

**BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE
SCHOOLS FORUM
14 January 2021**

The meeting commenced at 9.00am and concluded at 11.00am.

Present:

Maintained – Secondary

David Newman – Director of Finance and Operations, Poole High School.

Maintained – Primary

Bridget Hinks – Chair of Governors, St. Joseph's Primary School

Mainstream Academies – Primary

Dave Simpson – Headteacher, The Epiphany School
Substitute attended in place of Jon Chapple – Headteacher, Twynham Primary
Jeremy Payne – Principal, St James' CE School
Sean Preston – Chief Financial Officer, Hamwic
Kate Carter – CEO, TEACH Academy Trust
Lauren Dean – Principal, King's Park Academy
Angela Malanczuk – Principal and Chair of PSA, Stanley Green Infant School

Mainstream Academies – Secondary

Andy Baker – Headteacher, Poole Grammar School
Patrick Earnshaw – Headteacher, Highcliffe School
Mark Avoth – Headteacher, Bourne Academy
Nadine Lapskas - Principal, Leaf Studio
Dorian Lewis – Headteacher, Bournemouth School

All-Through Academies

Ben Doyle – Headteacher, St Peter's School

AP Academy

Russell Arnold - Headteacher, The Quay School

Maintained – Special

Chair - Geoff Cherrill - Head Teacher, Winchelsea School

Maintained – PRU

Phillip Gavin – Headteacher, Christchurch Learning Centre

Academies – Special

Sian Thomas – CEO, Ambitions Academy Trust on behalf of Michael Reid – Finance Director - Ambitions Academy Trust

Early Years Representative

Sue Johnson – Jack in the Box, Bournemouth
Linda Duly – Cuddles Day Nursery

14-19 Representative

Andrew Reeks – Bournemouth & Poole College, 14-19 Representative

Invited Attendees

Nicola Webb – Assistant Chief Finance Officer, BCP Council
Neil Goddard, - Service Director – Quality and Commissioning
Jack Cutler – Planning and Statistics Officer, BCP Council
Gemma Donnelly – Department for Education

Invited Elected Members

Councillor Nicola Green – Portfolio Holder for Covid Resilience, Schools and Skills
Councillor Mike White – Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People

Not Present:

Elaine Redding – Interim Corporate Director – Children’s Services, BCP Council

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

4. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd October 2020, having been previously circulated, be taken as read, signed and confirmed by the Chairman as a correct record.

It was noted that all other matters arising are covered in the agenda.

5. PUBLIC ISSUES

No public issues were raised.

6. DSG Budget monitoring 2020-21

Nicola Webb, Assistant Chief Finance Officer, BCP Council, presented the report.

This item was presented as a usual budget monitoring report.

Nicola Webb (NW) noted that there may be some additional spends around the growth fund ~~due to legacy arrangements that would fund schools more generously than the current arrangements where pupils do not materialise in the schools~~. This will be picked up later in the meeting.

NW noted that the January Early Years (EY) will still take place, and the expectation is that EY funding will continue as usual, unless the Local Authority (LA) hears otherwise from the Department from Education (DfE)

RESOLVED that the report was noted.

7. DSG Settlement and Draft Budget for 2021-22

Nicola Webb, Assistant Chief Finance Officer, BCP Council, presented the report.

A summary of the report was provided.

NW noted there has been at 6p per funded hours increase in the Early Years Government funding rate for 3&4 year old, and 8p increase for 2 year olds. The government maintained these are based on inflationary increases.

The National Funding Formula (NFF) Schools Block funding increase was reported at the last meeting. The December settlement provided ~~on~~ the increase in the schools block funding from changes in pupil numbers at the October census. The increase in the funding values and data changes resulted in a 4.7% increase in funding, whilst the additional pupils provided a further uplift of £2.2m. The significant increase in per pupil funding is predominantly due to the increase in the minimum per pupil funding levels, particularly within the primary phase. This therefore represents a significant increase in funding for schools, some of which around increasing per pupil funding levels, and some around growing pupil numbers. Unfortunately, growth funding has reduced by £0.4m from last year however this is still projected to be sufficient to fund the growth anticipated for 2021-22.

NW reported that on the Central Schools Funding Block, the LA had funding restored for historic commitments, part of which was linked to prudential borrowing for a SEND provision added by legacy Bournemouth Council some years ago. This means the LA does not need to find this funding from elsewhere within the DSG or other funding sources.

There was also some additional funding put into the High Needs (HN) block due to a growth in pupils.

Table 1 in the report shows the funding in each DSG Block, and how this compares with current year 2020/21. The Early Years sector were hoping to see a more significant increase than has been provided. The High Needs increase is welcome but expected to be absorbed into the increasing numbers of children with an Education, health and Care Plan (EHCP) that need supporting.

Kate Carter questioned whether the 0.5% transfer would be from all schools, or just those above the Minimum Per Pupil Funding Formula. NW clarified this would be 0.5% from the surplus, not out of any NFF.

8. Mainstream schools and Early Years Funding formulae 2021-22 and DSG Funding Block transfer considerations

Jack Cutler (JC) confirmed there were 9 proposals within this report, and the Chair confirmed each proposal should be taken in turn as the report is gone through.

JC confirmed a consultation was undertaken with schools and early years providers between 23rd November and 13th December, both of which are included as appendices within the report.

JC noted the primary minimum per pupil funding levels (MPPFLs) had increased since 2020/21 under the NFF, which has brought even more Primary schools onto the MPPFLs's. JC continued to take the Forum through the questions included within the school's consultation and a summary of the responses received to these. There were no further questions raised in this section of the report.

The Chair requested of the Forum they take a decision at this point whether to support the establishment of a HN Task and Finish Group.

Proposal 9:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support Proposal 9, to establish a High Needs Task and Finish Group.

JC noted that 45% of schools did not support a 0.5% transfer, while 55% did, and noted that this was a transfer out of NFF, rather than a transfer of surplus funding.

Proposal 2:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support proposal 2, that agreed the growth fund policy.

Proposal 1:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support proposal 1, to recommend to Council the proposed local mainstream schools formula.

Proposal 3:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support proposal 3, to agree the central budget for the growth fund.

Proposal 4:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support proposal 4, to agree a £1.1 million (0.5%) transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.

Proposal 5:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support proposal 5, to recommend to Council the proposed Early Years funding formula.

Proposal 6:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support proposal 6, to agree the central budgets supporting the early years free entitlements.

Proposal 7:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support proposal 7, Agree the central school services block budgets

Proposal 8:

RESOLVED: The maintained school members of the Forum voted 3 in favour and 1 against to support the retention rates per pupil and budgets for LA duties supporting maintained schools. At the Forum meeting itself the vote was cast 2 in favour and 1 against, however subsequently a further 1 in favour vote was received via email to the clerk and forwarded to the Chair for verification.

9. Draft LAC Pupil Premium policy 2021-22

The report was presented by Luana Girling from the BCP LAC Virtual School for consultation.

RESOLVED that the report was noted.

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Friday 25th June 21
- Tue 14th September 21
- Friday 12th November 21
- Thursday 13th January 22

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair thanked all the members for their valued contribution to the discussion.

Chairman