



# Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP  
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Minutes of the **MEETING of the SCHOOLS' FORUM** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Thursday, 18th January, 2018 at 4.00 pm

**PRESENT:**

Mrs S Milner (Acting Chair)	Representing
Mr S Cox	Primary Academy Trusts
Mrs M Darlington	SEN Head Teacher
Mr S Williams	PVI
Mr R Shore	Secondary Academies
Mr J Woodhead	Post 16 provision
Mrs S Hearth	Diocese
	Secondary Academies

**APOLOGIES:**

Mr C Smith	Secondary Academies
Mr B Gale	Trade Union

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Ms G Curtis	Head of Service, Learning & Skills
Dr T O'Neill	Director for People
Mr S Della Rocca	S151 Officer
Mr K Quinn	Service Manager, Early Help
Mrs C Snodin (Clerk)	Corporate Support

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr D Wilby	Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning
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**1 MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Schools' Forum held on 21 September 2017, copies of which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**3 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

No petitions, deputations or questions were received from members of the public.

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Mrs M Darlington joined the meeting at 4.05pm

Dr T O'Neill joined the meeting at 4.14pm

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#### 4 SCHOOLS' FORUM VACANCIES AND REPRESENTATION

Ms Gill Curtis introduced the item and apologised to Mrs Sam Hearth as her name had accidentally been removed from the Schools' Forum membership. There are currently two Schools' Forum vacancies to be filled – one for a school member for primary maintained and one for academies. Ms Curtis reminded Schools' Forum that it was important to recognise the educational profile of schools in Rutland which included faith schools.

- i Mr John Woodhead stated that in his role of representative for the Diocese, he represented both Church of England and Roman Catholic schools. This had been in place since a previous review of membership in 2015 when the diocesan representation had been reduced from two to one. In the event that he was unable to attend meetings, his designated representative was Mr Andreas Menzies who is currently a governor at English Martyrs Roman Catholic Primary School.
- ii Ms Curtis asked the membership whether they thought the current arrangement was proportional. Mr Woodhead asked whether there should be student representation at the forum.
- iii Mr Stuart Williams stated that it might be a good idea to have a non-voting post-16 year old member but it was **AGREED** to leave things as they were at the present time but to review within the annual membership review.
- iv Mr Steve Cox raised the point about what would happen if a maintained primary school were to become an academy. Ms Curtis confirmed that the guidelines make it clear that the member representing maintained primaries would have to relinquish their membership if this became the case.
- v With regard to the vacancy for the academy member, it was recognised that to maintain proportionality of representation of primary and secondary pupils, the vacancy would be relevant to secondary academies. Mr Williams made the point that there were only three secondary academies in Rutland and as two of the heads were already on the schools' forum, that in effect only left a representative from Uppingham Community College to fill the vacancy.

It was **AGREED** that the forum membership would move towards nominating and electing a representative.

#### **ACTION:**

- Notifications to be sent out to schools seeking representation for membership of the Schools' Forum for the vacancies in maintained primary schools and secondary academies – GC/CS

With regard to length of office, Dr Tim O'Neill stated that the formalities needed to be correct in the event that the forum should ever be externally regulated. Mr Williams felt that the length of office issue also needed formalising. It was **AGREED** that this would be taken to the next Head Teachers' Briefing for discussion.

#### **ACTION:**

- Mr Stuart Williams to draft a proposal to be sent round to the academy sector regarding length of office of the Schools' Forum

The Chair requested that Item 6 be discussed ahead of item 5 to accommodate Mr Williams who needed to leave the meeting early.

## 5 FUNDING UPDATE: INFORMATION ONLY

Ms Greaves provided an update on the 2017/18 Schools' Budget. Spending on High Needs remains the focus and it was good news that the predicted overspend of £400K had been reduced to an overspend of £129K.

The forum noted the forecast position for the 2017/18 Designated Schools' Grant (DSG) and the overall deficit of £82.2K for the year

## 6 SCHOOLS' FUNDING CONSULTATION OUTCOME 2018/19

Ms Greaves fed back on the Consultation on the funding formula for schools. Eight out of 20 schools had responded to the consultation document, seven were in favour of adopting the National Formula whilst one argued in favour of keeping the local formula. The Council does not propose to introduce a growth fund or falling roll fund at this stage. It was **AGREED** that based on the agreement of the School' Forum, Ms Greaves would be able to circulate the actual figures involved next week. Members unanimously **AGREED** to follow the National Funding Formula giving each school a funding guarantee of a 0.5% increase per pupil and the transfer of a maximum of 0.5% from the schools block to the high needs block.

