

Bristol Schools Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 24th May, 2022
at 5.00 pm at Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:

Melanie Bunce	Maintained Primary Headteacher Rep, St Barnabas
Simon Eakins	Academy Primary Head Rep, Cathedral Primary
Simon Holmes	Nursery Head Rep, St Phillips Marsh Nursery
Tracy Jones	Primary Head Rep, Merchants Academy
Sarah Lovell (Chair)	Academy Secondary Headteacher Rep, Bristol Brunel Academy
Kate Matheson	Maintained Primary Governor Rep, St Barnabas
Aileen Morrison	PRU Head, St Matthias Park
Richard Penska	PRU Governor Rep, Northstar
Chris Pring	Maintained Primary Headteacher Rep, Cabot Primary
Cedric Sanguignol	Maintained Primary Governor Rep, Bishop Road Primary
Simon Shaw	Secondary Head Rep, St Mary Redcliffe & Temple
Stephanie Williams	Academy Primary Head Rep, Bannerman Road Community Academy

In attendance from Bristol City Council:

Denise Murray	Director: Finance
Alison Hurley (AH)	Director of Education and Skills
Angel Lai (AL)	Finance Manager (Children's and Education)
Travis Young (TY)	Principal Accountant
Richard Hanks	Head of Service - Learning City for All
Samantha Wilcock (SW)	Clerk to Schools Forum

	Action
1. Welcome	
SL welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Forum Standing Business	
<p>a. Apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from: Cameron Shaw – Secondary Head, Bristol Metropolitan Academy Emma Richards – Head Special Maintained, Claremont School Rebecca Watkin – Head Special Academy, LearnMAT Mick O'Neill-Duff – Primary Governor, Wansdyke Primary Karen Brown - Secondary Governor Rep, St Mary Redcliffe & Temple Councillor Asher Craig – Cabinet Member for Children Services, Education and Equalities</p> <p>b. Quorate The Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.</p> <p>c. Resignations The Clerk reported that there were no new resignations since the previous meeting.</p>	

<p>d. Appointment of New Members The Clerk reported that there were no new members since the previous meeting.</p> <p>e. Notification of Vacancies The following vacancies were noted: 2 Secondary Academy Governor Representatives 1 Nursery Governor Representative 1 Clifton Diocese Representative</p> <p>f. Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
<p>RESOLVED – that the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.</p> <p>Matters Arising (within the minutes)</p> <p>Insurance With reference to the action that a breakdown of costs within the Risk Protections Arrangement (RPA) DM confirmed that the contractual arrangement delivered value for money and following analysis, was considered to be the most cost-effective approach. It was agreed that following the meeting, the Risk and Protection Officer would provide the Forum with written summarised analysis along with information from the brokers in terms of the current insurance market. Finance Officers would add commentary regarding the consequent savings contribution. Comments and suggestions would be requested which could then inform whether the action needed to return to the meeting in July.</p> <p>Director of Education and Skills and Place Planning Presentations School Forum members noted that this had been circulated after the previous meeting.</p> <p>Matters Arising (not within the minutes)</p> <p>Falling Numbers within Primary Schools AH agreed to provide further information within the Directors update.</p> <p>Task and Finish Groups The Early Years and High Needs Task and Finish Groups would meet during July. They would consider their Terms of Reference and role. Anyone else interested in being involved should contact the Clerk.</p>	<p>DM, PD, TY, AL</p> <p>ALL</p>
4. Update from Director of Education and Skills	
<p>AH gave a verbal presentation which outlined the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning consent had been granted for an additional two sites for secondary provision on the following basis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oasis Academy Temple Quarter in East Central to open permanently in 2025 with temporary accommodation for 2023. - Oasis Academy Daventry Road in South Bristol open for 2024 with feasibility work taking 	

historical deficit. The Statutory Override was scheduled to end March 2023 and arrangements with Auditors would take place regarding the next steps along with demonstration of good progress and longer term mitigations. DM confirmed that concerns were shared by Cabinet who continued to review the risk and progress of the Transformation Programme advocating collective ownership in order to reach solutions and move forward.

RH reported that nursery school deficits were a particular risk which currently stood at £5.2m. Work was ongoing with nursery school headteachers and governors to understand the challenges and pressures. Strategic proposals had been formed and shared with those groups and discussions continued around aspects such as non-class based roles, shared resources, SEND and 2 year old funding, co-location and the integrated offer along with family hubs. It was noted that in terms of funding, nurseries had been required to absorb costs associated with COVID as they had not been funded in the same way as schools. A Terms of Reference and strategic proposals would be developed into clear plans. The proposed ring fenced carry forward would be helpful to support the Nursery Schools in the work outlined.

In response to RH, the following points were raised:

1. Following a request, TY undertook to circulate information regarding how the £5m deficit compared to the total income of nurseries.
2. 50-70% of children who were eligible for 2 year old places accessed them with take up reportedly lowest in the two areas of lowest deprivation. To tackle funding for 2 year olds in the City would likely have an impact on deprivation.
3. The role of nurseries in family support had continued despite funding having been removed. The family hub model could assist with that dynamic.

The Schools Forum endorsed the approach of a ring fenced allocation to support Early Years as outlined within the report and requested an update on next steps to utilise that funding as resource to form strategies and support future viability. A report would return to the Schools Forum July meeting.

TY confirmed that of the 15 schools (11 nursery schools and 4 primary schools) that started the year in deficit, 14 of those had ended the year in deficit with one primary school no longer in deficit at the end of the year.

The Schools Forum:

a) noted the 2021/22 provisional outturn position of £14.647m as set out in Table 1, which was a favourable movement of £2.142m from the forecast position at Period 10 (last reported in March 2022).

b) noted that the total provisional cumulative DSG deficit carried forward to 2022/23 was £24.650m including brought forward balances of £10.004m from previous years.

c) noted the maintained schools and children centres provisional end of year balances of £4.258m as set out in Table 2.

d) noted 14 maintained schools had a deficit balance totalling £2.103m.

6. Any Other Business

Ukrainian Refugees

Following a question from the Chair, it was confirmed that funding arrangements for Ukrainian refugees was for an allocation of £4500 per child. A pool of funding to support SEN could be

TY

RH

applied for by schools on an individual basis.	
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The meeting closed at 6.15 pm.