

SCHOOLS FORUM

MEETING, 29th November, 2013

Representing Secondary School Governors

Joanne Murphy	Westhoughton High School
David Kay	Sharples Science College
Renee Mellis	Westhoughton High School
Paul McCarthy	Harper Green School

Representing Primary School Head teachers

Mike Tonge	Prestolee Primary
Janet Ramsdale	Chorley New Road Primary
Jo Briggs	All Saints School
Sandra Kelly	Sunning Hill School

Representing Primary School Governors

Mike Doyle	Pikes Lane Primary School
Lynne Kay	Sharples Primary
Janet Whitehouse	Church Road Primary School
Pauline Lewis	Walmsley Primary

Representing Secondary Head teachers

Tony Purcell	Rivington and Blackrod School
Phil Hart	Westhoughton High School
Paul Roach	Mount St. Joseph
Rachel Quesnel	Sharples Science College

Representing Academies

David Mole	Secondary Academy
Sarah Bagshaw	Primary Academy

Representing Non-School Members

Malcolm Fullerton	Joint Unions
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Representing Special Schools

Maureen Morrissy	Thomasson Memorial School
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Representing Nursery Schools

Ann MacLeod
Carolyn Hutton

Susan Isaacs Nursery School
PVI

Representing Roman Catholic Diocese

John Thorpe

Saints Osmund and Andrew RC Primary

Also in Attendance

Councillor Kevin McKeon

Bolton MBC

David Smith

Children's Services

Julie Edwards

Children's Services

Claire Binks

Children's Services

Jan Robinson

Children's Services

Nick Pounds

Education and Learning Team

Yousif Islam

ACIS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Jack hatch, Diane Bohan, Jackie Winstanley and Tania Lewyckyj.

Mr. M. Doyle, Chairman.

28. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 18th October, 2013 were submitted.

Further to minute 26, Provisional Budget Report, it was indicated that the Pro-Forma document had been submitted to the DfE.

Further to minute 27, Formula Review Minutes, it was explained that the letter had not yet been sent to the Department for Education with evidence of concerns regarding the funding formula and international new arrivals as further meetings were due to take place.

Resolved- That the minutes of the last meeting be signed as a correct record subject.

29. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

There were no Chairman's comments.

30. ACIS (ACHIEVEMENT, COHESION, INTEGRATION SERVICE)

Mr. Yousif Islam, Head of Service for ACIS gave a presentation which highlighted matters around the vulnerable groups (Gateway Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Gypsy Roma Travellers and other international New arrivals) which were supported by the Service.

In terms of Asylum Seekers, it was explained that the Local Authority Refugee and Asylum Team were notified by the Home Office and there were approximately 100 such individuals in Bolton each year. They were entitled to free school meals and support was provided by an ACIS Key Worker.

The meeting was also informed that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families were supported by ACIS into nursery, primary and secondary schools and colleges. Members were advised of the ACIS process.

The presentation went onto explain matters around the following –

- ACIS linked children and families with other services;
- Matters around the work of key workers;
- ACIS Support in terms of EAL Teachers;
- Support in schools;
- Additional support available from ACIS;
- Elective home education; and
- Community cohesion projects.

In terms of funding, it was explained by Julie Edwards that the service was resourced to provide for 600 pupils annually as a total cost of £835,000. Home Office funding for Gateway Protection Programme Refugees was also provided and this amounted to £4,500 for a school age child and £2,250 for nursery aged children.

With regard to the School Funding Formula, the meeting was informed that it was not possible to target funding directly to international new arrivals through the formula following school funding reforms. Furthermore, the other formula factors available were –

- EAL. This would also pick up many pupils who were not international new arrivals and schools with large ethnic minority populations; and
- Mobility. A need to review this if this mirrored the international new arrival distribution of pupils.

Members in their discussions referred to the following –

- benefit allowance;

- what other local authorities were doing;
- Roma data in terms of the time of year and school place provision and if they moved schools;
- resource flexibility;
- quality assurance matters;
- the effect on individual schools;
- the use of the budget as indicated;
- the current staff provision in ACIS;
- the need for the Formula Funding Review Group to look at the funding modelling issue;
- the use of £4,500 to support all children including those using the Gateway facility;
- whether the Bolton way was the best;
- the impact of the new Government regulations in January, 2014; and
- the hours invested in new international arrival children compared to elsewhere;
- the impact of international new arrivals on existing pupils;
- schools scarce resources;
- the Service being relatively new and developing; and
- international new arrivals being included in the formula in future.

Resolved – (i) That Messrs Islam and Edwards be thanked for their presentation.

(ii) That the Forum be circulated with data relating to the Roma new arrivals in terms of the time of year, school place provision and if they moved school;

(iii) That the Formula Funding Review Group be asked to look at the funding modelling issue; and

(iv) that the hours invested in new international arrival children compared to elsewhere be explored.

31. SCHOOLS FORUMS: OPERATIONAL AND GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE

The Director of Children's Services and Corporate Resources submitted a joint report which set out the latest Schools Forums Operational and Good Practice Guide issued by the Education Funding Agency.

A copy of the guide was appended to the report.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

32. EARLY YEARS SUB GROUP MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Early Years Sub-Group held on 8th November, 2013 were submitted.

Members in their discussions referred to matters around free school meal provision funding for nursery schools being inadequate and possible further future pressure from international new arrivals

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

33. CONTRACT UPDATES – MILK AND CASH COLLECTION

Mrs Claire Binks updated the meeting on the position regarding the milk and cash collection contracts. G4S did collect cash from schools via the framework from 18 north west authorities. It was explained that the tender was won again in August and Bolton would be part of this. There was though a price increase. Claire Binks further indicated that work was being undertaken to include the bank account schools.

In terms of milk, the meeting was informed that this had been looked at, the market reviewed and some consultation undertaken. It was now planned that the LEA would tender for the contract based on the fact that schools wanted the service to continue.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 3.23pm)