



# Minutes

Name of meeting

## **Schools' Forum**

Date and time

Friday 4 May 2012 – 9am

Venue

Cowes Enterprise College

Present

Janet Giles **JG**

Jonathan Russell (Chair) **JR**

Katherine Marshall **KM**

Nathan Thomas (Vice Chair) **NT**

Brenda Dyer (Term of office ended April 2012)

Penny Codd **PC**

Ingrid Ramsdale-Capper **IRC**

Sarah Linington **SL**

Sue Holman **SH**

Gill Andrew **GA**

David Whistance **DW** not present

Issi Lambert (Minute Taker) **IL**

### **Observers**

Donna Ratcliff

1.

### **Pupil Premium for Looked After Children – Gary Booth (For Decision)**

Gary Booth – Apologies

**JG** discussed pupil premium in detail and a paper will follow. Gary Booths proposal is to distribute 500 up front in Sept and hold back 100 to meet the more complex needs of those looked after children which will enable him to have a small pot of money for the greater good across the spectrum. End of February half term then any left over would be sent out. It is up to the LA to decide how they spend this funding. We are asking for Heads to feed back to forum by May 18<sup>th</sup> in order for us to make a final decision. If secondary and primary do not agree we could split the funding and allocate accordingly. Any further queries please contact Gary Booth.

2.

### **Apologies:**

Cllr Dawn Cousins

Sara Sheath

Beverly Gilbert

Phillippa Read (Term of office ended April 2012)

### **Not in attendance**

Urszula Topp

Janet Newton

Ingrid Ramsdale-Capper

Roland White

Iain Vickers

3. **Declarations of Interest**

None

4. **Minutes of the last meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

Agreed as a true record

5. **Matters Arising (For Discussion) - None**

- **Nominations for Early Years Sector**

Brenda Dyer did not receive the e-mail from Gill Pink – ACTION check Gill Pink sent out to all and hold the two nominations over until we have clarity, Brenda to come to next meeting if we have not resolved the nominations.

6. **Updates – Janet Giles**

- **Press release from Council on reducing carbon footprint (For information)**

Paper was tabled – ACTION Invite Mason Murray to the July meeting

- **Scheme of Delegation**

Not a requirement to consult on this and new scheme is published on i.wight.com, there is a requirement to submit so that statement will be required from March 2013. We will use that to inform our audit plan. Business Managers have had two opportunities to have training. New paragraph around fraud which requires schools to safeguard against it and train in this in induction. Annexe b amended around redundancy costs, which now says it is still the GB response and you can use the delegated budget.

- **Schools Budget Summary (For Information)**

Paper was tabled and JG explained in detail.

- **Central Expenditure Limit Table Funding Period 2012-13 (For Information)**

Paper was tabled and JG explained in detail.

**Questions**

**KM** Staffing costs for re-org was huge and more than anticipated.

**JG** It is not all redundancy costs as some of this was pension costs and a contribution has to come from the LA.

- **LA Table – Funding Period (2012-13) (For Information)**

Paper was tabled and JG explained in detail.

**JR** Insurances that we currently buy back for supporting supply cover would be looked at. JG we offer this for HLTA's and if schools wanted it we would offer insurance for your key admin staff ie school business managers to enable you to claim supply cover. As more schools opt out it will become harder for the LA to be cost effective but we will provide it as long as we do not make a loss. **KM** we were surprised at the variety of schemes available to us. **KM** query around cover costs for professional assoc. what do our subscriptions pay and how does it work. **JG** Currently 6

teaching prof assoc. staff who represent the unions for support staff are paid 6400. We pay so that you can get supply cover for when your teaching union staff are out. 6400 is paid also for the 4 staff. It will not be possible for the LA to continue these payments, we need to assess the impact of this as if schools do not buy back we will have to decide how we continue to pay the professional assoc. LA will also need to look at funding for Unison reps. **SH** We do not get invited to these meetings so please can I be copied in. **JG** I am about to set up meetings with you and Judy to enable this information to be updated to you. I will make sure you get invited and are copied in to the meetings in future. **JG** will make sure you are added to distribution list. **ACTION**

- **Education Funding Reform (For Discussion)**

Paper was tabled and JG explained in detail.

