

Slough Schools Forum- Meeting held on Wednesday, 12th September, 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
Martin Davis, Colnbrook Primary School
Helen Huntley, Special Schools
Paul McAteer, Slough and Eton Secondary School
Kevin O'Driscoll, St Joseph's High 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
Lynda Bussley, NUT (Observer)
Jean Cameron, Slough Children's Centres
Philip Gregory, Slough Centre Nursery (Substitute for Diane Lister)

Observers: Lynda Bussley, NUT (Observer)

Officers: Robin Crofts, Michelle Perkins, Wendy Sagar and Roger Edwardson

Apologies: Maureen Mallinson

PART I

A number of items were taken out of order

144. Apologies

Apologies were received from Maureen Mallinson, Westgate Secondary School.

145. Declarations of Interest

None.

146. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

147. Implementation of DfE Funding Reform: update on progress

Wendy Sagar took people through the report to update on progress of the implementation for the new funding arrangements for schools for 2013/14 including key milestones. Schools Forum noted the progress to date and the plans in place to meet key deadlines. Julia Shepard asked for clarification regarding CMT and

decision making. Wendy Sagar confirmed that the legal responsibility for sign off of changes to the funding formula rests with Slough Borough Council and that members have delegated this to CMT on this occasion. This will be following consultation with Schools Forum. Robin Crofts will discuss with Ruth Bagley how it will be presented at CMT.

A number of items were taken out of order – numbering reflects the Agenda item.

148. Confirmation of final DSG allocation 2012/13

Wendy Sagar explained the calculation of the DSG set out in Appendix 2 and how it is split. Schools Forum acknowledged the final DSG allocation for 2012/13 and confirmed the outline Schools Budget.

149. Implementation of DfE Funding Reform: consultation proposals

Item 6 – taken out of order – Notional Schools Block Consultation Proposals

Wendy Sagar introduced the report which dealt with 5-16 year old funding only. There were four issues for Schools Forum to consider as follows:

- Retained budgets
- New delegation
- Proposed growth fund
- Proposed new formula

Schools Forum confirmed the retained budget amounts:

- £277,530 for admissions
- £53,055 for servicing of Schools Forum
- £149,100 capital expenditure funded from revenue
- £1,192,735 contribution to combined budgets

Wendy went through the draft consultation paper in detail. The principle was confirmed that in mapping the new formula against the current formula, the aim was to create as little turbulence as possible.

Wendy Sagar confirmed that only 10 factors are allowable within the local formula.

The questions within the draft consultation proposals were discussed as follows:

1 – Schools Forum agreed that the question regarding reception uplift does not need to be included as it is not relevant for Slough.

2 & 3 – It was agreed that a question relating to EAL would not be included as there was concern that the DfE's proposed data set was not accurate and that the use of such a limited factor would not be helpful to Slough schools and would merely re-distribute existing funding.

4 – Split-site factor – Robin Crofts agreed to confirm whether Claycots is one or two schools. If it is designated as one school then a split-site factor needs to be

considered and work done to determine what the costs are. This modelling will come back to a future Schools Forum. Schools Forum will need to determine the split-site criteria. Schools Forum agreed to include this question in the consultation then.

5 – Schools Forum agreed to include the question regarding historic factors.

6 – Former mainstream grants and their allocation across the new formula. There was considerable discussion about this area as the modelling presented in Appendix F showed significant winners and losers. It is clear that it is difficult to replicate the basis of allocations within the restrictions of the allowable factors in the new formula. Wendy Sagar confirmed that the minimum funding agreement is for two years. Schools Forum agreed to ask a question within the consultation but with further modelling to be done to seek to maintain as much stability in funding as possible.

7 – Schools Forum agreed to include the question regarding the growth fund as expansion is an issue in Slough.

8 – Schools Forum agreed to include the question regarding the criteria for growth funding.

9 – Schools Forum agreed to include the question regarding centrally held contingency funding being transferred to the growth fund.

10 – Wendy Sagar to revise wording regarding new delegation to provide a general overview of the contingency funding.

11 – Schools Forum discussed the basis for delegating the range of budgets set out in question 11. It was agreed that the consultation questions should propose basic pupil entitlement for supply cover for public service and for trade unions; basic pupil entitlement or low cost high incidence SEN for 14-16 practical learning and low cost, high incidence SEN for Outreach (former Behaviour Support Services).

12 – Schools Forum agreed to include the question regarding de-delegation of Outreach (former Behaviour Support Services) in 2013 - 14.

