

Date: Friday, 20 April 2018

Democratic and Members' Services

Quentin Baker
LGSS Director: Law

10:00hr

and Governance

Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

**Kreis Viersen Room
Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP**

AGENDA

1 Membership

To note that Jane Lancaster-Adlam has replaced Angela Tempany as the Academy Alternative Provision representative.

2 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

*Guidance on declaring interests is available at
<http://tinyurl.com/ccs-conduct-code>*

3 Minutes of the meeting on 9 March 2018 3 - 12

4 Action Log 13 - 18

5 Schools Forum Initiative for Fair Funding of Children's Education 19 - 24

6 Agenda Plan 25 - 28

7 Date of next meeting

The Schools Forum is due to meet next on Friday 6 July 2018 at 10.00am in the Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall, Cambridge.

The County Council is committed to open government and members of the public are welcome to attend Committee meetings. It supports the principle of transparency and encourages filming, recording and taking

photographs at meetings that are open to the public. It also welcomes the use of social networking and micro-blogging websites (such as Twitter and Facebook) to communicate with people about what is happening, as it happens. These arrangements operate in accordance with a protocol agreed by the Chairman of the Council and political Group Leaders which can be accessed via the following link or made available on request:
<http://tinyurl.com/ccf-film-record>

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact

Clerk Name: Richenda Greenhill

Clerk Telephone: 01223 699171

Clerk Email: Richenda.Greenhill@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

<p>The Council does not guarantee the provision of car parking on the Shire Hall site and you will need to use nearby public car parks http://tinyurl.com/ccf-carpark or public transport.</p>
--

CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM: MINUTES

Date: Friday 9 March 2018

Time: 10.00-11.35am

Place: Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: P Hodgson (Chairman), Dr A Rodger (Vice Chairman), L Calow, S Connell, T Davies, J Digby, A Matthews, J North, D Parfitt, A Reeder, A Tempny, S Tinsley and R Waldau (until 11.20am)

Observers

J Duveen	Teachers' Union (substituting for G Fewtrell)
N Hills	C of E Diocese of Ely (substituting for S Conant)
Councillor S Bywater	Cambridgeshire County Council
Councillor P Downes	Cambridgeshire County Council
Councillor J Whitehead	Cambridgeshire County Council

Officers

J Lewis, J Lee, M Wade, Dr H Phelan and R Greenhill (Clerk)

Apologies: Forum Members: S Blyth and M Woods
Observers: S Conant and G Fewtrell

40. MEMBERSHIP

The Chairman welcomed Angela Tempny, the Executive Headteacher for TBAP East, to her first meeting as the new Academy Alternative Provision representative. He also welcomed Jonathan Lewis to his first meeting since returning to the County Council as the new Service Director for Education.

41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence and substitutions were noted as recorded above. There were no declarations of interest.

42. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 19 JANUARY 2018

The minutes of the meeting on 19 January 2018 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

43. ACTION LOG

The Action Log was reviewed and the following updates noted:

- i. Minute 24: Early Years National Funding Formula
With the Chairman's permission, an update was tabled showing the change in hourly rate received by providers between Autumn 2016 and autumn 2017 (copy attached at Appendix 1)
- ii. Minute 33: Cambridgeshire 2018/19 School Funding Formula

The Chair of the Cambridgeshire Secondary Heads (CSH) Group stated that the consultation on proposals to transfer funds from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block had been drawn to the attention of all secondary school headteachers by CSH and they had been encouraged to respond.

iii. Minute 35: De-Delegations 2018/19

Officers undertook to provide further information on the Data Protection Manager role and how it was anticipated that this would be discharged.

(Action: Head of Schools Intervention Service)

44. CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA 2018/19

The Head of Integrated Finance reported that the Schools Forum had agreed on 19 January 2018 to hold a working group to try to establish an agreed collective position on key issues for schools funding in Cambridgeshire. The Chairman had invited all members of the Schools Forum and Observers to contribute and attend. Preparatory work was co-ordinated by the Vice Chairman and the Working Group had met on 7 March 2018. The Dedicated Schools Budget (DSG), High Needs Budget and Early Years Budget had been identified as key areas and discussion had focused on identifying what was currently working well in these areas, the key challenges faced and what positive changes should be sought to improve the situation in Cambridgeshire in the short and medium term. More work was required to distil this further and address key issues such as the need to fund inflationary pressures; concerns about the impact on the viability of small schools, particularly those in rural areas; how the Department for Education (DfE) was planning to handle growth going forward; whether work should be carried out to create an evidence base for the cost of funding a school by need; the impact of the extended entitlement to free childcare on maintained and independent nurseries; the impact of salary increases and recruitment and retention issues; the general inflationary pressures on the High Needs Block and the need to ensure that children with additional needs received the right support.

