

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FUNDING FORUM – MINUTES OF MEETING
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DATE: Tuesday 12th February 2008

PRESENT: Lynn Millar (Borough Road Nursery), Christine Large (St John’s), Clare Taylor (St Bede’s), Chris Taylor (Mowden Infants), Jim O’Neill (Carmel), Keith Cotgrave (Longfield), David Ackroyd (North Road); Gill Broome (Mount Pleasant); Eamonn Farrar (Hurworth); Dela Smith (Beaumont Hill); Barbara Collishaw (Longfield Governor), Mr Thompson (Cockerton and Branksome Governor), George Mc Queen (CS), Ian Coxon (CS), Lisa Winship (CS), Cate Crallan (CS); Bernie Bowes (CS)

APOLOGIES RECEIVED: None

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION</u>
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>KC welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>The minutes were agreed to be accurate.</p>
3.	<p>School Budget Share 2008-11 – proposed changes to funding basis for Newly Qualified Teachers</p> <p>Following the previous Schools Forum, where members were asked to agree changes, it was agreed Bernie Bowes would attend to detail how the Authority will use the proposed £50k to be retained. Bernie explained the £50k equated to £1k per NQT, which will cover training, Mentor work and admin. The NQT training programme was highly regarded.</p> <p><i>Recommendations</i></p> <p>The schools forum were asked to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approve the proposal to allocate NQT funding termly in arrears from 2008/09 b) Consider and approve for the local authority to retain £50k of NQT funding. <p>Both recommendations were agreed.</p>

4.	<p>School Budget Share 2008-11 – proposed changes to funding basis for admissions and appeals funding for Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools</p> <p>GM explained how Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools administer their own admission and appeals processes. As this is not currently recognized in Darlington’s school funding formula it was proposed to build a factor in from April 2008. This would be based on a lump sum of £250 per primary or £1,000 per secondary plus an amount per appeal, for the total amount to be distributed to equate to £20k.</p> <p>JO confirmed that this request has been on-going for several years, therefore whilst appreciating the change from 2008/09, were there any arrears available.</p> <p>GM recognized this, but can only guarantee funding for future years.</p> <p>EF had concerns over carrying out Hurworth’s own appeals, would funding be sufficient?</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>The Schools Forum were requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approve the proposal to allocate funding for administering admissions <p>The recommendation was approved with the proviso that the funding will be reviewed next year.</p> <p>Action GM to produce report on funding for Forum in February 2009.</p>
5.	<p>Role of Schools Forums: Birmingham Conference</p> <p>Clare T ran through the main points from the Conference on 30th November, 2007 which she attended with GM.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>The Schools Forum were requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Invite Margaret Judd to attend a future meeting of the Forum b) Consider the extent of Forum membership c) Ask the Director of Children’s Services to carry out a skills audit with current Forum members and bring recommendations to the next meeting on extensions to the Forum’s membership d) Consider the institution of sub-groups for early years and 14-19 funding e) Consider how links can best be made with the Children’s Trust and the Children and Young People’s Plan

	<p>All recommendations were agreed with the following action points</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Margaret Judd to be invited to a Forum meeting in September</i> b) To be reviewed in next item c) <i>GM to produce a paper to be sent to all Forum members to assess current skills and training needs</i> d) Sub groups to be set up to deal with major topics e) <i>GM to write a paper (to be agreed with Chair) to request attendance by someone from the Trust</i>
6.	<p>Schools Forum (Amendment) Regulations</p> <p>LW detailed the recent changes to the regulations regarding membership. A revised terms of reference was introduced</p> <p><i>Recommendations</i></p> <p>The Forum were requested to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Consider the changes to non-school membership of forums and agree to representatives from 14-19 partnerships and for PVI providers of the free entitlement to early years education b) Consider the regulation whereby headteachers may be represented by other senior school staff c) Agree on the way the forum will choose substitutes for school members d) Note the amendments on representation of faith bodies e) Elect Chair and Vice-Chair the new calendar year f) Agree further schedule of meetings g) Agree revised terms of reference <p>All agreed, with the following action points</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Authority to look at membership to include 14-19, PVI, observers from Academy and LSC</i> b) <i>LW to distribute form for all members to indicate Forum member</i> c) <i>LW to distribute form for all members to indicate 1 nominated substitute</i> f) <i>Dates to be distributed from GM/LW for future meetings</i>
7.	<p>Revisions to Scheme for Financing Schools</p> <p>GM referred to the directed revisions to the Secretary of State's guidance on local authority schemes for financing schools.</p> <p>JO asked for clarification on one of the revisions, that is including a mechanism that controls surplus school balances. The revision in the scheme refers to anything greater than 5% (secondary) or 8% (primary) once commitments had been accounted for. The other balance control recommended by Government last year was to</p>

