



Rutland County Council

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Minutes of the **MEETING of the SCHOOLS' FORUM** held on Zoom on Thursday, 10th December, 2020 at 4.00 pm

PRESENT:

Mr C Smith (Chair)
Mrs A Chambers
Mr S Cox
Mrs M Darlington
Mr B Gale
Mr R Shore
Mrs F Wilce
Mr S Williams

REPRESENTING:

Academies
Academies
Special Schools
PVI
Trade Unions
Post 16 Provision
Maintained Schools
Academies

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr D Wilby

Ms D Godfrey
Ms G Curtis
Mr A Merry
Ms C Crisi
Mr K Silcock (Clerk)

REPRESENTING:

Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning, Early Years, Special Educational Needs & Disabilities, Inclusion
Deputy Director – Children's Services, RCC
Head of Service, Learning and Skills, RCC
Finance Manager, RCC
Education Inclusion Co-ordinator
Governance Officer, RCC

1 APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received.

2 MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

All matters arising had been completed and the minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 1 October 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest had been received.

4 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputations or questions had been received.

5 SCHOOLS FUNDING 2020/21

Mr A Merry introduced the report, the purpose of which was to update the Forum on the provisional outturn for the Schools Budget for 2020/21.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. The increased demand on the High Needs Block was common across local authorities, it was not a local issue to Rutland.
- ii. The SEND reforms were being reviewed to acknowledge system challenges that had been created.
- iii. The surplus would be added to the total amount of provisional funding, increasing the total funding allocation. Mr Merry hoped to issue the funding model in early January 2021.
- iv. If the Forum were to not agree to approve the transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, the deficit would grow.
- v. Mr Merry stated that the Government had announced additional funding for schools. The conditions to receive the funding were that the school's reserves at the end of the funding year were down to a level of no more than 4% of their annual income. Another condition was that schools must have a total teacher and leader absence rate at or above 20% on a given day or a lower total teacher and leader absence rate of 10% or above but have been experiencing this for 15 or more consecutive school days.

RESOLVED

That the Schools Forum **NOTED** the forecast outturn position for 2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant.

That the Schools Forum **APPROVED** the transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2021/22.

6 SCHOOL CAPACITY (SCAP) SURVEY 2020: DATA SUMMARY

Ms G Curtis introduced the presentation, the purpose of which was to give an overview on what the SCAP survey had identified.

Mr D Wylie provided a presentation to the Forum, a copy of which is available online with the agenda and minutes of the meeting.

7 SEND RECOVERY PLAN UPDATE

Ms L Crookenden-Johnson introduced the report, the purpose of which was to update members of the Schools Forum on the progress of the Recovery Plan initiatives and pilot projects designed to reduce the pressure on the DSG High Needs Block.

Caroline Crisi, Education Inclusion Coordinator, gave an overview of the work of the Education Inclusion Partnerships and gave a case example of the work they provide using their toolkit.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. Mr Cox and Ms Chambers noted on how well a job Caroline and the Education Inclusion Partnership had done for schools and how they had been a benefit to the children.
- ii. Ms Crookenden-Johnson stated they were looking to extend Caroline's time so there was more time for her to develop work for secondary schools.
- iii. Mr Merry and Ms Crookenden-Johnson had been discussing how they could best show the overall impact of each of the interventions. A more detailed report will be provided early 2021.

8 SEND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Ms B Caffrey provided a presentation to the Forum, providing an update of, a copy of which is available online with the agenda and minutes of the meeting.

Ms Caffrey stated that a new joint commissioning strategy for SEND was being developed by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Councils and the Clinical Commissioning Groups. The new strategy would look to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND and set out priorities for the focus of joint work.

9 FORWARD PLAN FOR 2021

The item was taken without discussion.

10 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was received.

11 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Thursday 11 February 2021 at 4.00pm

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.00 pm.

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