**Actions and notes from School forum meeting Jan**

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| **Requirement** |  |  | ***Responsible member*** | Notes / actions |
|  | **1** | **Apologies** | **Chair** | Tricia Davies, Chris Lee, Jacqui Patterson |
| **For Approval** | **2** | **Minutes of the Last Meeting** | **Chair** | New format was discussed and agreed, no outstanding items |
| **For Consultation** | **3** | **Matters arising from Minutes** | **Chair** | No matters arising |
| **Items for Approval or Consultation / For Information Only** | | | | |
| **For Information** | **4** | **Report on the work and progress of the School Improvement Service.** | **JP** | Janet delivered a report on behalf of Jacqui Patterson to follow-up from the previous report to Schools Forum in October 2023 and provide the latest Ofsted position, and the financial commitment and actions for 2023-24, with 95% of maintained primary schools rated good or better, 12% outstanding and 100% of the maintained nurseries good or better. 2/3 maintained secondary schools are good; 1 is RI but has recently been inspected and is awaiting its report.  This shows significant impact of the role of the team, which now has added capacity and lots of improvement work to be delivered going forward including Research school, CPD collaborative and professional partnership. |
| **Items for Approval & Items for information** | **5** | **DSG Funding Allocations to Schools; Central Schools Services; High Needs and Early Years Blocks for 2023/24.** | **KMcB** | Kevin delivered a comprehensive report to provide members with information on the 2024/25 proposed funding allocations to Early Years; High Needs; Individual Schools Budgets and the Central Schools Services Block (including delegation and de-delegation) on which Schools Forum are asked to formally approve as required.  To note the intention of the Local Authority to submit the final Authority Proforma Tool (APT) Return on Schools funding to the DfE by the deadline of 22nd January 2024 to enable School Budgets to be set for 2024/25.  The Schools’ Forum is asked to note / and or agree the following recommendations:  ITEMS FOR NOTING BY SCHOOLS FORUM  • Note Sefton’s overall DSG funding for 2024/25 and the allocation assigned to each of the 4 funding blocks with any adjustments to be made (Section 1).  • Note the Local Authority recommendations in support of the Individual Schools Budgets (ISBs) for 2024/25 before any de-delegation from Maintained Schools – (Section 2); and note the LA proposal not to set aside any pupil growth contingency from the 2024/25 allocated provision in respect of the Infant Class size/Pupil Growth contingency adjustments, and to use instead, previous unused pupil growth provision brought forward within Schools Centrally retained DSG reserves, which stands at £0.292m brought forward from 2022/23. This would enable the full allocation of Pupil Growth £1.401m for 2024/25 to be allocated to schools through the Formula funding (subject to approval by schools, below).  • Note the provision of funding for Early Years (Section 3) and the intention of the LA to increase the base hourly rates payable to all EY Providers for U2 s ; 2 ; 3 and 4-Year-old childcare as set out in the Table at para 3.4; and, in line with 2023/24, the intention of the Local Authority to passport the funding given for the former Teachers Employer’s Pay and Pensions Grants to Schools with Nursery Classes and PVIs with qualified teachers via a Quality supplement using data provided through the January 2024 Census Data (allocation to be agreed before 1 April 2024)  • Note the provision of funding for High Needs in 2024/25 (Section 4).  • Note the 2024/25 DSG Allocation from the Central Services Schools Block and the specific areas this includes (Section 5).  • Note the paragraphs (6.6 to 6.7) on specific schools de-delegated items (Section 6).  ITEMS REQUIRING A VOTE OF SCHOOL FORUM REPRESENTATIVES AS NECESSARY  • To agree by a vote which APT model of Schools Funding for 2024/25 to adopt – Model 1 including the transfer of 0.5% Schools Block funding to High Needs OR Model 2 which is the normal funding allocation to schools without any contribution towards High Needs. (ALL Primary and Secondary Phases to vote)  • To agree by a vote, to the proposal by LA Finance officers, that no specific contingency amount (£0.000m) should be set aside in support of significant pre-16 pupil growth and/or in compliance with KS1 infant class size legislation as described in Paras 2.17 to 2.20, and that any call on this funding will be met in 2024/25 from unused pupil growth contingency brought forward in Central DSG balances (£0.292m). Further, that the full Pupil Growth allocation be allocated to schools via the schools’ formula in 2024/25 (£1.401m) (ALL Primary and Secondary School Phases to vote)  • To agree by a vote to support