

Minutes of a meeting of the Medway Schools' Forum
Held on 16 October 2017
4.00pm to 6.00pm
Strood Academy, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME1 2UR

Members present:

Chair		Peter Martin (PVM)
Primary (Academy) (Vice-Chair)	Principal	Karen White (KW)
Secondary LA Maintained	Governor	Clive Mailing (CM)
Teacher Associations		Julie Harris (JH)
Primary	Headteacher	Steve Geary (SG)
Roman Catholic Diocese		Kathy Sexton (KS)
Primary Headteacher		Karen Norman (KN)
Special Maintained	Headteacher	Karen Joy (KJ)

In Attendance: Maria Beaney (Finance Business Partner – Education Finance) (MB), Martin Daniels (Management Accountant) Helen McCulloch (Note Taker)

1. **Apologies received from** Ian Sutherland; Anne Domeney; Barbara Fincham; Kim Gunn, Mark Holmes and Councillor Potter.

2. **Minutes of last meetings.**

The record of the meeting held on;

9 January 2017 was agreed as a true and accurate record.

13 September 2017 was agreed as a true and accurate record. However it was noted that Schools are still awaiting a decision on the extension of the maternity SLA.

13 July 2017 were amended to show Julia Harris was in attendance and then agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. **Early Years Briefing Note**

MB gave an overview of the report circulated with the agenda in the absence of Mark Holmes who could not attend due to unforeseen circumstances.

The number of 3 year old's in nursery provision has been reducing over the past few years, due to a drop in birth rate but these numbers are now recovering.

Due to the unforeseen circumstances, this report will be added to the agenda of the next meeting in January 2018. This is to allow members to discuss the Early Years Strategy with the Early Years service manager.

4. **National Funding Formula – Verbal Update**

MB confirmed the National Funding Formula (NFF) will be introduced from April 2018 and that Medway Council's Dedicated Schools Grant School Block will be the acclamation of every NFF budget for every school and academy within Medway. It will be upto each LA

but will leave it be calculated and passed to the LA.

There are conditions which will need to be met. Government has guaranteed that there will be a 0.5% ??

Schools can gain up to 3% and guaranteed that primary £3,300 and secondary £4,600 per pupil.

There is a two year transition which is and based on the statistics will decided which option to use but in April 2020 we will need to go straight to the nation funding there will be no other options.

Due to Brexit there may not be a full national funding formula because it is subjected to parliamentary clearance.

5. Consultation Feedback – report to be tabled (Maria Beaney)

Report tabled at the meeting.

MB gave an overview of the consultation feedback.

There were 33 responses received out of 94. Not all responders answered all the questions. There were 46 responses last year.

There has been a marked improvement from academies.

KW was surprised that only 30% of all Medway schools responded to the consultation.

MB gave an overview of all the questions.

Q1 – majority went for option 1

Q2 – Reception uplift – most voted for keeping the uplift

Q3 – Notional SEN – 50% deprivation + 100% prior attainment is the formula used. Option 1 was the most common

Q4 – Formula not affordable – do we reduce the formula until it is affordable, most wanted to keep it that way

Q5 – de-delegated services

1; Keep;

2; Yes;

3; Free School Meals – yes;

4; Central Services - yes.

Q6 – other services – rates to be de-delegated

Q7 – Growth fund policy –

Support Change - yes

Guarantee pupil numbers - yes

Lump sum - 17 should 16 shouldn't

Protection – none 4, 1 year 10, honour what is kept, 2

16 schools that keep £55k but only 4 responded.

6. Growth Funding Policy (Maria Beaney)

Report sent out with the agenda.

MB gave an overview of the report. Budget just under £1.048m;

MB proposes removing the £55k lump sum.

Table 2 shows how the funding works MB explained how the funding worked.

Where new classes are opened, the new schools get the funding in year plus the £55k lump sum;

MB advised that Kent only give £6,000 so Medway was more generous.

IF continues won't be able to fund the growth funding – (see para 2.9a, b and c)

See recommendations 4.1.1 and 4.1.2

PM clarified that all schools that received money will continue to get the support. Which leaves the new schools only getting £55k in year 1 only.

4.1.1 – unanimous vote to keep

4.1.2 – removing the lump sum – unanimously agreed and also agreed to give £6k in the first year plus number of students coming on role in that year.

In terms of guaranteeing the commitment to the schools who have already budgeted for the new class,

It was agreed that the funding would continue until 2021 and the £55k will cease provided the in year funding continues.

MB suggested that to prevent something similar to this happening at that in June school forum meetings the policy needs to be reviewed.

7. Update Pupil Variation Numbers (Maria Beaney)

Report sent out with the agenda.

MB gave an overview of the report.

3.1a – Forum agreed 365 pupils

3.1b – Forum agreed .

3.1c – Forum agreed

3.1h – Forum agreed

8. Provisional schools and academies funding formula 2018-19 – report to be tabled (Maria Beaney)

MB reaffirmed that the government agreed that 0,5% on the base line per pupil compared to last year; primary £3k and secondary £4k. Purely relates to pupil numbers.

Gaining schools can gain up to 3%.

All points agreed

Sparsity funding factor – agreed

Lump sum – Agreed

Notional SEN – keep as it and revisit in the next round – Agreed

Karen Joy – left the meeting

Reception uplift – remove 5; 1 abstained (KW)

Funding formula options:

Option 1 - 0

Option 2 - 0

Option 3 – 5 agreed; 2 abstained

De-delegated services:

Trade unions - Primary 3 approved; secondary 1 approved

Free schools – Primary 3 approved; secondary 1 approved

Ethnic minority – Primary - 1 for; 2 against; secondary approved

Central services – Primary 3 agreed in principal review in January; Secondary 1 approved

9. The Forward Plan

Report sent out with the agenda.

KW asked if the £1/2m any view of when that might done. MB suggested taking it to the heads meetings. MB will do some draft funding guidelines

Opportunity to use for white English boys if necessary.

10. AOB

CM – request to receive papers in the post; PM and CM to be posted out.

MB – rates – 2 schools would like their funding in year as the VO has revalued their building and both have increased by about £26k. If approved would be an overspend. KW asked if MB could give a percentage of the maintained schools and when they were visited and review in January.

11. Date of next meeting

10 January 2018 to be held at Cedar Children's Academy