

LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM
28 JUNE 2017

Mark Anderson (Headteacher, New Dawn Trust, Hartsholme Academy, Lincoln), Joanne Noble (Headteacher, Gainsborough Nursery School), Geraldine Willders (Head Teacher, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Grantham) (Vice-Chairman), Anthony Stevens (Governor, The Holt Primary School, Skellingthorpe), Professor Ken Durrands CBE (Governor, The King's School, Grantham), Ian Widdows (Head Teacher, Giles Academy, Old Leake), Helen Hilton (Head Teacher, Little Gonerby Church of England Infant School), Josh Greaves (Chief Operating Officer, Wellspring Academy Trust), Bridget Starling (Business Manager, Church of England, Diocesan Education Centre), Helen Stokes (Branch Secretary, UNISON) and Julia Merivale (Manager, Trinity Day Nursery).

Officers in attendance:-

Sara Gregory (Commissioning Officer), Mary Meredith (Head of Children's Service Manager, Inclusion), Paula Whitehead (Manager, Team Around the Child), Katrina Cope (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Mark Popplewell (Head of Finance (Children's Services)), Heather Sandy (Chief Commissioning Officer for Learning) and Martin Smith (Children's Services Manager, School Standards), Viki Thomas (Lead Adviser, Early Years Improvement) and Kevin Johnson (Acting Commissioning Manager, Commercial).

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Mark Anderson be elected as the Chairman of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum for 2017/18.

MARK ANDERSON IN THE CHAIR

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Geraldine Willders be elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum for 2017/18.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Marilyn Bell (Governor, The Fenland Federation), Nichola Shore (Head Teacher, Banovallum School, Horncastle), James

2

LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM

28 JUNE 2017

Storr (Governor, The Deepings School) and Lea Mason (Executive Head Teacher, Lincolnshire Wolds Federation).

An apology for absence was also received from Ken Rustidge (Staff Trade Union).

4 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

No declarations of members' interest were declared at this stage of the proceedings.

5 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2017

It was agreed that a scrutiny committee paper on sufficiency of school places would be shared with members of the Forum.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum held on 12 January 2017, be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2017

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum held on 22 February 2017 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

7 ANNUAL REPORT ON SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY

Consideration was given to a report from Sheridan Dodsworth (Children's Service Manager, Special Educational Needs and Disability), which provided the School's Forum with an annual update on Special Educational Needs as required by the Schools' Forum Regulations. The three areas covered in the report included an update on activity within the County; an overview of the high needs costs throughout 2016/17; and an update on the SEND Strategy Review.

In the absence of the Children's Service Manager Special Educational Needs and Disability, Heather Sandy, (Chief Commissioning Officer for Learning) guided the Forum through the report and made reference to the following:-

- The Forum noted that there was an increase nationally in January 2017 of pupils who had an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan or Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN). There had been an increase of 30,975 (12.1%) from January 2016;
- In 2016 there had been 103,009 pupils on roll in Lincolnshire maintained and academy schools. Of this total 13.1% had been in receipt of some form of SEN

support that was not a Statement or an EHC Plan, and was above the average of 11.6%;

- For 2016/17 schools and academies had, through most of their formula factors a notional SEN funding allocation from which they were expected to contribute the first £6,000 towards a pupil who required SEN Support/Graduated Approach. It was noted further that the higher level needs and targeted support provision remained outside of the notional SEN funding; and was funded through the high needs budget;
- The number of pupils with statements of SEN or EHC Plans in Lincolnshire was above average at 3.3% of the school population. Compared to 2.8% nationally. Details of the breakdown was detailed at the bottom of page 23 of the report;
- Details of High Needs Funding Analysis (Not including short-term medical provision) was detailed on pages 25 and 26 of the report presented, which identified the growth in top up and targeted funding in 2016/17;
- It was reported that the current picture in Lincolnshire for 2015/16 was that the Special Educational Needs and Disability Service had received 723 requests for assessments, which had been an increase of 38% on 2014/15; and a 52% increase on 2013/14. The Forum noted that in 2016 a decision had been made not to undertake a statutory assessment in 33% of cases referred, this figure was slightly higher than the England average of 30%. The most common reason for refusal was as a result of the lack of evidence from a child's school of support and intervention strategies provided through a graduated approach of using resources and support services available through the notional funding. It was noted further that for the same period five children in Lincolnshire had been assessed under S36 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and it had been decided not to issue an EHC Plan. The Forum noted that the service had been challenged by parents, through the SEND Tribunal, for refusal to assess, from which it had become evident that the process was stacked in favour of parents. The Tribunal process was costly and in Lincolnshire, as with many other authorities had increased. It was highlighted that the SEND service had worked with parents and the Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum to understand why parents felt that their child must have an EHC Plan. The Forum was advised that in an attempt to increase parental confidence in the support offered at the graduated approach stage, the SEND Service had employed for a period of 18 months, a practitioner who was skilled in restorative practice. It was noted that from September 2016 the practitioner had worked with 31 children, their families, schools and other professionals following a decision not to assess. It was noted further that none of the 31 cases had progressed to formal mediation, or appeal to SEND Tribunal. Over the course of the academic year the authority had experienced a reduction in the number of appeals to Tribunal, which it was believed was as a result of the investment in time with parents to increase their confidence in the wider SEN support system;
- It was highlighted that the EHC Needs Assessment process was 20 weeks; and that the SEND service was consistently meeting the 20 week deadline in 90/95% of cases. Cases that had fallen out of the 20 weeks were the most complex, and the Department for Education had acknowledged there would be exceptional cases that would require additional time to complete;

