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| People & Communities Department  | **2** |
|  | Civic Centre, Keynsham, Bristol Tel: 01225 394195 |

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| **B&NES-PC-Spot** | Description: Bath and North East Somerset Clinical Commissioning GroupCOL |

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| **Meeting title** | **SCHOOLS FORUM** |  |
| **Date** | Tuesday 19th January 2016 – Community Space, 1st Floor Library Building, Keynsham |
| **Forum Members Present** | Mark Mallett (Chair), Ed Harker (Vice Chair), Julie Dyer, Claire Hudson, Roz Lambert, Jim Crouch, Alun Williams, Colin Cattanach, Richard Vanstone, Annie Smart, Anne Hewett, Kerrie Courtier (observing), Kevin Burnett,  |
| **Forum Members Not Present** | Susan Robbins, Lianne McCarthy Dean Anderson |
| **Officers Present** | Richard Morgan, Margaret Simmons-Bird, Sara Willis, Cllr. Michael Evans, Mike Bowden, Chris Wilford, Philip Frankland, Cllr. Emma Dixon(observing), Mark Christopher, EFA (observing), Sarah Howell, Education Finance (observing), Robin Gibbs observing),, Nicola Stephenson (Beechen Cliff) (observing),Debbie Langton (minutes) |
| **Officers Not Present** | Ashley Ayre,  |
| **Distribution** | As above; Theresa Gale; Colleen Collett; Cllr Charles Gerrish; Cllr. Lisa Brett; Cllr. Tim Warren, Cllr. Emma Dixon, Tim Richens; Jeff Wring; Wendy Jefferies, All Headteachers |
| **Next meeting** | **Tuesday 15th March 2016, 3-5pm, Community Space, 1st Floor Library Building, Keynsham.** |

**ACTION**

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| **1.** | **Apologies Received** |  |
|  | Ashley Ayre, Susan Robbins, Dean Anderson |  |
| **2.** | **Minutes of Last Meeting – 8th December 2015** |  |
|  | Agreed. |  |
| **3.** | **Matters Arising** |  |
|  | 1. EH – enquired about the research project results re models for collaboration/partnership – MB to follow up with AA.2. SARI funding not on budget paper, apologies RM. | ***Action:*** MB-AA |
|  | **Early Years Funding Rate**  |  |
|  | PF introduced a paper on the Early Years Entitlement (EYE) funding rate for 2 year olds. By reintroducing a top slice from the budget used as a fund that providers bid for, a cost neutral funding rate increase of 7p per hour can be achieved. Previously they would need to complete paperwork to receive £40. Under this method they would automatically receive £39.90 for a full time place. Proposal - recommend bring top slice back into funding, seeking SF’s agreement to increase the funding formula to £5.07 an hour.Comment – RL questioned opportunity for other support this fund may have been used for. This is a separate paper for child protection.**SF vote: unanimous in favour**  |  |
|  **5.** | **Budget Planning** |  |
|  | RM presented the Schools Forum 5 year budget plan 2016/17 – 2020/21 focusing on 2016-17 budget– comments: - * DSG £2,527,000 of added resource
* SARI - £8232.00 to be entered
* DSG cash neutral position no inflation provided by DfE for inflationary pressures, 2.3% increase
* Comment – where are special schools inflationary pressures recorded? Calculation applied in additional £500k for services includes special schools along with early years settings.
* Calculation set out of inflationary pressures
	+ pay awards – NIC & superannuation costs

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|  | Teaching CostsIncrease  | Non-Teaching Costs Increase  | Total |
|  | £ | £ | £ |
| Primary | 739,000 | 309,000 | 1,048,000 |
| Secondary | 940,000 | 484,000 | 1,424,000 |
| Total | 1,679,000 | 793,000 | 2,472,000 |

* Pupil growth – additional pupils in schools attract AWPU funding estimate need for additional resources £1.79 million. DfE have added all additional pupils recorded on school census into the DSG. DFE have also added additional £92 million to support the pressures being observed on SEN.
* SEN growth pressures, coincidentally the additional resources allocated by the DFE match the identified pressures at £300k
* RM outlined the ongoing pressures identified in the budget paper referring to the previous papers produced for the forum at the previous 2 sessions.
* Nurture/Outreach reviewed
* Behaviour Strategy – papers have been submitted twice. Questions and comments raised included

MM – thanked Jeanette Veira for excellent analysis of current Behaviour Strategy situation. However, there is no clear costed strategy; the budget allocates £480k but how is money to be spent? Is there potential scope for savings?AW – budget pressures previous years, EY, outreach review whether a grander plan is needed to support schools or whether short term fixes?MB – Draft Behaviour Strategy, need clarity, difficult to go out and do the work, need for a procurement process, commit to and look at capacity. It would be difficult to do that if a sum was not ear-marked for the strategy when it has been devised.MM – if sum agreed and it remains unspent would it be re-issued to schools? No clear spend plan yet; what are the likely whole year costs, one off costs?MB – Aspire contract ends Summer ’16 – need for commitment funding for places.CW – stats figures reviewed: fixed term exclusions 60% higher. Haven’t reached busy period yet, concern over continued exclusion.MB – request for members to be part of Strategy Task Group, objective for group to review available routes – AW agreed to be part task group. RM – £480k budget, any unspent fund go automatically back to DSG. The DSG carry forward would then be available for the SF to allocate to its priorities.RM – * + Southdown Infant & Juniors amalgamating as Roundhill primary resulting in saving of £35k.
	+ Borrowing additional repairs and maintenance, paid loans £135k for additional resources.
	+ SARI, £8230 to be included
	+ Shortfall of £2.746,500
* RM then introduced the One-Off items included in the paper
	+ One-offs (papers have been submitted to SF): -

