

Minutes of Schools Forum Meeting 15th March 2018 at The Avenue Centre, Reading

- Present:** Jo Budge - Head Teacher of Blagdon Nursery
 Karen Edwards - Head of The Heights - cover for Justin McMinn
 Peter Kayes - Chair and Governor at Ridgeway
 Simon Uttley - Head Teacher of Blessed Hugh Farrington
 Isabelle Sandy - Business Manager at Kendrick
 Mandy Wilton - Head of Cranbury College
 John Cosgrove - Head of Christ the King
 Richard Rolfe - Governor at Micklands
 Tonia Crossman - Emmer Green
 Laura Ellenor - Head of JMA
- RBC:** Paul Wagstaff - Head of Education
 Helen Redding - Interim SEND Improvement Adviser
 Steven Davies - Education and Schools Business Partner
 Deb Hunter - Principal Educational Psychologist
 Corinne Dishington - Early Years & Children Centres
- Apologies:** Rachel Cave - Highdown
 Ita McGullion - Manager of Kennet Day Nursery
 Ali McNamara - NUT
 Andrew Johnson - Head Teacher of Maiden Erlegh (Reading)
 Ashley Robson - Head Teacher of Reading School
 Tracey Green - Business Manager - The Avenue

STANDING ITEMS

1.	Welcome and Apologies
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted.
2.	Early Years SEND - Deb Hunter
	Deborah Hunter (Principal Child & Educational Psychologist) asked for the group's thoughts on the Early Years' Inclusion Panel's decision not to extend the Early Years' Early Intervention funding to nursery classes in schools. The group agreed this was sensible given that the funding is already limited and it will not extend far if it were to include schools nursery children. In addition, the funding is used to improve inclusion and is not typically used as '1:1' funding; it was felt that schools nursery classes were able to seek advice and support re SEN needs from the school SENCO. The report was noted.
3.	Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2018 & Matters arising from the minutes
	Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Redding post name changed to SEND Improvement Advisor from Interim Head of SEN Minutes were agreed

4.	Schools Forum Membership Update
	Steven Davies presented. Tracey Green (Business Manager at Churchend and The Avenue) has agreed to join schools forum

	<p>as the Academy Special School Rep.</p> <p>There are currently three vacancies and three posts due to be reappointed. 2 Maintained Primary School - Head Teachers 1 Maintained Special School - Head Teacher or representative</p> <p>It has been noted that we have three reps for Primary Academies that have not attended the meetings. To be reviewed in the summer term for new academic year.</p>
--	---

5.	Reading Schools Link Project - Deb Hunter
	<p>Deborah Hunter also gave the group information on the Schools Link Mental Health Project. The project is part of Reading's Transformation Plan, and aims to work with schools, the CCG, and partners in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - developing improved mental health interventions for children and young people, - Improving outcomes for CYP with mental health issues - Providing psycho-education to schools, parents, partners on mental health <p>The next part of the project will be in September, and DH will be emailing schools shortly with further information.</p> <p>The report was noted.</p>
6.	DSG 17-18 Budget Monitoring - Steven Davies
	<p>Steven Davies presented.</p> <p>It was noted at the December 2017 schools forum that the DSG deficit forecasted to March 2018 would be £3.692m. This is due to the High Needs Bloc pressure.</p> <p>The forecast has reduced by 272k to £3.420m.:</p> <p>7.1: Early Years block - £70k underspend has now been removed as the LA has agreed to pay maintained nursery schools a business rate supplement. Current forecast is likely to have further underspends but full review at year end is needed due to pupil numbers.</p> <p>7.2: High Needs block has reduced by £341k. This is attributed to the use of a post 16 grant being used against this funding for Cranbury College post 16 provision. Council needs to review placements spends that have not been claimed for so expecting the overspend to decrease slightly.</p> <p>7.3 Steven explained the DSG deficit situation and the report shows a table explaining the variances from each block and the projection for the next 3 years. The council has invested in services that were previously funded from DSG to help the deficit reduce. This includes the SEN strand work that will be explained within the High Needs report.</p> <p>7.4 The LA proposed that the DSG deficit balance at the end of the 17-18 (Based on current estimates) can be carried into 18-19 as part of the recovery plan. Schools Forum was asked to approve and this was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Forum also noted that the forward projections for the deficit were for it to decrease over the following three years.</p>
7.	High Needs 2018-2019 UPDATE with draft Budget - Helen Redding
	<p>Helen Redding presented</p> <p>Helen explained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · a breakdown of the actual and forecast spend against each line of the High Needs Block (HNB) that totals over £21m for 17-18 · the proposed High Needs Block budget allocations for 2018/2019 totalling £19.7m

	<p>· a summary of the work being undertaken and progress made to deliver the SEND Strategy and make the most effective use of the resources available.</p> <p>It was also noted that Phoenix College had taken more pupils and was now close to full. An application was being made for capital to extend Phoenix College, to improve the quality of accommodation and enable it to also take girls.</p> <p>Strand work will continue and will be reported back through future school forum meetings.</p> <p>Helen was thanked for the report which was noted.</p>
8.	Agenda Items For Future Meetings
	<p>The next meeting will be held on 24th May 2018 (5pm) at The Avenue Centre, Meadway Room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSG 17-18 Draft Outturn • Maintained School Balances 17-18 • Academic Year 18-19 School forum venue and dates proposal
9.	Any Other Business
	N/A