

Leeds Schools Forum

Microsoft Teams Meeting
 Tuesday 19 July 2022 at 16:30

Membership (Apologies in Italics)			
GOVERNORS		HEADTEACHERS	
Primary (6 seats)		Primary (6 seats)	
Sue Tuck	Ireland Wood	John Hutchinson	St Theresa's Catholic Primary
David Kagai	St Nicholas	Helen Stott	Allerton C of E Primary
John Garvani	Broadgate	Peter Harris	Farsley Farfield Primary
Jatinder Ubhi	Swarcliffe Primary	Julie Harkness	Carr Manor Community School
Andrew Neal	Adel St John's Primary	Emma Wraight	Fieldhead Carr Primary
		<i>Jo Smithson</i>	<i>Greenhill Primary</i>
Secondary (2 seats)		Secondary (2 seats)	
<i>Barbara Trayer</i>	<i>Allerton Grange</i>	Delia Martin	Benton Park
<i>David Webster</i>	<i>Pudsey Grammar</i>		
Special (1 seat)		Special (1 seat)	
Russell Trigg	East SILC, John Jamieson	Diane Reynard	East SILC
Non School		Academies – Mainstream (10 seats)	
Angela Hynes	PVI Providers	David Gurney	Cockburn School
Helen Gration	PVI Providers	Neil Miley	Dixons Academy
<i>Patrick Murphy</i>	<i>Schools JCC</i>	John Thorne	St Mary's Academy Menston
Louise Turner	16-19 Providers	Joe Barton	Woodkirk Academy
Dan Cohen	Jewish Faith Schools	<i>Rob Dixon</i>	<i>Cockburn School</i>
Peter McQuillen-Strong	Catholic Diocese	Gavin Hosford	Green Meadow
		<i>Rachel Colbourn</i>	<i>Bramhope Primary</i>
		Sarah Talbot	East Ardsley
		Maria Williams	Brigshaw High
		<i>Kate Burton</i>	<i>Alder Tree Primary</i>
Officers			
Tim Pouncey, Chief Officer Strategy & Resources		Academy – Special School (1 seat)	
Louise Hornsey, Head of Service, Finance		Mary Ruggles	Springwell Leeds North
<i>Shaheen Myers, Deputy Director Learning</i>			
Lucie McAulay, Head of Service, Finance			
Val Waite, Head of Learning Inclusion		Academy – Alternative Provision (1 seat)	
Shirley Maidens, Finance		Vacancy	
Elizabeth Jackson			
Rebecca McCormack, Lead for Admissions & Family Information		Jonathan Renton	
Claire Swift		Louise Hornsey, Head of Finance	
Richard des Forges			

Item	Title	Actions
1.0	Welcome and Apologies	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Barbara Trayer, David Webster, Patrick Murphy, Rob Dixon, Jo Smithson, Rachel Colbourn, Kate Burton.	
2.0	High Needs Supplementary Grant	
2.1	Leeds has been allocated £4.147m for 2022-23 to account for the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy and wider costs. This is a one-off grant payment.	
2.2	As per the DSG allocation the final decision re how to allocate the grant sits with the local authority. The ESFA has stipulated that the levy should account for less than 1% of the overall High Needs budget. This equates to under £1m for Leeds. Consultation with other authorities has highlighted that there is no consistent approach.	
2.3	It is proposed to increase the FFI top up rate from £650 per unit to £672 per unit; the increase represents 3.4%. For special school settings the unit rate will increase from £684 to £708, equating to a 3.51% rise. Payments will be backdated to April 2022.	
2.4	One of the budget challenges is the increase demand and costs of out of area and residential costs. It is proposed to allocate £1.5m of the grant (12.6%) to offset budget pressures. Supplementary funding takes account of post 16 institutions offering extra hours of tuition. This is expected to cost an additional £200K.	
2.5	As a result of the pressures on the High Needs budget £600k has been allocated on an invest to save basis to support transformational work across High Needs. An additional £400k has been assigned to provide support to deliver savings and efficiencies. Recruitment has not taken place yet so it is proposed to set aside the £400k to add to the DSG reserves.	
2.6	A total of £947k remains unallocated and it was felt wise to allocate this to the DSG reserves to assist with any future DSG deficits.	
2.7	The vast majority (91%) of the High Needs Block allocation is passported to institutions. The plan outlines an increase in funding for schools with a unit-based approach. Currently there is no scope in the allocation for non-unit rate funding. The funding mechanism will be revisited once all funded places have been taken up. It was recognised that there is an inequality in funding on all specialist funded settings where funding is very different to others. As a result, discussions will take place with settings on an individual basis.	
2.8	A query was raised in relation to the contents of a local authority report which states that mainstream schools would get the supplementary grant to support rising costs. Confirmation was given that mainstream schools are not double funded through the levy. It was felt that the additional funding would not be enough to cover both the levy and wider costs. Action: email paper to LH and LMc to investigate the source of the report.	DR
2.9	Following this meeting the comments/observations made by the Forum will be reflected upon and where possible amendments will be made to the report.	
2.10	Disappointment was expressed that following this meeting schools were still unable to set a budget.	

2.11	In terms of capping on the High Needs Block the ESFA and DFE have intimated that it will not cease. Leeds has moved closer to the funding formula which has resulted in a reduction of the cap on the budget.	
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