

Minutes of the Forum Meeting held on Wednesday, 19 May 2021 Virtual Teams Meeting at 4.30pm

<p>Present: Maintained Primary Sector: Antoinette Fisher (Governor) Bernie Farkas (Head teacher) Karen Scott (Head teacher) John McDermott (Governor) Ben Taylor (Head teacher) Maintained Special Sector: Andrew Wilkins (Governor) Jane Davenport (Head teacher) Academy Primary Sector: Louise Minter (Head teacher) Lynda Mackay (Governor) Jenny Gods all (Head teacher) Academy Secondary Sector: Marie Murphy (Head teacher) Darren Gilder (Principal) Claire Smith (Head teacher) Charlotte Shadbolt (Governor) Geoff Harley-Mason (Governor) Pupil Referral Unit: Eleanor Clarke AP Academy: No representative Specialist Academy No representative Post-16 College: John Callaghan TU Representatives: David Lewis Gillian Clowe Early Years PVI Sector: Gina Godwin Elected Members Councillor Annette McKenzie Officers of the Council: Tim Browne Steve Fenton Stuart McHale Julie Hackett (part) Observers: Sarah Smith Mike Walker Tina Whitehouse</p>	<p>Dorridge Primary School Blossomfield Infant School Greswold Primary St Alphege Juniors Our Lady of the Wayside Hazel Oak Special School Reynolds Cross Special School Streetsbrook EY&I Academy Knowle CofE Academy Knowles Coffee Academy St Peters RC Academy Grace Academy Tudor Grange Academy Heart of England Academy Arden Academy Triple Crown Centre Solihull College TU Representative NEU Whitesmore/Wise Owls Nursery Assistant Director, Inclusion & Additional Needs Head of Business & Performance Childrens Services Finance Manager Head of C&YP Commissioning Church of England, Birmingham Triple Crown Centre Summerfield Education Centre</p>
<p>Chairperson: Antoinette Fisher – Dorridge Primary School Vice Chairperson: Darren Gelder - Grace Academy Minutes: Alison McWilliam, Senior Forum Administrator</p>	

Item		Action															
1	<p>Apologies for Absence and Welcome Apologies were received from:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%; padding: 2px;">Rob Fletcher</td> <td style="width: 30%; padding: 2px;">Head teacher</td> <td style="width: 40%; padding: 2px;">Ford bridge Primary</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Norman Davies</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Governor</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Langley Secondary Academy</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Lisa Whitehouse</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">PVI</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Tender Years Nursery</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Cllr Michael Gough</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">SMBC</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">John Dwyer</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Observer</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Diocesan Education Service</td> </tr> </table>	Rob Fletcher	Head teacher	Ford bridge Primary	Norman Davies	Governor	Langley Secondary Academy	Lisa Whitehouse	PVI	Tender Years Nursery	Cllr Michael Gough	SMBC		John Dwyer	Observer	Diocesan Education Service	
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2	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting (8.12.20) The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>																

3 Matters' Arising

All matters arising had been actioned or appeared as agenda items.

4 Assistant Director's Items - Tim Browne**Re-shaping Education**

Reference 'Reshaping Education' PowerPoint, copy attached to minutes

Following a six month engagement period, a formal Consultation is in place until 28 May. TB talked through the presentation and new structure, including the following additional comments:

- Solihull's current Ofsted profile is not as strong as it should be and current arrangements have not served us as well as they could.
- We need to protect our strengths and target resources effectively.
- The school improvement landscape is getting more complex and following the recent Government announcement there will be renewed drive for academisation.
- The LA and Forum's roles are vital to ensuring the key players work together to improve outcomes and life chances for all C&YP in the borough.
- The proposed new structure is based on five service areas:
 - Commissioning for Learning - SF's area, which will also include Education Commissioning, School Transport and an Admin and Data Hub.
 - Education Outcomes and Intervention - This is the School Improvement function which will also include the Virtual School, the Music Service and Safeguarding function. A new Early Years' service will bring together the currently two separate teams.
 - SEND Service - remains largely unchanged as a result of a re-organisation earlier in the year.
 - C&YP Commissioning - also remains unchanged.
 - Inclusion Service - This is a new service area to provide additional support and co-ordination function around children at risk of falling out of the system, work with settings to support children with additional needs and ensure all core statutory functions are delivered, eg. EHE, exclusions, AP, etc.
- The Head of Alternative Provision and Education Safeguarding Lead posts will be deleted, with this work picked up by the Inclusion Service and Education Outcomes Service respectively. There will be no discrete EAL team.
- A formal Alternative Provision Strategy is being drawn up and a paper will be presented to Cabinet Member next week on future plans for Summerfield Education Centre and 6th day provision for excluded secondary aged pupils.

Questions

AW - What does TB think Solihull schools should be doing in terms of converting to academies?

TB - TB would encourage schools to explore all options, consider all implications and weigh up the pros and cons. Becoming an academy is a big decision, but the LA will support schools whatever their decision and TB suggested schools link with the School Improvement team as part of their considerations.

CS - On behalf of primary and secondary school colleagues, CS thanked LA colleagues for support given during current challenging times, schools have been very grateful for the opportunity to have an open dialogue and feel that the LA has listened to them.

AF - Agreed it is very helpful to feel that we are all 'in it together'.

5 2020-21 Financial Out-turn - Stuart McHale

Reference 'DSG 2020-21' and '2020-21 HNB Statement'

The final 2020-21 out-turn figure showed a deficit of £3.1m, which included the application of some additional Coved support funding (£261k). The accumulated figure is a deficit of £9m; there has been no further guidance from the DfE about the long-term situation, other than to hold this on the balance sheet and try to reduce it.

6 High Needs Recovery - Tim Brown, Stuart McHale**Financial Recovery Work - Stuart McHale**

Recovery Plan work is ongoing, with a follow-up report to Full Cabinet planned for Autumn. The High Needs Project Group is now chaired by TB and a high level strategy group,

attached

	<p>including the Chief Executive, Director of Resources, Children's Services Director and TB is also in place. Additional finance and accountability resource is being added, with the recruitment of a new Senior Accountant who will work specifically on the DSG and the HNB financial model. Eight major projects to increase in-borough capacity are taking shape. Two update reports will be presented to Cabinet Member next week covering 6th day provision and Summerfield PRU.</p> <p><u>SEND Improvement Journey - Tim Browne</u> <i>Reference 'SEND Improvement Journey' document, copy attached to minutes</i> There is a great deal of work going on to support the HN recovery plan and TB summarised this (as detailed in the document). There were no questions.</p> <p>7 New Commissioning Arrangements for Independent HN Placements - Julie Hackett A suite of contract documents has been drawn up and issued to current independent and private providers; over 50% have already been signed and returned, the remainder are being followed up. Independent Placement Agreements are being drawn up and the team is working with providers to implement these. The next area being progressed is around contract management and quality assurance of placements through school self-assessments, Annual Review returns and parental feedback. Once collated this will identify which schools provide the best outcomes and best value. Members agreed this was excellent progress.</p> <p>8 Work Group Reports <u>Finance Work Group - David Lewis</u> DL referenced two specific issues - Pupil Premium, where the Government's change of audit dates has resulted in potential lost income to Solihull schools of £659k. However this should be picked up in the following year. Procurement, where Veolia had been putting recycling waste in with general waste; it appears this has now been resolved. <u>SSSAB - Louise Minter</u> Members accepted the report with no questions. <u>EdSEND - Louise Minter</u> Members accepted the report with no questions.</p> <p>9 Any Other Business - Antoinette Fisher It was noted that Councillor Ken Meeson will take up the role of Mayor of Solihull and Councillor Richard Holt has been appointed Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills.</p> <p>10 Date of Next Meeting Monday, 12 July at 4.30pm Virtual Teams Meeting</p> <p>The 2021-22 Schools Forum meeting schedule is attached to minutes</p>	<p>Attached</p> <p>attached</p>
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