CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON C O U N C I L

Schools' Forum

25 January 2024

Time 4.00 pm Public Meeting? YES Type of meeting Partnership

Boards

Venue Committee Room 3 - 3rd Floor - Civic Centre

Membership

Karen Preston (Chair) Academies Sector Representative

Susan Lacey (Vice Chair) Nursery Sector Head Teacher Representative

Kirsty Banks Academies Sector Representative

Stephen Blower Secondary Sector Headteacher Representative

Natalie Boys Academies Sector Substitute
Kate Charles Primary Sector Substitute

Louisa Craig

Denise Dalton

Ben Davis

Lorraine Dawney

Academies Sector Representative

Academies Sector Substitute

Academies Sector Representative

Special School Sector Substitute

Louise Fall Deputy Principal, City of Wolverhampton College

Gary Gentle Diocesan Representative Substitute
Dan Hartley Academies Sector Representative
Sarah Horton Academies Sector Substitute

Trisha James Primary Sector Governor Representative Samantha Kemp-Marshall Early Years (PVI Sector) Representative

Amandip Lally Academies Sector Substitute
Nicola Licata Academies Sector Representative

Carroll McNally Non-School Member Diocesan Schools Representative

Bhaksho Raj Academies Sector Representative

Zoe Rollinson Primary Sector Headteacher Representative

Anthony Smith Academies Sector Representative
Emma Smith Nursery Sector Headteacher Substitute
Graham Tate Academies Sector Representative
Laura Thackaberry Special School Headteacher Substitute
Lisa Thompson Diocesan Schools Representative

Lucia Jayne Turner Nursery Sector Governor Representative Samantha Walker Primary Sector Headteacher Representative

Lindsay Watson Pupil Referral Unit Sector Substitute
Phil Williams Academies Sector Representative

Observer Status

Councillor Jacqui Coogan Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Education

Bill Hague Head of Business and Support Services

Alison Hinds Director of Children's Services
Brenda Wile Deputy Director of Education

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact:

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Contact Shelley Humphries

Tel/Email 01902 554070 shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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Website http://wolverhampton.cmis.uk.com/decisionmaking

Email democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Tel 01902 555043

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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

• 27 June 2024 (tbc)

Item No.	Title
1	Welcome and Introductions
2	Apologies
3	Declaration of Interest or Confidentiality
4	Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 7 December 2023 (Pages 1 - 6) [To approve the minutes of 7 December 2023 as a correct record.]
5	Matters Arising [To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2023.]
6	Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance Update (Pages 7 - 10) [To receive an update on current Schools' Forum membership and attendance.]
7	Schools' Forum Forward Plan 2023 - 2024 (Pages 11 - 12) [To note the Schools' Forum Forward Plan for academic year 2023 – 2024.]
ITEMS F	OR DISCUSSION OR DECISION
8	Dedicated Schools Grant and School Funding 2024 - 2025 - (To Follow) [To endorse the proposals for the national funding formula and DSG settlements.]
9	Growth Fund Update - (To Follow) [To receive an update on the deployment of the Growth Fund payment and estimated allocations for future financial years.]
10	High Needs Sub-Group Update [To receive an update from the Chair of the High Needs Sub-Group.]
11	Early Years Sub-Group Update [To receive a verbal update from the Early Years Sub-Group.]
12	Any Other Business
13	Dates of future meetings • 29 February 2024



CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON C O U N C I L

Schools' Forum

Minutes - 7 December 2023

Attendance

Karen Preston (Chair) Academies Sector Representative

Susan Lacey (Vice Chair) Nursery Sector Headteacher Representative

Kirsty Banks Academies Sector Representative

Stephen Blower Secondary Sector Representative

Lorraine Dawney Special School Sector Substitute

Zoe Rollinson Primary Sector Headteacher Representative

Stephen Smith Primary Sector Governor Representative

Lisa Thompson Non-School Member Diocesan Schools Representative

Samantha Walker Primary Sector Headteacher Representative

Lindsay Watson Pupil Referral Unit Sector Substitute

Phil Williams Academies Sector Representative

Observer Status

Bill Hague Head of School Business and Support

In Attendance

James Barlow Finance Business Partner

Mai Gibbons Senior Commissioning Officer for SEND

Peter Green Finance Manager

Shelley Humphries Democratic Services Officer

Jameel Mullan Inclusion and Attendance Service Manager

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. Title

1 Welcome and Introductions

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Schools' Forum members Louisa Craig, Sarah Horton, Bhaksho Raj, Ant Smith, Graham Tate, Lucia Jayne Turner, Denise Dalton and Trisha James.

Apologies were also received from Councillor Jacqui Coogan and Brenda Wile.

