

Schools' Forum



City of
Stoke-on-Trent

Date: Tuesday 15 January 2019
Time: 8:30 to 11:00am
Venue: Watermill Special School
Chair: Jonathon May
Minutes: Emily Evans

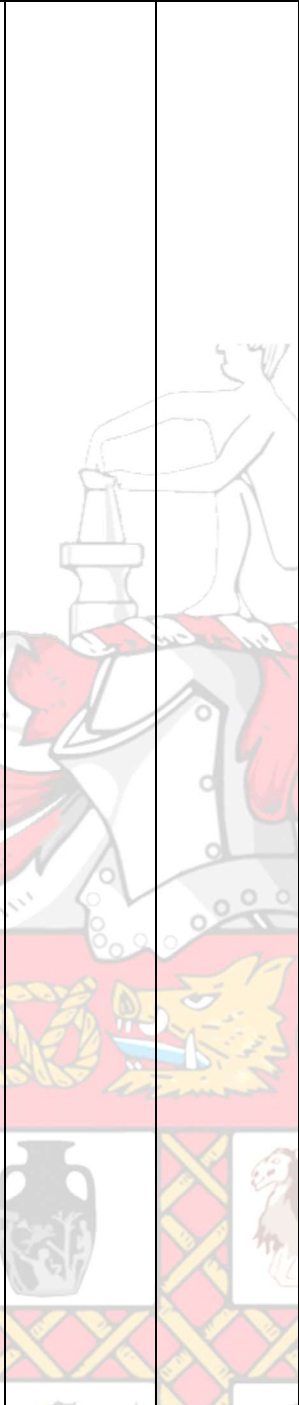
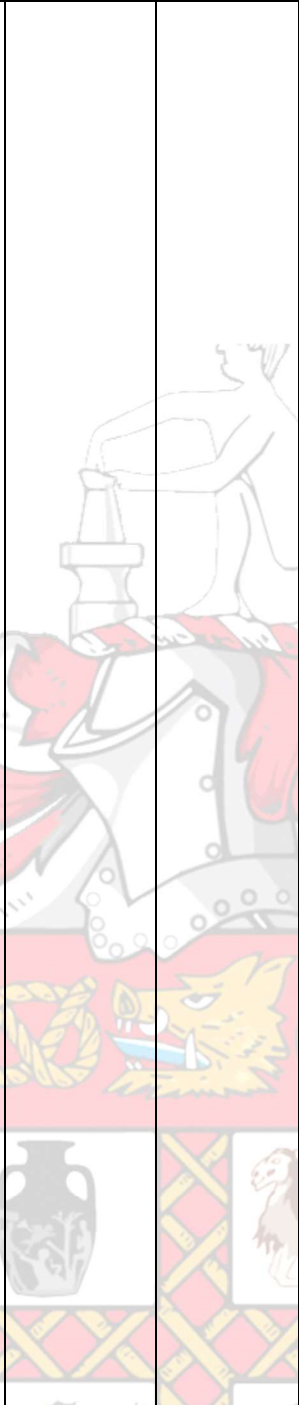
Attendees:

Jonathon May (**Chair for Schools' Forum**)
 Emma Gater (**Vice Chair for School's Forum**)
 Lisa Hughes (**Special Schools Representatives**)
 Juliet Levingstone (**Nursery School Representative**)
 Bianca Johnson (**PVI Representative**)
 Sarah Thursfield (**Primary Maintained Representatives**)
 Jonathan Baddeley, Ian Beardmore, Lisa Sarikaya, Stephanie Moran (**Primary Academy Representatives**)
 Nick Lowry, Gareth Jones, Dilesh Parmar (**Secondary Academy Representatives**)
 Louise Rees, Jen Lomas, Andrew Brindley, Kerry Cartlidge, Sue Day (**Local Authority Representatives**)
 Councillor Janine Bridges – Cabinet Member for Education and Economy (**Cabinet Member**)
 Emily Evans (**LA officer – minutes**)



Apologies:

