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| People & Communities Department | | **3.0** | |
|  | 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 16th January 2018 – Avonfields Room, Somerdale Pavilion | |
| **Forum Members Present** | Ed Harker (Chair), Mark Everett, Colin Cattanach, Charlotte Lucas for Clare Crowther, John Delaney, Alun Williams, Richard Vanstone, Dawn Sage (Elliott), Kerrie Courtier, Mairi Lanyon | |
| **Forum Members Not Present** | Gareth Beynon, Sue East, Claire Hudson, Clare Crowther, Roz Lambert | |
| **Officers Present** | Richard Morgan, Cllr. Paul May, Chris Wilford, Philip Frankland, Margaret Simmons-Bird, Richard Baldwin, Cllr Paul May | |
| **Officers Not Present** | Mike Bowden | |
| **Distribution** | As above; Theresa Gale; Colleen Collett; Cllr Charles Gerrish; Cllr. Tim Warren, Tim Richens; Jeff Wring;  Wendy Jefferies, All Headteachers | |
| **Next meeting** | **Tuesday 13th March 2018,  Avonfields Room, Somerdale Pavilion, Keynsham** | |

**ACTION**

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| **1.** | **Apologies Received** |  |
|  | EH (Chair), welcomed everyone to the meeting the first for 2018; apologising for the last minute cancellation of the December meeting. Introductions made Dawn Elliott now Dawn Sage was welcomed to her first meeting.  The following apologies had been sent:  Gareth Beynon, Mike Bowden, Kerrie Courtier, Sue East, Claire Hudson, Roz Lambert and Clare Crowther (nominated Charlotte Lucas to attend on her behalf)  Kevin Burnett (BANES NAHT) attended as an observer. |  |
| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest** |  |
|  | The following Declaration of Interest and Positions Held were recorded:  John Delaney – School Governor St Gregory’s College Bath  Richard Vanstone – School Council, Somerdale Primary from 2016  Kerrie Courtier – I am a governor of my school which is a part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership  Ed Harker – none to declare  Dawn Elliott – none to declare |  |
| **3.** | **Minutes of the last meeting (14th November 2017)** |  |
|  | Minutes were checked for accuracy and agreed with following amendments/actions.  *School Crossing patrol funding? [Minutes; from meeting dated 17-01-17, raised by EH under AOB].* “*EH mentioned his concerns regarding the funding of the School Crossing Patrol in the hope that MB could raise this issue at corporate level; MB informed clarification has already been requested”.*  *MB has raised this with the Highways Department who will be invited to send a written statement to the Forum.*  **Remains Outstanding Action**  ***6. Early Years SEND Inclusion Funding -*** *The Forum discussed the budget pressure and Early Years High Needs.* PF gave further clarification around pressures of the 30-hours entitlement (taking effect next year) and the increased demand for SEND – the £2.3m shortfall in High Needs spending for 2018 / 19.  ***8. National Funding Formula Consultation*** – Cllr PM gave an update to the funding formula implementation which had been scrutinised at the Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel meeting earlier in the day; George Samios, Head-teacher of Twerton School and Sue Adams HeadTeacher of Roundhill were present along with RM and EH from the Forum. The vote was carried 4:3 in favour of the National Funding Formula from April 2018. Cllr PM thanked the Forum for the support.  ***10. A.O.B.*** *- CC raised the issue around the point of access to panel which determines whether a child goes to Aspire or elsewhere. CC will meet with CW to discuss further.* – CC reported conversation in progress with CW. | ***MB*** |
| **4.** | **SEND Funding Update** |  |
|  | CW informed the Forum the SEND Updates, New banding Model and Next Steps paper is to update on the progress of the move to a new banding system.  The Forum was advised in July 2017 that the Local Authority (LA) was reviewing the way that the high need allocations of finances are made for Education Health Care Plans and that a SEND Banding Group made-up of Head teachers and education representatives were reviewing and drawing-up new banding arrangements.  The Forum was asked to consider item 3.3 of the paper where the Banding Group had agreed to operate a period to allow a call for additional evidence as outlined:   * The period between January and end of March 2018; the SEND team write soon to all schools with the outcomes of the banding exercise and information on the processes for submitting additional evidence. * Between 1st April and June 2018 the SEND team will arrange a number of days for the new evidence to be considered in an open process with SENCO’s and Head teachers to ensure transparency * Following completion of the above exercises before the academic year-end the LA will apply values to these bands. The allocation of finance will happen after the call for evidence. * Schools to be written to before September 2018 advising of final bandings for each pupil and their values   The Forum fully discussed whether there would be any indicative values when first writing to schools, how the plans would be validated, concerns raised over small primary schools with low EHC plans; with support for any affected schools on an individual basis and are now happy for the letter to go out with the banding.  The forum was advised that it was not possible to attach values at this stage in any accurate way. Forum agreed that attaching values may distract from the exercise of actually correctly identifying need at this stage. |  |