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3 Declaration of Interest or Confidentiality

There were no declarations of interest or confidentiality.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 30 November 2023

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of 30 November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

5 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

6 Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance Update

Bill Hague, Head of School Business and Support Services provided a verbal update on Schools' Forum membership and attendance.

It was reported that significant progress had been made in filling all Academy sector vacancies and welcome was extended to all new members. Some interest had been expressed in the Special School Governor vacancy as the previous representative, Vivienne Bunce, had now stepped down.

A query was raised around the process should any member not attend for more than three consecutive meetings, it was clarified that the Constitution stated that the member would be asked to stand down and identify a replacement through their constituent group.

Resolved:

That the Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance Update be received.

7 Schools' Forum Forward Plan 2023 -2024

Bill Hague, Head of School Business and Support Services presented the Schools' Forum Forward Plan 2023 – 2024 and highlighted future agenda items.

Schools' Forum members were invited to suggest any items they wished to receive at future meetings by contacting either Bill Hague, Head of School Business and Support Services or Shelley Humphries, Democratic Services Officer.

Resolved:

That the Schools' Forum Forward Plan 2023 – 2024 be noted.

8 2024-2025 National Funding Formula Provisional Allocations and Update on Budget Setting

James Barlow, Finance Business Partner presented the 2024-2025 National Funding Formula Provisional Allocations and Update on Budget Setting report and highlighted salient points.

The report provided Schools' Forum Members with the indicative allocations and the process for setting budgets funded by the DSG in 2024-2025.

It was noted that there had been more pupils on roll than originally forecast due to unforeseen in-year migration into Wolverhampton schools, particularly into year four.

In response to a concern raise around the schools currently getting more and if they would be left vulnerable once the NFF was fully implemented, it was noted the minimum funding guarantee would help bolster this.

It was queried what kind of impact inflation may have on the high needs increase and it was noted that inflation may potentially affect schools' finances, although assurances were offered that all funding available would be passed through.

In terms of consultation, members were called upon to suggest how schools could be engaged other than the standard emails. It was suggested that Business Managers Forum or SIA drop-ins were potential ways as well as a specialised bulletin email.

Resolved:

That Schools' Forum members note the indicative allocations and the process for setting budgets funded by the DSG in 2024-2025.

9 Commissioning of High Needs Places for September 2024

Mai Gibbons, Senior Commissioning Officer for SEND presented the Commissioning of High Needs Places for September 2024 and highlighted key points. The report provided Schools' Forum with an update regarding the commissioning of high needs places which are being commissioned for the academic year 2024-2025.

It was acknowledged that there had been an unprecedented demand for high needs places and, as part of the SEND and Inclusion Strategy, resource bases had increased across the City to try and meet this. It was noted that this was a significant challenge although Wolverhampton was currently taking part in a pilot scheme with the Department for Education to improve projection methodology to support this.

The work undertaken by the Commissioning team was commended.

Resolved:

That Schools' Forum members note the update on Commissioning of High Needs Places for September 2024.

10 Future Resourcing for Education Role Within Exploitation Hub

Jameel Mullan, Inclusion and Attendance Service Manager presented the Future Resourcing for Education Role Within Exploitation Hub report and highlighted salient points. The report provided an update to Schools' Forum evidencing the impact of the role and requesting endorsement for the post being funded on a long-term basis via the Central Service Schools Block (CSSB) grant, provided it was affordable.

A concern was raised around sustainability which was acknowledged however when weighing up the financial cost against the detrimental impact of removing the support in the Hub for children and young people at risk of exploitation, it was felt the support was more important.

Assurances were offered that the funding was reviewed annually with grant funding direct from central government and it would continue as long as it was affordable.

Members of Schools' Forum endorsed the proposals.

Resolved:

That members of Schools' Forum endorse the proposal for a dedicated education post to be established within the Partnership Exploitation and Missing Hub and for this to be funded on a long-term basis from the Central Service Schools Block at a cost of £45,120.

11 High Needs Sub-Group Update

Bill Hague, Head of School Business and Support Services provided a verbal update on the High Needs Sub Group in the absence of a Chair and reported that currently, some of the work of the High Needs Sub-group involving matrix banding and EHCP reviews had been placed on hold pending announcements from Government. It was also noted that a review of the group's membership and Terms of Reference was currently in progress. It was agreed that the refreshed Terms of Reference would be presented at a future Schools' Forum meeting for approval.

Resolved:

That the refreshed Terms of Reference for the High Needs Sub-group would be presented at a future Schools' Forum meeting for approval.

12 Early Years Funding Update

James Barlow, Finance Business Partner presented the Early Years Funding Update report and highlighted key points.