The following comments arose in discussion of the report and the update provided by officers and in response to questions:

- Officers stated that the aspiration remained that the High Needs Block would stand alone in 2019/20 without a request for a top-up from the Schools Block. However, in practice a tapered transition to the introduction of the hard funding formula might be needed to manage the impact on schools and pupils. Should this be the case, members emphasised the importance of making clear to schools the impact which a decision not to top-up the High Needs Block would have on their individual budgets if centrally funded support was reduced;
- A member commented that it seemed unlikely that more funding for education would be forthcoming in advance of the next Comprehensive Spending Review. This made it even more important to maintain public awareness of the challenges which Cambridgeshire faced, including the disparity in per pupil funding from the Schools Block compared to similar local authorities;
- A member questioned the point at which a small school would become financially unviable under the funding formula. The Diocese of Ely Observer stated that around 70% of the schools in Cambridgeshire with less than 200 pupils were Church of England schools. If schools were funded at the median rate this would have a significant impact on the smallest of these schools, potentially reducing them from three classes across the primary age range to two;

- An Observer commented on the need for central Government to fund the policies which it introduced, for example the extended Early Years entitlement. The Service Director for Education commented that it would be useful to draw up a list of new unfunded burdens on schools and nurseries;
(**Action:** Head of Integrated Finance)
- An Early Years representative highlighted Early Years Special Educational Needs provision as a significant issue where practitioners would welcome more work;
- A member highlighted pressures relating to unfunded staffing costs;
- Members acknowledged the need to be clear about what changes would be needed to the National Funding Formula to meet the key challenges identified in Cambridgeshire;
- Members identified the Age Weighted Pupil Units (AWPU) and growth funding as valid area of focus;
- An elected Member Observer emphasised the importance of obtaining hard evidence of the particular pressures being experienced within Cambridgeshire to support any discussions with central Government. This should include the practicalities of delivering Government policies and the impact on both families and providers;
- The Service Director for Education highlighted the need to target those areas of specific relevance to Cambridgeshire where there was a realistic possibility of achieving a positive change;
- The Vice Chairman stated that the Working Group had produced a preliminary list of concerns, but this would need to be sharpened up and supporting evidence gathered before it was ready to be presented to local Members of Parliament and central Government. A twin track approach of engaging with the Department for Education at both officer level and formally through the Forum would be beneficial.

Summing up, the Chairman stated that there was a clear wish across the groups represented on the Cambridgeshire Schools Forum to take forward work to establish an agreed collective position on key issues for schools funding in Cambridgeshire. This would be used in discussions with both local Members of Parliament and at national level with the Department for Education (DfE). In order to complete this work before the summer Parliamentary Recess and in time to for in to be taken into account in the next central Government budget planning round it was proposed to hold a further working group meeting within the following two to three weeks comprising of a broadly representative cross-section of the Forum's membership and Observers. The Working Group's proposals would be shared informally with Forum members to inform its work and an additional public meeting of the Schools Forum would be arranged to formally discuss and agree the collective strategy going forward. Officers would liaise with officials at the DfE to establish current thinking and the timetable for the next round of budgetary proposals being formulated and this would inform decisions about the timing of sharing the Forum's agreed position with local Members of Parliament and Ministers.

A further meeting of the Schools Forum would be arranged for May/ June 2018 if the July meeting date was deemed too late to formally share views with the DfE.

It was resolved to:

- a) note and consider the update provided from the Working Group and consider any next steps or further work;
- b) hold a further Working Group meeting in the following two to three weeks consisting of the following representatives:

Philip Hodgson – Chairman
Dr Alan Rodger – Vice Chairman
Lucie Calow – Special School representative
Deborah Parfitt – Nurseries representative
Tony Davies – Primary School representative and Chair of Cambridgeshire Primary Heads Group
Stuart Tinsley – Secondary School representative
Andy Matthews – Primary School representative
Rikke Waldau – Nurseries representative
Councillor Peter Downes – Observer, Cambridgeshire County Council

- c) Hold further working group and public meetings as required.

45. EARLY YEARS NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA REVIEW 2018/19: UPDATE

At the Chairman's discretion, the order of business was varied from the published agenda to accommodate officer attendance.

The Strategic Admissions Manager stated that the Department for Education had recently published the Early Years National Funding Formula rates for the 2018/19 year. This had confirmed that there would be no increase in baseline funding from the £4.42 received during 2017/18 and no changes in the operational guidance which would impact on the Cambridgeshire Funding Formula. This had been discussed with the Early Years Providers Reference Group. Funding for eligible two year olds would continue at £5.41 per hour with Early Years Pupil Premium paid at £0.53 per hour for eligible pupils and Disability Access Funding at £615 per year for eligible pupils. Settings would get additional top-up funding for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) with support also available to three and four year olds with additional needs prior to an EHCP being put in place through the new special educational needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF). It was estimated that there were currently 50 children in Early Years settings following an EHCP pathway who would receive this support. The final local funding formula would be considered by the Children and Young People Committee on 13 March 2018 and recommended implementation from April 2018 onward.

