

## TRAFFORD BOROUGH MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2022

DAY/DATE/TIME	VENUE
TUESDAY 21 <sup>st</sup> JUNE 2022 MAIN MEETING: 2PM	Virtual via Microsoft Teams
Anne-Marie Steadman	Clerk to Schools Forum 0161 912 4332 <a href="mailto:Anne-Marie.Steadman@trafford.gov.uk">Anne-Marie.Steadman@trafford.gov.uk</a>
FORUM MEMBER ATTENDEES:	
Maintained Primary Headteacher Representatives (9) of which 5 attended:	
Clive Searle	Worthington Primary
Catherine Downing	Stamford Park Junior
Alison Kelly	Moorlands
Wayne Hitchcock	St Mary's Sale
Louise Owens	Broomwood Primary
Primary Academy Headteacher Representatives (2) of which 1 attended:	
Judith Stott (CHAIR)	Old Trafford Community Academy
Maintained Primary Governor Representatives (3) of which 2 attended:	
Karen Smyth	Urmston Primary
Rex Beech	Wellfield Junior
Maintained Secondary Headteacher Representatives (3) of which 2 attended:	
Kate Worsley	Blessed Thomas Holford
Nicola Doward (VICE – CHAIR)	Stretford High
Academy Secondary Headteacher Representatives (7) of which 7 attended:	
Joanne Daley	Urmston Grammar
Louise Simpson	Altrincham GGS
Danielle Taylor	Altrincham College
Stephanie Gill	Altrincham GGS
Phil Deakin	Flixton Academy
Rebecca Smith	Sale Grammar School
Matt Innes	Sale Grammar School
Maintained Special School Headteacher Representative (1) of which 0 attended:	
Academy Special School Headteacher Representative (1) of which 1 attended:	
Bev Owens	Pictor Academy
Trafford Alternative Education Provision Headteacher Representative (1) of which 1 attended:	
Lynda Thompson	TAEP
Non School Members (7) of which 2 attended:	

Dee McKenzie	PVI Representative
Kaye Gallimore	NEU

Total members = 34

Quorum = 14 (40%)

Number in attendance = 21

<b>OBSERVERS ATTENDEES:</b>	

<b>TMBC OFFICER ATTENDEES:</b>	
Anne-Marie Steadman	Senior Accountant – Childrens' / CLERK
Amy Nield	Finance Manager – Childrens'
Michelle Perry	Senior Accountant – Childrens'
Adele New	Lead Member for Education

<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
Christine Clarkson	Accountant / Clerk
Graeme Bentley	Director of Finance
Gemma Tunstall	Wellington Academy
Tom Johnson	St Matthews CE Primary
Karen Samples	Director Education, Standards, Quality & Performance
Kate Markham	Wellgreen Primary
Sharon Hudson	Bowdon C of E Primary
Lisa Oakley	Early Years PVI Sector
Helen Zammitt	Finance Manager
Linda Davison	Holy Family Catholic Primary

### **1. WELCOME ALL AND APOLOGIES:**

The Chair welcomed everyone.

The above apologies for absence were accepted.

### **2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 15th March 2022**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

#### 4. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) OUTTURN 2021-22

Amy Nield presented a report showing the DSG outturn for 2021-22. The outturn expenditure of £239.686m, represents an overspend on the grant of £1.533m. The split between blocks is follows:

2021/22 Outturn	Grant £m	Outturn £m	Difference £m
Schools Block	187.120	186.824	(0.296)
Central Schools Services Block	1.553	1.373	(0.180)
High Needs Block	32.619	34.540	1.921
Early Years Block	16.861	16.949	0.088
<b>Total</b>	<b>238.153</b>	<b>239.686</b>	<b>1.533</b>

The underspend on Schools Block is due to an underspend on the Growth Fund (£221k) together with an underspend on de-delegated items (£75k). The latter will be carried forward into 2022-23.

The Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) includes an under spend that is usually ring-fenced in reserves for future years of £70k for Primary Targeted (total reserve now £285k). There are further variances totalling £110k which are not ring fenced and will be used to offset the High Needs Block deficit.

