

SCHOOLS FORUM

TUESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY, 2024

Present:

Geoff Cherrill (Maintained Special) – **Chairman**
Patrick Earnshaw (Academies - Secondary) – **Vice-Chairman**

Kate Carter, TEACH Academies Trust, Academies - Primary
Esther Curry, Coastal Learning Partnership, Academies - Primary
Kate Curtis, Talbot Primary School, Academies - Primary
Sean Preston, Hamwic Multi-Academy Trust - Chief Financial Officer, Academies - Primary
Heather Spring, Twynham Primary, Academies - Primary
Mark Avoth, Bourne Academy - Principal, Academies - Secondary
Paul Gray, Poole High School - Head Teacher, Academies - Secondary
James Sankey, Corfe Hills School, Academies - Secondary
Natasha Ullah, Magna Academy - Principal, Academies - Secondary
Ben Doyle, Principal - St Peter's School, All Through Academies
Jon Webb, Special Academies
Russell Arnold, The Quay School - Headteacher, Alternative Provision Academy
Brigid Hincks, Chair of Governors - St Joseph's Primary School, Maintained Primary (Governor)
Chris Barnett, Deputy Head - St Edward's School, Maintained Secondary
Phillip Gavin, Christchurch Learning Centre - Headteacher, Mainstream PRU
Vicky Peters, Priory View Preschool, Early Years
Linda Duly, Cuddles Day Nursery, Early Years
Dr Dorian Lewis, Headmaster, 14-19 Provision
Richard Wharton, C of E Diocese Representative

Also in Attendance:

Cllr R Burton, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

Officers in attendance:

Amanda Gridley, Early Years Services Manager
Jo Collis-Heavens, Finance Manager Children's Services
Steve Ellis, Management Accountant Education Services
Tanya Smith, Head of School Planning and Admissions
Nicola Webb, Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Sharon Muldoon, Interim Director of Education
Luana Girling, Lead for Education Interventions, Assurance and Safeguarding

23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from secondary Academy Representative Michelle Dyer.

24 Declarations of Interest

There were none on this occasion.

25 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting were reviewed by the Committee and were approved as a correct record.

26 Looked After Children Pupil Premium Arrangements 2024-25

The Lead for Education Interventions, Assurance and Safeguarding presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book. The report accompanied the document called the BCP Pupil Premium (PP+ and PP+ post 16) policy April 2024 to March 2025. The policy was presented in draft format and aimed to inform the forum of the intention to spend the grant funding provided by the DfE, including allocation to schools and central retention. The Forum was advised that the final settlement was yet to be received but the terms and conditions had not changed dramatically from the previous year. It was expected that it would only be around £40k per local authority in comparison to the previous year which was £146k.

There was some discussion around the allocation of funding per pupil and the funding provided for pupils in early years settings. It was resolved:

That the Schools Forum note that report and that Schools Forum members share the report with the group colleagues and that any feedback is provided by 1 March.

27 Early Years Single Funding Formula 2024-25

The Early Years Team Manager presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book. The Forum was advised that a new Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) for BCP was required for April 2024 and consultation with the early years sector had now concluded. The DfE notified local authorities of their funding agreement on 29 November 2023, with substantial changes from 2023-24. A group of provider representatives helped to shape the proposal and indicated that their preference was to avoid consulting with the sector during or just before the Christmas break, which Children's Services agreed to.

It was noted that the government's biggest expansion of childcare entitlements would begin this year and the proposed EYSFF included funding rates for the children of working parents aged 9-36 months for the first time. These changes, along with a revision to the way children with SEND were funded, introducing a Deprivation Supplement to support our most disadvantaged 9-36-month-old children, a significant uplift in the Council's central functions and the introduction of a contingency fund formed the proposed EYSFF.

The Forum was informed that 31% of providers engaged with the consultation which ended on 22 January and were, overall, supportive of the proposed EYSFF. The consultation response was made available in Appendix A to the report.

In response to a query, it was noted that it was highly unlikely that there would be an underspend this year but if there was this would be brought back to forum and there would hopefully be agreement around this being ringfenced to the early years sector.

It was noted that many Councils were taking a 5 percent automatic top slice. The Early Years Sub-Group had supported a 2.5 percent retention. The Team Manager recorded their thanks to the Sub-Group for their work.

RESOLVED

That the proposed 2024-25 EYSFF be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

Voting: Unanimous

28 Forward Plan

It was noted that the next Schools Forum meeting was not scheduled until June. It was noted that conversations were ongoing outside of the Forum regarding Safety Valve and it was requested that information on this be shared regularly as required.

29 Dates of Future Meetings

24 June 2024

30 Any Other Business

There was none on this occasion.

Duration of the meeting: 10.00 - 10.25 am

**Chairman at the meeting on
Tuesday, 6 February 2024**