639		
DSG ALLOCATION	265.353	266.330		

(2) note that this under spend has been allocated back to the Statutory Schools Reserve resulting in a closing balance of £6.469m, as detailed below:

	Actual £m
Opening Balance as at 1 April 2018	8.500
Less: DSG reserve supporting 2018/19 budget	(2.693)
Less: 2018/19 Draw downs	(0.293)
Add: 2018/19 Under spend	0.955
Closing Balance as at 31 March 2018	6.469
Less: Future Commitments	5.780
Uncommitted Balance as at 1 April 2019	0.689

(3) note that the uncommitted balance on the SSR balance is £0.689m.

31 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED to note the proposed dates for the 2019/20 academic year:

8 October 2019
 3 December 2019
 21 January 2020
 25 February 2020
 28 April 2020
 23 June 2020