



LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM 18 JANUARY 2018

PRESENT: GAVIN BOOTH (CHAIRMAN)

Joanne Noble (Headteacher, Gainsborough Nursery School), Nigel Sisley JP (Governor, St Francis Community Special School, Lincoln), Marilyn Bell (Governor, The Fenland Federation), Anthony Stevens (Governor, The Holt Primary School, Skellingthorpe), Ian Randall (Head Teacher, Reepham Church of England Primary School), Martin Kyle (Head Teacher, St Faith and St Martin's Junior School), James Todd (Chair of Governors, Woodlands Infant & Nursery School, Lincoln), Professor Ken Durrands CBE (Governor, The King's School, Grantham), James Storr (Governor, The Deepings School), David Bennett (Governor, Horncastle Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School), Ian Widdows (Head Teacher, Giles Academy, Old Leake), Mark Anderson, Caroline Saxelby (Head Teacher, Walton Girls' High School and Sixth Form), David Scott (Head Teacher, Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School), Lea Mason (Executive Head Teacher, Lincolnshire Wolds Federation, Louth), Julia Merivale (Manager, Trinity Day Nursery) and Ken Rustidge.

Officers in attendance:-

Michelle Andrews (Service Manager Early Years and Childcare Support), Elizabeth Bowes (Strategic Finance Manager, Schools Finance Team), Eileen McMorrow (Senior Project Officer Specialist Schools Project), Mark Popplewell (Head of Finance (Children's Services)), Heather Sandy (Chief Commissioning Officer for Learning), Suzanne Scott (Ellison Boulters CE Academy), Tony Warnock (Operations and Financial Advice Manager) and Catherine Wilman (Democratic Services Officer).

32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies were received from:

Josh Greaves – Alternative Provision Academy;
Bridget Starling – Faith Groups;
Helen Stokes – Staff Trade Unions.

It was noted that Ken Rustidge was present in place of Helen Stokes as her substitute.

33 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations.

34 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM

35 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 OCTOBER 2017

It was noted that under the item Future Meeting Dates, the final date should read *Thursday, 11 October 2018* and not Wednesday as printed in the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the subject to the amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

35a Minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting held on 11 December 2017

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

36 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman was saddened to announce the passing of Terl Bryant who had been chairman of the Lincolnshire Schools Forum for many, many years until October 2014.

It was noted that the Vice Chairman of the Forum had been required to step down as a change in her role meant she no longer qualified as a member of the Forum.

As such, members were invited to nominate a new Vice Chairman. The Chair expressed to the Forum that the role was rewarding and helpful support was provided by relevant Local Authority officers when undertaking the role.

RESOLVED

That Lea Mason, (Special Academy) be elected as Vice Chairman of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum.

37 SCHOOL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS 2018/19

A report presented by Elizabeth Bowes, Strategic Finance Manager, was considered which briefed the Forum on the school funding arrangements for 2018/19, including announcements on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), school grants for 2018/19 and School Budget Shares for 2018/19. The report outlined the approval made by the Lead Member to replicate the national funding formula in 2018/19 ensuring schools allocations were on a sensible trajectory for the move towards the hard formula in 2020/21. The Local Authority was working towards the publication of mainstream school budgets by the 28 February 2018, in line with the regulations.

In line with the DfE Regulations, the Forum was required to approve a number of centrally held budgets in the Schools block and Central Schools Services block for 2018/19.

The Forum approved the following budgets for 2018/19;

Schools Block

- Funding for significant pre-16 growth (£2.000m);

Central School Services Block ongoing commitments

- Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils (Stamford Endowed schools) (£0.054m);
- Admissions (£0.506m);
- LA Retained duties for all schools (£1.530m);
- Servicing of the Schools Forum (£0.020m);

Central School Services Block historical commitments

- Schools Broadband (£1.350m);
- Private Finance Initiative (£1.180m)

Officers responded to questions and clarification on certain issues. The Forum was in agreement with the proposed budgets in tables 2, 3 and 4 of the report.

The Local Authority had taken the decision not to recoup funding for statutory duties relating to maintained schools only in 2018/19. The Local Authority would keep this decision under review.

RESOLVED

That the Local Authority's proposals relating to Funding for significant pre-16 growth; Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils (Stamford Endowed Schools); Admissions, LA Retained duties for all schools, servicing of the Schools Forum, Schools Broadband and PFI be agreed.

38 EARLY YEARS NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA

Consideration was given to a report from Mark Popplewell, Head of Finance which provided a summary of the early years funding formula for 2018/19. The Local Authority confirmed the local universal hourly rate for 2018/19 to be £3.84 per pupil, an increase of £0.02 per pupil per hour from 2017/18. The 2018/19 local universal rate would apply to the 15 hours early years entitlement and the additional 15 hours for eligible working families.

