

## **Peterborough Schools Forum**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**9.30 – 10.20 am**

### **Present**

Jonathan Lewis	Service Director: Education	
Mark Woods	CEO Cambridge Meridian Academy Trust & Chair of Peterborough Schools Forum	Chair & Primary/ Secondary Academy Representative
Rachel Davies	Acting Head of School and Setting Finance	Peterborough City Council
Martin Wade	Strategic Finance Business Partner	Cambridgeshire County Council
Debbie Hayes	Caverstede Nursery School	Maintained Nursery Representative
Ros Mecuri		Secondary Bursar Representative
Cllr Lynne Ayres	Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and the University	Observer
Charlotte Whysall	On behalf of Amanda Daoud, Lime Trust	Academy Representative
Alan Sadler		Governor Reference Group Representative
Stuart Mansell	CEO, OWN Trust	Academy Representative
Mohammed Younis	Stars Day Nursery	Non-schools Member
Lynne Blythe	The Day Nursery	Non-schools Member
Susannah Connell	CEO, The Diamond Learning Partnership & Peterborough Schools Forum Vice Chair	Academy Representative
Kate Pereira	St John Fisher Roman Catholic School	Secondary Maintained Representative
John Gilligan	Hampton College	Academy Representative
Jude Macdonald	Marshfield Special School	Maintained Special School Representative
Mick Gernon	Thomas Deacon Education Trust	PRS Representative
Darren Ayling	The Kings School	Diocese – CofE – Peterborough Representative
Sarah Burling	PA to Service Director: Education	

### **Apologies**

Mark Cooper	Sacred Heart Catholic School	
Deborah Reynolds	On behalf of Rhys Thrower	Academy Representative

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Apologies, declarations of interest and housekeeping</b>	<u>Action</u>
1.1	Mark welcomed the group to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies were given as noted.	
1.2	There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising</b>	
2.1	<p>The Headteachers meeting around SEND Hubs is yet to be rescheduled due to Covid response. Jon to find a date. Highest ever number of Covid cases were recorded in Peterborough this week.</p> <p>The Education Organisation Plan went to the November meeting of Children and Education Scrutiny Committee and can be accessed <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Formula factor break down will be covered in the next agenda item.</p> <p>Membership will be covered in agenda item 4</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.</p>	<b>JL</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>2022-23 Schools Budget Proposals including Growth Funding</b>	
3.1	<p>The DfE published DSG allocations for 2022-23 in December 2021.</p> <p>The Schools Block, including growth and business rates, has increased by £8.9 million this year, giving a total allocation of £194.261 million.</p> <p>The uplift to Peterborough Schools Block allocation is as a result of additional investment through the national funding formula and the net increase in pupils between October 2020 and October 2021.</p> <p>In addition to the Dedicated Schools Grant, mainstream schools will receive additional supplementary grant funding to provide support for costs associated with the Health and Social Care Levy. Initial indicative figures suggest this will be around £6 million for Peterborough schools which is a significant uplift over and above schools funding. Early Years and Further Education funding levels are low in comparison.</p> <p>£325 million of high needs funding has been allocated nationally for 2022-23. Initial indicative figures suggest this will be around £1 million for Peterborough. How will that be allocated? Jon advised that the local authority will bring proposals on the High Needs Block back to the next meeting to seek Forum's views.</p> <p>Appendix A gives the illustrative impact of the final budget proposals at school level. In the majority of cases schools are seeing an increase year on year. Where there are reductions in pupil numbers, schools will see a cash reduction.</p> <p>Move to direct / hard funding formula. Following last year's initial consultation the ESFA are expected to publish the next stages of the move towards a direct / hard funding formula later this year. This is likely to impact on some of the specific factors within the Peterborough formula such as split site, PFI, treatment of new schools and growth etc. A paper will be produced for a future meeting summarising the current proposals and highlighting the main areas of risk.</p> <p>From April the ESFA will be funding business rates for all schools. Schools will still be required to account for the rates.</p>	

	<p>Is the declining birth rate in Peterborough breaking the national trend? Very unlikely that there will be any protection for falling roll in schools. Low intake in Primary is low nationally and anticipate that it is going to remain low for the next 2 or 3 years.</p> <p>A de-delegation of £16.08 per pupil was approved at Schools Forum in November and will be applied in respect of Education functions undertaken by the local authority. The School Improvement Monitoring Grant is going to be reduced by 50% next year and 100% the following year, bringing the Grant to an end in 2023-24, but local authority statutory duties will remain.</p> <p>No changes to proposed approach for growth funding for 2022-23. Structural change criteria need to be looked at in more detail as to how it is applied. Suggested that the process and governance around it needs tightening. Martin will speak to the Place Planning Team about how the process can be made more robust.</p> <p>Growth fund has been set at £1.2 million for 2022-23 to allow for changes in final admissions. Schools Forum is asked to approve the growth funding criteria and centrally retained amount for 2022-23. Schools Forum approved.</p> <p>Martin will refresh data by the end of the week and submit the authority proforma to the ESFA. School level information to be published by the end of January.</p> <p>The local authority will bring further information Early Years and High Needs funding blocks to the next meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MWa</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MWa</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>JL/MWa</b></p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Constitution and Membership</b>	
4.1	<p>Jon welcomed new members to the group.</p> <p>It is a requirement to review the Constitution of Schools Forum regularly. Some Members term of office has been extended due to Covid.</p> <p>It is more important than ever to have a consistent Forum moving forward given the changes that are coming.</p> <p>Jon has asked the Strategic Lead for Governance to oversee the process for Membership from the Governor Reference Group. Alan Sadler is continuing as Governor Reference Group representative whilst this process runs.</p> <p>School Forum is asked to consider and approve the Constitution of the Peterborough Schools Forum.</p> <p>Debbie Hayes advised that the information pertaining to her in Appendix 1 – Schools Forum Membership January 2022 needs changing to <i>'Headteacher - Caverstede Nursery School'</i></p> <p>Schools Forum approved the Constitution.</p>	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
5.1	<p><b>Future Meetings</b>          Are we able to consider face-to-face for the next meeting? Given the current Covid situation suggest that it would be sensible to remain online for now but will keep this under review.</p> <p><b>Covid-19 in Peterborough</b>          Peterborough is one of the top 20 local authorities with the highest number of Covid cases per 100,000. Case rates in 11-16 year olds are nearing 3000 per</p>	

	<p>100,000. Case rates in the early years sector are also rising. Staffing is a big issue. Classes are starting to close as schools can't staff them. Schools are being encouraged to support vulnerable and key worker children as a minimum offer. Current regulations are in place until 26<sup>th</sup> January. The local authority will consider if any measures need to be maintained in schools following the next announcement.</p>	
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