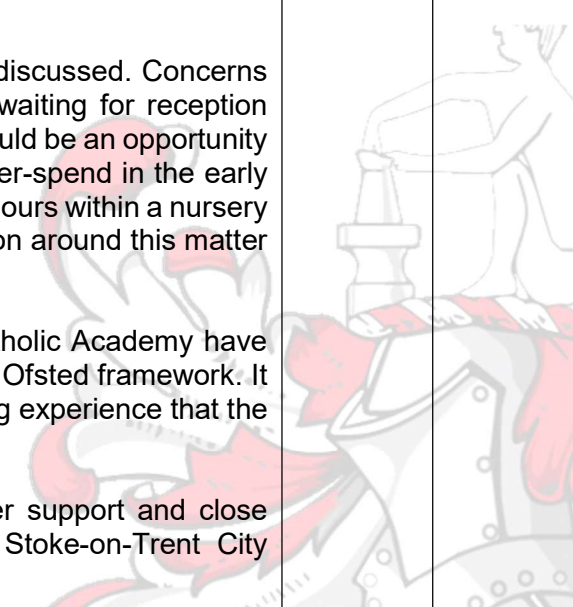
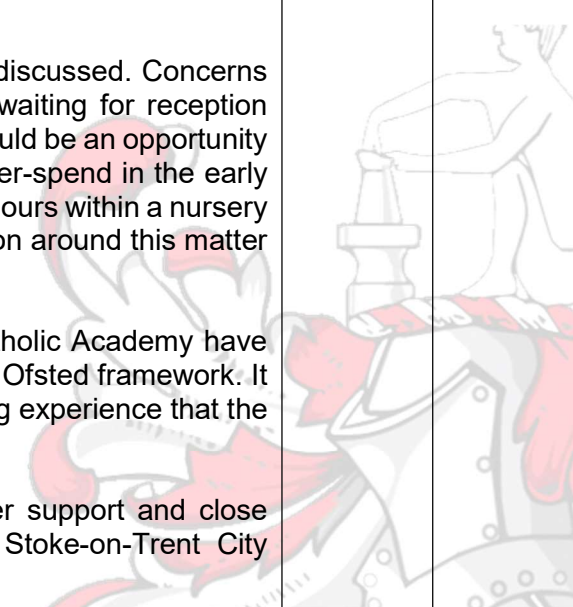
Jon Lovatt (**Primary Governor**)
 Harold Gurden (**Union Representative**)
 Derek Gray (**Primary Maintained Representatives**)
 Katie Dixon (**Secondary Academy Representatives**)
 Mark Kent (**16-19 Partnership Representative**)
 Mark Rayner (**Secondary Academy Representatives**)

MINUTES			
	Item	Lead	When
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from J Lovatt, H Gurden, D Gray, K Dixon, M Kent and M Rayner.</p>		
2	<p>Minutes from the last meeting</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting.</p> <p>J Lomas shared that the external webpage for Stoke-on-Trent City Council had been rebuilt and that changes were still being made. The council are looking at a more 'streamlined' approach to their webpage.</p> <p>The joint local authority statement on the 0.5% transfer was raised. The wording around reducing the number of exclusions was amended to give a commitment to working together to reduce exclusions.</p>		

	<p>Following the last meeting, J Lomas approached the Admissions Team and a decision was taken to not re-send the letter regarding the PAN. It was felt that intake for PAN on a whole had improved since the last meeting.</p> <p>J Lomas provided an update on the meeting with colleagues regarding the matter J Levingstone raised around children remaining in nursery until a place in reception became available. J Lomas shared that this could be used on occasions, but that it was to be used sparingly as the children should be charged to the schools block, rather than early year's budget. It should be noted that these were pupils who had been offered a place in another school but the parents did not want the place.</p>		
<p>3</p>	<p>Dedicated Schools Grant Settlement 2019-20 & Forecast Outturn 2018-19</p> <p>The report was shared with the group. It provided details of the Schools Funding Settlement and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for 2019-20 and also provided details of the forecast outturn position for the DSG in 2018-19. Members of Forum were asked to consider the report and note the basis on which the City Council intends to set the Schools' Budget in 2019-20, and note the forecast outturn position for the DSG in 2018-19.</p> <p>The DSG is paid in support of the local authority's schools budget and is the main source of income supporting both the delegated budget allocations made to schools and academies across the city through the local schools funding formula, and the provision of services in relation to high needs and early years' pupils. The DSG comprises of four blocks: schools, high needs, early years and the central school services block. Within the schools block, the Government has provided at least a 1% per pupil increase for each school in 2019-20 through the national funding formula compared to 2017-18.</p> <p>On the 17 December 2018 the Department for Education issued the 'Schools Revenue Funding Settlement 2019 to 2020' which provided details of the DSG allocations for Stoke-on-Trent for 2019-20.</p> <p>The announcement confirmed the provisional Pupil Premium level of funding for 2019-20 for disadvantaged pupils will remain as in 2018-19. For the first time in 2019-20 the allocation of growth was based on a formula basis instead of a historic basis.</p> <p>To support the ever-increasing pressure on high needs budgets the announcement also included an additional £250.00 million for high needs across all LA over two financial years, 2018-19 and 2019-20. This equates to £0.592.00 million per year for Stoke on Trent.</p> <p>J Lomas provided an update on personal budgets and direct payments. Parents can now request a personal budget for their child for transport, which is more of a reasonable cost for the local authority.</p> <p>N Lowry requested an update on the Free School Bid. J Lomas advised that the local authority should receive a response on this within the next couple of weeks. J Lomas shared that Ministers are now looking to</p>		

