

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	27 Sept 2016	10 Jan 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	P			Jan 2020
Special School Staff (1)	Special School Headteachers Group	Mike Frost (MF)	P	S	P	P	P	P	P			Jan 2020
Special School Governor (1)	Governors Forum	Mike Evans (ME)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			Jan 2020
PRU (1)	PRU Management Board	Sam Rigby-White (SRW) <i>from 3 Oct</i>	A	S	A	S	X	X	S			Jan 2020
Academy (4)	Academy Schools	Gwyn Williams (GW)	P	P	P	P	P	A	P			Jan 2020
		Tim Long (TL)	A	P	P	P	P	A	P			Jan 2020
		John Carlin (JC) <i>from 3 Oct</i>	-	-	A	P	S	S	A			Jan 2020
		Andrew Bent (AB)	P	A	P	X	X	X	X			Jan 2020
Maintained Primary School Sector (9)	WAPH (5)	Andrew Redman (AR)	A	P	P	P	P	S	P			Jan 2020
		Hazel Fryman (HF) <i>from 3 Oct</i>	-	-	P	P	A	A	P			Jan 2020
		Gary Cunningham (GC)	P	A	P	P	S	P	P			Jan 2020
		Lesley McGann (LM)	-	-	P	A	P	X	P			Jan 2020
		Lyndsey Glass (LG)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			Jan 2020
	Governors Forum (4)	Stuart Munslow (SM)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			Jan 2020
		David Hart (DH)	P	P	A	P	P	P	P			Jan 2020
		Janet Lazarus (JL)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			Jan 2020
		Peter Ashurst (PA)	P	P	P	P	P	A	P			Jan 2020
Maintained Secondary School Sector (3)	WASCL (2)	Bev Scott-Herron (BSH)	P	P	P	P	A	P	P			Jan 2020
		Chris Hunt (CH)	-	-	-	P	A	P	P			Jan 2020
	Governors Forum (1)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-			Jan 2020
Private Voluntary and Independent Providers (1)	PVI Providers Forum	Ginny Taylor (GT)	P	A	P	S	P	P	A			Jan 2020

Representing	Member	22 March 2016	28 June 2016	27 Sept 2016	10 Jan 2017	2 March 2017	27 June 2017	3 October 2017	5 Dec 2017				Tenure Ends
Non-Schools Members (4)													
Anglican Diocese (1)	Jacqui Wightman (JWig)	P	P	S	P	P	P	P					Jan 2020
Roman Catholic Diocese (1)	Tim Warren (TW)	P	X	X	A	P	P	P					Jan 2020
16-19 Institutions (1)		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	P					Jan 2020
Representing													
Warrington Borough Council													
Head of Education	Hilary Smith (HS)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Chief Finance Officer	James Campbell (JC)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
	Garry Bradbury (GB)	P	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	P					

Key

P ~ Present

A ~ Apologies

X ~ Absent with no apologies

S ~ Substitute

- ~ Vacancy

O ~ Observer

Substitute

Jennifer Appleton – attending on behalf of Sam Rigby-White

Non-School Member Representing Trades Unions

Shaun Everett (NUT & ATL)

Gary Mogey (NASUWT)

Observer:

Steve Peddie

Presenting an Item:

Paula Worthington

Dave Roberts

Angela Conway

Minutes:

Gill Sykes

	<i>Item</i>	Action
1	<p>Apologies and Welcome</p> <p>The chairperson welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made around the table. Apologies were received from John Carlin, Ginny Taylor and Sam Rigby-White.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes From the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true record with the following amendment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 8 (page 6) referred to Mike Evans and should be Mike Frost. • Mike Frost was marked as “absent with no apologies” on 02/03/17 and 27/06/17 but was in attendance. <p>Matters arising:</p> <p>(a) Surface water charges: No evidence of the promised reductions yet. GB has raised this with colleagues at the NW finance meeting and will feed back at the next Schools Forum. A communication will also be included in School News. Action 1: GB to provide feedback at the next Schools Forum and include a communication in School News.</p> <p>(b) The RSC Future Tech budget issue ongoing and HS will raise again at the upcoming meeting with the RSC.</p> <p>(c) Additional pupils in secondary DPs will receive the additional pupil number contingency.</p> <p>(d) Funding for children too ill to attend school – there is a bank of tutors to support. HS has details and will bring to the next Schools Forum. Action 2: HS to bring details to the next Schools Forum.</p> <p>(e) LG queried the PEP support and questioned the need for an additional PEP Officer. Melissa Young to be invited to WAPH/LA to discuss and to bring sample PEPs. Action 3: HS to invite Melissa Young to WAPH/LA to discuss PEPs.</p>	<p>GB</p> <p>HS</p> <p>HS</p>
3	<p>Items and Feedback from Formula Funding Working Group:</p> <p>GB provided feedback from the recent meeting of the Formula Funding Working Group and noted that the agenda for that meeting had been set before the most recent National Funding Formula (NFF) proposals.</p> <p>(a) Impact of minimum funding guarantee and recommended way forward</p> <p>(b) Deprivation funding – to look at various models using IDACI indicator and FSM indicators. Discussion parked until formal position on NFF published.</p> <p>(c) Impact of changes to funding for Designated Provision (<i>HN to Mainstream</i>). There is a technical change next year when the number of DP students will go back into the mainstream formula calculation (e.g. £10K will reduce to £6K). This would mean 8 DPs would see a funding increase and 3 DPs would see a funding decrease (based on current numbers and current formula).</p>	

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	<p>Options were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Additional funding is put into the existing Warrington formula and added to the pupil premium formula. (ii) Implementing the NFF as it is next year. (iii) Implement mostly the NFF and maintain the lump sum for primaries. <p>Discussion took place around NFF values. It was noted that the £3m extra for Warrington is misleading and with moving the DF funding into the mainstream formula the overall is more likely to be £2.2m. There is a two year transition moving from a local decision to a national decision. It is possible that no school will be worse off as a consequence of the proposals.</p> <p>A decision on the formula needs to be made at the next Schools Forum (5 December) and proposals for the formula have to be submitted in January 2018. It was suggested for the Formula Working Group to meet in the middle of October to have plenty of time to consider options.</p> <p>Action 4: Formula Working Group meeting to be arranged for 16 October 2017 (at 3.30 pm at Cobbs Infants)</p> <p>GB noted that we don't yet have the data from the DfE to run figures for Warrington schools for 2018/2019, but it is expected shortly.</p> <p>GC noted frustration with trying to get the census data correct with regards to FSM applications. FSM figures need to be accurate for schools to receive appropriate funding. The question was raised around whether there is a mechanism that could be used without individual families having to complete and sign a form.</p> <p>Action 5: HS to follow up with Jen Green and Catherine Thompson.</p>	<p>HS</p> <p>HS</p>
4	<p>Update on High Needs</p> <p>HS informed that Paula Worthington (PW), Interim Assistant Director Early Help and SEND, is leading on High Needs.</p> <p>It was noted that in the last financial year we highlighted a potential overspend of between £800k and £1m and, all things being equal at least a similar overspend in this financial year. As a consequence a working group was established to consider what action was required and a plan was produced and supported by Schools Forum which included a package of short-term measures for 16/17 and actions required to try to alleviate pressure and reduce demand where possible.</p> <p>The current position on 2017/18 is that there continue to be increased pressures in the three main areas highlighted previously: Top ups for mainstream; Post 16; and Independent School fees. GB highlighted that the current projected overspend, mainly associated with Post 16 and Independent School fees is £1.5 million.</p>	