The report provided an update to Schools' Forum on the Early Years Block of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) with a focus on Teachers' Pay and Pension Funding 2023 – 2024 and the Early Years Supplementary Grant for 2023 – 2024, and how much each setting would receive.

Following discussion around payment of the Early Years Teachers Pay and Pension Grant, it was noted that it made most sense to pay out in full using historical census data in the same way as settings received this grant in 2022-2023, as detailed in the report.

Resolved:

That the update on the Early Years Block of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) be noted.

13 Early Years Sub-Group Update

The Chair reported that the last main piece of work for the group had been the allocation of the overspend which was now drawing to a close after proposals having been agreed at the last Schools' Forum meeting. It was requested that steps to distribute Early Years Funding be escalated to ensure the funding reached early years settings before the end of the financial year.

It was noted that there would be forthcoming meetings in January and February where it was planned to work through the new funding opportunities presented by the early education entitlements due to be introduced in the new year.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank those who had been involved with the Early Years sub-group.

Resolved:

- 1. That the Early Years Sub-group Update be received.
- 2. That steps to distribute Early Years Funding be escalated to ensure the funding reached early years settings before the end of the financial year.

14 Any Other Business

The Chair highlighted a positive mention of Wolverhampton schools on a BBC programme due to be broadcast focussing on education. It was highlighted that Wolverhampton was well-placed in terms of efforts across the system to ensure the best outcomes for children and young people in education, with 90% of schools being classed as good or outstanding by Ofsted. This prompted thanks to all staff and colleagues working in education for their hard work.

A concern was raised by a Forum member around challenges posed by the Social Workers in Schools pilot scheme and it was noted that Brenda Wile, Deputy Director of Education was aware of similar challenges and that sessions had been set up in the new year to support schools to work through these challenges.

The Chair wished to record special recognition to long-standing member, Stephen Smith, who would be stepping down following this meeting after the academisation of the school he represented. Thanks were given for his many years of dedication as a member of Schools' Forum and as a school governor, and for all his work to support children and young people in the City.

15 **Dates of future meetings**

Dates for future meetings were confirmed as:

- 25 January 2024
- 29 February 2024

The Chair closed the meeting at 5:45 pm.



Special School Headteacher / Representatives											
Lorraine Dawney (Green Park School) Representative since June 2023)	19.6.2023	Sep-26	Present	Present	Present (v)	Present	Present	Apols - No Sub	Present	Present	
Special School Headteacher Substitute											
Laura Thackaberry (Headteacher, Penn Fields)	29.06.2023	San-7h	•	•	·	Not Required - Rep Attended	· ·		•	Not Required - Rep Attended	

Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance 2023 - 2024

	රු				2022-2023					2023 -	2024		
Members	rinate	Leur Fugs	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	In person			2023 -	2024		
	401.		29-Sep-22	01-Dec-22	19-Jan-23	16-Feb-23	29-Jun-23	05-Oct-23	30-Nov-23	07-Dec-23	25-Jan-24	29-Feb-24	29-Jun-23
Special School Governors Representative													
Vacancy			Apols - No Sub	Present (v)	Present (v)	Absent - No Sub	Apols - No Sub	Absent - No Sub	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy			
Special School Governors Substitute													
Vacancy			Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy			
Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher / Representatives													
Vacancy			Present (v)	Present (v)	Absent - Sent Sub	Absent - No Sub	n/a	n/a	n/a	Rep Vacancy			
Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher Substitute													
Lindsay Watson (Lawnswood Campus)	20.01.22	Sep-25	Not Required Rep Attended	Not Required Rep Attended	Present	Present	Apols - No Rep	Absent - No Rep	Present	Present			

Academies Representatives												
Niፙla Licata (Amethyst Academies Trust)	28.11.23	Sep-26	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Apols - Other Reps Present	Apols - Other Reps Present		
Louisa Craig (St Francis and St Clare Catholic MAC)	11.10.18	Sep-24	Present (v)	Absent - Other Reps Present	Present (v)	Apols - Other Reps Present	Present (v)	Apols - Other Reps Present	Present	Apols - Other Reps Present		
Ben Davis (CEO, St. Martin's MAT)	11.10.18	Sep-24		Apols - Other Reps Present	Present (v)	Present	Present	Absent - Other Reps Present	Apols - Other Reps Present	Absent - Other Reps Present		
Anthony Smith (Manor Multi Academy Trust)	22.11.23	Sep-26	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Apols - Other Reps Present		
Dan Hartley	07.12.23	Sep-26	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	n/a		
Karen Preston (Chair) (Governing Board Member, Woodfield Primary)	14.11.18	Sep-24	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Apols - Other Reps Present	Present		
Bhaksho Raj (St Francis & St Clare Catholic MAC)	26.09.19	Sep-25	Present(v)	Present (v)	Absent - Other Reps Present	Apols - Other Reps Present	Apols - Other Reps Present	Present	Absent - Other Reps Present	Apols - Other Reps Present		
Graham Tate (Highfields)	01.10.20	Sep-26	Present (v)	Present (v)	Present (v)	Apols - Other Reps Present	Present (v)	Absent - Other Reps Present	Present	Apols - Other Reps Present		
Phil Williams (CLPT)	11.10.18	Sep-24	Present (v)	Present	Present (v)	Present	Present (v)	Absent - Other Reps Present	Present	Present		
Kirsty Banks (Ignite Learning Partnership)	14.11.18	Sep-24	Absent - Other Reps Present	Present	Present	Present	Apols - Other Reps Present	Present	Present	Present		

Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance 2023 - 2024

	d _{ss} .				2022-2023					2023	2024		
Members	rinate	Term Ends	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	In person			2023	- 2024		
	401.		29-Sep-22	01-Dec-22	19-Jan-23	16-Feb-23	29-Jun-23	05-Oct-23	30-Nov-23	07-Dec-23	25-Jan-24	29-Feb-24	29-Jun-23
Academies Substitutes													
Sarah Horton, (Ignite Learning Partnership)	29.11.23	Sep-26	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Not Required - Rep Attended			
Denise Dalton (Trinity)	7.12.23	Sep-26	•	· ·	· ·	Not Required - Rep Attended	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Not Required - Rep Attended			
Amandip Lally (Thomas Telford UTC)	7.12.23	Sep-26	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy			Sub Vacancy	Not Doguirod			
Natalie Boys (Shine Academies)	7.12.23	Sep-26	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Not Required - Rep Attended			

Non School Members

Non ochool Mchibers												
Diocesan Schools Representatives (x2)												
Vacancy			Present (v)	Absent - No Sub	Present (v)	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy		
Lisa Thompson (St Andrews C of E Primary School)	25.02.21	Sep-24	Apols - Other Reps Present	Praceni	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent - Sent Sub	Present		
Diocesan Schools Substitute												
Gary Gentle (Bilston CE)	01.09.20	Sen-In	Not Required - Rep Attended		•	Not Required - Rep Attended	Rep Attended	Rep Attended	Present	Not Required - Rep Attended		
Vapancy			Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy		
Early Years (PVI Sector) Representative												
Samantha Kemp-Marshall	27.06.22	Sep-25	Present	Apols - No Sub	Absent - No Sub	Present	Present	Apols - No Sub	Present	Absent - No Rep		
Early Years PVI Sector Substitute												
Elizabeth Towner	27.06.22	Sen-75	Not Required - Rep Attended		Absent - No Rep	Not Required - Rep Attended	•		Not Required Rep Attended			
15 -19 Education												
Louise Fall (Deputy Principal, City of Wolverhampton College)	28.08.2023	Sep-26	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Apols - No Sub	Apols - Sent Sub	Apols - No Rep		

Observer Status Members

LA Role	Representative
Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Education	Councillor Jacqui Coogan
Director of Children's Services	Alison Hinds
Deputy Director for Education	Brenda Wile
Head of School Business and Support Services	Bill Hague

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City of Wolverhampton Council

SCHOOLS' FORUM

Date	25 January 2024
Report title	Schools' Forum – Forward Plan 2023 - 2024
Contact Officer	Bill Hague, Head of School Business and Support Services
Telephone number	01902 555100

Summary

This report outlines the Forward Plan for Schools' Forum for 2023 - 2024.

It is good practice to have a forward plan to ensure that Forum members are aware of the schedule of reports that need to be considered and decisions made.

Decision

Members of the Schools' Forum are asked to note and comment on the Forward Plan.

Wolverhampton Schools' Forum Forward Plan 2023 - 2024

Date of Meeting	Item Type	Responsible Officer
25 January 2024		
Dedicated Schools Grant and School Funding 2024 - 2025	Decision Item	James Barlow
Growth Fund Update	Information Item	David Kirby
High Needs Subgroup Update	Information Item	TBC
Early Years Subgroup Update	Information Item	Sue Lacey
29 February 2024		
High Needs Block Funding 2024	Approval Item	James Barlow
Early Years Block Funding 2024	Approval Item	James Barlow
Central Services Block Funding 2024	Approval Item	James Barlow
Schools Block Funding 2024	Approval Item	James Barlow
High Needs Subgroup Update	Information Item	TBC
Early Years Subgroup Update	Information Item	Sue Lacey
27 June 2024 TBC		
School Balances Update	Information Item	James Barlow
Dedicated Schools Grant Out-turn	Information Item	James Barlow
High Needs Subgroup Update	Information Item	TBC
Early Years Subgroup Update	Information Item	Sue Lacey