

# Lancashire Schools Forum meeting of 17 March 2022 via Microsoft Teams

## Executive Summary

### 1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence and 2. Substitute Members

To note attendance and apologies for absence and welcome any substitute members.

### 3. Forum Membership

To note the Forum membership changes since the last meeting.

### 4. Minutes of the Last Meeting and 5. Matters Arising

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 13 January 2022 and any matters arising.

### 6. Recommendations from the Schools Block Working Group

To consider the recommendations from the Schools Block Working Group held on 3 March 2022.

#### i. Schools Block Budget 2022/23

This report confirmed that Schools Block budget recommendations for 2022/23 were ratified by the Schools Forum and LCC Cabinet and subsequently approved by the ESFA. School Budgets were prepared and issued on 21 February 2022, together with forecast High Needs Block allocations. Information was also provided about Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) allocations and Schools Supplementary Grant allocations for 2022/23

Formal support is also sought for a request to DfE for a permanent transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block of £1.9m

*The Working Group:*

a) *Noted the report.*

#### ii. Request for Clawback Exemption for a Lancashire Primary School in 2022/23

A report was presented seeking approval for a Lancashire primary school to be exempt from clawback at March 2023.

*The Working Group:*

a) *Noted the report;*

b) *Recommended that the Forum agree to exempt the Lancashire primary school from clawback at 31 March 2023 due to the circumstances set out in the report.*

#### iii. Inclusion Hub Funding 2022/23

Information was provided on the proposed methodology for distributing inclusion hub money from April 2022:

*The Working Group:*

a) *Noted the report;*

b) *Supported the continued use of the NOR plus deprivation methodology for distributing de-delegated funding to inclusion hubs in 2022/23.*

#### **iv. School Business Rates**

An update was provided about the latest information from DfE about school business rates arrangements from April 2022.

A bid from for funding from the rate reimbursement fund for a Lancashire nursery school was also considered.

*The Working Group:*

- a) *Noted the report;*
- b) *Supported an allocation of £19,548 being made from the Rate Reimbursement Policy to a Lancashire nursery school due to the circumstances described in the report.*

#### **v. Reforming how local authorities' school improvement functions are funded**

A verbal update was provided to confirm information shared with the Schools Forum at the January 2022 meeting.

*The Working Group:*

- a) *Noted the information.*

**The Forum are asked to ratify the Working Group's recommendations.**

### **7. Recommendations from the High Needs Block Working Group**

To consider the recommendations from the High Needs Block Working Group held on 1 March 2022.

#### **i. School Census data – special school termly redeterminations**

Following recommendations at the last working group, Forum special school members kindly circulating a request via LASSTHA for pupil number information at special schools to be completed on a LCC eform, in addition to school census, in order to facilitate timely termly redeterminations. The report contained an update on responses.

*The Working Group:*

- a) *Noted the report.*

#### **ii. High Needs Block Funding 2022/23**

This report confirmed that High Needs Block budget recommendations for 2022/23 were ratified by the Schools Forum and LCC Cabinet and School Budgets were prepared and issued on 21 February 2022, together with forecast High Needs Block allocations.

Formal support is also sought for a request to DfE for a permanent transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block of £1.9m

*The Working Group:*

- a) *Noted the report.*

#### **iii. High Needs Supplementary Grant 2022/23**

Proposals were presented around the finalisation of the methodology for distributing the High Needs Supplementary Grant in Lancashire for 2022/23.

*The Working Group:*

- a) *Noted the report;*
- b) *Supported the use of May 2021 census data in the WPN calculation of the High Needs Supplementary Grant methodology;*
- c) *Representatives agreed to consult further with colleagues and officers before final decisions were taken about the possible adjustment methodology.*

#### **iv. Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG) Allocations**

After the Working Group meeting, a High Needs Block issue has arisen, and information is included in this report for consideration by the Forum. This issue relates to Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG) Allocations.

**The Forum are asked to ratify the Working Group's recommendations and consider the supplementary item on Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG) allocations.**

### **8. Recommendations from the Early Years Block Working Group**

To consider the recommendations from the Early Years Block Working Group held on 8 March 2022.

#### **i. Early Years Block Funding 2022/23**

This report confirmed that Early Years Block budget recommendations for 2022/23 were ratified by the Schools Forum and LCC Cabinet and budget statements were prepared and issued on 21 February 2022.

*The Working Group:*

- a) *Noted the report.*

#### **ii. Impact on Early Years settings on EEF as a percentage of total sales EEF Early Education Funding**

A presentation was considered about the impact on Early Years settings on EEF as a percentage of total sales, which had been prepared by the working group chair. Members expressed concern about the underfunding of the sector by the Government.

*The Working Group:*

- a) *Noted the report.*
- b) *Expressed significant concern about the underfunding of the early years sector in Lancashire and the inevitable impact this would have on the quality of provision;*
- c) *Supported the actions to raise awareness of this funding issues with MPs and DfE.*

#### **iii. LCC Family Safeguarding model**

The Federation of Lancashire Nursery Headteachers asked that an issue could be raised at the Schools' Forum on the role of Early Years settings in the LCC Family Safeguarding model.

*The Working Group:*

- a) *Noted the report;*

b) Supported the proposed meeting with LCC officers to discuss the issues raised.

iv. **SEN in Early Years**

A report was presented setting out some of the challenges faced by the sector in relation to SEN children.

*The Working Group:*

- a) Noted the report;
- b) Supported the concerns raised about the pressures on SEN funding in the sector;
- c) Supported the wider invitation to the next SEN Inclusion meeting to facilitate wider discussions with the service.

v. **Childminders and Covid rules**

Information was provided about the current Covid rules for childminders and a response from the DfE about the inconsistencies in this guidance.

*The Working Group:*

- a) Noted the report.
- b) xxxxxx

**The Forum are asked to ratify the Working Group's recommendations.**

**9. Recommendations from the Chairs' Working Group**

To consider a verbal update of the recommendations from the Chairs' Working Group meeting held on 17 March 2022.

**The Forum are asked to ratify the Working Group's recommendations.**

**10. Urgent Business**

No matters of urgent business have been considered since the last meeting.

**11. Forum Correspondence**

To consider the Forum related correspondence received since the last meeting.

**12. Any Other Business**

No known items.

**13. Date of Future Meetings**

To note that the next scheduled Forum meeting will be held at 10.00am Tuesday 5 July 2022. Arrangements for the meeting will be confirmed in due course.