

## Slough Schools Forum- Meeting held on Wednesday, 14th November, 2012

**Present:** Maggie Waller, Holy Family Primary School (Chair)  
Julia Shepard, Beechwood Secondary School (Vice-Chair)  
Barbara Clark, Godolphin Junior School  
John Constable, Langley Grammar  
Helen Huntley, Haybrook College  
Maureen Mallinson, Westgate Secondary School  
Jon Reekie, James Elliman Primary School  
Mary Sparrow, Wexham Secondary School  
Maggie Stacey, St Anthony's RC Primary School  
Jo Rockall, Herschel Grammar School  
Virginia Barrett, East Berkshire College  
Lynda Bussley, NUT (Observer)  
Jo Matthews, Littledown  
Nicky Willis, Cippenham Primary School  
Maggie Waller, Holy Family Primary School (Chair)

**Observers:** Lynda Bussley, NUT (Observer),

**Officers:** Robin Crofts, Angela Wallace-Dickie (stand in Clerk)

**Apologies:** Charlie McGeachie, Kevin O'Driscoll, Michelle Perkins, Jean Cameron and Philip Gregory, Ruth Bagley (Chief Executive, SBC)

### PART I

#### 174. Apologies

Apologies were received from Philip Gregory, Slough Centre Nursery, Fr Kevin O'Driscoll, St Joseph's Catholic High School, Jean Cameron, Children's Centre Rep, Michelle Perkins, (Clerk), Charlie McGeachie, Montem Primary School, Paul McAteer, Slough & Eton Academy, Ruth Bagley Chief Executive, SBC

#### 175. Declarations of Interest

None.

#### 176. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Invitations have been sent for a Task & Finish Group for notional early years and a date has been fixed for the first meeting; 20th November at 2pm.

**Action:** Robin Crofts to follow up meetings with regards 5-16, High Needs and Early Years It was noted that adequate notice needs to be given of dates (at least a month in advance) to enable Headteachers to attend.

Helen Huntley expressed concern regarding PRU funding: that the Minimum Funding Guarantee may not offer protection.

It was noted that the figure of 55 places (para 169) applies to Millside not Haybrook.

An update was given regarding the submission of the information to the DfE on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012 re the formula and noted that the 1% movement within secondary funding was included. It was also noted that as we move through to January priorities will be fixed in terms of values and brought back to Schools Forum.

It was noted that Kevin Gordon had spoken to Maggie Waller and the suggestion is that issues relating to the service around Trades Union support should go to SSEF with any financial implications coming to Schools Forum.

Jo Matthews referred to the item in the minutes regarding the Memorandum of Understanding for Services Supporting Behaviour and asked who could provide the necessary financial information.

Maggie Waller to review Schools Forum membership numbers in relation to pupil numbers to ensure correct ongoing balance in membership. This was agreed to be deferred until January 2013 so that verified pupil numbers can be used.

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

#### **177. Review of Closing Balances as at 31st March 2012**

Schools Forum noted the report regarding Schools' Balances 2011 – 2012.

Nicky Willis stated that Academies no longer have a limit on balances and the old 12% cap had been lifted. However, this limit does still apply to academies which converted in April 2012 unless an individual request is made to the Secretary of State

#### **178. Academies - update**

Robin Crofts stated that there was no change since the update given at the October Schools Forum meeting: Willow to convert to sponsored academy in 2013 and 6 more schools planning to convert Easter and summer of 2013.

Clarification was sought as to whether schools which are part of a Multi Academy Trust are still treated as separate schools with separate DfE numbers and this was confirmed as the case.

It was also noted that a school's category of 'special measures' ceases once it is sponsored and Ofsted scrutinises two terms later.

#### **179. 2012/13 Work Programme and Key Decisions Log**

Schools Forum noted the work programme, key decisions log and date of next meeting which is 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

With regard to work planned, it was confirmed that Steve Elson had been commissioned to take forward the financial work required in respect of the

formula which was welcomed. Concern was expressed with regards the lack of solid, clear and consistent support for the forum going forward. Robin stated he would be looking into this.

It was noted that there was no representation from Finance at this meeting.

There was a general consensus of lack of support from SBC and Avarto with regards to financial support, breaching SLAs still in place. This position was felt to be untenable and very serious.

A lack of confidence in financial data being provided to schools was mentioned in relation to job harmonisation. It was also stated that, as new Headteachers are in post, they need strong financial support.

**Action:** Robin Crofts agreed to raise these concerns with Ruth Bagley and schools agreed to marshal their concerns to bring to the table in a meeting to address these issues. Maggie Stacey (Chair of Primary Headteachers Association) and Julia Shepard (Chair of Secondary Heads Association) agreed to gather school concerns and liaise with Maggie Waller.

#### **180. Services to Schools Review - Update**

Ruth Bagley was to give an update, but was unable to attend.

(Note: The Meeting opened at 8.15 am and closed at 9.40 am)