**Questions/Comments**

ii. **SH** How do we access the IDACI information. **JG** the DFE have stated that I am not allowed to share this data even though I explained that I need to consult with schools so how can I consult if I cannot share data, DFE will look into it. **v. KM** EAL is it not based on what you have in class **JG** no it is based on who is coming from mainland.

vi. **JG** In terms of consultation the inflexible nature of some of the criteria, the arbitrary measures don't allow us to put the money where we want to so perhaps we should look at this in more detail.

**KM** this will be around how many children and not the size of the building, with no advantage between Primary and Secondary. **JG** every single school gets say 150k across the island. **PC** no matter how much you federate that will not help and building costs will go up. **JG** a lot of this is set in stone. **PC ii.** When are you likely to know the impact of new benefits on FSM. **JG** Universal credit they are aware of it and are working on it, the FSM info is based on the over 6 calculations. **PC** A lot of people will lose it so it will have a huge impact.

**Consultation asks:**

a. Setting a minimum threshold that applies to the basic entitlement only, suggesting that 60% represents a reasonable starting point for this threshold. (In 2012-13, the IW Age Weighted Pupil Units (AWPU's) represented 80% and 86% of primary and secondary school budgets respectively).

b. Setting a minimum threshold that relates to all of the pupil led factors (and would therefore include basic entitlement, deprivation, looked after children, low cost SEN and EAL), suggesting that 80% would represent a reasonable level for this threshold. (In 2012-13 IW pupil-led funding represented 88% and 93% of primary and secondary school budgets respectively).

c. Not setting a threshold at all at this point and accepting that there will continue to be variation across the country.

**JR** Asked forum members if they were happy with that and all were. What would JG recommend? **JG** Option B **NT** We also need to put in our concerns. **JG** Please let us have your concerns

in writing. **PC** Load what we can and go to lower point. **JG** purpose of change to ensure as much funding as possible is pupil led. We could afford to move to a lower level as we have always been pupil led. **KM** It should be a lower sum so it is pupil driven, it goes hand in hand. **JR** Would members agree then to support the lower level option B? Members agreed.

- **Action Plan for review of Schools Funding Formula (For Information)**

Paper was tabled and JG discussed in detail

- **Education Funding Reform – Allocation of Budgets to Funding Blocks (For Information)**

Papers were tabled and JG discussed in detail

**Questions/Comments**

Public meetings – **PC** as long as they do not move to the evenings

**JG** We will remain daytime meetings.

EFA member will have observer status

14-16year olds our college has not engaged in this yet.

High needs pupils and students – **NT** at the moment a statemented child carries what amount. **JG** It is worked out hourly at the moment but they will have healthcare education plans and every mainstream school will have to maintain basic per pupil + up to 10k of support for that child. **KM** they are trying to do away with school action so you would only get 6k for statements. **JG** I will clarify this and we need to bear this in mind when we set the budgets. When you find you cannot provide support you need to cost this out and then come to us to see if we can top up. **NT** I am keen to see how the 6k works and look at the top up. **KM** low cost high incidence is the only bit that is not clear. **JG** There is no provision. **NT** How do we find this. **KM** High needs pupils and statements is that relevant only to special schools. **JG** Yes. **KM** I thought that would push those children into special provision. **SH** It is almost a move against inclusion, it is the intention to bring back more to the island. **JG** It is happening, we are sending less. **SH** We are taking a number of young people from St. Catherines. **JG** Cost is around 15k per year, we need the respite as well as places in mainstream and special schools. **JG** This is the start of the demise of the LA Education Department. Gatten and Lake's Ofsted report within a week the DFE were asking what we were doing about moving to academy status. **JR** Trust or academy you will see a split and trusts federating so it will be an interesting dynamic. **JG** How do you want to take this forward with consultation, my view is to carry out technical detailed work and bear in mind that by end of Oct we need to have something ready for DFE. I will get this out to Primary Heads. I could produce a range of options. Baseline spreadsheet with options could be produced. **NT** Possibilities should come back to this group for discussion. **JG** That gives us August. Have a forum meeting end of term and mid October. **ACTION** **KM**, **PC** & **DW** to be invited to planning meeting which has been changed to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June (JG to minute)

**None**

**Future Meeting dates & Venues:**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012 Cowes Enterprise College, Newport**

**Future Planning meeting dates @ Cowes Enterprise College:**

- **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012 @ 8am**

**Meeting closed at 11.30am**