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Proposal for Reforming Academy Membership of Schools Forum

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to set out a revised approach to the nomination, election and direction given to academy forum members, in keeping with the DfE Schools Forum regulations and the Forum constitution as set out by Peterborough LA.

Principles

The following principles have guided the production of this paper:

1. Membership of Schools Forum, for both maintained and academy categories, should ensure representation from across the city, reflecting the diversity of our schools.
2. Membership from academies should ensure representation from a range of MATs (from standalone to large groups) and the nature of the academy schools (special school, alternative provision and primary only MATs)
3. Membership from academies should be reflective of gender and diversity amongst the PCEO group and the wider pool of academy leadership from which it is drawn
4. Establishing the role of the PCEO network and ensuring the views expressed by academy representatives sitting on Forum represent the group, while allowing for independence of action in response to debate and discussion
5. There should be an equitable distribution of academy proprietor representation.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PETERBOROUGH SCHOOLS FORUM

Composition: The Forum comprises 16 voting members who shall be Senior Leaders, engaged in governance or Early Years representative drawn from the different schools/partnerships in the Peterborough Local Authority area.

Members: Schools Forums Regulations suggest that the number of representatives for each phase should be proportionate to the ratio of pupils in each phase. Peterborough Schools Forum comprises 16 schools members drawn from schools in Peterborough.

As the range of academies, MATs and the varying levels of leadership and governance that accompany these has increased, our traditional structure becomes less representative of the landscape we exist in.

Whilst many colleagues hold multiple roles, it should be clear which “constituency” they are representing at forum (whilst acknowledging we all bring wider experience to our contributions). We do not want the voices of local leaders to be lost.

Process

The **Peterborough LA Forum** recognises are 3 main nominating bodies:

Representatives of the maintained sector.

	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special
Maintained Reps	1	2	1	1
Nominating body		Peterborough Primary Heads -		Special Heads

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One representative will attend on behalf of the **Peterborough LA Governor Reference Group**. This representative may be decided by election.

Category of Academy Representative

Ten members of Forum are drawn from academies, **ONE** of which must be from academy alternative provision, **ONE** of which must be from academy special school provision, **ONE** member drawn from a category of primary only MATs but sitting as an academy member

The remaining **SEVEN** members are from a wider, non-designated 'General' category but should ideally be representative of: standalone and small MATS (0-5 schools); medium sized MATs (6-15); and large, regional or national groups (16+ schools). The Chair of the PCEO group and Service Director will give direction to CEOs on ensuring appropriate spread of representation.

Current Academy Groups in Peterborough LA.

Trust/ Academy	AP	SEND	Primary	Secondary
TDET	1		4	2
GDFT		1	4	2
Lime		1	3	
Diamond			1	
OWN			3	
DEMAT				
Eliot			2	
Soke			5	
Hampton Hargate			1	
Hampton AT			2	2
CMAT			1	2
Ormiston			1	1
4 Cs			3 (1)	1 (1)
P Keys			4	1
Kings			1	1
St John Baptist			2 (1)	1

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Nomination and Election

The LA Director of Education will inform the Chair of the PCEO group of any Forum vacancies and against which of the above categories. The Chair of PCEO will then invite nominations from all academy trusts, using contact details for CEOs provided by the LA Democratic Services officer. CEOs will nominate themselves or a representative (Headteacher or Senior Finance colleague).

Nominations will be supported by a simple form setting out the qualities and qualification of the individual. CEOs should have regard to equality and diversity in the overall academy representation on Forum.

In the event of one nomination against a category, the PCEO group may appoint the representative, by common agreement. In the event of more than one nomination, an LA officer will oversee an election process for which all CEOs of Trusts in Peterborough (or their nominated local representatives) can cast one vote each, regardless of Trust size.

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Trusts may not have more than **TWO** Forum members at any one time.

Terms of office will be **FOUR** years.

Status of Representatives

All members act in the interest of the whole sector and the wider needs of children and young people in Peterborough.

Chair of Schools Forum

The Chair of Schools Forum will always be drawn from the elected or nominated representatives.

Relationship between PCEO Group and Forum Representatives

In the week preceding a meeting of Forum (but not before the release of papers to all Forum members), the Director of Education will present an outline of the key issues for discussion at a meeting of the PCEO group, to which all Peterborough CEOs or their representatives are invited to attend. The PCEO group may wish to take a view on the matters concerning school funding and other relevant matters and seek to give direction to their representatives. The purpose is not however to replicate the debate that will take place at Forum but to provide a general view that will ensure that the majority of academies are speaking with one voice, enabling more efficient use of time at Forum.