The Local Authority outlined its intentions to review the mandatory deprivation factor for 2019/20.

The Government required the Schools Forum to agree central spend for early years by the 28 February 2018. In light of these regulations the following budgets required schools forum approval.

- Early Years Entitlement Team (£273.473);

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- Securing Sufficient Child Care (£368,169);
- SEND Local Office (£58,838);
- Sector Quality Improvement advice and Moderation of Early years Foundation Stage Profiles (£468,277);
- Workforce and Training Requirements for the Sector (£310,876).

During discussion of the report, the following points were noted:

- The 15 hours of care was universal for all families, however the extended provision was only for eligible families. Take-up was being monitored by the service;
- £8.151 million has been provided to Lincolnshire to fund the extra places for families eligible for 30 hour provision in 2018/19;
- Early years settings classed as *requires improvement* by OFSTED would continue to be funded for children already in the provision, however new places would not be funded until there was evidence demonstrating an improvement;
- It was felt the government's consultation on the funding of the 30 hours extended offer had not been conducted well and early years providers feel that funding levels should be increased at a national level.

The centrally retained budgets represented 4.51% of the overall early years funding, therefore meeting the required pass-through threshold of at least 95% to providers.

The disadvantaged 2 year old funding would continue at the same hourly rate of £4.85 per hour in 2018/19.

RESOLVED

1. That the Local Authority's proposals to centrally retained funding be agreed;
2. That the report be noted.

39 BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF SPECIALIST PROVISION: A COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND IN LINCOLNSHIRE

The Forum considered a report which presented A Collaborative Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Lincolnshire.

There were large areas within the county with a shortfall of SEND places with pupils currently travelling as much as 90 minutes to 2 hours one way for a place. This was having a big impact on pupils and their families.

The Strategy outlined a proposed vision for pupils with SEND in Lincolnshire which would see a collaborative system of existing schools, in four localities within the county that could meet most special educational needs and disabilities by being designated "all needs" and taking pupils of all ages.

In addition, a new special school would be created to meet the demand for places. This was most likely to be located in Lincoln, where the need was greatest.

During discussion, the following points were noted:

- The proposal had been under discussion for two years;
- The model would address transport so that children would be able to attend their nearest school;
- Capital investment would be required;
- The model sought joint and collaborative working between all parties.
- The development of satellite sites would require an element of overstaffing. Recruitment for special schools for proving successful;
- The schools which would host the satellite sites had not yet been identified, however it was fairly certain there would be one in the Skegness area.

RESOLVED

That the report and contents be noted.

40 SPECIAL SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA UPDATE

A report from Mark Popplewell, Head of finance, was considered which provided an update on the special schools funding formula for 2018/19.

The Local Authority outlined its intention to consult on a revised funding formula for 2018/19, which would shortly be released. The Local Authority believed the underlying principles of the formula were strong and fit for purpose, and therefore did not require a fundamental change, however it was recognised some additions and amendments to the formula were necessary to ensure the appropriate level of resources continued to be allocated to special schools. A number of refinements to the formula included: revision to the bands and descriptors and lump sum funding, and updated place number and pupil moderations.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

41 LINCOLNSHIRE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP - FUNDING PROPOSAL 2018/19

The Forum considered a report which detailed a proposal by the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership for additional funding for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years.

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The Lincolnshire Learning Partnership Board (LLPB) was a strategic board of Lincolnshire head teachers who alongside colleagues from the Council and the Diocese of Lincoln represented a partnership of over 360 Lincolnshire schools and academies.

The report provided details of a £0.5m request of funding in 2018/19, and a further £0.5m in 2019/20 from available DSG underspends to support the continuation of the sector-led approach to school improvement through a detailed programme of work.

Members of the Forum felt that value for money needed to be achieved through this programme, which the LLP representatives agreed with. Members also expressed that the programme had a sustaining impact on school improvement in Lincolnshire.

Whilst funding for sector-led improvement had been secured for two further years from the DSG underspend, the sector would be required to pool resources themselves to support sector-led improvements from 2020/21 to make the programme sustainable.

RESOLVED

1. That the content of the report be noted;
2. That the Local Authority's proposal to fund sector-led school improvement activity in 2018/19 and 2019/20 of £0.5m pa from available DSG underspends brought forward, be supported.

42 **ACADEMIES AND TRUST UPDATE**

The Forum considered a report which provided information on the latest number of academies, pupils in academies and academy trusts.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

43 **LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM - WORK PROGRAMME**

The Forum considered its programme of work for forthcoming meetings. It was noted that an item relating to the Outreach Service should be added to the programme for the June 2018 meeting.

RESOLVED

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 2.50 pm