

SCHOOLS FORUM**Wednesday 13th January 2021 2pm****via Teams online****Attendees:**

Julie Bevan (JB)	Chair
Ming Zhang (MZ)	Education, Participation & Skills – Service Director
Amanda Paddison (AP)	Education, Participation & Skills – Head of Business & Access
Jo Siney (JS)	Education, Participation & Skills – Head of SEND
Louise Jenkins (LJ)	Finance (Schools and Learning) – Finance Business Partner
Rebecca Trott (RT)	Finance – Principal Technical Accountant
Sue Smith (SS)	Early Years and Childcare Manager
Karen Cook (KC)	RC Diocesan representative
Karen Lilley (KL)	Early Years representative
Annmarie Allchurch (AA)	CE Diocese representative
Ciara Moran (CM)	PAPH representative
Heidi Price (HP)	PAPH representative
Stephen Martin (SM)	Maintained Nursery Schools
Lisa Hartley (LH)	CEO PLP
Matthew Bindon (MB)	Alternative Provision representative
Dan Roberts (DR)	PLT representative
Martyn Cox (MC)	PLT representative
Aaron Meredith (AM)	PAPH representative
Amanda White (AJW)	Clerk to Schools Forum

Apologies:

Alison Botham (AB)	Director of Children's Services
Wendy Cording (WC)	PAPH representative
Lisa Boorman (LB)	Secondary representative
Justine Mason (JM)	PLT representative
Andrea Hemmens (ASH)	SHAP representative
Ben Manning (BM)	Post 16 representative
Matthew Corrigan (MC)	PLT representative

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES	Action
As above.	
2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING ON 16 DECEMBER 2020	
Minutes agreed.	
3. MATTERS ARISING	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forward Plan – Sustainable Business Models for providers; The current concern is funding; we are still waiting for clarification from DfE regarding headcount and census. Many providers have had a significant drop in numbers due to the current lockdown. ▪ Inclusion Strategy Board; In progress, a planning meeting will be held on Friday 15 January to discuss ToR and membership. 	
4. 2021/22 BUDGET SETTING	
<p>LJ informed Forum that EY settings will shortly be receiving their consultation, the results of which will be fed back at the Forum in February.</p> <p>Information relating to data information contained appendices 4, 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3;</p> <p><u>2021/22 Funding:</u></p> <p>In December 2020, the Department of Education (DfE) published initial DSG allocations for 2021/22 based on October 20 pupil numbers.</p> <p><u>Schools Block Funding:</u></p> <p>The Schools Block allocation for 2021/22 has been calculated using the October 2020 census data.</p> <p><u>Growth Funding:</u></p> <p>Growth funding is within local authorities' schools block allocations. For 2021/22, it will be calculated using the same methodology as in 2020/21, based on growth in pupil numbers between the October 2019 and October 2020 censuses.</p> <p>It was proposed and agreed at Schools Forum in December 2020 to fund estimated growth for all growing schools on the APT and allocate the remaining balance to the in-year growth fund. After allocating the NFF in full and estimated growth for growing schools, the remaining balance is £617k. It is proposed to allocate £617k to the in-year growth fund, as this balance relates to unallocated growth funding. The under-allocation is due to a reduction in the number of growing schools across the City, three primary schools and one secondary school cease to meet the growth fund criteria in 2021/22. Pupil up take within growing secondary schools is also less than anticipated due to the impact of University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools.</p> <p>Action: JB asked if Sue London would be able to produce a report of the growth rates across the City, looking at capacity per locality. AP to speak with SL to feed back at Forum in February.</p>	AP

Plymouth's Consultation Document:

A summary of consultation responses was presented to Schools Forum on 16th December 2020. 3 responses were received in total and the paper to Schools Forum included a summary of comments made.

Nine proposals were presented and agreed at schools forum in December 2020.

Central Schools Services Block Funding:

Central Government have allocated £2.898m to Plymouth for Central Funding in 2021/22. This includes £1.684m for historical commitments which is the same as initial projections and £1.213m for on-going commitments which is £0.052m higher than initial allocations. Copyright licence costs have also increased by £0.010m compared to initial allocations, resulting in a total under allocation of £0.042m against ongoing commitments.

It is proposed to allocate the additional £0.042m by increasing the funding for ESG retained within on-going commitments. This means, 'Retained ESG top up funding' within historical commitments can be reduced by £0.042m, leaving an additional £0.042m which can be added to the amount to be distributed to schools to fund the work previously done by the Excellence Cluster. This will be distributed to all schools funded via the DSG schools block, both primary and secondary to fund their own early help offer (as per Plymouth's funding consultation and Schools Forum approval in December 2020). This equates to a per pupil amount of £11.95 based on the October 2020 census data (originally £10.75 per pupil).

Discussion regarding the proposed allocation of the £42k and how the funds may be spent by individual schools, and what would be a good use of funds; such as a student's social, emotional, mental health needs.

It is proposed that £0.416m funding previously used to fund the work done by the Excellence Cluster will be distributed to all schools through the High Needs Block and will be used by schools in meeting the needs of children with social, emotional and mental health needs. As with 2020/21 allocation of funding, schools will be required to submit a short return confirming how this allocation was used. It may be that schools could consider how the additional allocation can be used to invest into the City-wide inclusion project developments that are being planned for 2021/22.

The remaining ongoing project (Schools Sports Partnership) funded via historical commitments will be included in the Schools Forum forward plan to ensure that it is reviewed.

It is expected that Central Government will continue to reduce the CSSB funding each year (probably by 20%). Therefore, in future years there will be no remaining funding to distribute to schools (re. work previously done by the Excellence Cluster) and the School Sports Partnership funding would have to be purchased directly from schools. Information of this will be included in future consultation documents once we have more information.

Estimated 2021/22 School Budgets;

Appendix 1 shows the estimated 2021/22 individual school budgets compared to 2020/21 baselines and Appendix 2 shows a summary of this information.

Appendix 1 also shows the allocation of historic commitment funding that was previously attributed to the Excellence Cluster.

The 'growing schools' funded via the APT are; Pomphlett Primary, St Matthews C of E Primary, Yealmpstone Farm Primary, Plympton Academy and Plymstock School. Any

other schools who meet the 'growing schools' criteria will be funded via the growth fund budget during the year.

Appendix 3 shows estimated 2021/22 per pupil budgets compared to 2020/21 baselines for individual schools.

25 schools (21 primary and 4 secondary schools) require an uplift to the minimum per pupil funding levels to ensure that all schools receive £4,180 per primary pupil and £5,415 per secondary pupil.

10 schools (9 primary schools and 1 secondary school) have been uplifted to the funding floor to ensure they receive an increase of 2% compared to 2020/21 baselines.

53 schools (39 primary schools, 13 secondary schools and 1 all-through school) are due to receive their core NFF allocation, without any protection as this exceeds the thresholds set for the minimum per pupil amounts and the funding floor.

All figures included within the appendices are still estimates and subject to approval by the ESFA. The Local Authority deadline for confirmation of schools budget shares to mainstream maintained schools is 28th February 2021.

Summary of Schools Forum recommendations;

- The Central School Services Block funding for 2021/22 is allocated as per table 4.3 and 4.4 above.
- The remaining ongoing project (Schools Sports Partnership) funded via historical commitments should be included in the Schools Forum forward plan to ensure that it is reviewed.
- The remaining balance of £617k within the schools block, which represents unallocated growth funding is transferred to the growth fund to cover in-year growth adjustments.

All recommendations agreed by Schools Forum.

JB wished to offer her thanks on behalf of Schools Forum to the Finance team for all work carried out and detailed reports.

7. PROPOSED DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Wednesday 24th February 2021
- Wednesday 16th June 2021
- Wednesday 10th November 2021
- Wednesday 15th December 2021