13 – Schools Forum suggested that further information be added to question 13 to clarify that the two areas of supply cover are for public service and a teaching trade union post which currently provides representation on the Joint Trades Union Committee (JTUC) for teaching unions.

It was also agreed that the question be split into three separate questions.

In addition it was agreed that some members of Schools Forum would meet with Wendy Sagar and Jackie Wright to consider the notional SEN budget. Julia Shepard, Jo Rockall and Helen Huntley agreed to attend the meeting and Barbara Clark agreed to identify a primary rep to attend. They will share the results of the discussion with the rest of Schools Forum. Meeting arranged for Monday 17th September at 2.30 p.m. at St Martin's Place (subsequently moved to The Centre).

150. DfE Consultation on School Finance Regulations

Wendy Sagar pointed out the three elements of the consultation as follows:

- School financial regulations being updated to include all recent changes.
- Proposed changes to free early education for 2 year olds from April 2013 – set out in appendix A of the report.
- Changes to DSG grant conditions set out in Appendix B.

Maggie Waller stated that the consultation response should make clear that Schools Forum supports keeping as much local discretion as possible.

Discussion took place around the early years education aspect. Robin Crofts suggested that the place based funding approach is sensible. Jean Cameron clarified that there are quality judgements in place now which can affect funding of early years settings. Julia Shepard asked whether the funding for 2 year olds was new funding and it was confirmed that it was. It was agreed that October Schools Forum will look at early years, the first task will be to make sure that the formula is compliant for April 2013. It was felt that a more fundamental review should follow at a later stage.

Robin Crofts asked what will happen to the funding from the Early Intervention grant and Wendy Sagar confirmed it will go across to the DSG.

151. DfE Consultation on replacing LACSEG

Wendy Sagar took members through the report regarding the DfE consultation about replacing LACSEG. A new grant would distribute funding to Academies and to the Local Authority for its maintained schools by pupil numbers. The DfE have indicated what the overall sum will be but haven't provided specific information.

There were discussions around the multiplier for pupils in special schools and PRUs which are referred to in questions 1 and 2 of Appendix A. It was agreed that Robin Crofts and Wendy Sagar will provide further information for Schools Forum members for comment regarding the services which the current funding supports so that Schools Forum could reach a view about what level of multiplier would be appropriate. Clarification was needed regarding the additional costs of providing services to special schools and Alternative Provision
It was noted that an Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) would be appropriate for Slough, see question 4 of appendix A.

The response to the consultation is due on 24th September. Robin Crofts and Wendy Sagar will send Slough's response to Schools Forum members for comment so that a joint LA / Schools Forum response can be submitted.

152. DfE Consultation on extending free early years

Agenda item deferred to October meeting.

153. Membership update (verbal)

Maggie Waller confirmed that Jean Cameron will continue to attend as the representative for Slough Children's Centres as a member of the Schools Forum. She reported that from October, when regulations change, Helen Huntley will

become the PRU representative, Jo Matthews special school representative and Debbie Richards her substitute.

154. Academies Update (verbal)

Robin Crofts provided an updated on academies as follows:
16 out of 48 schools in Slough have converted to academies, including 1 free school (33%). Godolphin Junior converted on 1st July and Godolphin Infants and Castleview converted on 1st September. Discussions have been emerging nationally and locally regarding multi academy trusts. There is potential for Willow to enter into a sponsored arrangement with Marish in February 2013. There has been an increased frequency of meetings between DfE and Slough Borough Council to discuss transfer of schools either through conversion or sponsored arrangements. The LA is making sure that security is built into the Commercial Transfer Agreement (CTA) regarding lease liabilities and other areas. Discussions have been taking place with schools that have already converted and it appears that the LA still has responsibilities around safeguarding, SEN and assessment.

155. Updated Work Programme 2012/13 and dates of future meetings

Schools Forum noted dates of future meetings. The meeting on the 21st November is to be rearranged. Details will be sent out and confirmed at the next meeting.

156. Headroom

Item 8 – Headroom – taken out of order

Schools Forum agreed the proposal that the £30,000 allocated at the July Schools Forum meeting to support the development of new secondary school places is shared equally between the three successful free school projects.

Schools Forum agreed that £70,000 be set aside for PRU activities at Littledown and then be released if it was required following further work on Littledown.

Schools Forum agreed the reduced balance of £376,000 to support new resource unit places from September 2012. Wendy Sagar clarified that it had been calculated in line with the formula.

(Note: The Meeting opened at 8:15am and closed at 11am)