

SCHOOLS FORUM

MEETING, 2ND JULY, 2021

Representing Primary School Head teachers

Claire Whalley	Sunning Hill primary School
Vicky Chatterjee	Clarendon Primary School
Jo Briggs	Hardy Mill Primary School

Representing Primary School Governors

David Bevitt	Devonshire Road Primary School
Daniel Gauld	Heathfield Primary School
Anthony Slack	Walmsley / All Saints Primary Schools
Clair Beswick	Johnson Fold Primary School

Representing Secondary School Governors

Patti Jones	St. Joseph's RC High School
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Representing Academy Schools

Simon Bramwell	Vantage Academy Trust
Rachel Lucas	Bolton St. Catherine's Academy

Representing Early Years Settings

Sue Pounds	Grosvenor Nursery School
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Representing the RC Diocese

Nicola Rabbett	RC Diocese
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Representing Special Schools

Sarah Greenhalgh	Rumworth School
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Representing Academy AP Settings

David Smith

Bolton Impact Trust

Also in Attendance

Councillor Galloway	BMBC
Paul Rankin	People Department
Julie Edwards	Chief Executives Department
Lisa Butcher	Chief Executives Department
Vicky Ridge	Democratic Services

Apologies for absence were submitted by Sarah Bagshaw, Susan Tailor, Helen Shearer, Rob Dean, Matthew Wilkinson and Dominic Mckeen.

Daniel Gauld, Chairman

26. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 26th February, 2021 were submitted.

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

At this point in the meeting, Jo Briggs took over the Chair.

27. DSG FINANCIAL MONITORING 2020-21, OUTTURN

The Director of Children's Services and the Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which provided information in relation to the outturn financial position for the DSG for the 2020/21 financial year.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That approval be given to the suspension of the Surplus Balance Control System for 2021-22 Financial Year.

28. HIGH NEEDS

The Forum received a presentation which updated members on the High Needs Block.

Members were advised of the position regarding the changes in the budget available since 2017/18, the budget position at outturn for 2020/21 and a summary of expenditure for 2019/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Members were further advised of –

- The average cost of current placements;
- Pupil numbers;
- EHCP increases;
- EHCP and SEN support;
- Increase in special school places; and
- Comparative data trends.

Members were also advised of Bolton's approach in terms of consultation and collaboration which comprised this Forum and the School Support Reform Group. Also referred to were matters around school support reforms in terms of inclusive practice and training, large cost items and secondary key worker / risk of exclusion strategy.

In terms of next steps, it was reported that Bolton was part of HM Government's Safety Valve project and officers were meeting with the EFSA on 22nd July, 2021. The project would include the production of a revised costed action plan and this Forum would be kept updated.

Resolved – That the updated position be noted.

29. FORMULA REVIEW SUB-GROUP MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st April and 17th June, 2021 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

30. EARLY YEARS SUB-GROUP MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th March and 22nd June, 2021 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00 p.m. and finished at 2.58pm)