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	<p>Concern was raised about the increase, with frustration expressed by members about the significant escalation of cost.</p> <p>The query was raised about the need for a strategic plan for meeting SEN in Warrington to manage the risk of top slice from schools to the HN block. It was suggested that we may need to be more radical in our approach. HS highlighted the fact that the application for an ASD Free School was in response to the rising demand for ASD. Unfortunately this application was not successful and therefore we do need to consider how we take forward, including bidding again if possible.</p> <p>PW commented that there are a number of areas that have been highlighted which are contributing to the increased demand and expenditure It was noted that the EHCP approval rate in Warrington may be too high and there needs to be more challenge in the system and more robust scrutiny in signing off plans and packages of support. Additionally looking at ways to address parental expectation of their entitlement in Warrington.</p> <p>PW advised in response to the ASD proposal that initial feedback from the commissioning team on external placements suggested that to develop some provision within the borough, in their opinion, may be cost neutral. It was noted that analysis is required detailing costs around external placements.</p> <p>SP acknowledged the concerns raised and agreed the need for this to be addressed quickly and with clarity. An outcome and strategy going forward is needed for the next Schools Forum (5 Dec). <i>Subsequent to Schools Forum a meeting was arranged to consider the key issues impacting on schools funding with attendees from the local authority, Chair of Schools Forum, Chair of WAPH and the Chair of WASCL.</i></p> <p>It was noted that if required an extraordinary meeting of Schools Forum could be called.</p> <p>Action 6: Update on High Needs to be a standing agenda item for Schools Forum</p>	PW
5	<p>2017/2018 LA to Schools Trading Position and Comparison with 2016/2017</p> <p>Dave Roberts presented a report on the Annual Service Level Agreement (SLA) review to update Schools Forum around the levels of buyback on SLAs offered to schools and the progress being made under the Enterprising Warrington Strategy.</p> <p>There are a few services that are subsidised, and there are no intentions of removing services without consultation with schools.</p> <p>The following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GC expressed surprise at the significant reduction in buyback for Procurement and communication was noted as a key issue. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TW requested confirmation that admissions charges are the same for community and VA schools. It was confirmed that there is no difference. Secondary schools have agreed to contribute toward the cost of maintaining the current arrangements for the Fair Access Protocol as these are proving to be highly effective. • Tree and Woodland Management – this reduction in buyback was queried. The reduction is due mainly in schools converting to academies, but also a number of primaries opted out this year. It was noted that WAPH agreed as a family of schools to buy into this SLA. Action 7: Tree and Woodland Management to be discussed at WAPH. • PA noted that the Careers Service shows a reduction and is also impacted in the redesign which is out for consultation. <p>It is recommended that Schools Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Note the progress being made to provide sustainable services that offer schools value for money and consistent levels of service. NOTED (ii) Recognise that the LA is an important provider, commissioner and participant in the Warrington education system. NOTED (iii) Encourage colleagues to provide feedback on the future shape of traded services. NOTED 	WAPH
6	<p>Update on Early Years</p> <p>Angela Conway presented a report to address some of the comments from Schools Forum in March, which picks up three particular Early Years agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years SEND offer and the financial impact • Changes to funding of a nursery when a school becomes an academy • How to address the Early Years DSG budget deficit <p>To support Warrington’s Early Years SEND Graduated Pathway an Inclusion Panel will be established with effect from the Spring Term 2018 (details of the panel can be found in paragraph 2.1 of the report). Thanks were expressed for bringing this forward and for having everything in one place, for which there is strong support in the early years and primary sectors.</p> <p>Concern was raised around detail in paragraph 2.7 regarding nursery class/academy status. It was noted that the report assumes maintained nurseries will disappear and become private nurseries within the school (academy), worried this would be a watering down of provision within the borough, and concerned this was noted in the report.</p> <p>Discussion took place around the Early Years DSG budget deficit, and the recommendations from the report were considered.</p>	

	<i>Item</i>	Action
	<p>It is recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) For Schools Forum to note the report. NOTED (ii) For Schools Forum to note the extension of the Portage team until March 2021. NOTED (iii) For Schools Forum to agree to the allocated Inclusion Fund until March 2021. AGREED (iv) For Schools Forum to agree to option two, as set out under 2.13, in order to address the Early Years DSG budget deficit of £154,000. AGREED (v) For Schools Forum to note the change in early years funding to Academies with a nursery class from 2018/19. NOTED (vi) For Schools Forum to note that this budget will only support these services up to 2021. NOTED 	
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>Union representatives made a plea regarding teacher pay policies, requesting 2% increase across all pay scales. It was noted that schools have the option to make different arrangements, but unions felt that the fair and most effective way to address recruitment and retention issues would be a 2% increase across all pay scales. Headteacher members of Schools Forum questioned the rationale for the suggested approach; including what evidence there was to support the issue of recruitment and retention; and also that the issue of affordability cannot be ignored when taking account of the relatively low level of funding received by Warrington compared to others in the region.</p>	
8	<p>Meeting schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 5 December 2017 at 5.15 pm <p>Proposed meeting schedule 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 6 March 2018 5.15pm • Tuesday 26 June 2018 5.15pm • Tuesday 2 October 2018 5.15pm • Tuesday 4 December 2018 5.15pm <p><i>(Conference Room NTH reserved for all these dates)</i></p> <p>Proposed dates to be agreed at meeting in December 2017.</p>	

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.