

**SCHOOLS FORUM****WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY 2019, 2:00pm – 4:00pm****ENGAGE****Attendees**

Wendy Cording (WC)	Chair
Heidi Price (HP)	PAPH representative
Colin Randall (CR)	PAPH representative
Ian Cording (IC)	PAPH representative
Aaron Meredith (AM)	PAPH representative
Heidi Price (HP)	PAPH representative
Carrie Wills (CW)	Governor representative
Anne Thorne (AT)	SHAP Governor representative
Anita Hemi (AH)	PLT representative
Martyn Cox (MC)	PLT representative
Justine Mason (JM)	PLT representative
Julie Bevan (JB)	PLT representative
Matthew Corrigan (MCO)	PLT representative
Ruth Westwood (RW)	AP representative
Ann-Marie Allchurch (AA)	CE Diocese representative
Lisa Hartley (LH)	Interim CEO PLP
Pat Gould (PG)	PAG representative
Ben Manning (BM)	Post 16 representative
Nicky Walters (NW)	Nursery Representative
Sue Smith (SS)	Early Years representative
Judith Harwood (JAH)	Assistant Director, Education, Participation & Skills
Amanda Paddison (AP)	Education, Participation & Skills – Head of Business & Access
Jo Siney (JS)	Education, Participation & Skills – Head of SEND
Rebecca Trott (RT)	Education, Participation & Skills – Finance Officer
Louise Jenkins (LJ)	Education, Participation & Skills – Finance Officer
Nadia Donald(ND)	Clerk to Schools Forum

**Apologies:**

Maureen Taylor (MT)	Early Years representative
Karen Cook (KC)	RC Diocesan Rep
Andrea Hemmens (ASH)	SHAP representative

1.	<b>WELCOME &amp; APOLOGIES</b>	<b>Action</b>
	As above.	
2.	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	
	WC welcomed Nicky Walters as nursery representative and Ben Mannining as Post 16 representative. Karen Cook is the new RC Diocesan representative, but has had to send apologies for today's meeting.	
3.	<b>MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING ON 5 DECEMBER 2018</b>	
	Minutes approved as an accurate record of the meeting.	
4.	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	
	AP to contact post 16 providers – actioned and BM in attendance at meeting.	
5.	<b>BUDGET SETTING – FINAL 2019/20 FUNDING FORMULA</b>	
	<p>WC thanked the finance team for their hard work in pulling all of this technical information together.</p> <p>Budget setting documents and appendices 1-6 have been circulated in advance. LJ has provided a further document and appendices 7-10 as hard copies to the meeting, due to further information being required in light of late information from Central Government.</p> <p>LJ talked through the document and highlighted the following:-</p> <p><b>2019/20 funding</b></p> <p>Central government confirmed Plymouth's DSG allocations in December and this was as expected.</p> <p><b>2019/20 Schools Block Funding</b></p> <p>The total funding to allocate to schools from the schools block is £154.621m, minus £490k allocated to growth, giving a total allocation of £154.131m</p> <p><b>Growth Funding</b></p> <p>Growth funding is part of NFF allocations and for 2019/20 a new formulaic method has been introduced. It was agreed at Schools Forum in December 2018 to keep the growth fund at £490k for 2019/20, which is the same as the level for 2018/19.</p> <p>JM asked for clarification regarding growth funding as is conscious of the local demographic and the increase in PAN for some schools. LJ confirmed that there is guidance which sets the rules out regarding this. LJ is going to bring this policy to the next schools forum to review the method of payment via the growth fund.</p> <p><b>Consultation Document</b></p>	<p><b>Agenda item for February meeting</b></p>

A further three responses were received to the consultation, however these responses did not change the overall agreement that was made in December, as the responses were similar to those already received. Point 3.5 provides a breakdown of the responses received. Points 3.9 and 3.10 show some technical comments which were received and the responses that have been provided.

### **High Needs**

In December 18 additional funding for High Need Block budgets was announced. It has been confirmed that Plymouth will receive an additional £550,000 in both 2018/19 and 2019/20.

