

Lancashire Schools Forum

Minutes of the meeting held at 1:00 pm on Wednesday 9 November 2022 via
Microsoft Teams

Present:

Schools Members:

Primary School Governors

Stephen Booth
Gerard Collins
Lindy King
Robert Waring
Sam Ud-din
Tim Young
Michelle O'Neill

Primary School Headteachers

Daniel Ballard – Forum Chair
Sarah Barton
Neil Gurman
Helen Shaw
Deanne Marsh
Anna Smith

Secondary School Governors

Janice Astley
John Davey
Brian Rollo

Secondary School Headteachers

Oliver Handley
Mike Wright

Nursery School Headteacher

Jan Holmes

Nursery School Governor

Academy Governor

Academy Principal/Headteacher

Steve Campbell
James Keulemans

Alternative Provision Academy

Special School Academy

Special School Governor

Mandy Howarth

Special School Headteacher

Claire Thompson

Short Stay Governor

Liz Lavery

Short Stay Headteacher

Abigale Bowe

Early Years - PVI

Members:

Other Voting Members

Mark Bradshaw(Diocesan/Church Authorities)

Observers

Margaret Scrivens (LASGB)
Sarah Troughton
Cllr Jayne Rear

In attendance: Aby Hardy
Sylwia Krajewska

1. APOLOGIES FOR THE ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Bill Mann, David Fann, Helen Dicker, Jenny Birkin, John Tarbox, Keith Wright, Louise Parrish, Philippa Perks, Sarah Robson and Louise Shaw.

2. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Mark Bradshaw (Interim Head of Schools for the Blackburn Diocese) attended as a substitute member.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18th October 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

Ukraine funding – it was reported that the Refugee team is working on communication to be published via Education Bulletin to the schools by the end of the week. It will be covered in future meetings of School Block Working Groups and School Forums.

5. School Improvement Function Postponed De-delegation

Local authorities have been provided with the school improvement monitoring grant in recent years to assist in implementing core school improvement activities in their areas. In 2023-24, this grant will come to an end. Local authorities are permitted to de-delegate this service and it was taken to the last meeting held on 18 October 2022.

On 18 October 2022, the School Forum agreed to postpone the vote on School Improvement Function 2023/24 de-delegation until further information is provided.

Subsequently to the meeting, a supplementary paper was circulated to the members on 26 October 2022, published on the schools portal and a copy was provided with the Forum papers.

The closing date for consultation responses was 8 November 2022. Analysis and comments from the consultation responses were presented to the Forum meeting on 9 November 2022 and members considered the responses in relation to primary and secondary school members of the Forum and then voted on the de-delegation.

Aby Hardy was present as the newly appointed Head of Education Improvement and apologised on behalf of the service that there was no sufficient information provided. It was stated that the service will look to improve its services and analyse all sectors to offer a better-quality service.

It was discussed if the de-delegation of Schools in Financial Difficulty does not offer similar services as schools already buy into it. It was explained that MIT looks at improving education overall, looking at leadership, staffing and not just at Finances.

Members reported that there is no information available on how School improvement Functions can support nurseries and high needs. Meetings will be arranged to discuss this further and how to improve the service and that the service was offered in the past to those sectors.

It was noted that schools find themselves on inadequate funding from DfE, which cannot be controlled. Recent announcements about pay increases and no additional funding will add extra pressure to the school's budget, where School Improvement Service may be in more demand than in previous years.

Members stated that the decision is for all children of Lancashire and voted using Poll on Microsoft Teams.

The Forum:

- a) Noted the supplementary paper provided and the de-delegation consultation analysis and comments;**
- b) School forum members voted on School Improvement Function delegations for 2023/24, as set out below:**

i.	(7) Primary school members voted to de-delegate the School Improvement Function for primary schools in 2023/24. (5) Primary school members voted against School Improvement Function for 2023/24.
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	(1) Primary school member abstained from answering.
ii.	(1) Secondary school members voted to de-delegate the School Improvement Function for primary schools in 2023/24. (3) Secondary school members voted against School Improvement Function for 2023/24.
iii.	(3) Other school members voted to de-delegate the School Improvement Function for primary schools in 2023/24. (2) Other school members voted against School Improvement Function for 2023/24. (1) Other school members abstained from answering.

There was an issue for two members with Microsoft Teams completing, the poll, it was agreed these will be emailed directly to the school forum.

The tied results on the de-delegation provide the Chair with a second or casting vote, it was to be confirmed, as the Chair of Forum was not making this decision at the moment. The Lancashire [Operational Arrangements](#) supported this.

An additional document was reviewed [School operational guide:2023 to 24](#) to guide for an alternative option. The guide informs us that school forum members for primary maintained schools and secondary maintained schools must decide separately for each phase whether the service should be provided centrally; the decision will apply to all maintained mainstream schools in that phase. Kirsty Lister has suggested that the alternative option for the de-delegation be for Primary only and not for both, as the majority of Primary supported this de-delegation.

Following this meeting, the Chair of the Forum was consulted, and he decided to keep phases separate and allow Primary only for the School Improvement Function to be de-delegated for 2023/24.

6. Any Other Business

There were no known items.

7. Date of Future Meetings

It was noted that the next scheduled Forum meeting will be held at 10.00 am on Thursday 13 January 2022. Arrangements for the meeting will be confirmed in due course.

It was previously agreed by the School Forum members for future meetings to be face-to-face for engagement, open discussion and the purpose of the forum.