

## Minutes of the Forum Meeting held on Tuesday, 7 July 2020 Virtual Teams Meeting at 4.30pm

<p><b>Present:</b>  <b>Maintained Primary Sector:</b>                  Antoinette Fisher (Governor)                  Bernie Farkas (Head teacher)                  Jenny Godsall (Head teacher)                  Karen Scott (Head teacher)                  John McDermott (Governor)  <b>Maintained Secondary Sector:</b>                  Marie Murphy (Head teacher)  <b>Maintained Special Sector:</b>                  Jane Davenport (Head teacher)                  Andrew Wilkins (Governor)  <b>Academy Primary Sector:</b>                  Louise Minter (Head teacher)                  Lynda Mackay (Governor)  <b>Academy Secondary Sector:</b>                  Geoff Harley-Mason (Governor)                  Darren Gelder (Head teacher)                  Claire Smith (Head teacher)  <b>Pupil Referral Unit:</b>                  Eleanor Clarke  <b>AP Academy:</b>                  No representative present  <b>Post-16 College:</b>                  John Callaghan  <b>TU Representatives:</b>                  David Lewis                  Gillian Clowe  <b>Early Years PVI Sector:</b>                  No representative present  <b>Officers of the Council:</b>                  Tim Browne                  Steve Fenton                  Stuart McHale  <b>Observers:</b>                  No Observers present</p>	<p>Dorrige Primary School                  Blossomfield Infant School                  Knowle CofE Academy (proxy arrangement)                  Greswold Primary                  St Alphege Juniors                    St Peters RC School                    Reynolds Cross Special School                  Hazel Oak Special School                    Streetsbrook EY&amp;I Academy                  Knowle CofE Academy                    Arden Academy                  Grace Academy                  Tudor Grange                    Triple Crown Centre                      Solihull College                    TU Representative                  EAL                      Assistant Director, Inclusion &amp; Additional Needs                  Head of Business &amp; Performance                  Childrens Services Finance Manager</p>
<p><b>Chairperson:</b> Antoinette Fisher – Dorridge Primary School  <b>Vice Chairperson:</b> Darren Gelder – Grace Academy  <b>Minutes:</b> Alison McWilliam, Senior Forum Administrator</p>	

Item	Action																																	
<p>1 <b>Apologies for Absence and Welcome</b>                  Apologies were received from:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Rob Fletcher</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Head Teacher</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Fordbridge Primary School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ben Taylor</td> <td>Head Teacher</td> <td>Our Lady of the Wayside</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trevor Scott</td> <td>Head Teacher</td> <td>Northern House Solihull</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stephen Steinhaus</td> <td>Head Teacher</td> <td>Tender Years Nursery</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lisa Whitehouse</td> <td>PVI</td> <td>Solihull AP Academy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gina Godwin</td> <td>PVI</td> <td>Whitesmore/Wise Owls Nursery</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Ken Meeson</td> <td>CM for Children, Education &amp; Skills</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Annette McKenzie</td> <td>Elected Member</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Andy Hodgson</td> <td>Elected Member</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Norman Davies</td> <td>Governor</td> <td>Langley Secondary Academy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Louise Rees</td> <td>Director of Children's Services</td> <td>SMBC</td> </tr> </table> <p>AF thanked members for taking the time to join the meeting during such a busy time in schools and colleges.</p>	Rob Fletcher	Head Teacher	Fordbridge Primary School	Ben Taylor	Head Teacher	Our Lady of the Wayside	Trevor Scott	Head Teacher	Northern House Solihull	Stephen Steinhaus	Head Teacher	Tender Years Nursery	Lisa Whitehouse	PVI	Solihull AP Academy	Gina Godwin	PVI	Whitesmore/Wise Owls Nursery	Cllr Ken Meeson	CM for Children, Education & Skills		Cllr Annette McKenzie	Elected Member		Cllr Andy Hodgson	Elected Member		Norman Davies	Governor	Langley Secondary Academy	Louise Rees	Director of Children's Services	SMBC	
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2	<p><b>Minutes of Last Meeting (10.12.19)</b> The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters' Arising</b> <b>Page 3 Funding to Extend Community EP Service to EY</b> – Following concern raised at the prospect of using Inclusion Fund money to fund the Early Years Community EP service, SF confirmed that there were currently no firm proposals and Halit Hulusi would take this up in autumn term through the Early Years and EdSEND groups. All other matters had been actioned.</p>	EdSEND
4	<p><b>Welcome to Tim Browne, AD Inclusion and Additional Needs – Antoinette Fisher</b> AF welcomed Tim to Forum. Tim took up the position of AD for Inclusion and Additional Needs in March and the majority of Forum members will have met him through various virtual meetings. TB thanked members for the warm welcome they have given him.</p>	
5	<p><b>Report to C&amp;YP Scrutiny Board on the Council's Support for Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic – Tim Browne</b> <i>Reference 'Council support for educational settings and pupils during the COVID-19 P pandemic' report</i> TB talked through the Council's approach to supporting schools and EY settings from initial closure to all but vulnerable and key workers' children from 23 March to the wider reopening to various year groups from 1 June. TB mentioned the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Very quick responses have been required and engagement with schools through SSSAB, Headlines etc. has been key.</li> <li>- Solihull schools were determined to stay open for pupils rather than use a hub model.</li> <li>- A lack of national guidance has caused some difficulties.</li> <li>- Attendance has been tracked throughout.</li> <li>- The majority of children have fared well, however the longer term impact, particularly on the attainment gap for disadvantaged youngsters is unlikely to be a positive picture.</li> <li>- There is still much to do - schools are now developing guidance and support plans for September when all pupils will return full time. It is clear that social distancing and 'bubbling' cannot be maintained on this basis and schools are working on that basis.</li> <li>- TB recognised the work of head teachers and school staff and thanked Steve Fenton, Clair McNeill and Denise Milnes for their remarkable support of schools.</li> </ul> <p>TB invited questions and comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ GC thanked TB and the Council team for their work. TUs were pleased to have been invited to join school recovery meetings at an early stage. This has enabled them to support staff, some of whom have been anxious about returning and reassure them that health and safety has been prioritised and every precaution taken.</li> <li>➤ JD agreed and said that TUs have found it helpful to receive the regular Headlines bulletins which have helped representatives to understand some of the dilemmas being faced by schools and overall relationships between all parties have improved because of the joint working.</li> <li>➤ TB thanked TUs for their input, it has been very positive and helped to develop responses to a number of issues.</li> <li>➤ CS, on behalf of South Solihull secondary head teachers, thanked the Council team, specifically TB and Clair McNeill, for their support. This sector has not previously had that level of input from officers and schools have very much appreciated it.</li> <li>➤ LMc agreed that governors have appreciated receiving the regular Headlines bulletins and particularly the tone in which Louise Rees has written them.</li> <li>➤ LM agreed that schools have felt very well supported by the LA and hoped that this would continue – members agreed.</li> </ul>	
6	<p><b>2019-20 Financial Out-turn – Stuart McHale</b> <i>Reference 'Dedicated Schools Grant 2019-20' and 2019-20 High Needs Block Statement Out-turn' reports</i> SMcH referred to the annual position statements for DSG and HNB. An overall deficit of £5.8m had been predicted in autumn 2019, with the year-end outcome being £5.9m deficit.</p>	

7	<p>This will be ring-fenced and carried forward to 2020-21. There were no questions.</p> <p><b>Verbal Update on 2020-21 Budget Position, inc. HN Recovery Plan – Tim Browne, Stuart McHale</b></p> <p>Behind the scenes, Solihull's response to the High Needs Recovery Plan is moving as fast as possible. The HN Project Board chaired by Paul Johnson (Director of Resources) has continued to meet, although the Schools' Steering/Reference Group has not met since the start of Covid-19. AF stressed the importance of schools' input into the Recovery Plan. The DfE confirmed that the requirement to submit a report in June was no longer required, but they expect work to continue and could request a progress update on the Plan at any time. There is concern that, in academic year terms, the four month delay is likely to lead to a set-back of 12 months.</p> <p>TB raised concern that the delay will place even greater pressure on the HNB, with a likely upsurge in support needed because of time missed from school. In particular there is likely to be significant impact on the most disadvantaged young people, possibly leading to an increase in exclusions and potentially an increase in EHE. Some additional HN investment will probably be required to prevent an escalation of need for statutory services as a 'spend to save' plan, in addition to the £1bn Government catch-up programme funding.</p> <p>SMcH reminded schools that there are ways of recovering additional costs from the DfE which have been mentioned in various newsletters and recommended schools submit applications quickly as timescales are very tight.</p> <p>From a union viewpoint, JD alerted that there are a number of additional costs that schools thought would be covered by the DfE, but it has since emerged that they will not be. This will put additional strain on school budgets or reserves and could put some small primaries in a particularly awkward situation.</p>	Schools
8	<p><b>Work Group Reports</b></p> <p><i>Reference Work Group Reports</i></p> <p><u>SSSAB meetings May/June 2020 – Louise Minter</u></p> <p>SSSAB (with reduced membership) has met almost weekly. Members have been immensely grateful for the support given by TB, LR and CMcN. The report summarising what has been discussed was accepted with no questions.</p> <p><u>Finance WG summary of items April 2020 - David Lewis</u></p> <p>The meeting scheduled for 27 April was cancelled, but a range of documents were circulated to members. The summary report was accepted with no questions.</p> <p><u>Capital WG summary of items April 2020 – Andrew Wilkins</u></p> <p>The meeting scheduled for 1 April was cancelled, but a range of updates were circulated to members. The summary report was accepted with no questions.</p>	
9	<p><b>Post-16/College Verbal Update – John Callaghan</b></p> <p>JC provided an update on the issues Solihull College's three campuses (Woodlands, Blossomfield and Stratford) have been facing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All campuses have remained open throughout, with provision made for some pupils and regular contact maintained with vulnerable youngsters. When wider re-opening was introduced, many parents were reluctant to send youngsters back.</li> <li>- The time has provided an opportunity to undertake a range of maintenance work, which has been very helpful.</li> <li>- Some essential testing has taken place for practical-based courses such as plumbing and bricklaying, where it is impossible to calculate grades from written work.</li> <li>- No staff have been forced to return to college, instead some have returned voluntarily and some have worked from home; this has required significant investment in PPE and laptops.</li> <li>- Online studies for students has been positive for some courses, but has not worked for practical and lower level courses. However, it is acknowledged that presenting courses on-line is not the same experience for the tutor or the student.</li> <li>- No additional funding - for PPE, classroom adaptations or student catch-up programmes</li> <li>- has been available for large colleges. Additional costs incurred will have a significant</li> </ul>	

<p>10</p>	<p>impact on this year's budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrangements are being planned for September when all 16-18 year-old students are expected to return. This will include staggered start times, no library or refectory, students will eat in their classrooms, etc. It is appreciated that social distancing for 16+ youngsters will be difficult, as it is for school pupils.</li> <li>- Adult students are not currently included in the guidance, despite being a significant cohort of college. This will be a particular issue where there are mixed age groups within classes and will also impact evening classes.</li> <li>- There is particular concern around how apprenticeships will work.</li> <li>- College union reps have been brilliant and there has been a constructive atmosphere of 'all being in it together'.</li> </ul> <p>At Reynalds Cross, JD has arranged for several staff who have been shielding to come into school during the summer holidays to see the systems that are in place, with a view to reassuring them of their safety.</p> <p><b>General Items – Ali McWilliam</b></p> <p><u>Schools Forum Membership 2020-21</u> – Under the current circumstances, Forum Executive have agreed that the annual election process will be delayed until autumn term. This will also allow us to amend the balance between maintained school and academy members which will be affected by the academisation of RC schools early next year. Members approaching the end of their three year term have agreed to extend their membership to Christmas, in the first instance.</p> <p><u>New Forum Website</u> – The new website, with meeting papers, dates, membership details, etc. is available at <a href="https://www.solgrid.org.uk/education/support-services/schools-forum/">https://www.solgrid.org.uk/education/support-services/schools-forum/</a></p> <p><u>2020-21 Meeting Dates</u> – A copy of the meeting schedule is attached. Details of how the 7 October Forum meeting will be held will be circulated early in September.</p>	<p>Attached</p>
<p>11</p>	<p><b>Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2020-21</b></p> <p>AF and DG had indicated their agreement to serving a further term of office, if no further nominations were forthcoming. With no further nominations, AMc thanked AF and DG for their offer, their positions will be ratified at the October meeting.</p>	<p>7 October meeting</p>
<p>12</p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>5.00pm on Wednesday, 7 October 2020 in the Civic Suite or 4.30pm virtual meeting using Teams to be confirmed in September 2020</p> <p>cc. C.McNeill, D.Milnes</p>	