- The Forum was advised that from 1 April 2018, all local authorities should have transferred all children and young people with Statements of SEN to the new SEN and disability system if they had met the criteria for an EHC Plan. The Forum was advised that Lincolnshire had commissioned its Special Schools to undertake transfers for their students over a two year period; and that all other Statements had been transferred by Caseworkers within the authority. It was confirmed that the SEND Service was confident that all transfers would be completed well before the DfE deadline;
- It was reported that the number of places agreed for Lincolnshire special schools in 2017/18 was 1,742, which was an increase of 56 places from 2016/17 and that the special schools' funding had risen by £0.583m from the previous year to £25.777m, as a result of the increase in pupil numbers. Officers advised that the local authority working with special schools had undertaken a cyclical review of a schools pupil banding, which was defined by the pupil's primary need; and that this work was to ensure a schools pupil banding was accurately applied. The authority was also currently reviewing special schools funding formula, and that any changes were planned to take effect for 2018/19. Clarification was given that special schools would be part of the working group in formulating any changes before schools were consulted upon such changes;
- The Forum was advised that Lincolnshire had two hospital schools purchasing between 13 and 70 places during 2017/18. It was noted that nationally there had been an increase in take up, as a result of severe anxiety levels, which had resulted in a budget increase of £0.574m in this area;
- It was reported that 'Out of County' placements were only made when Lincolnshire Schools had stated that they were unable to meet the special educational needs of a particular learner. It was noted that the number of placements had remained static over the last three years, but the cost of provision had risen significantly. In addition to out of county placements there were currently 44 children and young people that were placed in independent schools in Lincolnshire. It was noted that the nature of these placement were complex; and was an area that had seen significant growth in costs of £0.527m in 2016/17;
- The LA through its detailed budget setting exercise of the Dedicated Schools Grant had managed to meet internally the high needs cost pressures reported in the paper; and
- The Forum was reminded that a comprehensive review of special education needs provision in Lincolnshire was underway; and that a Special Schools' Project Board, chaired by the Director of Children's Services was leading on the work. Page 30 of the report outlined some key issues; and the new strategic approach to SEND, based on four stages. The Forum was advised that an options appraisal had been undertaken which would lead to the development of a SEND Strategy, which would be considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee at their October 2017 meeting. The re-modelling would ensure that children and young people with SEND get the right education, in the right place, at the right time, as close as possible to their home.

During consideration, members raised the following points:-

- Impact of the notional funding of £6,000 on smaller schools; and clarity was sought with regard to additional support and funding. It was agreed that an explanation of SEN would be included in the next bulletin to schools;
- Reasons as to why SEN was more prevalent in boys. It was confirmed that Lincolnshire replicated the national picture. The Chief Commissioning Officer for Learning agreed to send an email round to Forum members providing the reasons as to why this was so;
- The cost of 'Out of County Placements'. It was noted that it was hoped reducing the placements would reduce the costs, as residential costs were very expensive. A question was asked as to whether the out of county costs were inclusive of transport costs. The Forum was advised that the costs did not include transport costs;
- Parent's involvement in the process. The Forum was advised that pilots were being tested in East Lindsey; and engagement had taken place with parents and, parent carer council. The principle was for one interview to take place to ensure that the school could meet the needs of the child, or the young person.