the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) funding allocation as proposed (totalling £1.501m 24/25) with associated services. See Paras 5.1 to 5.7 (ALL Primary and Secondary School Phases to vote)  • To agree by a vote to the rates to be applied against Maintained Schools funding for 2024/25, in recovery of statutory costs incurred by the Local Authority on their behalf. This item was originally agreed as a de-delegated item in 2018/19 and in subsequent years since then; and this will need to be agreed for 2024/25 by Forum today. Costs are treated as de-delegated through the APT and raised through the proposed charges for 2024/25 - per pupil for Primary and Secondary schools of £23.59; £47.10 per Place for Special schools; £47.10 for AP Places; and £21.29 per PTE place at Nursery schools. See Paras 6.1 to 6.3 (Maintained Schools to vote by phase as required, and including Primary; Secondary; Special/AP and Maintained Nursery Phases)  • To agree, by a vote of the Maintained Schools Sector only, the basis for and, de-delegation of specific central services as required in paras 6.6 to 6.7 Items A to E, to be pooled centrally by the local authority to provide a service to all ‘maintained’ schools. (Note\* Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools Only, to vote by phase, as necessary across Items A to D; and for Item E (School Improvement services) – vote also to include Special/AP and Maintained Nursery Schools)  FINAL OUTCOME FOR NOTING  • Schools Forum note the intention of the Local Authority to submit the final APT for the 2024/25 schools’ formula funding to the DfE, by the deadline of 22nd January 2024.  After the report was presented, there was extensive discission around the ATP model between members. After the discussion it was agreed that members supported the notion of the 0.5% model in principle, however they would like to explore a different model of reallocation to ensure that no school supporting above 3% SEND is worse off. It was agreed to set up a representative working group to consider how this could be done and also to consider schools that border other boroughs to ensure they are considered due to the impact out of borough children have on the budget for all children. KMcB to arrange a working group.  Vote 1  Agree Model 1 - 10 Agree Model 2 – 0 (Model 1 agreed)  Vote 2  Agree (12) Disagree (0) (Agree accepted)  Vote 3  Agree (13) Disagree (0) (Agree accepted)  Vote 4 by phase  Primary Agree (7) Disagree (0) (Agree accepted)  Secondary Agree (2) Disagree (0) (Agree accepted)  Special / AP Agree (1) Disagree (0) (Agree accepted)  Nursery – no representation (No vote)  Vote 5  A - Agree (9) Disagree (0)  B – Agree (8) Disagree (0)  C – Agree (9) Disagree (0)  D – Agree (8) Disagree (0)  E – Agree (10) Disagree (0)  Officers were thanked for premeeting, papers and the smooth running of the vote. |
| **For Information** | **6** | **High Needs 2023/24 forecast update and 0.5% funding allocations.** | **KMcB** | Kevin presented a report to outline the position regards the High Needs DBV review and financial forecasts to 2027/28; along with indicative funding outlook for 2024/25.  Schools Forum are asked to:  • Note the current year’s forecast statement for 2023/24 as reported in Appendix 1.  • Note the next allocation for the Spring Term 2024 of the Schools Block funding being used in support of schools with significant High Needs budget pressures and allocated initially to schools with a SEN population exceeding 3% of their school pupil numbers (Appendix 2). |
| **For Information** | **7** | **Early Years wraparound childcare expansion 2024/25 – 2025/26** | **KMcB** | Kevin delivered a report to provide members with details of the DfE’s announced funding and guidance on expanding wraparound childcare over the next two years.  That Forum is asked to:  Note the DfE’s guidance to Local Authorities for the expansion of wraparound childcare for children agreed 4 years old and above in Primary reception and/or PVI settings and including childminders. |
| **Standing Item - Verbal Update – For Information** | **8** | **Verbal update on SEND Issues including SEN Forum.** | **NR** | Nicola gave an update about SEND including,  The new governance structure (Board and subgroups)  Sufficiency  Delivering Better Value  SEND Dashboard  Strategy updates  Parent carer survey  Parent carer conference in March  Partnership development  Inspection preparation and Annex A |
| **Standing Item - Verbal Update – For Information** | **10** | **Early Years Development Group verbal update on Early Years issues from the last meeting.** | **JT** | Jen gave an update about Early Years including,  Revised membership  DSG underspend  Sufficiency  There was a question posted in the group chat about funding and KMcB will address this outside of the meeting |
| **AOB** | | | | **No items** |
| **Date of next meeting: Monday 18 March 2024**  **at 1.00pm by Virtual TEAMS** | | | | |