



**Warrington Schools Forum**

**Membership**

Membership with differentiated voting rights ~ Total Membership of 26, of whom 22 are entitled to vote on funding formula issues										
Tenure ends 31 August 2020										
Sector Representation (22)	Appointed by the Council following election by:	Member	Dates and Attendance							
			26 June 2018	2 October 2018	4 December 2018	15 January 2019	5 March 2019	23 April 2019	25 June 2019	8 October 2019
Maintained Nursery School Senior Staff (1)	Primary Headteachers Group	Jane Wilkie (JaneW)	P	P	P	P	P	A		
Special School Staff (1)	Special School Headteachers Group	Maureen Brettell (MBr) <i>from 2 Oct</i>	P	P	A	X	P	S		
Special School Governor (1)	Governors Forum	Mike Frost (MF) <i>(from 04/12/18)</i>	A	A	P	P	P	P		
PRU (1)	PRU Management Board	Sam Rigby-White (SRW)	A	A	P	A	S	P		
UTC (1)	UTC	Lee Barber (LB)	P	A	A	S	A	A		
Academy Secondary (5)	Academy Schools	Gwyn Williams (GW)	P	P	P	P	A	P		
		Tim Long (TL)	P	P	A	A	P	P		
		John Carlin (JC)	P	P	A	P	A	P		
		Bev Scott-Herron (BSH)	P	P	S	P	P	P		
	Governors Forum	Kieran Walshe (KW)	A	A	P	A	P	A		
Academy Primary (1)	Academy Schools	Andrew Redman (AR)	A	P	S	A	A	P		
Maintained Primary School Sector (8)	WAPH (4)	Cath Cooke <i>(from 15/01/19)</i>	P	P	A	P	P	P		
		Gary Cunningham (GC)	S	P	P	P	A	P		
		Lesley McGann (LM)	P	P	P	P	A	P		
		Lyndsey Glass (LG)	S	P	P	P	P	P		
	Governors Forum (4)	Stuart Munslow (SM)	P	A	P	P	S	P		
		David Hart (DH)	A	P	P	P	P	P		
		Janet Lazarus (JL)	P	P	A	P	P	P		
		Hazel Coen (HC)	P	A	P	P	P	P		
Maintained Secondary School Sector (2)	WASCL (2)	Chris Hunt (CH)	P	P	P	P	A	P		
		Ed McGlinchey (EM)	A	P	P	A	P	A		
Private Voluntary and Independent Providers (1)	PVI Providers Forum	Ginny Taylor (GT)	P	P	A	A	P	A		

Representing	Member	Dates and Attendance								
		26 June 2018	2 October 2018	4 December 2018	15 January 2019	5 March 2019	23 April 2019	25 June 2019	8 October 2019	3 December 2019
<b><u>Non-Schools Members (4)</u></b>										
Anglican Diocese (1)	Jacqui Wightman (JacquiW)	P	P	S	P	P	P			
Roman Catholic Diocese (1)	Tim Warren (TW)	P	A	A	P	A	A			
16-19 Institutions (1)	Julie McCann (JM)	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Parent Governor (1)	Vacant	-	-	-	-	-	-			

<b>Independent Chair</b>	Maureen Banner (MBa)	P	P	P	P	P	P			
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Representing		26 June 2018	2 October 2018	4 December 2018	15 January 2019	5 March 2019	23 April 2019	25 June 2019	8 October 2019	3 December 2019
<b><u>Warrington Borough Council</u></b>										
Head of Service Education and SEND	Melissa Young (MY) <i>(from 2 Oct)</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Finance Manager	James Campbell (JC)	P	P	P	P	P	A			
Senior Accountant (Schools)	Garry Bradbury (GB)	P	P	P	P	P	A			
Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services	Cllr Jean Carter (CllrJC)	P	A	A	A	P	A			

**Key**

P ~ Present

S ~ Substitute

A ~ Apologies

- ~ Vacancy

X ~ Absent with no apologies

O ~ Observer

**Trades Union**

Gary Moge

(NASUWT)

(Apologies from Shaun Everett - NUT &amp; ATL)