### **Central School Services Block Funding**

It has now been confirmed that we will receive the historic commitment funding of £1,375,560 in 2019/20. This was previously used to fund the Excellence Cluster. The detail of how this funding will be used can be found at point 5.4 The total ongoing commitments funding is £7k higher than initial allocations. However, copyright license cost have increased by the same amount and therefore this additional funding has been added to copyright licences. The remaining projects funded via historical commitments will be included in the Schools Forum forward plan.

### **Estimated 2019/20 schools budgets**

Appendices 1 and 2 show the estimated 2019/20 individual school budgets compared to 2018/19, including funding attributed to the Excellence Cluster. Appendices 3 and 4 excludes this funding in order to compare 2018/19 and 2019/20 figures. Appendix 5 illustrates the impact various National Funding Formula scenarios can have on individual schools final budget allocations. The schools used are for illustration purposes only to highlight how allocation budgets can vary depending on different circumstances. Appendix 6 identifies the treatment of individual schools under the National Funding Formula. Current information from Central Government suggests that Plymouth's full funding will be allocated in 2020/21 without the need for a further cap on gains. However, this is subject to change. LJ highlighted that all figures included within the appendices are estimates only and are subject to approval by ESFA. The AWPU has been increased by 0.12% of the 2019/20 National Funding Formula values. This has allocated an additional £35,740 to the schools block. This has been done to ensure the schools block allocation is allocated to schools in full.

### **Additional Disapplication required for setting 2019/20 School Budgets**

On 5 December 2018 Schools Forum made the decision regarding the use of the remaining £1.239m previously used to fund Excellence Cluster, including to return £1.179m to mainstream schools. However, the APT system is not sufficiently developed enough to allocate this funding fairly across all mainstream schools as the system cannot consider new factors under the NFF. All guidance suggests that a disapplication request is not required for a technical

adjustment when funding from a historic commitment ends and any remaining funds are released to schools. However, Central Government have contradicted this advice and stated that a disapplication request is required. As soon as schools finance team received this formation, an urgent disapplication was submitted. We are currently waiting to hear if this disapplication will be accepted. JAH will be writing to Central Government to complain regarding the lack of timely and concise information. Appendices 7-10 show the different scenarios on school budgets based on if the disapplication is or is not approved. Distribution of the £1.179m without this technical adjustment will result in funding being distributed unfairly and will undermine the principles of the NFF which Schools Forum have agreed to follow.

### Summary of Schools Forum Recommendations

- To note the contents of the three further consultation responses received on 5 December – *Duly noted*
- It is recommended to allocate the £550,000 to the overall high needs block budget in 2018/19 to offset some of the high needs deficit. The total 2019/20 high needs funding will be allocated during budget setting and will be presented to Schools Forum in March 2019. – *Agreed*
- The central school services block funding for 2019/20 is allocated as per tables 5.2 and 5.4 of the budget setting document. – *Agreed*  
JAH confirmed that this is linked to the Early Help Steering Group and that £60,000 has been made available and a progress report on how this funding is being used will come back to Schools Forum in due course. This piece of work is at the very early stages. It will be a Schools Forum decision to re-allocate any remaining funds that are not used.
- The remaining ongoing projects funded via historical commitments should be included in the Schools Forum forward plan to ensure that they are reviewed. – *Agreed*
- The 2019/20 National Funding Formula AWPU values to increase by 0.12% to ensure the schools block funding is allocated to schools in full. - *Agreed*
- If the disapplication request is accepted, it is recommended that Schools Forum approve distribution of the budgets as per appendix 1 – *Agreed*
- If the disapplication request is rejected, it is recommended that Schools Forum delay the decision regarding the allocation of £1.179 million to enable it to be allocated fairly. - *Agreed*

### Dates of future meetings

- 27 February 2019 – 2pm-4pm at Engage (**Please note that this has been changed from 6 March 2019**)
- 19 June 2019 – 2pm – 4pm at Engage
- 16 October 2019 – 2pm – 4pm at Engage
- 11 December 2019 – 2pm- 4pm at Engage (**Please note that this has been changed from 4 December 2019**)

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