### ACTION:

- Ms Greaves to circulate the figures on the school funding formula

## 7 ALTERNATIVE USE OF HIGH NEEDS FUNDING

Mr Kevin Quinn presented his paper on the SEND Early Support. Mr Quinn proposed that £100K from the 2018/19 budget be ring fenced to support early effective transition from primary to secondary school for SEND children. Mr Quinn provided the eligibility criteria for accessing the fund at Appendix A of his paper and said that this could go live in April 2018 if there was an appetite for it. Mr Quinn stated that the data would suggest that this would be the most effective use of funds rather than waiting until children reached transition age when it might be too late.

- i Mr Williams commented that he supported the core principles but was worried about the cost. Mr Williams did not feel that the money offered would have a big enough impact and would be happier if a package of support could be put together.
- ii Dr O'Neill stated that the proposal was a work in progress and that Forum could choose to earmark some funding for this proposal which could remain unspent pending further discussion.
- iii Mr Cox asked if the proposal was drifting towards transition only. Mr Quinn said that this was initially the case but that the data gave more clarity and would suggest earlier intervention. Mr Cox supported this and suggested it might be

better to trial and identify some specific children and that a costed trial might be the way forward.

It was **AGREED** that Mr Quinn would do some further work on his proposal and bring it back to the Schools' Forum. In the meantime, funding would be earmarked whilst further work was undertaken. It was further **AGREED** that Mr Cox would share his thoughts with Mr Quinn regarding what a costed trial might look like.

#### **ACTION:**

- Mr Quinn to do further work on the proposal
- Mr Quinn to earmark £50K funds in 2018/19
- Mr Cox and Mr Quinn to discuss moving forward with a identifying potential case studies

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Mr Williams left the meeting at 4.46

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## **8 EYFS WORKING PARTY**

The first meeting of the EYFS Working Party took place on 29 September 2017. Ms Greaves informed the Members that data on financial calculations resulting from the meeting had not yet been received as 18th January was the EY Census Day and data was not yet available. This would be available by the time of the next EYFS meeting on 29 January 2018.

- i Ms Greaves stated that working with the Census data would present a good opportunity to accurately shape Early Years Childcare and Education provision.
- ii Mrs Hearth stated she was very pleased to see that the profile of child minders raised and that this would present an opportunity to support young children transitioning to their primary school placements.
- iii Mr David Wilby commented that the 30-hour extended entitlement provision was high profile with current news and that it would be useful for the Scrutiny Panel to have an update on how the provision was progressing. This is on the forward plan for February Scrutiny Panel and he looked forward to receiving feedback from the meeting to be held on 29 January 2018.
- iv Ms Greaves stated that the budget for EY provision was overspent last year and needed to be recouped. There was a National Funding Formula in place that needed to be followed. At present Rutland was paying one of the highest rates. It was **AGREED** that Ms Greaves would check what other local authorities to see where we stood on this bearing in mind that all authorities are subject to the National Funding Formula.

## **9 SCHOOLS' FORUM SCHEDULE FORWARD PLAN**

A draft copy of the Schools' Forum Schedule and Forward Plan had been circulated prior to the meeting for Members to consider. Ms Curtis asked for feedback from Members regarding the inclusion of the Forward Plan as a standing item for future meetings. The Forward Plan would inform Members of the schedule of topics for

future Schools' Forum meetings. It was **AGREED** that the Forward Plan would become a Standing Agenda Item with effect from the next meeting on 15 March 2018.

**ACTION:**

- Schools Forum Schedule Forward Plan to be included in future Agendas as a standing item

**10 ANY URGENT BUSINESS**

The newly appointed SEND Capital Programme Manager, Ms Louise Crockenden-Johnson, has now started in post and asked that the Schools Forum be made aware of her appointment and her remit. A short piece about the Programme has been published in the January Education Bulletin and is attached to the Minutes. Ms Crockenden-Johnson asked that any thoughts from Forum members be feed through to her.

**ACTION:**

- Mrs Snodin to attach a copy of the January Education Bulletin article with the outgoing Minutes

**11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 15 March 2018, at 4.00 pm at RCC, in the Council Chamber.

Proposed agenda items:

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**The Chair declared the meeting closed at 5.07pm.**

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RCC/Schools'

Forum

website

<http://rutlandcounty.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=342>

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**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.07 pm.**

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