

Lancashire Schools Forum meeting of 18 October 2022

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 on the minutes of the last meeting held on 5 July 2022 and any matters arising.

6. Education Management System (Impulse) Update

Emma Lambert Education Management System Project Service Lead will attend the Forum for this item.

To receive a presentation about the procurement of new education management system and the project aims and vision

7. School Improvement Functions

Tim Roger will be attending to follow up on any questions regarding Service Improvement Function and explain the value of this service.

8. Inclusion Report

Sally Richardson will be attending to follow up on any questions regarding Inclusion Report in the de-delegation.

9. Energy Cost Update

A letter was published on 6th September 2022 on 'October 2022 annual energy price increase' (Attached)

10. Recommendations from the Schools Block Working Group

To consider the recommendations from the Schools Block Working Group held on 20 September 2022.

i. Schools Block Funding Arrangements 2023/24

On 19 July 2022, the DfE made announcements about the 2023/24 school funding arrangements. This report provided relevant information, including proposals for a 2023/24 MFG level of +0.5%, which are the subject of consultation with schools and academies.

The Working Group:

- a) Noted the report and that final DSG allocations for 2023/24 would be notified in December 2022.*
- b) Noted that consultation responses on the level of MFG would be presented to the Forum meeting on 18 October 2022 and that the Forum would be asked to formally consider the 2023/24 rate.*
- c) Supported the proposed voting arrangements as set out for consideration of the de-delegation proposals.*

- d) Supported the proposal to retain the current notional SEN calculation for the 2023/24 financial year.
- e) Supported the disapplication to the DfE to request the continued use of an Exceptional Factor in the Lancashire formula, to provide allocations to 3 schools to cover the costs of renting premises for the schools.

Analysis and comments from the MFG consultation responses will be presented to the Forum meeting on 18 October 2022 and members will be asked to consider the 2023/24 MFG proposals.

ii. Inclusion Hub Report

A copy of the report was circulated to members after the meeting.

The Working Group:

- a) *Noted the report would be circulated to members after the meeting.*

iii. Service De-delegations 2023/24

Information was provided about 2023/24 de-delegation proposals and the consultation with schools

The Working Group is asked to:

- b) *Noted the report;*
- c) *Noted that de-delegation papers would be circulated to members after the meeting;*
- d) *Noted that consultation responses would be presented to the Forum meeting on 18 October 2022 and that the Forum would be asked to formally consider de-delegation decisions for 2023/24.*
- e) *Supported the proposed de-delegation voting arrangements.*

Analysis and comments from the de-delegation consultation responses will be presented to the Forum meeting on 18 October 2022 and members will be asked to consider the 2023/24 de-delegation proposals.

iv. Clawback Exemption Request

In July 2022, the Forum considered the School Balances and Clawback Policy for 2022/23 and agreed that clawback should be reintroduced on excessive revenue balances at March 2023.

Following notification of the Forum's decision, requests have been received from 2 Lancashire secondary schools requesting an exception to the policy at March 2023.

The Working Group

- a) *Noted the report about clawback.*
- b) *Supported two clawback exemptions for 2022/23 to be taken as a recommendation to the School Forum meeting*

It was reported that no Lancashire schools specific analyses were yet available. The Energy Team was invited to attend the School Forum meeting on 18 October 2022, to provide further information.

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

11. Recommendations from the High Needs Block Working Group

To consider the recommendations from the High Needs Block Working Group meeting held on 27 September 2022.

i. High Needs Block 2022/23 – Budget Monitoring

Summer term 2022/23 data had been utilised to provide High Needs Block monitoring and analysis for members

The Working Group

- a) Noted the report.*

ii. High Needs Block Funding 2023/24

DfE announcements have been made about the 2023/24 HNB funding arrangements. This report provided further details.

The Working Group:

- a) Noted the report.*

iii. HNB Indicative Commissioned Place Numbers 2023/24

This report provided an update on the 2023/24 HNB commissioned places process.

The Working Group

- a) Noted the report, accepted the number of commissioned places and that further work was taking place on the alternative provision strategy that could affect places.*
- b) Supported changes to modelling for 2023/24.*

iv. MASH Education Annual Report

The Forum will be aware that the funding for the Multi-Agency safeguarding Hub (MASH) was transferred to the HNB in 2022/23, as the DfE were reducing the historic commitments costs included in the Central school Services Block (CSSB). For 2022/23, £150k was included in the HNB budget, and a similar allocation will be included in initial budget proposals for 2023/24.

Working group members stated the service is invaluable and provides excellent reassurance for schools.

The Working Group:

- a) Noted the report.*

v. Lancashire Hospital Education Service: Annual Report: Academic Year 2021-22

The Lancashire Hospital Education Service (LHES) is a centrally managed service that is funded from the DSG High Need Block. Information was provided about the service in 2021/22.

The Working Group:

- b) Noted the report.*

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

12. Recommendations from the Early Years Block Working Group

To consider the recommendations from the Early Years Block Working Group meeting held on 4 October 2022.

i. Appointment of Working Group Chair

This was Peter Hindle's final meeting and Philippa Perks has been nominated as his replacement as the Working Group Chair.

Members elected Philippa Perks, as the new working group Chair.

The Working Group:

- a) Thanked Peter for his contribution to the Forum.*
- b) Confirmed that Philippa is elected as the new Early Years Block Working Group Chair.*

ii. Schools Forum Early Years Block Membership

An update was provided on membership changes

The Working Group:

- a) Welcomed Sarah McGladrigan as one of the formal Schools Forum representatives from September 2022.*

iii. Early Years Block Funding 2023/24

This report provided an update on EYB funding for 2023/24 and highlighted the possibility that a schools block transfer may be unavailable from April 2023.

The Working Group:

- a) Noted the report.*

iv. Urgent Business Procedure on DfE Consultation on Early Years National Funding Formulae and Childcare: Regulatory Changes

Two consultations were submitted to DfE.

The Working Group:

- a) Noted the report.*

v. DfE Visit to Lancashire

Andrew Cadman provided a verbal update on the DfE visit.

It was noted that the DfE very rarely meets with EY Sector representatives and LA officers where there is the level of positive relationship that we have in Lancashire. This is a testament to the hard work, commitment and passion that is delivered on a daily basis.

The Working Group:

- a) Acknowledged DfE visit.*

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

13. Forum Correspondence

There was one Forum related correspondence to consider at this meeting.

14. Any Other Business

No known items

15. Date of Future Meetings (Enclosure)

To note that the next scheduled Forum meeting will be held at 10.00 am on Thursday 12 January 2023. Arrangements for the meeting will be confirmed in due course.

A copy of the forum schedule of meetings for the 2022/23 academic year is provided. The meetings include a physical venue but may be conducted virtually.