| **5.** | **Medical Funding Update** |  |
|  | CW gave a verbal update to the draft paper Supporting Pupils at Schools with Medical Conditions a copy of the policy had been circulated to Forum members just prior to the meeting.  An amended has been added to ensure that additional support will be available to schools with a higher than average number of pupils with medical conditions. This will be applied in the same formula that allocates additional funding to schools with higher than average numbers of EHCP’s. |  |
| **6.** | **Growth Fund Budget** |  |
|  | RM introduced the Growth Funding Update paper for the Forum to be informed of the allocations planned under the budget; explaining the Growth budget of the schools block of funding supports those schools that are opening or are expanding at the request of the Local authority.  The Growth funding process was agreed by Schools Forum in December 2014, the Forums attention was drawn to papers:   * 6.1 – FY2017-18 BANES Council Policy for Growth in LA Planned Admission Numbers (PAN) * 6.2 – FY2017-18 BANES Council Policy for funding a new primary school   The forum discussed the funding which is based on a lagged approach and is only available for schools and not the Early Years sector.  The Forum agreed to continue with the growth funding process in its current format for 2018-19 | ***Agreed*** |
| **7.** | **Centrally Held Budgets** |  |
|  | As a part of the new regulations being introduced to prepare for the new funding regime under a National Funding Formula, the DFE are requiring any centrally held budget by the LA to be approved by the Forum on an annual basis.  RM asked the Forum to approve both the holding of the budget and the amount held in each case explaining the DFE’s guidance of 2-categories of centrally held budgets; the Forum is asked to approve both the holding of the budget and the amount held in each case.   * School admissions: £256,190 * Servicing of schools forums: £4,589 * Prudential borrowing costs: £180,076 * Contribution to combined budgets: £63,549   Following a full discussion the Forum voted unanimously to maintain the budget. | ***Agreed*** |
| **8.** | **Early Years Entitlement Funding Formula** |  |
|  | PF introduced the paper the paper of November 2017; as an update to the Forum on the upcoming consultation on the Early Years Entitlement (EYE) Funding Formula during January and February 2017.  In 2016 when the National Funding Formula was set for the Early Years DSG the DfE indicated that rates would be fixed from 2017 to 2020; Based on the funding confirmation announcement on 19th December 2017; the rates do remain same for 2018/19.  In 2017 the Forum agreed the funding rate for 1-financial year with a further review for 2018/219 and beyond.  PF went through the 2-options proposals, detailed in the paper which would be looked at on 10th January 2018 meeting of the Early Years Reference Group. These options have been designed through discussion with the reference group from the multitude of possibilities that any formula could create.  The Forum agreed to the consultation on the alternative methods of allocating the deprivation fund (Providers will be asked to confirm their preferred option) starting 19th January 2018 running to 17:00 on 23rd February 2018. PF will report the result of the consultation at the March meeting of the Forum. |  |
| **9.** | **De-Delegation of Services (maintained schools)** |  |
|  | All Academy members left the meeting before this item.  RM introduced the paper School Funding reform – De-delegation of Services for the Forum to decide on the service areas to de-delegate.  The Forum’s attention was drawn to the nine agreed areas showing values of de-delegation to maintained schools in FY2017 – 18; in the paper. For 2018 – 19 the Forum is required to decide again on which items (that are allowed) should be de-delegated whilst considering the diminishing pool as schools convert academies.  The Forum fully discussed the options and the message it wished to give to schools about the ongoing de delegation; proposing for de delegation to continue for 2018 – 19 as in 2017 – 18 but formally decide to cease de delegation from 2019 – 20. Meanwhile, to work with schools to hold together all benefits of the pooled arrangements.  The vote was carried in favour of the request. | ***Agreed*** |
| **10.** | **A.O.B.** |  |
|  | Membership of the Forum - EH noted with Academies increasing in number, all Primary and Secondary representation will be Academy members – where does this leave the Maintained Schools representation on the Forum? RM will clarify with the Dept. for Education for further guidance. | ***RM*** |
| **11.** | **Date of Next Meeting** |  |
|  | 13th March 2018, Avonfields Room, Somerdale Pavilion |  |