

## Formula Review Meeting

### Minutes

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Microsoft Teams Meeting

#### Present:

Jo Briggs (Chair)  
Patti Jones  
Dave Bevitt  
Alex Devany  
Andrea O'Callaghan  
Claire Whalley  
Julie Cheung  
Kath Greenhalgh

Primary Head Teacher  
Secondary Governor  
Primary Governor  
Secondary Head Teacher  
Secondary Head Teacher  
Primary Head Teacher  
Primary Head Teacher  
Primary Business Manager

Lisa Butcher  
Julie Edwards  
Helen Joseph

Head of Finance  
Schools Finance Manager  
Schools Finance Officer

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Susan Tailor and Dominic McKeon.

#### 1. Welcome

JB welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new member Andrea O'Callaghan.

#### 2. Minutes 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Minutes were agreed. To be updated to include apologies from Patti Jones. JE gave an update on the meeting that is due to take place with Fresh Pastures, they will attend a meeting with the primary admin group. Also the NFF consultation was submitted.

#### 3. Impact of Covid – School Tutoring Grant

JE updated the group with the new requirement for schools to provide information relating to School Tutoring' undertaken to date, on the daily covid return (since the meeting DfE have confirmed this will be required every 3-6 weeks). JB mentioned that training is difficult to arrange and CW asked what the year end return would look like. JE confirmed that the information to be populated on the return would include hours delivered and how much has been spent. JC mentioned that impact data would be recorded on the Catch Up report. JE shared with the group that a tracker for the school led tutoring is available for schools to use.

**Action:- JE to send tracker to schools.**

#### **4. DSG Monitor Quarter Two 2021-22**

JE presented the quarter two statement and explained the reasons for the projected variances on each block. Very few changes compared to quarter one. Total overspend of £1.75m (excluding schools) has changed by £66K since the last meeting. Schools Block is currently based on original spending plans and will be updated with revised figures for next month. Early Years £204K underspend – still awaiting funding information for this block from DfE (confirmation of 2020-21 allocation and Summer Term 2021-22). High Needs different by £66K due to import/export adjustment i.e transfer of funding for children educated in a different authority than the home authority. JB queried what TPECG – Centrally Employed Teachers budget related to. JE replied that it was for the pay and pension grants for teachers employed by the LA e.g. music service.

#### **5. High Needs Update**

JE and LB updated the group on the recent Safety Valve meeting with DfE. Bolton do not qualify to be included in the project as they are 22<sup>nd</sup> in the country for their level of deficit. Only local authorities in the top twelve are now included. Bolton are now part of the intervention programme which is to support LA's with challenge on High Needs management plans. Therefore no additional funding will be received through the project despite all the hard work pulling together the information. Although not in the safety valve project work on addressing the deficit continues with proposals that can be pursued. JC queried how many LA's had a deficit and JB asked which LA's had a surplus. LB confirmed that the DfE had not shared this information.

JE advised the group that the SSR work continues and the next meeting will be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> November, the minutes will be presented to Formula Review Group.

The request to transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block towards High Needs will be included in the budget consultation.

#### **6. School Funding Arrangements 2022-23 - consultation**

JE informed the group that a response to the consultation and an analysis of responses was required by 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 when the group next meets. Questions include what level to set the minimum funding guarantee at (2% will be proposed), use of the NFF formula values, dedelegation and the high needs transfer.

Following a consultation that was launched this week, a new item relating to School Improvement could be included under dedelegation. The LA currently received a grant for £300k each year for maintained schools (academies are funded directly). This grant will be phased out over the next two years. The DfE consultation suggests that it is dedelegated. If schools disagree to this proposal then the Secretary of State can overrule the schools. JC queried if the structure of the School Improvement section will be reviewed and AO asked if this will impact on the recruitment of a secondary school improvement professional. LB replied that the structure will be reviewed to ensure the service is fit for purpose.

CW asked how the consultation and updated finance information would be shared with all head teachers. JB suggested a webinar the same as last year would be useful, but to be arranged earlier. LB agreed that a virtual meeting would be held to update schools.

## **7. Spending Review**

JE shared with the group a document which summarises the spending review for education from DfE. Increase in funding of £4.7bn by 24-25 which includes £1.4bn additional funding in 22-23. No detail as to what this will cover e.g. national insurance, high needs etc. Details have yet to be confirmed. It is hoped that more information will be available for the headteacher briefing.

£2.6bn also announced for SEN capital provision and an increase to Early Years funding to reflect the increase in living wage, but again details to follow. Maintained nursery schools will continue to receive protection to their funding during the spending review.

Catch up funding Recovery Premium will continue and is set to increase for secondary schools.

## **8. Schools Forum Agenda**

JE informed the group that the DSG Quarter 2 monitoring and the consultation would be included.

## **9. Forward Plan**

JE suggested items to include: - complete the consultation, look at the results of the consultation and submit to DfE mid to late January. Following the submission of the budget the focus for the Group will be High Needs.

## **10. Any Other Business**

JE asked the group if they received regular communications from the DfE e.g. this week there was information on funding available for breakfast clubs. JB agreed that these are usually sent to head teachers but would be good to send to Primary and Secondary Exec to ensure that information is received. KG asked if this could also be included on the Extranet so that business managers could be alerted to any announcements.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

6<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

MS Teams