**Presenting an Item:**

Paula Worthington

Assistant Director, Early Help, Education and SEND, WBC

**Substitutes:**

Paul King

Headteacher, Special School Staff – attending on behalf of Maureen Brettell

**Minutes:**

Gill Sykes

	<i>Item</i>	<b>Action</b>
1.	<p><b>Apologies and Welcome</b></p> <p>The chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Funding Bands</b></p> <p>Paula Worthington (PW) presented the report regarding funding bands and described the current position in Warrington in comparison to other local authorities. It was noted that the current banding has increments of differing amounts with no rationale for why this approach was taken.</p> <p>The options in the report were explained, and noted that we are looking towards a more accurate approach to costs and funding for specific interventions and support. This will be a more bespoke personal approach and will give flexibility to change funding up and down depending on the needs of the child at that point. This approach should most appropriately target resources to the children who need it. Any savings generated will remain in the high needs pot.</p> <p>It was noted that the children in receipt of the higher band funding are not necessarily in Warrington, and work is ongoing to review all these current contracts. PW is also challenging internally with children’s social care when they arrange a social care placement with a high cost education placement or transport costs. Licensed taxi drivers are also to be challenged around their higher charges for educational transport.</p> <p>New provision maps have been launched and SENCOs trained on their use. Training should continue with SENCOs to support accurate planning. It was noted that the provision maps were previously more generic, but now provide more scrutiny to match the funding.</p> <p>The proposals were considered and it was agreed to remove all banding and move to a new bespoke model. This process will start with new and reviewed EHCPs. It was agreed that this model should be reviewed after six months to see how it compares to last year.</p> <p>Proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Consider the removal of Bands F&amp;G with effect from September 2019. <b>AGREED</b></li> <li>(ii) Move to actual amounts for new EHCPs rather than bands, but with consideration for schools to continue funding the first £1500 on top of schools core offer (old Band A). <b>AGREED</b></li> <li>(iii) Consider changing the band structure regarding F&amp;G to move in line with other band increments. <b>N/A</b></li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Change from Top Up Funding to Warrington Emergency Funding to Schools (WEFTS)</b></p> <p>PW gave an explanation of the current system and the issues as noted in the report. It is proposed to rebrand Top Up Funding and change the rules to use as an emergency</p>	

	<i>Item</i>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>pot. It is focused around a change in policy of our approach to this and ensuring that children are not left vulnerable. We don't want a postcode lottery where children lose out because of moving house (a short distance) and have to go through a process with another authority with different rules. Discussion took place, and it was noted that each case would be judged on its own merits. For this process we will still require detailed provision maps.</p> <p>It was agreed to move over to the WEFTS process, and for the local authority to draw up plans for its implementation.</p> <p>Proposal:</p> <p>(i) The local authority ceases Top Up Funding and moves to a system where schools can apply for short term funding for a specific reason and usually whilst an EHC needs assessment is in process. (Warrington Emergency Funding to Schools-WEFTS). <b>AGREED</b></p>	
4.	<p><b>High Needs Medical Funding</b></p> <p>PW presented this report with a proposal to remove High Needs Medical Funding from Warrington schools. It was noted that there are many requests through Panel for children with complex medical needs, and it is clear that the medical needs should not be funded by education. Further discussions are ongoing between the local authority and Bridgewater CCG around who should be funding these medical interventions in Warrington schools.</p> <p>It was noted that the proposals in the report (as noted below) will be put on hold until the outcomes of these discussions are known.</p> <p>(i) The removal of HNMF with effect from September 2019. With Health services funding support where appropriate. <b>ON HOLD</b></p> <p>(ii) A review of all funding in place and a change to actual amounts rather than bands/historic hourly funding. <b>ON HOLD</b></p> <p>(iii) Greater financial contribution from health services to support complex medical needs in schools. Still under amended HNMF arrangements. Jointly commissioned where appropriate. <b>ON HOLD</b></p>	
5.	<p><b>New Horizons Primary Provision</b></p> <p>PW presented the report to the forum, and the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal to remove New Horizons primary provision and use the funding at a reduced rate to make a cost saving and better meet the needs of Warrington children. New Horizons agree the current primary offer isn't appropriate.</li> <li>• PW to meet with Karen Thomson and Tim Long to look at a broader alternative provision offer in Warrington. It is useful to bring a proposal forward that talks more clearly about what an offer looks like. Wider provision discussions and planning is needed.</li> </ul>	

