**Peterborough Schools Forum**

**Wednesday 23rd February 2022**

**10 am – 12 pm**

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| **Present** |  |  |
| Jonathan Lewis | Service Director: Education | Peterborough City Council |
| Mark Woods | CEO Cambridge Meridian Academy Trust & Chair of Peterborough Schools Forum | Chair & Primary/ Secondary Academy Representative |
| Cllr Lynne Ayres | Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and the University | Observer |
| Martin Wade | Strategic Finance business Partner | Cambridgeshire County Council |
| Helen Price | Hampton Academies Trust |  |
| Rachel Davies | Acting Head of School and Setting Finance | Peterborough City Council |
| Stuart Mansell | CEO OWN Trust | Academy Representative |
| Mohammed Younis | Stars Day Nursery | Non-schools Member |
| Jude Macdonald | Marshfield Special School | Maintained Special School Representative |
| Debbie Hayes | Caverstede Nursery School | Maintained Nursery Representative |
| John Gilligan | Hampton College | Academy Representative |
| Sheelagh Sullivan | Head of SENI Services | Peterborough City Council |
| Andy Lyons | Headteacher, Hampton Hargate Primary School | Primary Maintained Representative |
| Karen Hingston | Head of Service Early Years and Childcare | Peterborough City Council |
| Lynne Blythe | The Day Nursery | Non-schools Member |
| Sarah Burling | PA to Service Director: Education |  |
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| **Apologies** |  |  |
| Darren Ayling | The Kings School | Diocese – CofE – Peterborough Representative |
| Mick Gernon | Thomas Deacon Academy Trust | PRS Representative |
| Susannah Connell | CEO The Diamond Learning Partnership and Peterborough Schools Forum Vice Chair | Academy Representative |
| Amanda Daoud *(Charlotte Whysall attending on behalf of)* | Lime Trust | Academy Representative |

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| **1.0** | **Apologies, declarations of interest and housekeeping** | **Action** |
| 1.1 | Mark welcomed the group to the meeting. Apologies were given as noted. |  |
| 1.2 | There were no declarations of interest. |  |
| **2.0** | **Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising** |  |
| 2.1 | A meeting for Headteachers around SEND Hubs is yet to be rescheduled. An appendix to the High Needs Block paper gives a detailed review of SEN Specialist Hub arrangements.  The Education and Skills Funding Agency has signed off school budgets.  Martin to speak to Clare Buckingham about how the process and governance around growth funding can be made more robust.  The minutes of the last meeting were agreed. | **MWa** |
| **3.0** | **High Needs Block** |  |
| 3.1 | The high needs block is set by the local authority but this item will share with schools, the proposal for allocation of the 2022-23 budget.  Funding for high needs increased by 8.9%. Peterborough benefits from the distribution methodology that adds weight linked to deprivation and increased pupil numbers. The local authority is conscious of the growing pressure in this area.  Peterborough has received a further £1.49 million supplementary funding to support high needs. This takes in to account the additional costs that were not foreseen when the original high needs block allocations were calculated.  Planned expenditure on individual elements of the high needs block are detailed further in the paper that accompanies this item.  The local authority continues to invest in the Hub structure and Appendix 1 addresses this in more detail.  John Gilligan queried why there are some Hubs with no filled places that are still receiving funding. The Hub approach isn’t just about offering places it is about growing expertise and knowledge. Hubs without places are working in partnership with the local authority to support schools with their area of specialism. A kind of outreach.  Will need to consider in the future if more specialist provision is needed in the City. The number of funded places at Richard Barnes Academy have been adjusted in line with agreed commissioning arrangements. This can be adjusted in the future if demand increases. *(note error in section 2.4 of accompanying paper – the £2.9m includes place funding for 170 until September, not 270 as stated).*  Budget pressure continues around Post 16 and independent placement top up funding. The wider offer is going to be a challenge going forward.  The Out of City placements budget has been significantly increased this year to reflect additional demand.  Budgets will now be finalised and communicated to schools.  How do we continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Hubs? When the SEN Green Paper is published it will be a good opportunity to review Hub provision and consider plans for the future. It was suggested that 3 to 5 outcomes are developed in conjunction with schools for Hubs to evaluate against. |  |
| **4.0** | **Early Years Block** |  |
| 4.1 | Jon introduced Karen Hingston, Head of Early Years and Childcare who has joined for this agenda item.  Despite an increase in the hourly rate, the overall allocation for 2022/23 is less than it was for 2021/22.  £400,000 has been allocated from the high needs block to passport to settings to ensure they are able to access adequate funding to effectively support the youngest children with SEND. Needs of some of children are higher as they have not been able to access the support they needed during the pandemic. SENI funding allocation is linked to funded entitlement. A new banding structure is being introduced from 1st April 2022.  A contingency of £200,000 have been built in cover any adjustments to funding identified following the 2022 Census. It also provides protection to mitigate circumstances that cannot be predicted but require additional funding.  Schools Forum is asked to support the proposed hourly rates and funding allocation outlined in section 3.1 of the accompanying paper.  Forum agreed. |  |
| **5.0** | **Constitution and Membership** |  |
| 5.1 | Still have one vacancy for an Academy sector member.  Mark hopes that the next meeting will be in person and will be able to better address any gaps in Membership then.  PCEOs will consider if there are any Trusts with a lot of schools in the City that aren’t represented on Schools Forum. |  |
| **6.0** | **AOB** |  |
| 6.1 | Will be sending out meeting dates for the next academic year and they will follow a similar pattern to this year. | **SB** |