

Lancashire Schools Forum

eNewsletter

• Issue 129 • March 2023 •

Fair Exchange?

Welcome to Issue 129 of 'Fair Exchange?' a Post-Forum Edition of the eNewsletter of the Lancashire Schools' Forum.

Schools Forum March 2023

Inclusion Hub Funding

The de-delegation of Primary Inclusion Hub funding for 2023/24 has been previously agreed by the Forum, following a consultation with schools.

The Forum have confirmed that the distribution methodology to allocate the funding to each district hub would be calculated on pupil numbers and a deprivation factor. Money will be allocated to the banker schools in each district in the new financial year.

Task and Finish Group

There has been discussion regarding the final arrangements for the remaining funding of the High Needs Supplementary Grant. The High Needs Block recommended that a Task and Finish Group be formed to make this decision on behalf of School Forum, which was approved by the Forum.

The meeting will be held on 23 March 2023 and the methodology will be decided on remaining £2.5 million funding from High Needs Block supplementary Grant. Further information will be shared in pre-form edition.

Business Rates

School Business Rates Arrangements

Further to the DfE announcements following consultation on changes to the payment process of schools business rates, revised arrangements were introduced to some LAs in 2022/23. However, the historic arrangements continued to apply in Lancashire, and for schools business rates, we expect the existing rates arrangements to continue in 2023/24.

DfE has asked local authorities to confirm by January 2023 the payment process they will be implementing for April 2023. Unfortunately, not all billing authorities agreed to implement the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) changes, and if mutual consent is not reached it will not be possible for any billing authority to adopt the revised payment process.

The School Forum supports the implementation of the new NNDR process and Neil Kissock (Director of Finance) will meet with Chief Finance Officers from other districts to discuss moving forward with the new process, to ensure local authority districts are all in agreement for 2024/25. It is expected that this will be confirmed by autumn. Further information about school business rates for 2024/25 will be provided for schools once it is received.

What else is happening?

Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)

Please remember that there is a statutory requirement on all maintained schools to complete the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) each year and to provide a copy of the completed return to the authority, by **31 March 2023**.

Thank you to those schools that have already submitted their returns.

Please could the remaining schools submit the return by the deadline. The completed return can be uploaded via the schools portal home page under Forms > Finance > Schools Financial Value Standard.

School Teaching & Support Staff Supply Reimbursement Scheme

Final confirmation of the service offer chosen by each school, if any, for 2023/24 was published on the schools portal on 10 March 2023.

If schools have any last-minute queries or changes to cover for 2023/24, please contact schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk before the end of March 2023.

Forum membership

Two primary school headteacher representatives, Angela Aspinwall-Livesey and Keith Wright have recently resigned from the Forum with the thanks of their colleagues.

Replacement members for these vacancies will be appointed next term, along with any other vacancies that arise as part of the Forum's annual membership review.

From end of March 2023;

Sylwia Krajewska is leaving the post of School Forum Clerk and Millie Dixon will be the new School Forum Clerk.

Kirsty Lister (Principal Accountant) has been offered a position closer to home, which will lead her to leave her current position. Matthew Dexter has been appointed as her temporary replacement.

QUESTIONS?

Remember, if you have any questions about the Schools Forum,
please contact email schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk