

Warrington Schools Forum

Minutes

Tuesday 27 June 2017

5.15pm - 7pm

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								
			22 March 2016	28 June 2016	4 October 2016	10 January 2017	2 March 2017	27 June 2017	3 October 2017	5 Dec 2017	
Maintained Nursery School Senior Staff (1)	Primary Headteachers Group	Jane Wilkie (JWil)	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Special School Staff (1)	Special School Headteachers Group	Mike Frost (MF)	P	S	P	P	X	X			
Special School Governor (1)	Governors Forum	Mike Evans (ME)	P	P	P	P	P	P			
PRU (1)	PRU Management Board	Karen Thomson (KT)	A	S	A	S	X	X			
Academy (4)	Academy Schools	Gwyn Williams (GW)	P	P	P	P	P	A			
		Tim Long (TL)	A	P	P	P	P	A			
		Judith Wright (JWri)	-	-	A	P	S	S			
		Andrew Bent (AB)	P	A	P	X	X	X			
Maintained Primary School Sector (9)	WAPH (5)	Andrew Redman (AR)	A	P	P	P	P	S			
		Susan Robinson (SR)	-	-	P	P	A	A			
		Gary Cunningham (GC)	P	A	P	P	S	P			
		Lesley McGann (LMc)	-	-	P	A	P	X			
		Lyndsey Glass (LG)	P	P	P	P	P	P			
	Governors Forum (4)	Stuart Munslow (SM)	P	P	P	P	P	P			
		David Hart (DH)	P	P	A	P	P	P			
		Janet Lazarus (JL)	P	P	P	P	P	P			
		Peter Ashurst (PA)	P	P	P	P	P	A			

Maintained Secondary School Sector (3)	WASCL (2)	Bev Scott-Herron (BSH)	P	P	P	P	A	P										Jan 2020
		Chris Hunt (CH)	-	-	-	P	A	P										
	Governors Forum (1)																	Jan 2020
Private Voluntary and Independent Providers (1)	PVI Providers Forum	Ginny Taylor (GT)	P	A	P	S	P	P										Jan 2020

Representing <u>Non-Schools Members (4)</u>	Member	22 March 2016	28 June 2016	4 October 2016	10 January 2017	2 March 2017	27 June 2017	3 October 2017	5 Dec 2017									Tenure Ends
		Anglican Diocese (1)	Jacqui Wightman (JWig)	P	P	S	P	P	P									
Roman Catholic Diocese (1)	Tim Warren (TW)	P	X	X	A	P	P											Jan 2020
16-19 Institutions (1)	Gail Stonier (GS)	S	X	P	A	X	A	-	-									Jan 2020
Parent Governor (1)	TBC	-	-	-														Jan 2020

Independent Chair	Maureen Banner (MB)	P	P	P	P	A	P											Jan 2020
Representing <u>Warrington Borough Council</u>																		
Interim Assistant Director Education	Hilary Smith (HS)	P	P	P	P	P	P											
Head of Service Pupil Achievement and Support	Lisa Morgan (LM)	-	P	P	A	A	A											
Chief Finance Officer	James Campbell (JC)	P	P	P	P	P	P											
	Garry Bradbury (GB)	P	P	P	P	P	P											
Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services	Cllr Jean Carter (CllrJC)	A	P	A	A	P	P											

Key

P ~ Present

A ~ Apologies

X ~ Absent with no apologies

S ~ Substitute

- ~ Vacancy

O ~ Observer

Non-School Member Representing Trades Unions

Shaun Everett (NUT & ATL)

Substitutes:

John Carlin representing Judith Wright; Jacqui Wightman representing Andrew Redman

Presenting an Item:

Garry Bradbury

Minutes:

Louise Cooper

	Item
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes from the previous meeting and matters arising</p> <p>a) Membership It was noted that Rebecca Knowles was not eligible to represent governors' forum due to her being a governor at an academy. The membership list has incorrectly recorded her as being absent with no apologies.</p> <p>Action 1: membership to be updated accordingly.</p> <p>It was noted that there is a vacancy on schools forum and the Formula Working Group for a secondary governor.</p> <p>Action 2: WASCL to consider secondary governor representation.</p> <p>b) Early Years SEND report The Early Years Group has not yet had a meeting to discuss the report.</p> <p>c) RSC HS raised with the RSC the issue about the budget that was intended for Future Tech. The response was that the money would follow the children. HS responded to say that funding should be available for the schools as well as the children.</p> <p>Action 2: HS to follow up this up with the RSC to establish a position by July.</p> <p>d) Formula Working Group Membership Jacqui Wightman is a member of the Formula Working Group.</p>
3.	<p>DSG Out-turn Position 2016-17</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to notify Schools Forum of the confirmed outturn position for the retained DSG budgets for 2016-17.</p> <p>The DSG was initially expected to be overspent by £790 817 however the closing deficit is £82, 694 which is a significant improvement. This has been possible due to various measures including investing a one- off saving from the cancelled carbon licensing commitment (£151, 299). Nevertheless the position means that there is no funding to be recirculated to schools. The chair noted that the improvement was a credit to the local authority.</p>

