

Peterborough Schools Forum

Wednesday 10th November 2021

9.30 – 10.50 am

<u>Present</u>		
Jonathan Lewis	Service Director: Education	Peterborough & Cambridgeshire
Mark Woods	CEO Cambridge Meridian Academy Trust & Chair of Peterborough Schools Forum	Chair & Primary/ Secondary Academy Representative
Cllr Raymond Bisby	Cabinet Advisor to Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education Skills & University	Peterborough City Council
Roz Mercuri		Bursar Representative - Secondary
Martin Wade	Strategic Finance Business Partner	Cambridgeshire County Council
Alan Sadler	Cross Sector	Governor Reference Group
Susannah Connell	CEO The Diamond Learning Partnership	Vice Chair & Primary Academy Representative
Debbie Hayes	Caverstede Nursery School	Nursery Representative
Kate Pereira		Diocese – Catholic – East of England
Rachel Davies	Acting Head of School and Setting Finance	Peterborough City Council
Mohammed Younis	Stars Day Nursery	Non-school Representative
Amanda Daoud	Chief Operations Officer, Lime Trust	Primary Academy Representative
Sheelagh Sullivan	Head of SEN and Inclusion	Peterborough City Council
Stuart Mansell	Nene Valley Primary School	Primary Academy Representative
Richard Allinson	The King's School, on behalf of Darren Ayling	Diocese CofE Peterborough Observer
Mike Nelson	Heltwate Special School, on behalf of Adam Brewster	Special School Representative
John Gilligan	Hampton College	Primary/ Secondary Academy Representative
Jo Cook	Paston Riding Primary School	Primary Maintained Representative
Sarah Burling	PA to Service Director: Education	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough
<u>Apologies</u>		
Adam Brewster	Heltwate Special School	Special School Representative
Scott Hudson	Queen Katherine Academy	Secondary Academy Representative
Darren Ayling	The King's School	Diocese CofE Peterborough Observer
Cllr Lynne Ayres	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education Skills & University	Peterborough City Council

1.0	Apologies, declarations of interest and housekeeping	<u>Action</u>
1.1	Apologies were noted as above. Jon welcomed Cllr Ray Bisby on behalf of Cllr Lynne Ayres.	
1.2	There were no declarations of interest.	
2.0	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	
2.1	<p>Covid has delayed the meeting for Headteachers around SEND Hubs. Jon will timetable sometime in the first few weeks in January.</p> <p>The meeting in January is critical and we will decide nearer the time if that is going to be face-to-face or online.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.</p>	JL
3.0	2022-23 Schools Budget Proposals	
3.1	<p>Purpose of the presentation is to share the latest position on schools and high needs funding in relation to the 2022-23 budget setting round.</p> <p>Indicative figures are based on a national model and old pupil numbers and characteristic data. This generates an indicative allocation of how much the local authority will receive. It won't be known until December what the final figures are. All figures given today are based on indicative figures.</p> <p>School funding is increasing by 3.2% overall nationally and by 2.8% per pupil compared with 2021-22. Total funding through the sparsity factor increased from £42m to £95 m nationally. Peterborough has one school that qualifies for the sparsity factor.</p> <p>Increased minimum per pupil levels of funding to £4265 for Primary and £5525 for Secondary.</p> <p>The link between funding and need has meant that increases are going in at the bottom and those schools that have greater need have seen less increase as a result of the policy the government has set.</p> <p>Illustrative figures show an overall increase of 2.8% for Peterborough compared to the amount received in 2021-22.</p> <p>Minimum funding guarantee continues to set between 0.5% and 2% per pupil. Doesn't protect schools with falling rolls. There is no longer a national cap but if required there is an option to use a local cap to manage overall affordability.</p> <p>Maintained Nursery School supplement will continue until March 2025.</p> <p>9.6% increase to the high needs funding. This is allocated through the High Need funding formula. Peterborough is slightly above the minimum uplift of 8% and will receive 8.7% (based on indicative data).</p> <p>Central Schools Services Block continues but will see a 20% reduction.</p> <p>Martin shared the initial 2022-23 DSG allocations for Peterborough. However, these are likely to change in December and final figures will be brought to January meeting.</p>	

