

Minutes

B Title of meeting:	Sheffield Schools Forum	
Time and Date:	3.00-4.30pm, 22 September 2020	
Location:	Via Zoom	
Chair:	Paul Stockley	
Schools Forum Members:		
Primary Heads Representatives Nigel Brooke-Smith (Greystones) Cathy Rowland (Dobcroft Infant) Paul Stockley (Bradway)	Academies Keith Crawshaw (Sheffield South East Trust) David Dennis (Tapton) Jim Dugmore (Oughtibridge) Chris French (Mercia Learning Trust) Morag Somerville (Steel City Schools Partnership)	
Primary Governors Mike Allen (Pipworth) Alison Warner (Grenoside)	Special Academies Joel Hardwick (Nexus Multi-academy Trust)	
Secondary Head Linda Gooden (King Edward VII)	Special Schools Laura Gillespie, Governor (Bents Green) Sacha Schofield, Head (Bents Green)	
Non-school Members Mo Andrews, Pye Bank CE Primary Stephen Betts, Learn Sheffield Karen Simpkin, Early Years providers Toby Mallinson/Rod Padley, Trade Unions Mo Nisbet, 14-19 Sector	PRU Gail Gibbons (Sheffield Inclusion Centre)	
Apologies: Mike Allen, Mo Andrews, Chris French, Linda Gooden, John Macilwraith, Mo Nisbet, Rod Padley, Morag Somerville		
Also in attendance: John Doyle, Director of Strategy and Commissioning; Andrew Jones, Interim Director of Education and Skills; Amanda Murray, Business Strategy (notes); Mark Sheikh, Head of Service, Business Strategy		
Presenters: Nicola Shearstone, Head of Commissioning – Early Support and Prevention; Cathie Tandy, School Organisation Manager		

Item	Details	Action
1.	Welcome and Apologies Apologies were noted as above and attention drawn to the protocol of holding the meeting online. The following new members were welcomed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karen Simpkin, representing the early years sector. Joel Hardwick representing special academies. 	

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2.	<p>Previous meeting minutes/matters arising</p> <p>Agreed as a true and accurate record, with no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p>Covid-19 Response/Update</p> <p>Andrew Jones updated the Forum as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheffield City Council (SCC) continues to communicate frequently with schools, academies, private schools and the early years sector, as well as any organisations outside of Sheffield where our children attend. • Communication is via email and has been reduced to once per week. It includes local and national (government) information. • We are working alongside Learn Sheffield and have been using the model risk assessment to support schools re-opening in September. • All schools are currently open to all pupils. • There have been some incidences since schools re-opened and schools are able to access support and guidance through various channels including the Government helpline. SCC's Public Health team also provides consistent guidance. The various sources of guidance can, however give varying advice and complicate matters. The most appropriate agency to contact for support depends on the type of provider and nature of the incidence. • Approximately £5m catch-up funding has been allocated to Sheffield and is based on children being in school. We need to give careful consideration as to how this funding will be spent. • There will also be a new additional costs fund introduced, but we are not yet clear on the criteria of this. • In addition, there are laptops available for children studying from home who don't otherwise have access. Government funding to support children studying from home has been extended to July 2021. <p>Additional Forum discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any child should be able to have access to a Covid-19 test if required. • A member requested to follow up if there is potential need for breathalysers to be purchased using catch-up funding (with regard to alcohol absorption from frequent hand sanitiser use). • Teachers are not yet classed as a high priority in terms of testing. • The landscape for test and trace is complicated. • Staff in schools have stepped up positively to support schools being fully open. • There are already concerns regarding teaching capacity due to staff self-isolating and this will pose greater challenges moving forwards. • Issues regarding lack of testing impacts on capacity – while staff wait for tests and results. 	A Jones

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are some positives: there are less parents in schools, meaning children are becoming more independent and there are better communications. • Karen Simpkin feels that there is not enough recognition of the early years sector in terms of the important role it plays in supporting working parents. Staff testing in the sector is not being treated as a priority. SCC is also conscious of this issue and continues to try and raise the profile of the sector with the DfE. • The additional funding will be needed for supply cover and in particular, to cover extended maternity leave. Jim Dugmore to send details of requirements to Andrew Jones to initiate contact with the DfE regarding the additional costs. • The SEND Sufficiency Plan is in place and has been shared recently with special and integrated resource heads. It will also be shared with the Parent Carer Forum in the next couple of weeks. The plan is being developed and sits within the Inclusion Strategy. This will be shared with the December Schools Forum. • The Chair reported that emotional and social behavioural issues have increased at his school since re-opening - there has been an increase in violent behaviour and children have become de-socialised. • Most of the guidance is targeted at mainstream settings and doesn't take account of the additional needs required for special schools. HR support would also be welcomed moving forwards. • Schools would benefit from sharing practice in completing forms for funding and how to access support (including accessing support for staff working from home). <p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members to share their thoughts on the funding criteria with Andrew Jones. 	J Dugmore/ A Jones
4.	<p>Catch-up Premium</p> <p>Mark Sheikh presented the paper, drawing attention to the key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national funding totals £1b. • There are two elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ £650m of universal catch-up premium; and ○ £350m for the National Tutoring Programme. • School allocations will be on a per pupil basis and equate to £80 per pupil; with £240 for each place in special, alternative provision or hospital schools. • Payments will be calculated using 2019/20 published place numbers. • The criteria for how the funding is used will be quite broad and schools should start sharing ideas on how it can be used. 	All

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	<p>Stephen Betts added that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn Sheffield has organised a Covid Recovery Festival during September and plans to have a panel session at the end of September. • Some of the planned sessions will contribute to a recovery plan which is being developed for the year ahead and which will be shared before half-term. • The National Tutoring Programme is recruiting providers. • Some schools have looked at different models regarding opportunities in the workforce. <p>Comments and questions from the Forum included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This funding is not just available for disadvantaged groups. • Ofsted visits will probably look at how we are planning to use the funding to support attendance and behaviour – the impact on, and recovery of, learners which is not just about provision and which is affecting a wide variety of children, not just those traditionally considered to be disadvantaged. • Schools will have to contribute 25% of costs to the tutoring programmes. • Is there adequate additional resource for the tutoring programme – there will be additional requirements for speech and language and occupational therapy for example? • There are significant reserves in some schools that should be used. <p>The Forum noted the funding allocation and framework, and recognises that schools need to work together to develop a catch-up strategy for Sheffield.</p>	
5.	<p>Falling Rolls</p> <p>Mark Sheikh summarised the paper which is a result of discussions with the Funding Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a surplus capacity in primary schools due to the birth rate falling. Current forecasts suggest that 2023/24 could be the city-wide low point with predictions being that numbers will rise again beyond that date. • Principles have been set out for school place planning as listed in section 2.1. • A RAG rating system for surplus places shows that nine schools have been identified as Red and 28 as Amber. • So far the work undertaken has been a desktop analysis and we now plan to work with schools (and parents) that are rated Red to ensure sustainability and this will take 6-12 months. • The principles for the Falling Rolls Fund are set out in section 5. • We aim to ensure the process is equitable and will have head teachers on the funding allocation panel. 	

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	<p>Further discussion of the Forum raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to ensure we match supply with demand within the early years sector and will align the plans with childcare sufficiency as part of secondary analysis. • We will also link in to special schools sufficiency to use surplus places where possible. • It's important to look at the model at a more detailed, local and individual school level. <p>The Forum noted the paper and agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The £250k budget for falling rolls (to be vired from the growth fund in 2020/21). • Fund all schools in 2020/21 that meet the agreed criteria (yet to be developed). • Receive a further paper on the funding allocation process and criteria at the December Forum. 	
6.	<p>Early Years Investment Pot</p> <p>Nicola Shearstone summarised the paper as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In September 2019, the Early Years Working Group agreed that the £500k Free Early Learning Fund should be invested in early years provision across the city. • Options were produced on how this could be allocated and principles were set out. • At the September meeting of the Working Group, it was decided that further consideration was needed around the impact of Covid-19 as set out in section 1.5. • The Group will now meet after half-term and bring back recommendations to the December Forum. <p>The Forum noted the update as summarised above.</p>	
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>None raised.</p>	

Date of next meeting: 15 December 2020, 3.00-4.30pm, via Zoom