

Membership

Membership with differentiated voting rights ~ Total Membership of 25, of whom 21 are entitled to vote on funding formula issues											
Sector Representation (21)	Appointed by the Council following election by:	Member	Dates and Attendance							Tenure Ends	
			22 March 2016	28 June 2016	4 October 2016	10 January 2017					
Maintained Nursery School Senior Staff (1)	Primary Headteachers Group	Jane Wilkie (JWil)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
Special School Staff (1)	Special School Headteachers Group	Mike Frost (MF)	P	S	P						Jan 2020
Special School Governor (1)	Governors Forum	Mike Evans (ME)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
PRU (1)	PRU Management Board	Karen Thomson (KT)	A	S	A						Jan 2020
Academy (4)	Academy Schools	Gwyn Williams (GW)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
		Tim Long (TL)	A	P	P						Jan 2020
		Ben Dunne (BD)	S	A	A						Jan 2020
		Andrew Bent (AB)	P	A	P						Jan 2020
Maintained Primary School Sector (9)	WAPH (5)	Andrew Redman (AR)	A	P	P						Jan 2020
		Susan Robinson (SR)	-	-	P						Jan 2020
		Gary Cunningham (GC)	P	A	P						Jan 2020
		Lesley McGann (LMc)	-	-	P						Jan 2020
		Lyndsey Glass (LG)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
	Governors Forum (4)	Stuart Munslow (SM)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
		David Hart (DH)	P	P	A						Jan 2020
		Janet Lazarus (JL)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
		Peter Ashurst (PA)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
Maintained Secondary School Sector (3)	WASCL (2)	Bev Scott-Herron (BSH)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
		Vacancy	-	-	-						Jan 2020
	Governors Forum (1)	Rebecca Knowles (RK)	X	X	X						Jan 2020
Private Voluntary and Independent Providers (1)	PVI Providers Forum	Ginny Taylor (GT)	P	A	P						Jan 2020

Representing	Member	22 March 2016	28 June 2016	4 October 2016	10 January 2017									Tenure Ends
<u>Non-Schools Members (4)</u>														
Anglican Diocese (1)	Jacqui Wightman (JWig)	P	P	S										Jan 2020
Roman Catholic Diocese (1)	Tim Warren (TW)	P	X	X										Jan 2020
16-19 Institutions (1)	Gail Stonier (GS)	S	X	P										Jan 2020
Parent Governor (1)	TBC	-	-	-										Jan 2020
Independent Chair	Maureen Banner (MB)	P	P	P										Jan 2020
Representing														
<u>Warrington Borough Council</u>														
Interim Assistant Director Education	Hilary Smith (HS)	P	P	P										
Head of Service Pupil Achievement and Support	Lisa Morgan (LM)	-	P	P										
Chief Finance Officer	James Campbell (JC)	P	P	P										
	Garry Bradbury (GB)	P	P	P										
Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services	Cllr Jean Carter (CllrJC)	A	P	A										

Key

P ~ Present

A ~ Apologies

X ~ Absent with no apologies

S ~ Substitute

- ~ Vacancy

O ~ Observer

Non-School Member Representing Trades Unions

Shaun Everett – NUT

Substitutes:

Chris Metcalfe (on behalf of Jacqui Wightman)

Apologies from Judith Wright (on behalf of Ben Dunne)

Observers:

None

Presenting an Item:

Dave Roberts

Minutes:

Gill Sykes (GMS)

Warrington Schools Forum

Minutes

Tuesday 4 October 2016

5.15 pm – 7.00 pm

Conference Room, 1st Floor New Town House

	<i>Item</i>	Action
1	<p>Apologies and welcome</p> <p>The chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting, and for the benefit of new members introductions were made around the table. Apologies were received from Cllr Jean Carter, Jacqui Wightman, David Hart, Karen Thomson, Ben Dunne and Judith Wright (substitute for Ben Dunne).</p>	
2	<p>Minutes from the previous meeting and matters arising</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true record. Reference was made to Item 11 on page 5 regarding possible use of unallocated/unused KS1 contingencies for maintained schools with significant increases in pupil numbers. The chairperson suggested this should be an agenda item at the next meeting.</p> <p>Action: Contingencies for maintained schools to be included on agenda of the next meeting.</p>	GB
3	<p>Current position on local authority traded services with academies</p> <p>Dave Roberts presented a report on traded services with academies detailing the current contractual buyback of all academy schools in Warrington as well as highlighting any major changes or deviations.</p> <p>It is recommended that Schools Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider the impact on individual services and in the wider context of services for schools in relation to the work being carried out on behalf of the Interim Assistant Director Education. NOTED 	
4	<p>Update on national funding formula</p> <p>Feedback has not been received on the consultation about the Schools Block and High Needs Block funding. The new Education Secretary has publicly committed herself to the principles of Fair Funding but recognises political difficulties in implementing the reform. The Schools Block for Warrington is badly served by the current allocation formula. Consequences for schools are severe as there was an understanding that funding pressures would be relieved beginning 2017/18, and the timetable for improvement can no longer be guaranteed. The F40 group continue to</p>	