	<p>redistribute 5% of all school surplus revenue balances, however this proposal was overturned.</p> <p>The Forum were asked to note the revisions.</p>
8.	<p>Centrally held funding 2007/08 – update on current position</p> <p>IC ran through the current position for all centrally held funding</p> <p>DS raised the point that Beaumont Hill did not receive funding for a HLTA in line with secondary schools. GM responded with Beaumont Hill’s diverse funding, ie on planned places. If Beaumont Hill are to be funded, this would have to be agreed by a future Schools Forum.</p> <p>GM raised issue with regard to funding the Academy for this, and whether this would result in the Academy being double funded.</p> <p><i>Recommendations</i></p> <p>The Schools Forum were asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approve the proposal to carry forward £215k to support Behaviour Plans b) Note the contents of the report <p>Agreed.</p> <p><i>Action</i> <i>GM to enter into discussions with Elaine Appleyard and Sheila Bamber to clarify their current funding arrangements. GM to report back at next meeting.</i> <i>George – were you doing anything on Beaumont Hill’s HLTA???</i></p>
9.	<p>Centrally held funding 2008/09 – approval of contingencies</p> <p>IC explained the proposals for next year’s centrally held funding.</p> <p>The reduction in ILS contingency was questioned by DS, with regard to would this be sufficient to provide for special provision. CC explained that this contingency is not used for special provision, a growth bid would fund this provision instead.</p> <p>DA questioned the £25k contingency proposed for support for pupils using English as an additional language. His concerns were around 19 primaries with Polish pupils and the logistics of funding for 1 teaching assistant. It was also suggested to look at which languages need to be supported.</p> <p>EF sought clarification on the £80k expenditure on 14-19 entitlement. IC listed the expenditure as Elaine Richardson’s role, consultancy and support and development</p>

	<p>provided by Helen Ellison.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>The Schools Forum were requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approve proposed amounts in the school specific contingency b) Approve the proposed amounts in the combined services contingency c) Approve the proposed contingency for redundancy costs <p>The Forum agreed all the above points</p> <p>Action GM will clarify at the next meeting the reference made to redundancy costs referring only to NJC staff.</p>
10.	<p>School Budget Share 2008-11 – funding changes, outcome of consultation</p> <p>Proposals were made by IC for changes to funding. IC summarized the consultation responses regarding SEN and deprivation funding. CC gave a verbal update on the small number (12 from a possible 199) of responses received so far from parents/carers of children with a statement.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Schools Forum were requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approve the proposals to implement Cushioning b) Approve the proposals to change SEN funding c) Discuss and agree a basis for deprivation funding <p>Cushioning and SEN funding were agreed, therefore funding for ILS Bands 3,4,5 and 6(6) including those elements within the whole of Band 6 will transfer into GLS for primaries. The total amount of funding available to primary schools for SEN will remain the same. For secondary schools, all ILS funding will transfer into GLS, and the total amount of funding will be increased by £130k from the current contingency.</p> <p>The Forum decided on using a combination of free school meals and IDACI as the basis for deprivation funding. The total pot of money for deprivation will be calculated on a 50/50 basis using free school meals/IDACI.</p>
11.	<p>School Budget Share 2008-11 – funding bases</p>
	<p>IC went through the report explaining that as three year budgets will be issued from 2008/09, the Forum will need to approve which data will be updated in the following two years.</p>

	<p>DS and GM had discussions on Personalisation funding. DS questioned why Beaumont Hill do not receive such funding, GM stated that Government guidelines suggest this funding is only available for primaries and secondaries</p> <p><i>Recommendations</i></p> <p>The Schools Forum were requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approve the proposals for fixing non-AWPU data b) Consider an appropriate basis for distributing Teacher's Performance Pay <p>a) was agreed. The Forum agreed to use the same basis as in previous years for Teacher's Performance Pay, but to annually update the information about number of teachers and pay.</p> <p><i>Action</i></p> <p>The Forum agreed to set up a sub group to discuss issues around Personalisation funding for Beaumont Hill.</p>
12.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>GM announced to the Forum that IC has been promoted and is moving on to the Darlington/Stockton partnership. GM thanked IC for all his work.</p>

Date and time of next meeting:
To be arranged