

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DERBYSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 29th June 2022
At 6pm on Microsoft Teams

Present

Members	School / Organisation
Alan Thomas	Northfield Junior
Jennifer Murphy	Hunloke Park Primary
Canon Carolyn Lewis	Church of England Diocese - Derby
Chris Greenhough	Swanwick School & Sports College
Nick Goforth	Belper Secondary School
Martin Brader	Dronfield Henry Fanshawe
Tom England	Esteem MAT
Julian Scholefield	Esteem MAT
Keith Hirst	Brookfield Community School
Jeannie Haigh	Willows Academy Trust
Sarah Baker	Team Education Trust
Simon Redfern	St Ralph Sherwin CMAT
Donna Wakefield	Redhill Academy Trust
Peter Crowe	ASCL
Deborah Turner	NEU

Substitutes

Members	School / Organisation
Cilla Holman	Hadfield Infants School

Observers

Members	School / Organisation
Cllr Alex Dale	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Ruth George	Derbyshire County Council
Patrick Grant	DfE Policy Advisor

DCC Officers / others

Members	School / Organisation
Carol Cammiss	Executive Director, Children's Services
Saranjit Shetra	Assistant Director, Education & Improvement
Amanda Gordon	Early Years Manager
Phil Burrows	CS & T Finance
Eddie Grant	CS & T Finance
Shelley Kerslake	CS & T Finance
Andy Walker	CS & T Finance
Ruth Lane	CS & T Finance

Martin Brader chaired the meeting.

Shelley Kerslake confirmed that Joy Williams had resigned from the Forum.

22/11 Apologies

Name	School / Organisation
George Wolfe	Curbar Primary
Thomas Osborn	Baslow St Anne's
Peter Johnston	The Village Federation
Margaret Mason	Children 1st
Iain Peel	Service Director, Schools and Learning
Paula Williams	Ass Director, Learning Access & Inclusion
Peter Hallsworth	South Normanton Nursery
Siobhan Johnson	The Brigg Infants
Ben Riggott	Parkside Community School
Alison Noble	Service Director, Early Help and Safeguarding
Chris Wayment	ASCL

22/12 Minutes of The Schools Forum 27th January 2022

The minutes were approved for accuracy and there were no matters arising.

22/13 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) outturn 2021-22

Shelley Kerslake presented the outturn position of the Dedicated Schools Grant 2021-22. The final position was largely as forecast and previously reported to School Forum, although there had been a continued increase in SEN top ups for the latter part of the year, increasing the overspend. The final position was an in-year overspend of £3.7m of the DSG, comprising of an overspend of £5.904m in the High Needs Block (HNB) with small underspends in all the other blocks, notably £0.724m in Central School Services of which had been planned to support the LA's deficit recovery plans. The overspend on the HNB was broken down in more detail in Appendix 1.

The overall deficit in DSG balances on 31st March 2022 is £5.050m which includes committed funds of £3.126m and an uncommitted deficit of £8.177m.

Individual school balances increased during the year by £3.625m and school capital balances totalled £3.799m at the year end.

No comments were raised from the floor.

The Schools Forum noted (i) the report and the overspend for 2021-22; and (ii) the increase in the accumulated DSG deficit.

22/14 Briefing note: DfE White paper “Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child” and DfE Green paper “SEND review: right support, right place, right time”

No comments were raised from the floor and Shelley Kerlake commented that the LA is not able to assess the financial impact of any changes which may follow the publication of those papers at this stage, until further information is made available by the DfE.

The Forum noted the report.

22/15 National Funding Formula consultation

Shelley Kerlake presented the paper to inform the Schools Forum of the latest DfE school funding consultation and to seek views on the proposals.

Shelley highlighted that responses were due by 9th September 2022 and that the proposals include;

- decisions on LA applications to transfer funding from schools’ budgets to the high needs block to become a matter for the Secretary of State.
- indicative (notional) SEND budgets within school formula allocations to be calculated by the DfE.
- there would be a review of growth and falling rolls funding.

Cllr Alex Dale said he had just become chair of the National F40 group and they will be responding to the consultation. The National Funding Formula (NFF) would still lock in historical disadvantages in funding to its members and the capacity to deliver a NFF by the DfE must be questioned, when you consider all the work currently undertaken by LAs.

Deborah Turner commented that if the government can move money from the Schools Block (SB) to HNB, they have the potential to say they are providing more funding in the HNB when they have simply redistributed existing funding. The less control the Schools Forum has, the overall pot of money may be decreased.

Martin Brader asked if the paper says anything about the role of the Schools Forum and Shelley replied that the paper suggest the Secretary of State would take into account Schools Forum recommendations.

The Forum noted the report.

22/16 Election of Chair/Vice Chair

This meeting is the last in the term of office for both the Chair and the Vice-Chair. Martin Brader confirmed that he is not eligible to stand as he will no longer be a governor next year. The Vice-chair has expressed an interest in either role prior to the meeting. No expressions of interest were put forward by other members at the meeting and Shelley asked for anyone who is interested to email the Schools Forum inbox before the end of the school term.

Carol Cammiss wanted to put on record her thanks for all the work that Martin has put into being Chair over a number of years and Peter Crowe seconded those thoughts as did several other Forum members.

22/17 Dates and venues of next meetings

Dates would have to be discussed with the new Chair and Vice-Chair to confirm availability, but a provisional date for a September meeting is to be sought. Shelley Kerslake to contact members outside of the meeting to agree a suitable provisional date.

Meeting venues were discussed. Peter Crowe and Julian Scholefield expressed the view that it was important to have face-to-face meetings to aid general discussion which didn't happen on TEAMS in the same way and would recommend at least a 50/50 split between TEAMS and face-to-face for the future. Those members expressing an opinion agreed an in person meeting in September would be preferred.

Carol Cammiss said that the members room at County Hall would be a suitable venue and could be available. This is to be explored for the next meeting. An earlier time of 4pm-6pm was agreed.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm.