



North Tyneside Council

Minutes

Meeting Schools Forum **Date** Tuesday 8 December 2020

Location Via Microsoft Teams

Present

✓ Present
D Deputy
A Apologies
O Absent

Name	Organisation	Representing	26.11.20	08.12.20
Andrew James	St Aidan's Primary	Primary	✓	O
Angi Gibson	Hadrian Park Primary	Primary	✓	Wayne Myers
Candida Mellor / Claire MacLeod	Trade Unions	Trade Unions	Candida Mellor	Claire Macleod
David Baldwin	Churchill Community College	Secondary	✓	✓
David Bavaird	Norham High School	Governor - Secondary	✓	✓
David Watson	St Thomas More	RC Schools	✓	✓
Gavin Storey	Cullercoats Primary	Primary	✓	✓
Jill Wraith	Benton Dene Primary	Primary	✓	✓
Jim Coltman	Diocese	C of E Diocese	A	N/A
Joanne Thompson	Holystone Out of School	Early Years PVI	✓	A
John Croft	Sir James Knott	Nursery	✓	✓
John Newport	Marden Bridge Middle School	Middle	✓	✓
Karen Croskery	North Tyneside Student Support Service	PRU	✓	✓
Kelly Holbrook	Longbenton High School	Secondary	✓	✓
Kerry Lillico	Grasmere Academy	Academy	✓	✓
Laura Baggett	Monkhouse Primary	Primary	✓	✓
Marie Flatman / Mo Dixon	Tyne Met	16-19 Provider	O	O
Fr Martin Lee	Diocese	C of E Diocese	N/A	✓
Matt Snape	Marden High School	Secondary	✓	✓
Michael Young	Spring Gardens Primary	Primary	✓	✓
Paul Mitchell	Whitley Bay High School	Governor – Secondary	✓	✓
Peter Gannon	Silverdale School	Special	✓	✓
Peter Thorp	Redesdale Primary	Governor - Primary	A	✓
Philip Sanderson	Kings Priory	Academy	✓	✓
Stephen Baines	Holystone Primary	Primary	✓	Barbara Middleton
Stephen Easton	Marine Park First School	First	✓	A
Steve Wilson	Whitley Bay High School	High	✓	A
Tim Jones	Langley First School	Primary	✓	✓
In Attendance:				
Mark Longstaff	Head of Commissioning & Asset Management	NTC	✓	✓
Claire Emmerson	Senior Manager - Finance Strategy & Planning	NTC	✓	✓
Noel Kay	Senior Business Partner, Finance	NTC	✓	✓

Diane Thompson	Finance	ENGIE	O	O
Christina Ponting	Senior Manager - Schools HR	ENGIE/NTC	✓	✓
Mary Nergaard	PA to Head of Commissioning & Asset Management	NTC	✓	✓
Diane Buckle	Assistant Director for Education	NTC	✓ (item 8 only)	✓
Kevin Burns	Senior School Improvement Officer (Vulnerable Learners)	NTC	✓ (item 8 only)	✓
Rob Smith	School Improvement Advisor, PE, Sport & Health	NTC	✓ (item 8 only)	✓

Item		Action
1.	Apologies for Absence	
	See Table above. The Chair welcomed everyone to the Schools Forum.	
2.	Attendance Register / Membership	
	The Chair welcome Father Martin Lee to Schools Forum as the new C of E Diocese representative	
3.	Public Meeting / Observers	
	Observers were excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the report contains information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.	
4.	Declarations of Interest	
	Item 5 – The Chair and MS declared an interest in relation to EIP funding	
5.	De-delegated / Centrally Retained Services Claire Emmerson	
	<p>The Chair provided a recap to Forum. Presentation was shown on screen. Main points to note as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background provided • There was a reduction in funding of £292k for 2020/21 which was underwritten by the Authority • Forecast reduction in funding for 2021/22 of circa £197k • Proposals agreed for cessation of funding to support decommissioned buildings (£30k), and a reduction in funding for EIP of 10% (£20,080). DB provided an update on the funding for EIP and how this could be distributed in future to ensure a fair split between EIP and PLP • This would leave the remaining shortfall at £147,019k • Indicative funding is £1.854m • 3 possible options were discussed with further detail on each option provided <p>Discussion followed around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GS asked if the intention by Government is still the same with regard to the difference between intention and what is actually happening. CE noted that operational guidance indicates that the 20% reduction on historical 	

commitments will continue into future years. However, we do get a slight uplift for ongoing commitments, although we don't yet know if this will continue