The Forum welcomed the annual report and thanks were extended to the Children's Service Manager, Special Educational Needs and Disability for her comprehensive report.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report on Special Educational Needs and Disability be noted.

8 SECTION 251 BUDGET STATEMENT 2017/18

The Forum gave consideration to a report from Mark Popplewell (Head of Finance – Children's Services), which provided the Schools Forum with a copy of the Section 251 budget statement for the 2017/18 financial year.

It was reported that Local Authorities were required under Section 251 of the Apprenticeship, Skills Children and Learning Act 2009 to prepare and submit an education and children's social care budget statement for the relevant period to the Secretary of State for Education by 31 March each year. The Schools Forum was advised that information for 2017/18 had been submitted to the Department for Education via its data collection and management system for education (COLLECT) by 31 March 2017 deadline. Appendix 1 to the report provided Local Authority Section 251 Table 1 data for 2017/18. The data provided an overall picture of the funding being allocated directly to schools, high needs and early years funding, central provisions within schools budget, and children and young people's services.

It was reported that the overall Dedicated Schools Grant funding was considered when the LA carried out its annual detailed budget setting exercise, which had in the past resulted in movements between the notional blocks to ensure affordability.

The Schools Forum was advised that following a review of historical commitments with in the central schools block in 2016/17, the Local Authority (LA) had been able to make significant savings to the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2017/18 of £4.274m. These savings had allowed the LA to fund the high needs pressures reported within the Annual report on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. An amount therefore of £4.274m had been moved from the central school block to the high needs block to help fund growth in special school pupil placements; the provision for schools pupil banding; a revision to the Pilgrim hospital schools funding; a revision to the pupil referral unit funding; and pupil placements made to out of county provisions. It was also highlighted that the minimum funding guarantee released for those protected schools of up to minus 1.5% had released funding of £0.847m; the removal of a split-site factor for a school £0.341m; and the funding available from the schools block historical funding mechanism £0.438m had allowed the growth in top up and targeted funding devolved to mainstream schools to be fully funded based on the 2016/17 position. This cost pressure had resulted in a movement of funding from the schools block to the high needs block of £1.626m.

It was highlighted that the movement between blocks were as a direct result of the decisions to respond to budget pressures as highlighted in previous reports to the Schools Forum.

Whilst considering Appendix 1 to the report, the Forum raised the following issues:-

- The SEN timescale, and the impact on the next budget. Officers confirmed that the Forum would be kept up to date in relation to any big spends and would receive updates on SEN and the impact of the strategy; and
- A question was asked about how the national living wage changes were impacting spend, particularly for home to school transport. The Forum noted that the LA would be undertaking reviews on service areas for national living wage implications with changes built into the 2018/19 budget process.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted; and that the budget changes between the notional blocks as detailed in the report be approved.

9 THE ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17 FOR EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE SUPPORT (EYCC)

The Forum gave consideration to a report from Michelle Andrews (Service Manager – Early Years and Childcare Support), which provided the Local Authority's position in relation to meeting its statutory duties in relation to the Department for Education guidance for early years and childcare for 2016/17; and also provided an overview of Lincolnshire's priorities for 2017/18.

In the absence of the Service Manager – Early Years and Childcare Support, a joint verbal presentation of the report presented was received from Geraldine O'Neill (Lead Consultant Early Years Entitlement) and Viki Thomas (Lead Adviser for Early Years Improvement).

In guiding the Forum through the report, officers made reference to the following points:-