	<p>Autumn Budget and Spending review delivers significant support to education. Additional £4.7 billion in core funding by 2024-25. Total cash increase of £1500 per pupil by 2024-25.</p> <p>Appendix A is a draft consultation providing further details on budget proposals to seek views from schools on proposals for next year.</p> <p>Need a push on recording pupil characteristics as funding allocation is based on census data.</p> <p>Appendix B is illustrative school level budgets based on 2021-22 datasets. Actual figures to be received in 2022-23 will differ due to changes in overall pupil numbers and characteristics</p> <p>Proposing a de-delegation of £1.54 per pupil in respect of Trade Union Facilities time, subject to Schools Forum approval. Maintained schools will be subject to a charge of £16.08 per pupil to reflect the education function undertaken by the local authority specifically for maintained schools.</p> <p>On the 29th October the DfE launched a consultation to remove the Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant. The Consultation closes in December. Further information will be shared at the January meeting.</p> <p>Are we expecting any Brexit impact in term of pupil numbers? There has been a slight reduction but less than 1%. Birth data shows that there will an increase in pupil numbers in 4-5 years time.</p> <p>Some schools are struggling for pupil numbers. Are all schools going through a lull or are there some schools that have higher pupil numbers? A slight decline in pupil numbers is the norm at the moment. Jon will share the updated School Organisation Plan with the group.</p> <p>Not sure that there is clarity in the growth funding changes between strategic and unplanned growth. Would be useful to separate and look at where the minimum funding guarantee is going and how minimum per pupil levels is being used. Martin will break out formula factors in more detail once the December information is available.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MWa</p>
4.0	High Needs	
4.1	<p>The indicative uplift in High Needs Funding this year is expected to be £3.3 million. Budget setting is at the discretion of the local authority and a more detailed paper on proposals will be brought to the January meeting.</p> <p>The local authority recognises the pressure that mainstream schools are experiencing and will be looking at a number of ways to use this funding to target resources where need is highest.</p> <p>Mainstream schools and Academies are required to contribute £6000 from their notional SEN budget towards the cost of a child's Statement of Special Educational Needs/ Education Health and Care Plan. The local authority will look to formalise the arrangement for mainstream schools with exceptionally high levels of SEN and provide an additional level of funding.</p> <p>Is that because the standard funding is enough to help a school with a few SEN, but not for those where there is a concentration? It's not to do with need its more about the incidence of EHCPs in schools and that its accurately reflected.</p>	

	<p>How quickly will this money make a difference to the SEN provision we receive? Hearing that local SEN provision is full which is pushing students into mainstream schools which isn't appropriate for them. We acknowledge that level of need is rising and will work to target resources where there is most need. Will bring more detail back to January meeting.</p> <p>How does our level of need at the moment compare with other boroughs across the country? How aware is our MP of the situation and are they lobbying? Jon advised that he has spoken to both MPs and they are aware of the situation.</p> <p>There is usually a proposal of moving an amount from the mainstream block to the high needs block. Haven't chosen to do that this time. Aware of the pressures that schools are under. Don't think it is the right thing to do at this moment in time. Jon will consider it for the 2023-24 budget.</p> <p>The Consultation will open after this meeting. The local authority will run a consultation session on the 29th November for schools. End the consultation on 10th December. The local authority will bring a paper back to the January meeting and ask Schools Forum to review the final proposals.</p>	
5.0	Proposals for future meetings	
5.1	The January meeting in person if possible. Dates for the current academic year are in the diary and how these are held will vary according to the Covid situation.	
6.0	AOB	
	<p>Mark asked if anyone had heard anything about indexation in the final salary section of the Teacher's Pension Scheme. The calculation only applies indexation if the salary rate changes so where does that leave teachers who are at the top of their pay scale.</p> <p>It is the intention of the local authority to reintroduce Maintained Schools balance control mechanism but will make an adjustment for covid grants</p> <p>Staffing – Rachel Davies is Acting into Head of School and Setting Finance role following Steve Whitley's departure. Continue the arrangement with Cambridgeshire to support Peterborough school and setting finance.</p> <p>Mark and Jon will review Forum membership and engage, where appropriate with Academy Proprietors (PCEO) or local authority schools to ensure full representation.</p>	MW/JL