The following comments were noted in discussion of the report and in response to questions:

- The expertise offered by Addenbrookes Hospital led to a high number of families of children with very complex needs choosing to live in the local area. This impacted on the number of children with complex needs accessing education within Cambridgeshire. Officers stated that there was a health funding matrix for children with very high needs, but that there was scope for further refinement of this;

- An Early Years representative expressed concern that nurseries were no longer able to be fully inclusive for children with very complex needs because they could not guarantee their safety. There was a need to look holistically at the social and financial implications of not meeting children's additional needs within their Early Years settings and the long-term implications of this on primary and secondary schools and on families;
- An Early Years representative commented that it would be crucial to establish what the base rate of £4.04 per hour would actually fund;
- A member commented that the rationale for the Extended Entitlement appeared to be driven primarily by the wish to improve social mobility and economic opportunity for families rather than by an educational imperative. As such, representations on this might be better directed to the Treasury rather than to the Department for Education.

It was resolved to:

- a) note the contents of the report.

46. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES SUFFICIENCY PROGRESS UPDATE

The Head of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Services and Principal Educational Psychologist stated that Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council had jointly commissioned an independent needs and sufficiency analysis of their SEND provision. This was considering what SEND need currently existed, where this were located within the county, where current SEND provision was located and how well this matched both current and future predictions of need. The findings would inform the SEND commissioning strategy and planning with schools and families for the next five years. The Service Director for Education highlighted the importance of getting engagement with stakeholders right before final recommendations were made. The final report would include both an executive summary of the findings and the full data included as appendices.

(Action: Head of SEND Services)

A secondary school representative noted that the attainment data for pupils placed in alternative provision was attributed to their parent schools, including at GCSE level, and that this was a significant consideration in commissioning places. Officers confirmed that this issue was recognised both within the work on SEND sufficiency and within the wider review of provision for pupils with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs. Another secondary school representative commented that they would not expect secondary schools to put pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan into alternative provision, but officers commented that the position was not always clear cut.

It was resolved to:

- a) note the progress of SEND Sufficiency work to date;
 - b) agree that the findings of the analysis and implications of these for future planning be brought to the Schools Forum meeting in July 2018.
- (Action:** Democratic Services Officer)

47. UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

The Head of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Services and Principal Educational Psychologist stated that a graduated response was needed for those across the whole spectrum of social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, from those showing preliminary indicators to those demonstrating significant need. Work was underway to clarify exactly what provision existed currently, including cross agency working.

The following points were raised in discussion of the report or in response to questions:

- An Early Years representative commented on the importance of identifying emerging needs in order to develop appropriate pathways for early intervention. Officers stated that the existence of speech and language needs or learning difficulties could lead to social, emotional and mental health needs if these were not identified and addressed early;
- An Observer noted the high cost of vacant funded places across the three SEMH schools and questioned why there were so many vacant places at a time of increasing demand for specialist SEMH support.

Officers stated that the places described had been commissioned 2017/18 and that not all of this provision met the needs of those requiring SEMH support or was in a geographically viable location for them to attend. The Service Director for Education stated that this aspect would be reviewed and more information provided.

(Action: Service Director: Education)

- An Observer commented that some of the tables in Section 10 of the report contained percentages rather than actual figures. Officers undertook to re-circulate the relevant tables with figures as well as percentages and to use this format in future reports;
(Action: Head of SEND Services)
- A Primary School representative commented that there were no primary places vacant at their local designated SEMH school and questioned whether this meant that the vacancies described were for secondary school aged pupils. Officers confirmed that this was the case and acknowledged that this raised a pertinent question about the provision needed;
- Officers confirmed that there was a recognised need for designated SEMH school provision for girls within the county;
- An Early Years representative asked whether any figures were available for the number of children on the SEMH pathway whose needs were attributed to early life experiences. Officers undertook to obtain numbers for children on the SEMH pathway with early social care involvement;
(Action: Head of SEND Services)
- Paragraph 5.21: An elected Member Observer expressed concern about the increase in home to school travel time for pupils if the Unity Academy closed its Wisbech site and relocated all students to the St Neots campus. The Executive Headteacher for TBAP East stated that a meeting would be taking place shortly

between TBAP, the Regional Schools Commissioner, the Service Director for Education and the Lead Education Officer to discuss this issue and offered to provide an update to the relevant county councillors once this had taken place;

- A Primary School representative asked for a breakdown of the number of pupils in out of county provision by gender and school phase;
(**Action:** Head of SEND Services)
- Officers undertook to include information on tuition packages for those being educated outside of school in the revised information to be circulated to members.

It was resolved to:

- a) consider the report on the work completed to date to review the specialist provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) that fall within the category in the SEND Code of Practice (2015) of social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs;
- b) give a view on the next steps identified to co-design an improved model that will provide a graduated response to needs, improve outcomes and target funding to meet children and young people's needs early and locally.

48. AGENDA PLAN

The Forward Agenda Plan was noted. Additional Working Group or public meetings would be arranged as necessary.

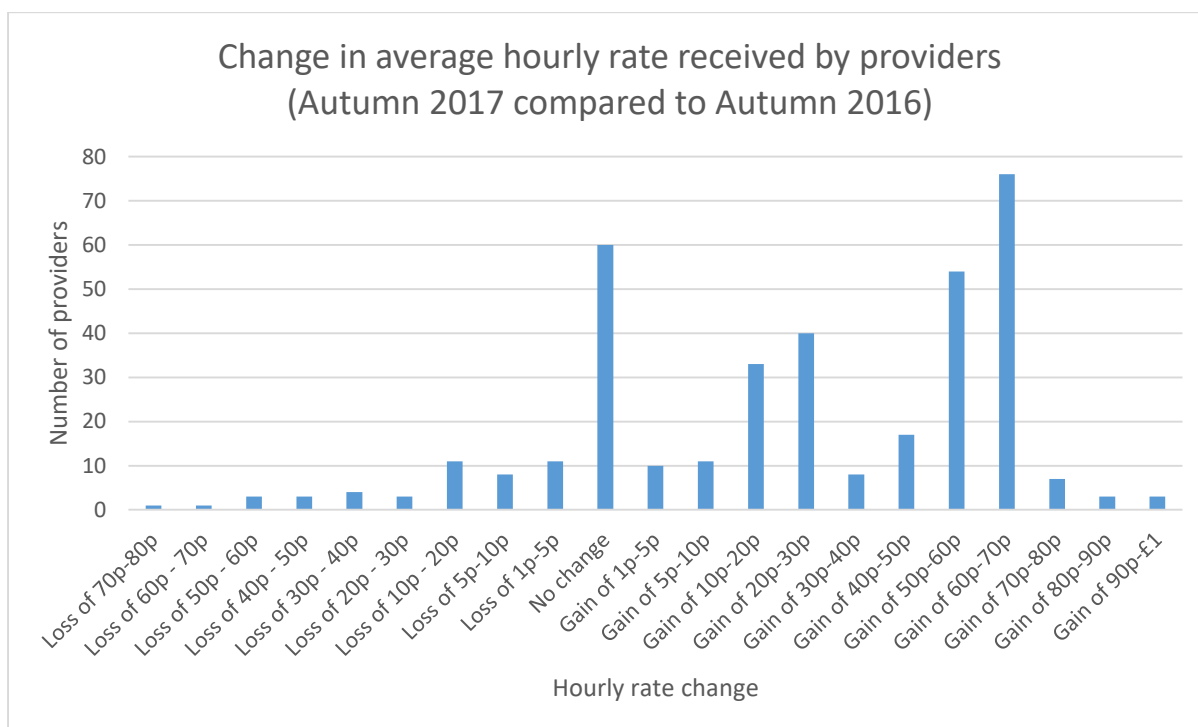
49. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Chairman stated that provisional Schools Forum meeting dates for the 2018/19 academic year had been circulated to all members the previous week for information and that meeting invitations would follow shortly.

The Schools Forum was due to meet next on Friday 6 July at 10.00am in the Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall, but an additional meeting might be arranged before that date to consider the outcome of the Working Group's discussions.

Chairman
(date)

Agenda Item No: 3, Appendix 1



*Percentage split at end of the document

Further analysis of hourly rate changes:

The average hourly rate received by providers:

	Autumn 16/17 (£)	Autumn 17/18 (£)	Change (£)
Average hourly rate received per provider	3.90	4.18	+0.28
Average hourly rate received per pupil	3.88	4.08	+0.20

Although the table above shows that there has been on average an increase to the hourly rate received by providers in Cambridgeshire, this does not accurately reflect the impact the implementation of 30 hours has had on the long term sustainability of early years providers across the county.

Backing data for graph

Change in hourly rate	Number of providers	Percentage of providers
Loss of 70p-80p	1	0.27%
Loss of 60p - 70p	1	0.27%
Loss of 50p - 60p	3	0.82%
Loss of 40p - 50p	3	0.82%
Loss of 30p - 40p	4	1.09%
Loss of 20p - 30p	3	0.82%
Loss of 10p - 20p	11	3.00%
Loss of 5p-10p	8	2.18%
Loss of 1p-5p	11	3.00%
No change	60	16.35%
Gain of 1p-5p	10	2.72%
Gain of 5p-10p	11	3.00%
Gain of 10p-20p	33	8.99%
Gain of 20p-30p	40	10.90%
Gain of 30p-40p	8	2.18%
Gain of 40p-50p	17	4.63%
Gain of 50p-60p	54	14.71%
Gain of 60p-70p	76	20.71%
Gain of 70p-80p	7	1.91%
Gain of 80p-90p	3	0.82%
Gain of 90p-£1	3	0.82%