	<p>The overall DSG position aggregates from a number of individual variances that were detailed in a table in the report.</p> <p>LG queried the PEP support. GB explained that this was for admin support and was a decision made by the local authority to maintain the target for producing PEPs for pupils. These are new posts for the virtual school. The chair asked if a business case was put forward for these posts. HS explained that the PEP staff are a mixture of full time staff and fixed term contracts.</p> <p>Action 3: GB to feedback about the business case.</p> <p>JC asked about the additional pupil number contingency. This is not mentioned for secondary and Penketh High is operating with an additional pupil in the DP.</p> <p>Action 4: HS to look into this.</p> <p>J Wilkie queried the activity being lower than expected for Early Year Pupil Premium. GB explained that allocation was based on an assumption of numbers that did not happen.</p> <p>GC asked where the money for hospital and medical is being spent. HS explained that there is a bank of tutors which are deployed by the local authority. Children with mental health issues are supported through The Priory. There is limited control over the provision because it is commissioned on the local authority's behalf. HS has met with The Priory and has asked them to provide value for money.</p> <p>Action 5: HS to bring a report to schools forum.</p> <p>The chairperson questioned whether there was a financial contribution from health. GC advised that the money for this is a ring fenced element of the high needs block.</p>
4.	<p>School Balances 2016-17</p> <p>The purpose of the report was to notify Schools Forum of the final individual balances for Warrington maintained schools as at end 2016-17, and compare the overall picture with the corresponding situation in the previous year.</p> <p>There is a significant reduction in the aggregate of school balances. The average balance retained is 5%.</p> <p>The application of the new clawback criterion indicates that a total of £51,390 should be clawed back from 7 schools.</p> <p>Table 2.4 details the schools that have closed with a deficit.</p> <p>J Wilkie asked that claw back was not applied to Sandy Lane as their indicative deficit could be doubled by 2020. The chairperson declared an interest in regards to the discussion about Sandy Lane.</p> <p>It was agreed that because the decision was taken by schools forum to clawback then this process</p>

should be applied.

It was suggested that any clawback taken from maintained schools should be returned to maintained schools.

LG suggested that all academies should contribute to the overspend of the DSG.

It was **agreed** that the £51,390 clawed back will be re-distributed to maintained schools according to pupil numbers. £83k will be topsliced from all school budgets next year.

Recommendations:

Schools Forum is asked to note the 2016-17 outturn position for schools and the general decrease in School Balances held by Warrington non-Academy schools at 31st March 2017. **NOTED**

To recommend the use of the total funding clawed back from Warrington maintained schools in respect of 2016-17 closing balances. **AGREED AS ABOVE.**

5. **DSG Budgets 2017-18**

The purpose of the report is to illustrate how the DSG allocation for Warrington for 2017-18 has been allocated to individual school budgets.

Queries were raised about the allocation of the early years block in relation to the early years SEND projects. Forum members expected that more work would be done through the early years strategy group to ensure that the resources are being used effectively and efficiently before spend was agreed.

Action 6: spend on SEND projects to be considered by the Early Years Strategy Group

HS discussed the concept of a virtual MAT for SEND. This will be a set of principles that all providers in Warrington will work to in relation to supporting SEND. A programme of activity will be developed that enables partners to work in a sustainable way and use resources in a cost effective way.

The group discussed the need for a message to all school about how critical the situation is in relation to high needs and that a collective responsibility is required to address the issues.

HS explained that representatives from the sectors have been identified who will lead on the priorities via task and finish group.

Action 7: HS to produce a paper for schools forum on the virtual MAT for SEND.

It was suggested that there is a single agenda item at the next director's briefing to discuss high

	<p>needs.</p> <p>Action 8: Garry Cunningham, Bev Scott-Herron and Mike Evans to meet with Hilary Smith to set the agenda for the director’s briefing.</p> <p>An issue was raised about New Horizons converting to an academy. Warrington has invested in New Horizon’s and it is hoped that this support is not lost once the provision joins a MAT. HS explained that there is a commitment from the local authority to retain the provision but schools need to use it in order to make it sustainable.</p> <p>An issue was raised about support still being detailed in hours in EHC plans. It was suggested that examples of what the support might look like was made available to parents making clear that the funding could be used on a number of different strategies and may not be one to one support.</p> <p>HS explained that Terry Jones is leading on this and a group will come together before the end of term to address this issue. A communication will be sent to all schools.</p>
6.	<p>Surface water charges update</p> <p>Changes to surface water charges will mean a 15% rebate for all schools and a 50% reduction in water charges by 50% in 2019/2020 equating overall to schools water bills to be reduced by 40% going forward.</p>
7.	<p>Funding update</p> <p>There is a report from Effervesce education consultants to feed into the debate on schools funding formula. There have been attempts to establish Core Pupil Resource – how much a school needs for its basic running and mainstream education.</p> <p>They surveyed 200 primaries & 55 secondary schools – criteria being:</p> <p>SEN <20% Ever6 FSM <20% In one of the 40 lowest-funded LAs Ofsted effectiveness score of 1 or 2</p> <p>The recommendation of per pupil and lump sum levels were different to consultation proposals: Primary AWPU £3,343 KS3 AWPU £4,093 KS4 AWPU £4,143 / Primary Lump Sum £61,769 Secondary Lump Sum £239,152.</p> <p>If this was implemented with additional funding (£2,000 million required) would deliver about £10m extra to Warrington schools. This puts money back into basic functions and benefits both phases – no movement of funds primary to secondary.</p> <p>The report was not commissioned by the DfE, but they allowed access to data and are considering it, along with the consultation responses, the alternative f40 proposals, and perhaps other</p>

	<p>unknown submissions.</p> <p>Another suggestion was that the national formula is just for the basic running, and additional needs are dealt with at local level, as currently with High Needs.</p>
8.	<p>Meeting schedule</p> <p>Tuesday 3 October 2017, 5.15pm</p> <p>Tuesday 5 December 2017, 5.15pm</p> <p><i>(Conference Room, 1st Floor NTH)</i></p>