- The greatest change within the sector during 2016 was the government's review of the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF). In December 2016, the outcome of the consultation was released. Following this Lincolnshire had reviewed the local funding arrangements and this had been implemented with effect from April 2017;
- Early Years and Childcare (EYCC) support was continuing to provide information, monitoring, challenge and training opportunities to all early years and childcare providers within Lincolnshire. EYCC also continued to deliver Leadership and Management Briefings;
- That 2 year old early education entitlement in Lincolnshire had increased to 78% with 2,348 children accessing a funded place. It was reported that a joined up approach to outreach had been developed between EYCC, locality teams and partners to ensure the most effective methods were used to support families to access their child's entitlement;
- It was reported that actual data from the spring term 2017 had shown the equivalent of 2,236 children in Private, Voluntary or Independent sector; and that an additional 418 children in schools qualified for EYPP. It was highlighted that this was significantly higher than the government had predicted; and as a result of this basis, the Department for Education was committed to review the delivery mechanism for EYPP to ensure appropriate levels of funding were allocated to Local Authorities;
- The Forum was advised that from April 2017, 3 and 4 year olds would be eligible for Disability Access Funding (DAF) if they met the eligibility criteria. It was highlighted that 66 children had qualified so far;
- It was reported that the government was committed to doubling the amount of free childcare from 15 to 30 hours a week for working parents of three and four year olds, from September 2017. It was highlighted that 97% of 3 and 4 year olds accessing Early Years Entitlement in Lincolnshire; approximately 40% were accessing more than 15 hours childcare per week. It was highlighted further that there were 650 providers registered to deliver funded places in Lincolnshire. The Forum noted that the impact of how the introduction of 30 hours might affect the market place when implemented was still unknown. It was highlighted that early indications from childcare sufficiency assessment were that Lincolnshire was well placed to meet the demand for 30 hours;
- Details of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP), were contained on pages 45 and 46 of the report presented;
- Quality of providers. The Forum noted that when Ofsted had published its EYCC Statistics showing the overall effectiveness of registered early years and childcare providers, the data for Lincolnshire indicated that currently 93% of the providers were either 'Good' or 'Outstanding';
- The Forum was advised that EYCC continued to support the development of early years and childcare workforce across Lincolnshire, to ensure that Managers/Leaders were able to drive forward continual improvements to improve outcomes for children in readiness for school;

**LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM
28 JUNE 2017**

- Inclusion and Early Intervention – It was noted that inclusion support was provided by the Early Years Locality Teams with guidance and support from the School Readiness Hub within EYCC. It was noted further that EYCC was committed to working in partnership with locality teams and other agencies across Lincolnshire to raise educational outcomes for young children. Work was also being carried out with the Virtual School and the Specialist Teaching Team to develop a pathway of support to ensure the educational progress of Children Looked After was closely monitored; and
- A question was asked as to how many early years' providers were rated as being Inadequate/Requiring Improvement in Lincolnshire.

Officers responded to questions raised which included the onset of the 30 hours from September 2017; and a concern was raised that some parents had still had not logged on; and was there an awareness of the procedure. Officers confirmed that 1000 families had logged on and were aware of the log in code; however it was highlighted that there were 5000 families that were eligible. Confirmation was given that there would be support to the sector; and that officers were happy to share the sufficiency assessment with the sector.

In conclusion, the Forum was advised that the service was well placed to support the early year's sector to continue to improve children's outcomes, support inclusive practice, school readiness and improve and maintain safeguarding practices within the county's Early Help strategy. The schools forum was requested to support the 2017/18 priorities and core business proposals as set out on page 51 of the report.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report 2016/17 for Early Years and Childcare Support be noted.

(Post meeting update: The number of early year's providers who were currently Inadequate/Requiring Improvement in Lincolnshire were:-

- *8 providers with an Inadequate Ofsted Judgement; and*
- *21 Providers with a Requires Improvement judgement.)*

10 NEW EMOTIONAL WELLBEING SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Forum gave consideration to a report from Sara Gregory (Commissioning Officer), which provided an update on the commissioning arrangements for the new emotional wellbeing service; 'Healthy Minds Lincolnshire'; and received an overview of the support available from the new Service.

Appendix 1 to the report provided a summary of responses received in relation to the Emotional Wellbeing Service.

The Forum was reminded that on the 12 January 2017, the Forum had considered a report which had set out the Council's intention to commission a new emotional

wellbeing service for children and young people in Lincolnshire. The Healthy Minds Service would be offering direct support to children and young people and their families, experiencing emotional wellbeing concerns, where other services were not available to meet their needs. The service would also provide the opportunity for training support to be provided to the school workforce to enable them to implement early school-based programmes to build resilience and provide guidance and support to school staff to enable them to become more confident in meeting the emotional wellbeing needs of pupils.

The Forum noted that a small working group which included representation from schools, the Council, public health, GPs and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) had been working together to help design the Service in more detail. Engagement had also taken place with head teachers a summary of the feedback received was detailed in Appendix 1. The Forum noted further that the Council was currently designing an online Emotional Wellbeing/Behaviour Pathway, which would provide a single point of access to services available locally to support emotional wellbeing and/or behaviour concerns and provide advice and guidance.