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
SCHOOLS FORUM**

Minutes - Action Log



Introduction:

The Action Log captures the actions arising from meetings of the Cambridgeshire Schools Forum. This is the updated action log as at 9 April 2018:

Minutes of 13 December 2017					
24.	Early Years National Funding Formula	Sam Surtees	To provide a snapshot of the actual costs of providing the extended entitlement in different sectors and different geographical areas (it will not be possible to provide comprehensive information in time for the January meeting, but an update will be brought to the Forum in March)	<u>Emailed 15.01.18:</u> A template document has been drawn up based on the information collected by the DfE when they published their findings of the “cost of delivery of childcare” when they were formulating the Early Years National Funding Formula. This has been sent to all members of the Early Years Provider Reference Group for completion, which should provide the snapshot of actual costs as the membership represent differing types of provision across differing areas of the	Completed

				<p>county.</p> <p><u>21.02.18</u>: Further meetings being held after the publication date for reports for the Forum meeting on 9 March. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting on 9 March.</p> <p><u>09.03.18</u>: An update was tabled at the meeting on 9 march 2018 showing the change in hourly rate received by providers between Autumn 2016 and autumn 2017.</p>	
			<p>To provide information on why some settings were managing within the current rates and others felt it was unsustainable. What was being done differently in those settings which were managing best. Was the complexity of the formula preventing settings accessing all of the top-up funding they were eligible to claim. An update based on the autumn figures would be presented when they were available.</p>	<p><u>Emailed 15.01.18</u>: A working group will bring together the comparative data between funding claims for Autumn Term 2016 and Autumn Term 2017 including both early years funding claims and additional claims made to support children with additional needs in order to determine what factors might be affecting settings across the</p>	Completed

				<p>county.</p> <p><u>21.02.18</u>: Further meetings being held after the publication date for reports for the Forum meeting on 9 March. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting on 9 March.</p> <p><u>15.03.18</u>: Information emailed to members.</p>	
25.	High Needs Pressures and Actions	Helen Phelan	To provide clarification of the statutory requirements funded from the High Needs Block so that members could be clear about the amount of discretionary funding available.	<p><u>Emailed 18.01.18</u>: Information on SEND services circulated 18.01.18. Information on the Children's Disability team and Young Adults team to follow in the next few weeks.</p>	On-going
26.	Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Criteria 2018/19	Hazel Belchamber/ Kerry Newson	To look again at the question of establishing a Falling Rolls Fund in the light of the views expressed.	<p><u>11.01.18</u>: Officers meeting on 25 January to review this issue. An update to follow after that meeting and any follow-up work is completed.</p> <p><u>01.03.18</u>: Further discussions being arranged with the Place Planning team.</p>	On-going

Minutes of the meeting on 19 January 2018					
33.	Cambridgeshire 2018/19 School Funding Formula	Jon Lee	To provide a briefing note on the elements which comprise the High Needs funding formula and how the amount allocated to the High Needs Block by central government is calculated.	28.02.18: A briefing note emailed to all members of the Forum.	Completed
		Rosemarie Sadler	To check that the County Council's global email list for secondary school headteachers includes all schools.	28.02.18: The email list has been checked and all secondary schools are included.	Completed
		Richenda Greenhill	To arrange a working group meeting on 7 March 2018 to discuss early years, high needs and basic entitlement.	19.01.18: A calendar invitation sent to all Forum members for 1.00-3.00pm on Wednesday 7 March 2018.	Completed
35.	De-Delegations 2018/19	Rosemarie Sadler	To establish whether advice to schools on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) from the Council's ICT Service would be provided as a traded service and to advise schools.	22.02.18: The Data Protection Officer role can be provided by the ICT Service at a cost of approximately £1500 for three years. This information has been presented to Governors at the termly briefings and to Primary Heads and School Business Managers.	Completed

		Martin Wade	To check with the Council's Human Resources team that the mechanism for making maintained early years and special school providers' contributions to the cost of trade union facility time met the requirements to make these staff eligible to claim facility time.	09.04.18: There is currently a small centrally retained element that covers maintained nursery and special school providers. Going forward, due to changes in overall funding arrangements this will need to be reviewed and alternative mechanisms explored.	Completed
--	--	--------------------	--	---	------------------

SCHOOLS FORUM INITIATIVE FOR FAIR FUNDING OF CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

To: Cambridgeshire Schools Forum

Date: 20 April 2018

From: Dr Alan Rodger
Vice Chairman, Cambridgeshire Schools Forum

Purpose: To advise the Schools Forum of the outcome of the Working Group's discussions about fair funding for education in Cambridgeshire and to recommend next steps.

