






Meeting	Schools Forum
Date	5 th December 2023
Time	2pm to 5pm
Venue	Teams

Attendees

Chair	Jo Marsh
Core Group	Alun Williams, Christopher Wilford, Claire Hudson, Clare Crowther, Fiona Skinner, Gary Lewis, Jo Marsh, Jo Stoaling, Kevin Burnett, Louise Malik, Mary Kearney-Knowles, Philip Frankland, Richard Morgan, Roz Lambert, Liz Beazer, Becky Biddlecombe (notes)
Apologies received	Hayley Trotman, Mandy Bishop, Will Godfrey, Rosemary Collard, Tim Howes, Paul May (Cllr), Mary Cox, Mark Wilson, Mark Thompson, Claire Curtis

1.	Welcome and Apologies	ACTION
	JM welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted as above.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	Members were reminded to complete the declaration of interest forms once per year and to declare anything pertaining to the papers being presented.	
3.	Minutes of the last meeting	
	<p>KB reviewed minutes in detail – all forum members agreed with the amendments. (Previous minutes attached)</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Letter sent to Damian Hinds on behalf of Schools' Forum explaining that 9 primaries and 3 secondaries had lost out on funding through last year's MFG to the tune of £340k. No reply received as yet - Point raised around the sustainability funding of special schools and AP (incl. new ones) 	 Draft Notes Schools Forum 26th Septemb
4.	DSG – Safety Valve Programme update	
	<p>Discussion was had regarding DSG – Safety Valve Programme update. (Paper attached)</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AW – what kinds of decisions or actions do you think you will need to take to make this work? It would be good to know if one or two items are not working? • CW – We need to work with schools, and how we can bring up those requests. The stop and spend are the costly items. 	 3.0 DSG Safety Valve Update dec 2023.doc

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we need to look at everything we commission and support from the budget and can we afford it going forwards. There are services currently being commissioned and we need to check this is the right use of the DSG's money at this moment in time. • AW – I think it is a good opportunity for schools and the MATS to work more closely with the authority. • JM – Forum needs to be informed of planned changes at the January 30th meeting. • JS - Wherever we can be involved in these conversations it would be helpful. • CW – Commissioned consultants company called ISOS will be coming in to support the safety valve plan – funded though the DSG. • CW – we have got 50 MPs to write to the treasury and to the Prime Minister around the seriousness of funding across SEND. • The F40 has been organised and logical, using lots of data to help with the DFE. We won't see anything until the next parliament. • KB - we need to make it personal to B&NES and have a 1:1 with the local MP. • JM – told panel members to write to their local MPs. • MKK – Southwest representatives of the chief execs and has met with the new minister and had talked through the challenges. There has been a concerted effort to try and lobby this. There is a clear steer, we need to move our way through and use them locally and nationally. • RM - the DSG safety valve Payments which would have been for the rest of this financial year of £1.1 million has been paused, until a new plan is approved. 	
5.	Budget 24-25	
	<p>Discussion was had regarding Budget 24-25 (Paper attached)</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LM – Concerned with the national wage increase, the support staff pay award has been based on the national wage increase. • RM – Significant issue for early years settings. • KB – Asked RM if the teachers' pay additional grant is going to be rolled into the NFF for 24/25? • RM – the DfE have indicated they will do this is 25/26. <p>➤ Budget data and NFF factor values Submitted to the DFE 20th January, all schools will then be advised of the funding allocation values for the next academic year.</p>	 <p>4.0 Budget 2024-25.doc</p>
6.	Formula Funding Consultation	
	<p>Discussion was had regarding Formula Funding Consultation. (Paper attached)</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>RM – asked for members to vote:</p> <p>➤ All forum members agreed to recommend to the cabinet member to use the national funding formula scaled back to the available resources.</p>	 <p>6.2 App 24-25 -B&NES Policy Fundir</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All Forum members agreed to transfer half a percent of the schools block to the high needs block. ➤ Planned growth budget sits at the side of the school's block – own local funding formula mechanism of distributing resources to schools looking at planned admission numbers. ➤ New emphasis from DFE to use NFF estimated numbers as the mechanism for planned growth. Initial calculations show this to be beneficial for schools in B&NES. ➤ New planned growth policy that would follow the mechanism of the NFF and an emergency fund of £50,000 held for in year issues. • One issue of ongoing infant class size funding needs to be considered and addressed whilst transition to new methodology. <p>All forum members agreed to support the National Funding formula methodology and offer protection for those schools with ongoing infant class sizes issues and retain 50k to support in year issues.</p> <p>Action – RM send round a specific description round to all schools.</p>	RM
7.	Early Years and wrap around Child Care allocations	
	<p>Discussion was had regarding grant allocations to support the expansion of the Early Years Entitlement and the new wraparound childcare offer for primary age children (Paper attached.)</p> <p>PF also informed members there will be a decision-making paper at the next Forum as the Early Years Entitlement funding rates for 2024/25 funding rates have been announced.</p> <p>Comments: RL – a consultation should occur as happens with schools. CC- there is a misconception with how many people will be available, it will be interesting to work with the local authority.</p>	 7.0 December 2023 DfE grants fo EYE and
10.	AOB:	
	Future minutes – shortened minutes	
11.	Date of next meeting: 30th January 2024	