It was reported that the Service would be a Countywide service for all Lincolnshire children and young people up to the age of 19 (or up to 25 if they were identified as having special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) or are a care leaver). The Service would comprise of two main elements of:-

- Direct support to children and young people living in or going to school in Lincolnshire, and their parents/carers; and
- Training for future teachers and childcare providers, Lincolnshire pre-school and school workforce, and other professionals working with Lincolnshire children and young people.

An overview of each of the Service delivery elements was shown on pages 55/56 of the report presented.

It was highlighted that the new service was due to commence on 1 October 2017 and that the Council was seeking to establish a partnership agreement with Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) via Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006, as a mechanism for securing the provision of the new service.

The additional investment of £1m through the High Needs budget of the Dedicated Schools Grant had resulted in additional resource being available to provide high-quality evidenced-based early support to Lincolnshire pupils, which would prevent an escalation of their needs to diagnosable mental health, to ensure that they achieve the best possible outcomes, in preparation for adult life.

During discussion, the Forum raised the following points:-

- That a report should be received by the Forum at a later date advising what the service provided and what the impact the service was, however, it was recognised that the impact of the service would be monitored and reported on as part of the contract management process;

- Benchmarking information – The Forum was advised that Devon County Council had an emotional wellbeing service; and the greatest impact had been the upskilling of staff in schools and being able to access services quicker;
- The Forum was advised that the Council was currently looking at the most appropriate referral pathways and systems with LPFT to create greater fluidity between services, including closing gaps in thresholds between this new Service and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services; and
- That a further report be received at a later date for the Forum to reflect on the effectiveness of the emotional wellbeing/behaviour pathway, however it was recognised that the Forum was a strategic board and the operational pathway would be reviewed and managed by Lincolnshire County Council through its monitoring processes.

RESOLVED

That the report on the New Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children and Young People be noted.

11 OUTREACH SERVICES UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report from Mary Meredith (Children's Service Manager – Inclusion), which provided an update about the Outreach Services commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council on behalf of the Schools' Forum, which comprised of:-

- Outreach for Physical Disabilities – provided by St. Francis Special School;
- Outreach for Autism and Learning Difficulties – provided by the Working Together Team (Gosberton House, Spalding Schools Federation and Lincolnshire Wolds Federation); and
- Challenging Behaviour Outreach Support Services – provided by family Action.

The Forum was provided with an update against each of the three Services. In relation to the Lincolnshire Physical Disability Outreach Service, the Forum was advised that the service provided three qualified teachers with expertise in different areas; all had experience of working with the SEN providing educational, practical and specific advice on physical disabilities. All of the team then liaised with other professionals involved with the pupil; and also signposted them to other services.

Overall, the service was well regarded and valued by Schools and pupils. The Forum noted that the service had constantly been rated 'Good' and the risk rating had been assessed as low, with areas of outstanding practice.

In relation to the Autism and Learning Difficulties Outreach Service, the Forum noted that the Working Together Team (WTT) was providing educational support for school aged pupils with special educational needs. It was highlighted that the service had been nominated for the Accreditation Excellence Award in recognition of a service operating at the very highest of levels.

It was reported that since September 2015, 349 Schools/Academies and 1,414 pupils had accessed support from WTT. 7,738 delegates had completed Tier 1 Training Autism Education Trust; 598 at Tier 2; with Tier 3 beginning to be rolled with 11 delegates attending so far.

Feedback received from mainstream schools had been very positive and the service had been identified as being an accessible source of practical and sensible advice. The service since it had commenced had been constantly rated at being 'Good' and 'Outstanding.'

The Forum was advised that the Challenging Behaviour Outreach Support Service (BOSS) focussed on early intervention, prevention and support for schools and pupils experiencing behavioural difficulties. The service was also aimed to support containing the growth of exclusions and high specialist placements.

The report highlighted that BOSS provided a bespoke service for all schools in Lincolnshire, strengthening the inclusive approach of schools and building capacity within school settings to manage the social and emotional needs of pupils at risk of exclusion. Since September 2016, BOSS had worked with 332 cases, providing targeted support to manage the behaviour of individual pupils/students that might result in exclusion.

Data shown on page 71 of the report advised that there had been a dramatic reduction in permanent exclusions from primary settings; whilst the number of exclusions in secondary setting had risen slightly. It was also highlighted that the number of non-excluding secondary schools had increased significantly during 2016/17 academic year.