Recommendation:

Schools Forum is recommended to:

- a) Consider the outcome of the Working Group's discussions;**
- b) Discuss and agree the next steps set out at paragraph 2.3 of the report;**
- c) Consider the draft letter to Cambridgeshire MPs and the Minister of State and table at Appendix 1 and agree any revisions required.**

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Following the National Funding Formula (NFF), the setting of the Cambridgeshire schools funding formula for 2018/19 caused significant concerns even though about two thirds of Cambridgeshire schools received some increase in funding, and the High Needs Block had a small uplift.

Schools Forum found budget setting for 2018-19 extremely difficult as each of the funding block is under severe pressure. This arises because of pay inflation and national salary increases pension increases, the Apprentice Levy etc. In addition, the High Needs Block is having to fund more children with every increasing complexity of need. The Early Years sector is also under pressure, in particular due to the increasing demand for 2-4 year olds places and the under-funding of the increased entitlement of 30 hours for eligible families.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 At its meeting on 19 January 2018, Schools Forum asked a small working group to develop the case for increased funding for education in Schools.

After an oral report from the Working Group on 9 March 2018 Schools Forum decided that the Working Group should hold a further meeting and bring back recommendations to a meeting of the full Schools Forum.

The guiding principles of the Working Group were:

- Forum should have an agreed position on what were the most immediate priorities for additional funding so a coherent, well-argued case can be developed to address the severe pressures on the Schools, High Needs and Early Years Blocks.
- With the National Funding Formula in place, significant changes to the formula were unlikely to be possible in the short term, but may be possible in the medium term.
- Recognising the November 2018 budget discussions are being developed, Forum's initial focus should be towards the local MPs and the Ministers and Officials in the DfE seek changes.
- Forum should take account of the position of F40 recommendations.
- Forum accepts the principle that additional funding should be targeted to pupils who are disadvantaged or have additional needs, thus the National Funding Formula is not designed to deliver equal funding for all schools.

2.2 Working group actions

The Working Group held a meeting on 28 March 2018 with subsequent interchanges by email about the priorities and issues around fair funding.

The output of the Working Group is a draft letter for MPs and ministers, together with a one-page summary of the challenges, impact and possible solutions in the short and longer term.

2.3 Next Steps

The next steps could include:

1. To send a personal letter to each of Cambridgeshire's MPs, topped and tailed appropriately;
2. Send a letter to the Minister of State with an invitation to visit Cambridgeshire and meet with children, teachers and the Schools Forum;
3. Seek to meet with the best placed officials at the Department for Education (DfE) to influence their thinking;
4. Send a copy of the letter to all head teachers and chairs of Governors and chairs of Multi Academy Trusts for information only at this time;
5. Depending upon the outcomes of the above decide how and when to engage parents, children and the media.

Source Documents	Location
Minutes of the Cambridgeshire Schools Forum meetings on 19 January and 9 March 2018.	https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccs_live/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/22/Default.aspx

DRAFT Letter to MPs plus Minister from Cambridgeshire Schools Forum

Cambridgeshire Schools Forum is extremely concerned about the low level of funding in the Schools, High Needs and Early Year blocks and the impacts this is having on the outcomes of the education and social mobility of our children. The National Funding Formula as it stands is delivering a level of funding to Cambridgeshire schools that is now necessitating cuts to the basic provision for all children. There are no more savings to be made to accommodate the ever-increasing budget pressures without compromising yet further the education of our children. This letter and table provide a summary of the issues and consequences, and makes recommendations to address these problems in the short and medium term.

Background

The National Funding Formula (NFF) resulted in two thirds of Cambridgeshire Schools receiving a modest increase in their budget.

These increases are being completely eroded and more by salary increases for teaching staff (1%) and support staff (5.5% over two years) and increases in pensions and National Insurance. Many schools pay the Apprenticeship Levy (0.5%). Operating costs have risen too (for example utility price increases). Recruitment and retention of teachers is becoming much more difficult; salaries are having to be topped up to retain staff and “golden hellos” paid.

The High Needs budget is under enormous pressure too. We have increasing numbers of children with High Needs, and their complexity is rising too. This is in addition to the pressures described above.

Early Years settings are struggling too – they are facing a recruitment crisis and have a funding formula that is based on 2012 costs. Furthermore, the funding levels from Government do not cover the cost of delivery of the 30 ‘free’ hours for most settings (private, voluntary, nursery).

The major impacts of these pressures include larger class sizes, narrowing of the curriculum and the outcomes for our children are generally below the national average. The outcomes our most vulnerable groups are among the worst in England. Head Teachers of our mainstream schools freely admit that the additional needs budgets are being used to run the school!

Cambridgeshire remains one of the worst funded authorities in England. We receive ~£400 per child less than the average local authority in England and ~£1.6k less per child than Westminster. This is despite most of our county being below the average for social mobility with Fenland in the bottom 10%.

Small schools (those with a roll below ~200), especially those in rural parts of the county where the school is at the heart of the community, are under more financial pressure than most owing to National Funding Formula value of the lump sum (£110k) compared with £150k previously through the Cambridgeshire formula. Sparsity funding does not address

this shortfall in funding for Cambridgeshire schools; only X schools of our Y schools with less than 200 schools qualify for sparsity.

Some of the challenges and their impacts on our children are summarised in the attached table together with possible solutions.

At present, the situation is unfair and unsustainable, but it can be addressed immediately with four measures that would provide adequate funding and reasonably sustainable budgets for all schools, at least in the short term:-

- **to fund in full the annual increases in staff costs in 2019-20, and in subsequent years in all three funding blocks (Schools, High Needs and Early Years)**
- **to fund inflation in full for 2019-20 and in subsequent years in all three funding blocks**
- **to increase the lump sum in the NFF for small schools from 2019-20 so they remain viable**
- **to base Early Years funding levels on current costs, not on 2012 figures**

In the longer term, we request further changes to the National Funding Formulae for the Schools, the High Needs and Early Years budgets to address the very significant imbalances of allocation across England.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide a more detailed briefing on these issues, and provide further evidence for the statements above. We invite you to attend a Schools Forum meeting, or we can arrange a briefing in your constituency or in London.

Fair Funding for Cambridgeshire – challenges and possible solutions on a page

Schools Block	High Needs Block	Early Years
<p>The challenges</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers' and support staff annual salary increases, inflation, and the Apprenticeship Levy have more than eroded the additional income of most schools in the 2018-19 settlement In rural areas, small schools are at the heart of the community but are under more financial pressure than larger schools owing to the reduction of the block grant (£150k to £110k) Many/All(?) schools cannot run on the AWPU plus block grant, therefore using additional needs budgets to meet the basic requirements of running the school. Thus children with additional needs are not receiving the extra tuition and facilities they deserve; their academic progress clearly suffers. Growth funding from Government is lagged, hence impacts the Schools Block Capital funding is inadequate; Schools Block funding has to be used for routine school maintenance and IT, hence impacts money that can be spent on education <p>The impacts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The outcome for the disadvantage groups is near the bottom of the national league tables in the primary and secondary sectors Narrowing curriculum and increasing focus on core subjects to ensure best possible progress 8 scores More difficult to provide the breadth of curriculum to meet all needs, especially the less academic Small schools may have to close being economically unviable, hence impacts on the community, and increasing traffic and CO₂ footprint Fewer teachers, larger classes Recruitment and retention in some parts of the County very challenging – cost of housing in the south, and rurality in the north Redundancy and its costs Further reduction in social mobility; most of Cambridgeshire below the national average <p>What we would like to see now</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inflation and national salary increases funded annually Increased block grant for small schools <p>What we would like to see in the medium (2-4 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An uplift in the national schools' budget A fairer distribution of the schools' budget; this requires accurate assessment of the basic cost of running a school, and defining the purposes of all elements of the NFF – there is still gross disparity hence unfairness in the system Growth funding which is not lagged, hence growth does not impact on the Schools Block, and a consistent approach to funding new schools Detailed analysis on how schools can run with lump sum and AWPU only, so that additional needs budgets can be spent on the purposes for which they are intended. 	<p>The challenges</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The number of high needs children both within mainstream schools and in special schools is increasing year on year. The complexity of the high needs children is increasing every year. The number high needs children is ~10% above the national average. Cambridgeshire is now responsible for 19-25 SEND adults but sufficient additional funding was not allocated alongside the responsibility. Inflation, teachers' and support staff salaries and the Apprenticeship level in 2017-18 and 2018-19 have more than eroded the additional income The High Needs Budget has been supplemented in recent years from a transfer of funds from the Schools Block; this will cease when the hard formula comes in 2020. Significant time-lag between child arriving in school with significant SEND and the completion of the statutory assessment process – schools are having to put in support for children with no funding in the meantime, putting further strain on school budgets The formula is not based on needs of the children, hence requires revision to the factors and weightings <p>The impacts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The outcome for various disadvantaged groups is near the bottom of the English league tables both in the primary and secondary sectors Cambridgeshire may not be able to deliver its statutory and educational responsibilities <p>What we would like to see now</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inflation and national salary increases funded annually <p>What we would like to see in the medium (2-4 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An uplift in the High Needs budget A funding system that is largely based on needs A funding system that provides the same funding for a child that has same needs throughout England; i.e. remove post code disparities Growth funding which is not lagged, hence growth does not impact on the in-year budget 	<p>The challenges</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Different settings (private, voluntary, nursery) have very different costs of delivery and service drivers e.g. profit margins making local funding models highly complex Government advertising of "free" 30 hours is misleading as the hourly rate does not cover the cost for providers National and Living Wage increases annually but no additional funding is provided Recruitment and retention of staff is exceptionally difficult Increasing Special Educational Needs of children takes extra staff time which is unfunded Statutory requirements in terms of qualifications of staff is not recognised in the funding formula and is impacting significantly on budgets Adjustment of costs to cover entitlement is limited as "paid for" hours are lost Increased costs for non-funded entitlement children <p>The impacts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Financial viability of some providers is seriously threatened Loss of providers will impact on the current flexibility for parents Challenge to voluntary sector - as the administrative and financial processes becoming "too" difficult and burdensome leading to potential closure Staff shortages causing additional pressures on staff and a reduction in their well-being <p>What we would like to see now</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Early Years funding levels need to be based on current actual costs, not based on 2012 figures Inflation and national salary increases funded annually <p>What we would like to see in the medium (2-4 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An uplift in the Early Years budget Update the 2012 – 13 cost of delivery analysis to reflect current statutory pay and qualification changes Early intervention can save significant money in the long term; develop a method to fund this issue A SEND strategy that addresses the complex needs for children aged 2-4, including workforce and funding expectations. Termly census collection and funding adjustments as more children become eligible for "free" hours Annual review of qualifying criteria Growth funding which is not lagged, hence growth does not impact on in-year budgets A workforce analysis and strategy that addresses the staff shortage in Early Years

CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM – FORWARD AGENDA PLAN

All meetings will be held at 10.00am in the Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall, Cambridge CB3 0AP unless otherwise specified.

			Reports due to reach Democratic Services by:
Friday 20 April 2018	Apologies for absence and declarations of interest	<i>verbal</i>	Tuesday 27 February 2018
	Minutes of the Meeting on 9 March 2018	Richenda Greenhill	
	Action Log	Richenda Greenhill	
	Working Group report	Dr Alan Rodger	
	Forward Agenda Plan	Richenda Greenhill	
	Date of next meeting		
			Reports due to reach Democratic Services by:
Friday 6 July 2017	Election of the Chairman/woman and Vice Chairman/woman		Tuesday 26 June 2018
	Apologies for absence and declarations of interest	<i>verbal</i>	
	Minutes of the Meeting on 20 April 2018	Richenda Greenhill	
	Action Log	Richenda Greenhill	
	Dedicated Schools Grant Expenditure: Mid-Year Update	Martin Wade	
	Proposals for a tiered funding model for schools and Post 16 providers	Helen Phelan	

	Membership and proportionality of maintained and academy school representatives	Richenda Greenhill	
	Agenda Plan	Richenda Greenhill	
	Date of Next Meeting	<i>Verbal</i>	
			Reports due to reach Democratic Services by:
Friday 5 October 2018	Apologies for absence and declarations of interest	<i>verbal</i>	Tuesday 25 September 2018
	Minutes of the Meeting on 9 March 2018	Richenda Greenhill	
	Action Log	Richenda Greenhill	
	Agenda Plan	Richenda Greenhill	
	Date of Next Meeting	<i>Verbal</i>	
			Reports due to reach Democratic Services by:
Friday 9 November 2018 <i>(reserve meeting date)</i>			Tuesday 30 October 2018
Friday 30 November 2018	Apologies for absence and declarations of interest	<i>verbal</i>	
	Minutes of the Meeting on 9 March 2018	Richenda Greenhill	
	Action Log	Richenda Greenhill	
	Agenda Plan	Richenda Greenhill	
	Date of Next Meeting	<i>Verbal</i>	

			Reports due to reach Democratic Services by:
Friday 18 January 2019	Apologies for absence and declarations of interest	<i>verbal</i>	Tuesday 8 January 2019
	Minutes of the Meeting on 9 March 2018	Richenda Greenhill	
	Action Log	Richenda Greenhill	
	Agenda Plan	Richenda Greenhill	
	Date of Next Meeting	<i>Verbal</i>	
			Reports due to reach Democratic Services by:
Friday 29 March 2019	Apologies for absence and declarations of interest	<i>verbal</i>	Tuesday 19 March 2019
	Minutes of the Meeting on 9 March 2018	Richenda Greenhill	
	Action Log	Richenda Greenhill	
	Agenda Plan	Richenda Greenhill	
	Date of Next Meeting	<i>Verbal</i>	
			Reports due to reach Democratic Services by:
Friday 17 May 2019 <i>(reserve meeting date)</i>			Tuesday 7 May 2019
			Reports due to reach Democratic Services by:
Friday 12 July 2019	Election of the Chairman/woman and Vice Chairman/woman	<i>verbal</i>	Tuesday 2 July 2019
	Apologies for absence and declarations of	<i>verbal</i>	

	interest		
	Minutes of the Meeting on 9 March 2018	Richenda Greenhill	
	Action Log	Richenda Greenhill	
	Agenda Plan	Richenda Greenhill	
	Date of Next Meeting	<i>Verbal</i>	

Updated 09.04.18