

## Minutes of the Solihull School Forum meeting held at 5.00pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### Attendance:

Member Category	Member Name	Institution	Attendance (Y/N/ Apols)
HEAD TEACHERS OF PRIMARY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4)	Lynn Clark	Marston Green Juniors (Unity)	Y
HEAD TEACHERS OF PRIMARY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4)	Bernie Farkas	Blossomfield Infants (Synergy)	N
HEAD TEACHERS OF PRIMARY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4)	Karen Scott	Greswold Primary (Mosaic)	Apologies
HEAD TEACHERS OF PRIMARY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4)	Richard Marshall	Oak Cottage (Evolve)	Apologies
GOVERNORS OF PRIMARY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4)	John McDermott	St Alphege Inf & Junior (Synergy)	N
GOVERNORS OF PRIMARY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4)	Antoinette Fisher	Dorridge Primary (Rurals)	Y
GOVERNORS OF PRIMARY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4)	Andrew Wilkins	Hazel Oak Special School (Evolve)	Y
GOVERNORS OF PRIMARY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4)	Paul Jackson	Castle Bromwich Junior School (North)	N
HEAD TEACHERS OF PRIMARY ACADEMIES (2)	Louise Minter	Streetsbrook I&EY Academy, (Synergy)	Y
HEAD TEACHERS OF PRIMARY ACADEMIES (2)	Jenny Godsall	Knowle CofE Primary (Rurals)	Y
HEAD TEACHERS OF PRIMARY ACADEMIES (2)	Ben Taylor	Our Lady of the Wayside (Evolve)	N
GOVERNORS OF PRIMARY ACADEMIES (2)	Lynda Mackay	Knowle CofE Primary (Rurals)	Y
SECONDARY ACADEMY MEMBERS (10 – principals [or representatives] or governors) Inc. AP Academy	Claire Smith (P)	Tudor Grange (Synergy)	Apologies
SECONDARY ACADEMY MEMBERS (10 – principals [or representatives] or governors) Inc. AP Academy	Charlotte Shadbolt (G)	Heart of England (Rurals)	N
SECONDARY ACADEMY MEMBERS (10 – principals [or representatives] or governors) Inc. AP Academy	Darren Gelder (P)	Grace Academy (Unity)	Apologies
SECONDARY ACADEMY MEMBERS (10 – principals [or representatives] or governors) Inc. AP Academy	Stephen Steinhaus (P)	Solihull AP Academy	Apologies
SECONDARY ACADEMY MEMBERS (10 – principals [or representatives] or governors) Inc. AP Academy	Marie Murphy (P)	St Peters RC (Synergy)	Apologies
SECONDARY ACADEMY MEMBERS (10 – principals [or representatives] or governors) Inc. AP Academy	Clare Thorpe (HT)	Langley Secondary (Evolve)	Y
SECONDARY ACADEMY MEMBERS (10 – principals [or representatives] or governors) Inc. AP Academy	Andrew Best (G)	Smith's Wood Secondary Academy (Fairfax MAT)	Apologies
REPRESENTATIVE OF MAINTAINED SPECIALIST PROVISION (1) attend on rota basis	Andy Simms	Hazel Oak	Y

REPRESENTATIVE OF SPECIALIST ACADEMIES (1)	Trevor Scott	Castlewood School	Apologies
REPRESENTATIVE OF PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS (1)	Eleanor Clarke	Triple Crown Centre	Y
ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (3)	Councillor Annette McKenzie (Conservative)		Apologies
ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (3)	Councillor Michael Gough (Conservative)		Apologies
ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (3)	Councillor Andy Hodgson (Green)		N
TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES (2)	David Lewis	TU Rep	Y
TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES (2)	Gareth Eastham	NASUWT	Y
TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES (2)	Gary Woodhouse (Substitute Member)	GMB	N
REPRESENTATIVES OF EARLY YEARS PVI SECTOR (2)	Gina Godwin	Whitesmore Neighbourhood Nursery (Wise Owls)	N
REPRESENTATIVES OF EARLY YEARS PVI SECTOR (2)	Lisa Whitehouse	Tender Years	Apologies
REPRESENTATIVES OF POST-16 COLLEGES (2)	Lindsey Stewart	Solihull College	Y
REPRESENTATIVES OF POST-16 COLLEGES (2)	Dr Martin Sullivan	Sixth Form College	N
OBSERVERS	Peter Davis	Diocesan Education Service (The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham)	N
OBSERVERS	Sarah Smith	Education for Birmingham, The Church of England	Y
Officers (attend as required)			
Acting DCS	Tim Browne		Y
Head of Commissioning for Learning	Steve Fenton		Apologies
Head of Inclusion	Michele Sadler		Y
School Place Planning Team Leader	Ann Pearson		Y
Childrens Services Finance Manager	Sarah Cheale		Y
SMBC Senior Accountant	Verity Dixon		Y
Head of SEND 0-25	Charlotte Jones		Apologies