	<p>approve every free school application as long as it meets the criteria. J Lomas to provide an update on this at the next meeting.</p> <p>In addition, because the original bid for the free school came from the local authority, there will be an open event for interested parties to put in an application through the DfE to run the free school.</p>	JL	14/06/19
4	<p>High needs update (Verbal Update)</p> <p>J Lomas provided a summary on the exclusions data. In January 2017, there were 29 permanent exclusions. 6 were in primary and 20 in secondary. In January 2018, there were 18 perm exclusions, with 17 in secondary and 1 in primary.</p> <p>As it stands in January 2019, there are currently 13. However, 3 have been withdrawn, 1 has been overturned and there are 8 pending, this would have totalled up to 25. This number is below where it has been in previous years.</p> <p>Managed moves have been a mixed picture. There have been some successful moves.</p> <p>J Lomas shared that the Learning Pathways Board had given SS (an AP provider) a timeline to improve, and a decision was taken at the Learning Pathways Board to suspend additional placements for a short period of time. Placements have now continued following a positive review.</p> <p>There is a SASCAL planning meeting taking place shortly, where the meeting will be focused on alternative provision, absence and exclusions. The local authority cannot continue its current overspend on AP. Better solutions need to be sought on how we are going to run the alternative provision side.</p> <p>There will be an opportunity to look at notional SEND budgets in schools, and the local authority will be looking at what is provided in schools by notional SEN.</p> <p>Additional funds have been added in to the SEND Capital fund, some of the SEND capital has been used to fund the Portland expansion at Trent Vale. This funding is also being used to change specialist rooms at Kemball. J Lomas to bring an update on this at the next meeting.</p>	JL	14.06.19
5	<p>Central School Services Block 2019-20</p> <p>The report provides Schools' Forum with a line by line breakdown of the Central School Services Block (CSSB) for 2019-20. Following from the DfE announcement in December 2018, the report seeks approval from Schools' Forum to approve the amounts on each line within the CSSB for 2019-20, totalling £5.409m.</p> <p>The CSSB was introduced in 2018-19 to fund local authorities for the statutory duties they hold for both maintained schools and academies. The CSSB brings together:</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG). • Funding for on-going central functions, such as admissions, previously top-sliced from the schools block. • Residual funding for historic commitments, previously top-sliced from the schools block. <p>In 2019-20, ongoing responsibilities have been funded in the same way but with updated baselines in line with the 2018-19 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations.</p> <p>From 2020-21, the DfE expect to start to reduce the historic commitments element of the CSSB where local authorities' expenditure has not reduced.</p> <p>I Beardmore questioned why academies received an additional charge for admissions. Maintained schools have the same responsibilities as an academy, but do not have to pay an additional charge. J Lomas advised that she would invite P Gerrard (Strategic Manager for School Support) to attend the next Schools' Forum meeting to discuss the matter further. Action J Lomas to invite P Gerrard.</p> <p>Schools' Forum granted agreement to approve the amount on each line, with 1 vote against and the majority in favour.</p>	<p>JL/EE</p>	<p>14.06.19</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Growth Fund 2019-20</p> <p>The purpose of the report was to provide Forum members with an update on how growth funding was allocated in 2018-19, and to obtain approval to maintain the growth fund at £532,160 and to continue with the current growth funding criteria and methodology. For 2019-20 growth fund has been allocated to local authorities using a new formulaic method based on lagged growth data instead of a historic basis.</p> <p>In accordance with Department for Education (DfE) guidance local authorities are required to produce criteria on which growth funding is to be allocated. It should provide a transparent and consistent basis for the allocation of funding. The criteria should both set out the circumstances in which payment could be made and provide a basis for calculating the sum to be paid.</p> <p>Schools' Forum felt that it would be beneficial for a group of secondary heads to attend a working group to have more transparency, and to discuss significant issues and pressures in Stoke schools. It would be appropriate at this meeting for cases to be discussed on whether they meet the criteria. J Lomas advised that P Gerrard would lead on this.</p> <p>D Parmar queried that if a school was below PAN, where would they fall. J Lomas responded that the school would have had the funding into the PAN, which would be based on the previous years' census.</p>		

	<p>G Jones added that his school could not increase their PAN, but on occasions they have agreed to take on additional pupils, which has impacted on the school.</p> <p>N Lowry said that from a secondary point of view this will be a problem for secondaries over the next 7 years. N Lowry said that he can see value in meeting as a working group to make some of the processes more transparent.</p> <p>Where numbers increase, consideration is given based on the number of pupils by the LA. It was noted that money is ring fenced and only goes to schools that the local authority have agreed. Information to be provided at the next meeting on which schools received the funding.</p> <p>J Lomas explained the difficulty in not basing the criteria around popularity. If a school is under PAN, then parents will be asked to go to a particular school and arrangements will be made with the school to increase their number. If there are exceptional circumstances where there is a growth in one area, a strategic plan will need to be arranged.</p> <p>All Schools' Forum members approved.</p>		
<p>7</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Additional hours for nursery school children were discussed. Concerns were raised that there are a number of children waiting for reception places. J Levingstone questioned whether there would be an opportunity to vote for a budget to be kept aside from the under-spend in the early years funding, which would help to fund additional hours within a nursery until a reception place became available. Discussion around this matter to be held at the next Early Years' meeting.</p> <p>Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews and St Mary's Catholic Academy have been put forward to be part of the pilot for the new Ofsted framework. It was commented that this would be a useful learning experience that the schools can share.</p> <p>Schools' Forum members thanked L Rees for her support and close relationships with schools during her time with Stoke-on-Trent City Council.</p>		
	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Date: Friday 14th June 2019 Time: 08.30 – 11.00am Venue: Watermill Special School Chair: Jonathon May</p>	