	<i>Item</i>	<b>Action</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRW reported that Karen Thomson is in conversation with the ESFA around their processes that don't support the local authority in its ability to claw back. This is an issue not unique to Warrington, but across the country. Noted that finances for places are committed until 2020.</li> <li>• It was noted that any change can only be implemented from September 2020, but there is nothing to say we cannot look at a different model in between that period.</li> <li>• There are ongoing negotiations with New Horizons to safeguard places for primary children that meets their needs.</li> <li>• Some primaries have said they would not use the current offer and we need to design something to meet the children's needs.</li> <li>• It was noted that there will be an offer in place for September 2019.</li> </ul> <p>All proposals have been put on hold pending further discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To cease the base funding of primary places at New Horizons. <b>ON HOLD</b></li> <li>(ii) To explore further future proposals for Warrington Primary Alternative Provision to the benefit of Warrington children. <b>ON HOLD</b></li> <li>(iii) To request New Horizons report to Schools Forum regarding their justification for Top Up costs and their current offer. <b>ON HOLD</b></li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>Cognition &amp; Learning Designated Provision</b></p> <p>Melissa Young (MY) presented the report to the forum which was considering a proposal to remove the Cognition and Learning Designated Provision. Visits have taken place to designated provisions focusing initially on primaries and with conversations with secondaries. A lot of funding has been put into the designated provisions and we wanted to see how they were making the best use of the money, and to give an opportunity to show their strengths in the system.</p> <p>The visits highlighted that the funding in designated provisions doesn't just benefit the children placed there, it impacts on the staff and other children within the settings. Very vulnerable children made progress in many different ways, not just academically. Beyond schools preparing these children for life in terms of independence, it showed real benefits of having Cognition and Learning Designated Provisions. It was pleasing to see the fluid links with peer groups and all staff involved, not just DP staff, transferring some of the practice in staff training into mainstream. It was clear that the wider cohort benefited and there are real merits to stay with this system.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Designated Provisions remain in place, but we look carefully at grouping needs to match expertise within system e.g. those children with additional SEMH or ASD needs within the cognition and learning cohort. <b>AGREED</b></li> <li>(ii) Review the children currently in the designated provisions to ensure they are appropriately placed and that needs are appropriately scaled against mainstream pupils. <b>AGREED</b></li> </ul>	

	<i>Item</i>	<b>Action</b>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Ending of Education Funded Tracheostomy Contract</b></p> <p>There are currently two children in our schools accessing this support. The funding for their tracheostomy support has been negotiated with Health, and from September 2019 they will be picking up the costs. We are currently in the process of transferring the contracts.</p> <p>PW noted that this links with the High Needs medical funding discussions taking place. It is not an easy conversation, but it is the responsibility of Health to provide for the health needs of these children. It is an offer Health should deliver and they should recruit staff specifically skilled to deliver against the contract, and there is a moral argument about them picking up their responsibilities. There are some concerns within the local authority around cancelling the contract. Noted that ongoing discussions with Health will continue.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>SALT Contract</b></p> <p>PW apologised that a report was not available for the forum, and gave an overview of the situation with the SALT contract. Bridgewater CCG are currently commissioned to deliver against the SALT contract, but this is not meeting our needs and Bridgewater CCG have been issued with a six month notice to cease the contract. It was noted that over the past four years the contract has rolled over without monitoring or review and without performance data.</p> <p>It was noted that SALT needs to be joined up with different language programmes from early years onwards. SALT colleagues consistently attend Panel and paperwork feeding into the EHCP process has improved.</p> <p>There are a couple of options to consider: going out to market test for an alternative provider (this is a better financial option and could take 3-6 months), or the local authority could passport the money to schools for them to commission SALT directly themselves. There are no immediate financial savings to be made at the moment, and work is ongoing for reshaping the offer in the future. The local authority have created a specialist SEND commissioning post for a greater understanding of what is needed on an ongoing basis within the system and when going out to market.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>AOB – no items to discuss</b>	
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Meeting schedule:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 5.15 pm</li> <li>• Tuesday 8 October 2019 at 5.15 pm</li> <li>• Tuesday 3 December 2019 at 5.15 pm</li> </ul> <p><i>(Venue – Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School)</i></p>	

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