
**SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS' FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 14th NOVEMBER, 2007**

Present:

Primary School

David Turner (Chair)	-	Governor
Colin Warburg	-	Governor
Rita Baker	-	Headteacher
Suzanne Ottens	-	Headteacher
Anne Steel-Arnette	-	Headteacher

Secondary Schools

Richard Harris	-	Governor
Sarah Hill		Headteacher
Eric Freeman	-	Headteacher

Special Schools

Jonathan Howells	-	Headteacher
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Early Years

Karen Stacey	-	Headteacher
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Non Schools

Peter Sopowski	-	Teachers Liaison Panel
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Observer

Margaret Judd	-	DCSF
Jill Lakeman	-	Director of Early Years / EYDCP

Also in attendance:

Councillor Baillie

Lynn Franklin, Children's Services and Learning, Carolyn Worthy, Children's Services and Learning, Kevin Verdon, Children's Services and Learning, David Griffiths, Children's Services and Learning, Tim Davis, Children's Services and Learning and Paul Nugent, Children's Services and Learning.

Apologies:

Cassie Ellins, Pat Metcalf, John Draper

1. **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2007, were approved as a correct record. (Copy of the minutes circulated with the agenda).

An invitation had been received by the Chair inviting two members to a conference on "School Funding 2008-11: The Role of Schools Forum". This was being held by the DCSF on 30th November 2007 in Birmingham. Rev Turner had agreed to attend and it was agreed that Carolyn Worthy would also attend.

2. **CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**

Colin Warburg was a new member to the meeting and was welcomed.

3. **SEN DELEGATED FUNDING IN MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS**

The Forum considered the report of the Principal Accountant (Schools) detailing the outcomes of the SEN review and proposals in relation to particular elements of the formula.

RESOLVED

- i. that learning and social need funding for Key Stage 1 be allocated using a 50:50 split on the basis of IDACI and Foundation Stage profile data with the change in funding tapered over 3 years;
- ii. that learning need funding for pupils at Key Stage 2 and Secondary levels be allocated directly on a pupil's NCSS and its derivation from 90 in 10 increasing funding steps to a minimum score of 69.

4. **EARLY YEARS**

The Forum received and noted a briefing paper of the Acting Policy Co-ordinator, Strategic Development Division, detailing Southampton's participation in two national early years pilot schemes with the DCSF around single funding formula and extended early years offering.

5. **14-16 DIPLOMA FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Forum considered the report of the Principal Accountant (Schools), detailing the proposed funding arrangements for the 14-16 diplomas and seeking approval as to how these funds would be managed.

RESOLVED

- i. that grant funding to support the 14-16 diplomas be held and paid at partnership level with each school contributing to the partnership from their own budget based on the diploma provision purchased for their pupils;
- ii. that this funding option be reviewed in one year;
- iii. that the funding option details in (i) above be submitted to the Southampton Secondary Forum for consultation; and
- iv. that the 14-19 Strategic Partnership be invited to nominate a representative to join the Schools Forum.

6. **DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES (DCSF)
DECISIONS ON SCHOOL, EARLY YEARS AND 14-16 FUNDING 2008-2011**

The Forum considered a report of the Principal Accountant (Schools) detailing the DCSF decisions on funding for schools, early years and 14-16 provision 2008-2011.

RESOLVED

- i. that the government's decision on the school, early years and 14-16 funding arrangements for 2008-11 be noted;
- ii. that the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) be invited to join a sub-group of the Schools Forum to consider changes to early years funding; and
- iii. that the EYDCP be invited to nominate a representative from the Private, Voluntary and Independent sector to be a non-schools member of the Schools Forum when the regulations are changed.

7. **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FAIR FUNDING FORMULA 2008/09**

The Forum considered a report of the Principal Accountant (Schools), detailing proposed changes to the Fair Funding Formula for 2008/09.

RESOLVED that all the schools in the City are consulted on the following proposals:

- i. that floor areas should include that of children centres;
- ii. that the budget allocation to fund Supply cover of long term sickness be increased by £80,000;
- iii. that funding for Upper Pay Scale teachers be frozen at 2007/08 levels and the inflationary element be allocated in the AWPU together with demonstrative figures; and
- iv. that in updating the data in the multi year budget shares, the following non-pupil factors should be updated annually:
 - o Special unit place numbers
 - o Major changes in floor area
 - o Changes to split site arrangements
 - o Rates bills
 - o Rent agreements
 - o Number of Upper Pay Scale teachers.

8.

SAVINGS PROPOSALS 2008/09

The Forum considered the Executive's summary of savings proposals and summary of efficiencies, additional income and service reductions. Councillor Baillie was in attendance at the meeting to receive comments from the Forum.

The following concerns were raised:

- Play service reductions (CSL17): The lottery funding of £0.5m was dependent on the delivery of the play service. If this cannot be provided the lottery funding would need to be returned. This would be investigated further.
- Significant reduction in behaviour resource service in relation to non-statutory activity (CSL10): It was highlighted that the cost of providing specialist help for children out of the county was very expensive. These costs would need to be considered and budget provided.
- Withdrawal of Council Social Inclusion Grant (CSL7): It was felt that removal of funding would increase the number of permanently excluded school children, raising the issue of what would happen to the excluded children.
- Redundancies should be kept to a minimum. The cost of making people redundant was high.
- The implications of all the service cuts should be reviewed thoroughly as there could be costs triggered in other areas.
- It was suggested that the School Minister be lobbied challenging the inadequate level of funding for schools.

The Forum thanked Councillor Baillie for attending and consulting the Forum on the budget proposals.