The High Needs Block (HNB) overspent by £1.337m against the budget that was set. The budget that was set was £584k more than the grant available, therefore the overspend against the grant allocation is £1.921m. The overspend is made up of:

HNB outturn 2021/22	Budget £	Outturn £	Variance £
Special Schools	15,272,039	15,287,574	15,535
SSIS (Sensory Impairment & Speech Th)	1,429,047	1,339,466	(89,581)
<u>SEN</u>	958,583	776,537	(182,046)
Tutor Costs	4,342,170	4,723,810	381,640
EHCPs	316,000	224,000	(92,000)
Post 16 places/Trafford College	707,000	704,427	(2,573)
Small Specialist Classes	426,583	426,584	1
Notional SEN contingency	484,441	451,127	(33,314)
SEN Central Team & Commissioning	7,773,059	9,192,452	1,419,393
Out of borough	402,581	322,412	(80,169)
Behaviour & Attendance	1,092,000	1,092,000	0
PRU contingency	-584,520		584,520
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,618,983</b>	<b>34,540,389</b>	<b>1,921,406</b>

The Early Years Block (EYB) is overspent by £88k after £120k of reserves were utilised. This was as a result of the final funding allocation and numbers of funded children not being known until after the January census count. Data for this isn't received until mid-way through spring term meaning final projections are always estimates and can change. In addition, pressures on the Early Years SEN Inclusion Fund have increased beyond that which could be absorbed within the gains made on the hourly rate funding. This has been taken into account for the future modelling and 3p of the 17p per hour increase to fund SEN Inclusion has been retained for 2022/23.

#### Dedicated School Grant (DSG) Deficit Recovery Plan

Amy advised that Officers had met with representatives from the EFSA regarding a DSG Deficit Recovery Plan. The intention is that this will be completed by September 2022 and brought to School Forum at the meeting in November.

### **School Forum Noted the Report**

#### De-delegated Budgets

Karen Smyth suggested that the allowance to be paid out for Maternity cover be reviewed when considering de-delegated budgets for 23/24 as the existing allowance does not reflect costs.

**Action – The Maternity Allowance be reviewed when considering 22/23 de-delegated budgets**

## **5. SCHOOLS RESERVES 2021-22**

Anne-Marie presented a paper outlining maintained schools reserve position at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Balances in Trafford's maintained schools overall increased from £12.822m to £14.371m during 2021-22, an increase of £1.549m (12%). Three schools had deficit balances at the year end.

Louise Owen asked why Academy school balances were not reported, as the report provides only a partial picture. Anne-Marie advised that the balances in the school reserve report reflected maintained schools that the Council was responsible for closing financial year accounts for. The Council is looking at obtaining Academy school balances via the View My Financial Insights (VMFI) tool. There is uncertainty whether balances are reported for individual schools or overall for the Academy Trust.

## **6. HIGH NEEDS UPDATE**

Michelle Perry reviewed the High Needs sub group minutes and highlighted the following:-

- The High Needs 22/23 allocation does not meet budget needs.

- The mainstream Bandings will continue to be funded termly but will now be effective from the date of the EHCP plan.
- The deadline for the SEN Green paper consultation has been extended to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 22
- Place Sufficiency exercise is on-going, colleagues have met with officers in Oldham Council to discuss data, process and methods.

## 7. NFF SECOND STAGE CONSULTATION

A link to the consultation 'Implementing the Direct National Funding Formula' had been included on the agenda. Details will also be issued on the Schools e-bulletin and a response will be considered by the mainstream sub group at a meeting on 14th July 2022.

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

### Universal Free School Meals

Louise Owen asked if there was any update with regard to the uplift of Universal Free School Meals, as guidance had been issued on the DFE website. Michelle Perry advised that confirmation of rates and allocations had not yet been received.

### Teachers Pension Indexation

Karen Smyth asked if there was any update with regard to the Teacher Pension Indexation issue and requirement to allow a £1 pay award to certain staff.

Kate Gallimore advised that union representatives had a meeting with LA Officers next week where the issue could be raised. It was reported that some Multi Academy Trusts and Local Authorities had already taken the decision to pay an additional £1 to certain staff.

Rebecca Smith requested that any further Local Authority Guidance on this issue be shared with governors as it affects a number of Head teacher salaries, therefore Head teachers cannot make the decision regarding their own salaries.

**Action – School Forum representatives support the action to pay £1 to staff affected by the Teacher Pension Scheme Indexation issue.**

**Date of the next Funding Forum meeting:**

**Tuesday 8th November 2022, 2pm – venue to be confirmed nearer the time.**