	<p>lobby the government and have volunteered suggestions about how the funding could be reformed. It was noted that several local authorities have written to the Secretary of State to query whether there are any interim measures. The response has been negative.</p>	
5	<p>Early Years funding - consultation</p> <p>It was noted that Warrington are very low down in the league table for funding for Early Years (143/151). Proposals are included in the consultation to address fairness, using a basic building block element with additional elements based on EAL (English as an Additional Language), FSM (Free School Meals) and instances of DLA (Disability Living Allowance) of early years children. Proposals include early years settings being funded at the same basic hourly rate, and this would mean a significant increase in the PVI rate, a small reduction in the maintained schools class rate and a large reduction in maintained nursery school rate. Feedback from providers nationally is that dedicated nursery schools would be severely threatened. Warrington has made its response to the consultation saying that we have concerns around a flat rate for everyone but we do agree to a higher rate of funding. It was noted that local authorities will be given another financial year cycle to move towards implementing the new regime. The DfE will be notifying local authorities of the allocations by the second week of December 2016.</p> <p>It was noted that as Early Years will now be receiving additional funding (extra £1.4m) and we are not obliged to implement until 2018/19, Schools Forum could consider whether to move all the funding to Early Years or whether funding could be redirected to High Needs for the first year.</p>	
6	<p>Outcome of the schools balance challenge process</p> <p>The outcome of the balance challenge process is that the Formula Working Group will not be recommending clawback from any school as part of the process. Schools adequately explained surpluses. However, there is agreement to recommend an alternative approach to the challenge process for 2016/2017 balances in order to provide more rigour. Schools Forum reps to feedback to headteachers that a more radical decision could be made in the future and balances carried forward could be under greater scrutiny. It was noted that there are other authorities who have claw back arrangements and use them (not authorities in the F40 group).</p> <p>In the meantime it will be necessary to apply a general top-slice across all schools (including academies) before budget calculation for 2017/18 (levels to be agreed at Schools Forum).</p>	
7	<p>Update on High Needs spend</p> <p>HS presented a report on high needs budget pressure and the school balance challenge process. The outcome of the schools balance challenge process is noted above in Item 6. HS updated the Forum on the current position in relation to developing a sustainable offer for children and young people with additional needs across Warrington in the future. There is a programme of activity planned, which may help to alleviate some of the pressure. However, it is anticipated that the level of funding required in the future will be significantly more than is made available currently. Reference was made to paragraph 3.9 in the report stating that</p>	

	<p>movement from other blocks will be unlikely in the future. Discussion took place around the position on High Needs including the financial implications. It was noted that this key priority for the Warrington Inclusion Hub should be highlighted at the next meeting.</p> <p>Funding information is expected from the DfE by the second week in December and the deadline for returns from the local authority is 20 January 2017. In light of this it was suggested to rearrange the next Schools Forum meeting to early January 2017. Action: Rearrange Schools Forum meeting to 10 January 2017.</p> <p>It is recommended that Schools Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) note the outcome of the school balances challenge process which has not identified any clawback from schools so far; (ii) discuss the suggestions of alternatives to the current balance challenge methodology and how this would run parallel to a general topslice of the Schools Block for 2017/18; (iii) suggest any additional alternative methods of challenge and clawback; (iv) note the ongoing challenge in relation to High Needs and that the issue has been raised with the Secretary of State; (v) note that officers are working with headteachers in order to identify any opportunity to reduce financial pressure on the High Needs budget in the future; and (vi) request regular updates on the position on High Needs including the financial implications of any changes to the local offer in the future. <p>Points (i) to (vi) DISCUSSED and NOTED.</p>	GMS
8	<p>Local Authority position on school redundancy payments</p> <p>It was noted that as a consequence of the ongoing challenges faced by the local authority and the need to consider the level of financial support available to maintained schools in the future, the position on redundancy payments has been amended. The local authority will not, as a general rule, be meeting the cost of redundancy payments in the maintained sector in the future. This is with effect from 1 September 2016. <i>(Subsequent to this meeting an email was sent to all schools with this information.)</i></p>	
9	<p>AOB – No items discussed.</p>	
10	<p>Meeting schedule Tuesday 10 January 2017 at 5.15 pm Car parking will be available from 5.00 pm onwards</p>	