**Meeting Minutes:**

Item	Minute	Action
1	<b>Apologies for Absence &amp; Welcome:</b> Apologies noted - see register above. AF thanked Marie Murphy for her input and support and wished her well for her retirement.	
2	<b>Minutes of last meeting 23 May 2022</b> Minutes agreed.	
3	<b>Matters Arising</b> Matters arising to be discussed as agenda items at this meeting.	
4	<b>Cabinet Member update – Councillor Michael Gough</b> Cllr MG apologies.	
5	<b>Acting DCS update - Tim Browne</b> TB – Pete Campbell has been appointed as Director of Children’s Services. TB to continue in interim role until his start date. Delyth Smith has started as Assistant Director (Partnerships and Improvement) and Iona to join team as Assistant Director (Safeguarding) on 18.07.22.  TB attended the Education Select Committee along with Nick Page. <a href="#">link to Select Committee meeting</a> Work on improvement board continuing, lots of progress been made including work around MASH. Also continuing to try and recruit additional social workers. It is a national problem with 7,000 shortfall nationally. New thresholds document launched resetting thresholds across MASH. During May there was a 54% increase in referrals though that has stabilised a bit more now. Also having 10-12 strategy discussions a day at some points which is hugely excessive with only 16% going through to child protection conference. That has dropped back now to 3-4. We have had care review, national review, JTAI (Joint Targeted Area Inspection) action plan and children’s social care action plan so now looking to bring all together as a single action plan. Lots of progress taking place.	
6	<b>Alternative Provision – Draft commissioning strategy (Ann Pearson)</b>  Draft strategy and report circulated with agenda. Discussion paper was circulated in autumn by MS and feedback sought. Paths in and out of AP are unclear and this draft strategy aims to try and identify what we have and bring some stability in the data we provide. That will show significant increase of children using AP, in Jan-May it increased by 32. Also trying to set out strategy requirements for those schools and LA (Local Authority) which will support us in identifying where the gaps are. We want to use formal groups we have in place to see if we think those priorities are the right ones, then have a wider more formal consultation over the summer.  DL responded that the draft was very good and identified weaknesses extremely well. He wondered about quality criteria for independent though appreciated that is being looked at in other areas. Also concern that alternative provision funding is a flat grant which does not increase when numbers increase.  CT felt it was beneficial to see it all in one place and suggested, as part of the strategy, to look at quality assuring what there is and looking how we measure impact fairly. AP thanked both for helpful feedback.  LM - unfortunately, there is still nothing in place for early years. It has been a challenging year with reception children. Appreciate early years is not statutory but we need to think about our young children who need different kind of provision. AP replied, as at EdSEND recently, that it was agreed we need to acknowledge pressure around children with additional needs. There is work around sufficiency and SEND strategy where it should be picked up. AP to flag up if necessary. Wider consultation out in autumn term but any views prior to that please let AP know. DL and AF agreed that concerns could be shared in green paper response.	
7	<b>Government consultation – Implementing the Direct National Funding Formula (09-09-2022 closing) (SF, presented by Sarah Cheale)</b>  SC presented Steve Fenton’s paper on update on national funding consultation which is ongoing. Looking for views to feed into consultation. A detailed report. Individual schools can respond but anything you want to feed into LA response then would be happy to receive any comments. AF advised that may not be top of schools priority list when returning beginning September. DL agreed. DL has spoken to SF about this and commented it was an excellent paper and explained the funding well. DL suggested it should go out to members of the Finance Committee. This was agreed and DL to send out to Finance Group.	DO - done
8	<b>Delivering Better Value (SEND) (SF, presented by Sarah Cheale)</b>	

