



# Northumberland County Council

## Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group

Education and Skills Service

Meeting: Formula Funding Sub Committee of the Schools Forum  
Date: 17/09/2019  
Time: 3.00pm  
Venue: Council Chamber

<p><b>Present:</b></p> <p><i>Maurice Hall ( HT The Duchess High)</i> <i>Bruce Parvin (Education and Business Manager)</i> <i>Colin Pearson (Chair Abbeyfields First)</i> <i>Ben Ryder (HT Berwick Middle)</i> <i>Ian Walker (Chair and Governor The Duchess's High School)</i></p>	<p><i>Darren Warbuton (Director of Finance Bede Academy) In place of Andrew Thelwell HT</i> <i>Richard Woolhouse (Trade Union (NEU))</i></p>
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Notes Lisa Headington

<b>Start time: 3.05 p.m</b>	<b>Action:</b>
<p>1. <b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>Welcome and Introductions took place.</p> <p>Outcome of today's meeting is to get a steer from the Formula Funding body to take to Schools Forum prior to the October meeting.</p> <p>Hope to set up modeling exercises from available information.</p> <p>All agreed.</p>	
<p>2. <b>In Attendance:</b></p> <p>See above</p>	
<p>3. <b>Apologies:</b></p> <p>Andrew Thelwell, Mike Deane-Hall, Kieran McGraine, Graeme Atkins, Graham Wilkins, Mike Hodgson, Ben Watson and Sue Aviston</p>	
<p>4. <b>Membership Update</b></p>	

	<p>Ben Ryder to replace Jane Kennedy.</p> <p>Confirmed need to get more representatives from the Primary phase and this will be brought up at the next Schools Forum meeting.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Terms Of Reference</b></p> <p>Circulated to members for comments.</p> <p>It was made clear to representatives that they represent the phase of schools not just individual schools.</p> <p>All agreed to the terms of reference as they are.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Declaration of personal or pecuniary Interest in any agenda item.</b></p> <p>No declaration of pecuniary interest declared by members.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Minutes of the previous meeting/Matters arising from Previous Minutes:</b></p> <p>Minutes were tabled at the last Schools Forum meeting .</p> <p>All agreed true record of meeting.</p> <p>The outcome of the consultation was queried and clarified that the staged move from IDACI to the use of EY Pupil Premium data had been agreed.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Growth Policy</b></p> <p>In relation to this, an email from Ben Watson about the situation at Whytrig Middle School. - BP to circulate email to members.</p> <p>Ben felt financial loss arising when actual census number lower than predicted and queried why the school should bear the cost and asked for this to be considered at today's meeting.</p> <p>Growth funding on the basis of AWPU was provided for the period from September to March (7 months) prior to updated budget share following October school census effective from April.</p> <p>Considered the email and all agreed not to change current practice, for 2 key reasons. It was felt inappropriate to protect schools in this situation from the pupil number risk faced by all schools. It was also felt that schools have 7 months in which to mitigate their financial position.</p>	BP

	<p>Darren queried that Academies have to wait a full year in order for October census to impact on pupil led funding, in the following September.</p> <p>BP stated that in line with DfE directions maintained schools and academies had been treated the same. but agreed to review previous changes, and feedback. It was agreed that the Growth Fund would not be revised in respect of the representation made by Whytrig.</p>	BP
9.	<p><b>Schools Financial Information</b></p> <p>Report shared with members and discussed. Encouraging to see that the maintained schools had seen a small overall increase in balances in 2018/19, compared to previous falls. There were differences evident across phases.</p> <p>Previous Schools forum meeting last year had discussed if individual school figures should be included at this stage. It was agreed they would be withheld until they are published by the DfE to allow schools to feedback to their Governing bodies.</p> <p>There is currently a DfE consultation on financial transparency for academy trusts and maintained schools. Maintained School balances are available at an individual school level whereas Trust accounts are published at Trust, not individual school level.</p> <p>This was simply another element of information to be considered when considering the respective formula values to be used by Northumberland for 2020/21.</p> <p>All accepted the paper.</p>	BP
10.	<p><b>2019/20 North East Authorities Formula value Information</b></p> <p>BP presented to members about NE Values and will also share with Schools Forum.</p> <p>BP has tried to do a basic comparison where Northumberland sits in comparison to National Funding Formula and other NE authorities.</p> <p>BP to share with members electronically.</p> <p>Next step is to consider the approach to be taken for 2020/21, in light of previously established Schools Forum position of a phased move to NFF, particularly in light of ongoing uncertainty in relation to timescales. The Government has however repeated their intention to move to a hard funding formula.</p>	BP

	<p>Initial modelling was agreed on the basis of a 4% across the board increase, and provide alternatives based on a reduced level of transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.</p> <p>BP to go away and do some modelling and feedback to members.</p> <p>MH asked if we can factor in 3 yearly, year on year increase with medium term projections</p> <p>F40 statement on the Education Funding announcement to be shared.</p> <p>NFF should read £1550 on report on last page - BP to amend.</p> <p>All found the information shared helpful. It was concluded that 2020/21 was not a year for major changes in policy or direction in relation to the approach taken on NFF values and that we should seek to avoid any significant changes. Continue to move towards NFF in a gradual fashion, and perhaps explore closing the gap in relation to Low Prior Attainment, using where we are currently over NFF e.g FSM and IDACI Band B.</p>	<p>BP</p> <p>BP</p> <p>BP</p> <p>BP</p>
11.	<p><b>DFE Consultation:Implementation Mandatory Minimum Per Pupil Funding Levels</b></p> <p>Implementing Mandatory Pupil Premium document circulated to members. the consultation strongly proposed implementing minimum per pupil values pro rata to the number of primary and secondary year groups with a school. This does represent fairer treatment of 3 tier arrangements where Schools received lower levels of minimum guaranteed funding. An email had also been received from the Hadrian Learning Trust supporting the new proposals.</p> <p>While it was accepted that the proposal upon which consultation was taking place was an improvement for Northumberland. DW commented that as the proposal was based on age groups, not pupil numbers it did not effectively reflect the position of all through schools who have a larger PAN or pupil numbers at secondary rather than primary.</p> <p>It was agreed to circulate details of the consultation through e-courier.</p> <p>MH left at 4.30pm.</p> <p>CP left at 4.40pm</p>	<p>BP</p>
12.	<p><b>2020/21 School Funding:</b></p> <p><b>Report to July Schools Forum comparing NFF;</b></p> <p><b>Request from Corbridge Middle School with regard to the exclusion of Premises Factors (Mobility, rates, PFI, Split Sites)</b></p> <p><b>Latest Information re 20/21 School Funding - verbal update to</b></p>	

	<p><b>meeting as information expected.</b></p> <p>It was agreed that most of the items had been picked up previously. the consultation proposal on minimum per pupil funding addressed the issues raised in the letter from Corbridge Middle School. All agree this practice (excluding the premises elements identified) should be adopted for 2020/21. .</p> <p>BP to respond to Corbridge.</p>	
13.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Had a request from a member and Sam Barron about changing the meeting day due to a clash with other meetings.</p> <p>It was proposed to have the Formula Funding meeting on a Wednesday and AEN on a Tuesday.</p> <p>Decided to go with dates booked in and explore this for future meetings</p>	BP
<p><b>End: 4.45pm</b></p> <p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 15th October 2019, 3.00 p.m.</b></p>		