- A query was raised on why the reductions have been identified in the 2 specific areas highlighted. PG noted that there was an obvious impact assessment that could be made for the 2 areas highlighted which is the reasoning for their selection
- MY asked what happens to schools in financial difficulty if we re-designate the fund? CE noted that there is currently a reserve balance of £318k in the Schools in Financial Difficulty budget. There is an opportunity to top up the fund from Falling Rolls
- LB asked if option 1 & 2 would incur additional payments from school or could the schools in financial difficulty de-delegation be used to compensate for this solely. This was supported by other Forum Members. CE noted that this would be a decision for Schools Forum with the funding split as shown in the presentation or by taking the full amount from the Schools in Financial Difficulty budget
- MY asked for some clarity around the LA's statutory duties around vulnerable schools compared to the what is being contributed by the CCSB. The Chair proposed that the working group is formed with the budget holders included in order to review the options and make an informed decision. GS noted that moving forward, the working group(s) can ensure clarity, transparency and use/impact can be sought.
- LB noted that schools have to be very specific about the impact of funding and that this is not clear in many of the reports I have read. PM also noted that the reports don't show any performance indicators or identify the educational impact if the funding was adjusted/reduced. The Chair noted that any future reports need to be clear about the impact to better inform future decisions
- JC asked if service areas have to report on their funding allocations like schools e.g. budget planning? The Chair noted that we have received reports from service areas in the past. CE noted that once we have identified the working group members and agreed the Terms of reference there will be a clear understanding of what will need to be reported to Schools Forum on an annual basis for each service
- DW asked, in terms of statutory duties, will this block ever get to zero and if so, where would the funding then come from? CE noted that the block consists of historic commitments and ongoing responsibilities (includes the statutory duties). It is the historical commitment that are seeing the reduction. The working group will be tasked with making sure this funding is managed in the most efficient way
- PM noted that there is a distinction between the statutory duties themselves and the way in which we choose to deliver them
- LB asked what about the statutory duties that come under the Schools Support Service and are in the paperwork provided? Where does this funding come from? CE noted that we haven't ased this to that level of detail. DBu noted that she had produced a briefing paper which was circulated to Forum members that highlighted the statutory duties within the School Improvement Service and how that duty is delivered.
- MS asked for an update on the review of the criteria for Schools in Financial Difficulty to explore the gap in Special Leave funding? CE noted that if we

	<p>go for Option 1, the £318k is retained for Schools In Financial Difficulty, then for one year only we would look to top this up from the Falling Rolls and any other eligible residual funding and utilise this funding to top up the CSSB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair proposed an amendment to option 1, with all funding (£147k) coming from the Schools in Financial Difficulty fund with a working group established to enable Forum to do further work on the options in advance of making these decisions for the next financial year. • Possible future changes discussed • JW asked if the proposed working groups be looking at lines A - D; separately or collectively together. CE noted that the approach is still to be agreed. A clear Terms of Reference will need to be agreed along with the membership <p>Recommendations: The Forum is asked to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 as discussed and amended, with the full £147k coming from Schools In Financial Difficulty for one year Forum agreed • Establishing a working group(s) for each of the remaining CSSB lines Forum agreed • Current Schools Forum members that have indicated an interest in being involved in the working group(s) include: John Croft, Barbara Middleton, David Watson, Jill Wraith, Laura Baggett and Michael Young. Full membership and Terms of Reference is yet to be decided • Progress is to be reported back to Schools Forum Easter 2021 with final Report to Schools Forum July 2021 	
6.	Any Other Business	
	CP reminded Forum that nominations will be required for the roll of Vice Chair for the next meeting	
7.	Date of next meeting	
	Wednesday, 13 th January 2021 at 12:30pm	