The Forum noted that the BOSS Restorative Schools Pilot offered a dedicated Restorative Practice Manager for a 12 month period to scope, manage and be responsible for delivering the pilot across 16 schools in Lincolnshire. It was noted that 88 Restorative Champions had undertaken training, including two 6th form pupils. BOSS had also delivered 75 training sessions to schools about restorative approaches and attachment. Over 200 teaching staff and lunch time supervisors had accessed the training. Positive feedback had been received, some of which was detailed on pages 73/74 of the report. It was noted that the service was continually improved following comments received.

Overall, the Forum welcomed the holistic approach and felt that the Forum should receive an annual update.

RESOLVED

That the Outreach Services Update be noted; and that further update reports be received annually.

12
LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM
28 JUNE 2017

12 TEAM AROUND THE CHILD (TAC) IN LINCOLNSHIRE

Consideration was given to a report from Paula Whitehead (Children's Service Manager – Team Around the Child), which provided an update on Team Around the Child (TAC) in Lincolnshire, in the form of an annual report. A copy of the Annual Report for 2016/17 for Team Around the Child in Lincolnshire was detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Annual report provided information regarding TAC highlighted achievements and identified areas for development.

It was noted that TAC was Lincolnshire's multi-agency methodology for the provision of co-ordinated support to children, young people and families within an Early Help arena. TAC supported children and young people between 0 – 19 years, unborn babies and could also be used with consent up to the age of 24, where a young person had a learning difficulty or a disability.

Page 82 of the report highlighted that over the last two years the volume of contacts that had been monitored had risen by 22%. It was highlighted that as contacts could take several weeks to resolve, it was expected the number of Early Help Assessments and resolved cases to increase. It was highlighted further that 26% of contacts with an outcome had resulted in an Early Help Assessment being completed. Pages 83 to 89 provided the Forum with information relating to open TAC cases; which including sector information; age and cases referred to social care; TAC Closures 2016/17, Advice Support and Guidance.

Lead professional's comments expressing how beneficial the service was were detailed on page 87/88 and 90 of the report.

The report also provided an update on priorities from the last annual report overall, the feedback received from schools and lead professionals had been positive, but there was still more than could be done. A list of priorities for the coming year was shown on page 94 of the report, which highlighted the areas for further improvement, which included:-

- Continue the development of Signs of Safety and relationship-based practice;
- Identify and promote best practice with regard to children's and families' journeys through services and safeguarding;
- Increase the provision of Quality Assurance visits; and use these to identify and act upon good practice, and areas for development;
- Continue to develop and improve TAC website, Handbook and other written online resources;
- Support the Health Sector to increase and improve the quality of their participation within TAC; and
- Increase the use of family support networks.

During a short discussion, Officers confirmed TAC brought all support to the child together, including emotional support. Some concern was expressed regarding

transition, this was acknowledged by officers. It was also highlighted that further work needed to be done regarding step-down, it was confirmed that the work stream 'Partners in Practice' would help improve this further.

RESOLVED

That the annual report on Team Around the Child in Lincolnshire be noted.

13 ACADEMIES UPDATE

The Forum received a report from John O'Connor (Children's Services Manager – Education Support), which provided information on the latest number of academies and pupils in academies.

The Head of Finance, Children's Services presented the report and advised the Forum of the position as at the 1 June 2017. The Forum noted that since the last report there had been no further academy conversions. The total number of academies therefore remained at 144; 39.8% of the total, and the number of pupils educated in academies was 64,944 FTE of the total.

The Forum noted that at the time of writing the report there were eight schools currently targeted to convert to academy status within the next six months. Four of the conversions were special schools; and the remaining four were primary schools. Page 97 of the report provided the Forum with a projected six month status of all Lincolnshire Schools.

It was highlighted that the conversion of Sutterton Fourfields Church of England School and Swineshead St Mary's Church of England Primary School had been postponed.

The report also highlighted that two of the conversions were sponsored conversions of secondary schools. The Louth Monks' Dyke Tennyson College would be joining Tollbar Academy Trust and Cherry Willingham Community School would be joining The Priory Federation of Academies.

RESOLVED

That the Academies Update report be noted.

14 LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM - WORK PROGRAMME

Members of the Forum were invited to consider the work programme presented.

The Forum was advised that future meetings dates would be included as an item on the October agenda.

14
LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM
28 JUNE 2017

RESOLVED

That the Work Programme presented be noted.

The meeting closed at 3.13 pm