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| CHiN and CP support | 118,500 |
| Support for inflation in schools and services | 2,000,000 |
| SEND transition costs | 65,000 |
| HERS increase in demand | 65,000 |
| SENCO area practitioner | 25,000 |

Officers elaborated on the content of the papersCW – SENCO area, ensuring children’s needs are met; 25 EY settings to provide additional support.The papers explained that £2 million of the DSG balance could be used to reduce/mitigate the on-going pressures identified above. Utilising the carry forward to support the inflationary pressures would leave a DSG carry forward of £2.4 million which is under 2% of DSG. RM explained the need to keep this balance to meet unexpected pressures in SEN & pupil places.  RM – discussion excess of pressures over resources at £2,746,500, main issue around inflationary pressures.General discussion over the pressures being observed in schools and SENCC – commented more children with complex needs, more SEN pupils. RM – The 5 year plan was to make £300k available each year over 3 years.RM - all resources going into school support pupils in schools.Growth in independent school placements a concern as costly places with complexities. Discussion around the understanding of school forum members as to the pressures on SEN and how the processes of funding work**Action:** Training programme, ‘Better understanding of SEN funding’ – RM to set up for future SF meeting. CW – by Mar/Apr we will have a better understanding of the demographic of B&NES to plan for school places, continued growth and statutory responsibilities – have a national and local picture.Discussion around the methodology of the DFE allocating the additional funds to LA’s. RM commented that it looked as if it was pro rata to the High Needs BlockMC (EFA) – will help to source the methodology for SF **Action**CW – objective to reverse the trend of pupils using independent sector by developing provision.RM – SEN pressures £300k still in budget, not ring fenced to SEN requesting SF approval – nurture outreach service, pupil growth, SEN growth pressures & behaviour strategy.RM explained the inflationary pressures being faced by schools and settings: - * pay awards for Teaching and Non-teaching staff. For teaching staff an estimate of 1% in 2016-17 from 01.09.2016, but impact overall inc. of 1 % in 2016-17.
* Teacher’s superannuation costs increase Sept 2015, from 14.1% to 16.4%. Adding 0.96% to costs in 2015-16.
* For non-teaching staff the superannuation charges will increase by 1% from April 2016.
* National Insurance rebates for employees and employers - different salary scales. The headline increase 3.4% but the impact is complicated.
* Inflation rates for 2016-17: - Electricity 0%; Gas 0%;Oil 0%;Rates 2.3%;Repairs and Maintenance 0%
* Deflation petrol, heating costs…

After some debate a proposal was put to the forum.The forum to agree the following budget changes for 2016-17

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| Pupil Growth  | 1,708,781 |
| SEN Growth pressures | 300,000 |
| Nurture Outreach service | 50,000 |
| SARI | 8,232 |
| Behaviour Strategy  | 480,000 |
| School Amalgamations | -35,000 |
| Prudential Borrowing | -183,000 |
| Total | 2,327,013 |
| Resources available | 2,527,000 |
| Remainder allocated to schools and settings to contribute to inflationary pressures | 199,987 |

Discussion around identified items as one off /time limited funding.Forum considered how to utilise carry forward to support the inflationary pressures. Proposal put to forum to agree following allocations

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| CHiN and CP support | 118,500 | For 3 years |
| Support for inflation in schools and service | 2,000,000 | One off |
| SEND transition costs | 65,000 | For 2 years |
| HERs increase in demand | 65,000 | One off |
| SENCO area practitioner | 25,000 | For 2 years |
| Vote: carried unanimously  |  |

RM – additional resource added to school budget outside MFG to ensure that all schools receive a share of the funding, DfE accepted. 1 year only to top-up school budgets, maintained schools would increase in schools budgets (Apr 1st) & academies (Sept 1st). | ***Action: RM******Action: MC (EFA)*** |
| **6.** | **A.O.B** |  |
|  | EH – enquired about the research project results re models for collaboration/partnership – MB to follow up with AA.KB – commented on the introduction of National funding Formula and the need to recognise that schools in affluent areas still have children with high need. He stressed the need for the NFF to be reactive to the needs of individual schools – Mark Christoper, EFA commented that he would take the issues back to the EFARM – De-delegation of resources to secondary schools, RM confirmed each secondary head had agreed that the de-delegation will remain the same as last year.MB – Events at Trinity School resulted in 30 pupils suddenly moving schools. EFA has been approached for disapplication of funding regulations to enable effective support for schools. LA awaiting a reply early next week.  | ***Action: MB – AA******Action: MC*** |
| **7.** | **Date of Next Meeting:**  |  |
|  | Tuesday 15th March 2016, 3-5pm, Community Space, 1st Floor Library Building, Keynsham. |  |