	<p>SC - Solihull have been included in Phase 1 of Delivering Better Value programme in terms of working to get a high needs block spending as overspent quite heavily. We are thinking a collaborative approach to evidence-based information will be beneficial, and we are pulling together our existing plans we have around that. The first 6 months will be data gathering which we are initiating. A consultant working on this is pleased with the open conversations and data we have. The DfE (Department for Education) have been in contact, we have a £45k grant to help us with first stage. We will look to update School Forum as initiative develops. Hopefully agree Chair of Forum can act as contact for delivery partners for first 6 months. We then have an 18-month delivery phase which will very much involve a co-production approach. TB – we were invited and tactically accepted as keen we do not have our budget reset. It will be interesting to see what they find out what we do not already know but welcome the validation.</p>	
9	<p><b>HNB (High Needs Block) Action Plan as reported to February Cabinet – update (Sarah Cheale)</b></p> <p>SC – previous update on high needs block action plan to Forum was January 2022. It is linking in with delivery of best value programme. This is a light touch update to show where we are heading and will very much be a collaborative effort. The deficit stands at £3.1m which remains likely to get worse before it gets better. Appendix A highlights the strategies in place.</p> <p>TB referred to LGA articles which refers to lobbying the government to write off high needs debts. Concern is that DfE may change rules again so authorities can use their own funds to pay which would not be feasible. AF responded that although these are ‘eye watering’ figures we realise it is also the national picture and are aware that it will get worse before it gets better. TB – in terms of practice we are making considerable progress in SEND improvement journey. Also going to see pressure on special school places. TB advised that an expression of interest has been put in for a further special school. Government needs to review properly their high need spend and framework.</p> <p>DL responded that this was a good position paper showing use of our resources but until issue of rising demand and supply is looked at, he cannot see how we can improve. The paper also relies on some assumptions which he hopes will be realistic.</p> <p>JG advised school perspective as challenging to compartmentalise concerns as SEN (Special Educational Needs) issues, vulnerability of children or broadly something else. This is the critical issue in school if one looks at the big inclusion umbrella, including all children and families, and is quite a challenge to unpick some of the issues. The world has changed over the last couple of years. In terms of capacity in schools to continue to become more inclusive mainstream or to provide the correct type of alternative or specialist provision it is becoming increasingly challenging because there is an uplift of all those things. Seeing such a significant uplift makes it even more challenging and the capacity of absorb that is shrinking. In school all these challenges are running concurrently. SC responded that as part of the DBV diagnostic phase, it is expected that Schools Forum will be consulted so can feedback those concerns as part of that process.</p>	
10	<p><b>JAND / HNB Action plan update (Tim Browne)</b></p> <p>TB agrees there is a challenge with all these issues coming together. We do, however, have a lower percentage of children with EHCPs (Education Health Care Plans) in mainstream education though it is fair to say we have made huge progress with our collaborative effort.</p> <p>TB added that he is concerned about the SEND review. There are several gaps there and failure to address some fundamental key issues which we will have to tackle through consultation feedback. We will keep battling with the resources we have. AF felt that we have moved forward in a more transparent way. However, there is concern that schools will continue to feel the impact by all the significant work that is being done.</p>	
11	<p><b>Work Group reports:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Capital Group – Andrew Wilkins</b></li> <li>2) <b>EdSend 04-07-2022 – Louise Minter (verbal report)</b></li> <li>3) <b>SSSAB (Solihull Schools Strategic Accountability Board) – Louis Minter (verbal report)</b></li> </ol> <p>1) Capital Group – DL reported big issue is around growth in numbers of school places particularly in-year growth. There are increasing difficulties with admissions though headteachers have been supportive in accommodating extra places. AP agreed it was challenging and thanked schools for their support. Verbal report given at meeting about upcoming work at Alderbrook, Cheswick Green, and Summerfield (name change to Daylesford) move in autumn term with a view to opening at Christmas 2022. No additional capital available.</p>	

	<p>2) EdSEND – LM - There were several updates from CJ. Also update from MS for inclusion service and Paula Thompson with inclusion strategy and action plan. Solihull Parent Carer Voice also gave an update.</p> <p>3) SSSAB on 21.06.22, focused on what needs to be done next year, trying to set up a wellbeing programme for headteachers throughout the year as well as supervision sessions.</p> <p>AF – Darren Gelder referred to the alternative strategy paper and reference to person centre in the final paragraph. It was agreed that this should be picked up outside of the meeting with DG.</p>	
12	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>AF – will be looking at Forum membership with SF as have some gaps to fill. Also look to appoint a Forum Chair going forward in October.</p> <p>Next meeting is 11.10.22, at 5:00pm and will be in-person at the Civic Suite.</p>	