

# Solihull Schools Forum

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## **Minutes of Meeting**

**9:30 am**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

SMBC Civic Suite Room 1

Homer Rd, Solihull B91 9SE

<b>Member Category</b>	<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Attendance (Y/N/ Apols)</b>
HEAD TEACHERS OF PRIMARY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4)	Lynn Clark	Marston Green Juniors (Unity)	Apologies
HEAD TEACHERS OF PRIMARY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4)	Bernie Farkas	Blossomfield Infants (Synergy)	Present
HEAD TEACHERS OF PRIMARY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4)	Karen Scott	Greswold Primary (Mosaic)	Absent
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)	Apologies
GOVERNORS OF PRIMARY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4)	Antoinette Fisher	Dorridge Primary (Rurals)	Present
GOVERNORS OF PRIMARY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4)	Donna Luck	Merstone School	Absent
GOVERNORS OF PRIMARY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4)	Paul Jackson	Castle Bromwich Junior School (North)	Absent
HEAD TEACHERS OF PRIMARY ACADEMIES (2)	Louise Minter	Streetsbrook I&EY Academy, (Synergy)	Present
HEAD TEACHERS OF PRIMARY ACADEMIES (2)	Jenny Godsall	Knowle CofE Primary (Rurals)	Apologies
HEAD TEACHERS OF PRIMARY ACADEMIES (2)	Ben Taylor	Our Lady of the Wayside (Evolve)	Absent
GOVERNORS OF PRIMARY ACADEMIES (2)	Lynda Mackay	Knowle CofE Primary (Rurals)	Present
SECONDARY ACADEMY MEMBERS (10 – principals [or representatives] or governors) Inc. AP Academy	Claire Smith (P)	Tudor Grange (Synergy)	Present
SECONDARY ACADEMY MEMBERS (10 – principals [or representatives] or governors) Inc. AP Academy	Charlotte Shadbolt (G)	Heart of England (Rurals)	Present
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	Stuart Shelton	St Peters RC (Synergy)	Absent
SECONDARY ACADEMY MEMBERS (10 – principals [or representatives] or governors) Inc. AP Academy	Clare Thorpe (HT)	Langley Secondary (Evolve)	Present
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	Apologies
REPRESENTATIVE OF SPECIALIST ACADEMIES (1)	Trevor Scott	Castlewood School	Absent
REPRESENTATIVE OF PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS (1)	Eleanor Clarke	Triple Crown Centre	Apologies
ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (3)	Councillor Annette McKenzie (Conservative)		Present
ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (3)	Councillor Michael Gough (Conservative)		Present
ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (3)	Councillor Karen Grinsell (Conservative)		Present
ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL	Councillor Samantha Gethen (Conservative)		Present
TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES (2)	David Lewis	TU Rep	Present
TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES (2)	Gareth Eastham	NASUWT	Apologies
TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES (2)	Gary Woodhouse (Substitute Member)	GMB	Absent
REPRESENTATIVES OF EARLY YEARS PVI SECTOR (2)	Gina Godwin	Whitesmore Neighbourhood Nursery (Wise Owls)	Present
REPRESENTATIVES OF EARLY YEARS PVI SECTOR (2)	Lisa Whitehouse	Tender Years	Present
REPRESENTATIVES OF POST-16 COLLEGES (2)	Lee Jamieson	Solihull College	Present
REPRESENTATIVES OF POST-16 COLLEGES (2)	Dr Martin Sullivan	Sixth Form College	Absent
OBSERVERS	Peter Davis	Diocesan Education Service (The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham)	Apologies
OBSERVERS	Sarah Smith	Education for Birmingham, The Church of England	Apologies
OBSERVERS	Matthew Godwin	Grace Academy	Present
OBSERVERS	Jane Davenport	NAHT	Present
Officers present:			
Acting DCS	Tim Browne		Present
Head of Commissioning for Learning	Steve Fenton		Present
School Place Planning Team Leader	Ann Pearson		Present
SMBC Senior Accountant	Verity Dixon		Present
Clerk	Suzanna Corrigan		Present
Lead Administrator	Emma Stoney		Present

Item	Minutes	Action
1.	<p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <p>1.1. Antoinette Fisher welcomed everyone to the meeting at 9:30 am, particularly all the councillors. Antoinette congratulated Councillor Michael Gough on retaining his position.</p> <p>1.2. Apologies received from: Andrew Best, Andrew Simms, Darren Gelder, Eleanor Clarke, Gareth Eastham, Jenny Godsall, John Mc Dermott, Lynn Clark, Richard Marshall, Sarah Smith and Stephen Steinhaus.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting (26.01.2023)</b></p> <p>2.1 Minutes agreed.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <p>3.1 Sharing of Action Plans and Peer to Peer reviews will be discussed in later reports.</p> <p>3.2 Ann Pearson is here to present the Demography Report.</p> <p>3.3 Early Years and Education underfunding to be discussed further with Councillor Michael Gough.</p> <p>3.4 Attendance issues, picked up at SSSAB.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Cabinet Member update – Councillor Michael Gough</b></p> <p>4.1 As it is a new democratic year, Councillor Gough has set out new priorities for the year. He has four main priorities.</p> <p>4.2 Priority One is the stabilisation of recruiting and retaining staff in Childrens' Services/Social Care. This is challenging nationally and due to Solihull's recent Ofsted report. Our ambition is to improve and deliver a better service.</p> <p>4.3 Priority Two is to improve the outcome for children and young people with SEND needs. Children only get one chance of childhood, so they deserve the support, in order to thrive. We need to ensure that we have sufficient resources to make this service work effectively. We will continue to work with our strategic partnerships with health and the police.</p> <p>4.4 Priority Three will be corporate parenting. Councillor Karen Grinsell will be leading on this.</p> <p>4.5 Priority Four is to improve social work practice. The Ofsted report identified areas for us to work on and improve. We must always be aware that the child is at the heart of everything that we do.</p> <p><b><u>Questions/comments</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Louise Minter echoed Councillor Gough's comments that we only have one chance to get it right. This is challenging with the significant underfunding which has an impact on school budgets. Louise stated that her school have spent so much on SEND and children with EHCPs that if it continues, her school will be in deficit next year. It is a vicious cycle and needs to be addressed by the government. Louise stated that her school had been successful in receiving a SIF bid for £100,000 for fencing around the school but not enough money for staffing. This really needs escalating as the only route to get additional funding is through EHCPs. The funding needs to be available when the child needs it - as this could actually prevent an EHCP being required which would help the situation we find ourselves in. We are setting these children up to fail. It is a back to front system.</li> <li>• Lisa Whitehouse stated that her nursery has seen a trend where parents of pupils with additional needs are deferring reception places, as the school cannot meet the needs of their child.</li> <li>• Gina Godwin echoed this and has raised this many times. Gina attended a SEND meeting earlier this week and they wanted it raised at Forum that there is a significant increase in SEND numbers. They can only get funding</li> </ul>	<p><b>CIlr KG</b></p>

	<p>after a graduated response which is a two-term wait. This has a knock-on effect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bernie Farkas stated that parents are now becoming more challenging regarding supporting their children in school. Her governors wrote to their MP, Julian Knight, and had a generic computer-generated response – which was disappointing and is not helpful or acceptable.</li> <li>• Antoinette Fisher stated that it was good to have the councillors present at Forum to hear this. As a group we are solution focused and it would be good to have this written down as evidence to put forward to Government.</li> <li>• Councillor Gough and Councillor Grinsell appreciated the comments made and it was agreed that a smaller group would get together with Councillor Gough and Councillor Grinsell to address this issue.</li> <li>• Jane Davenport also raised the issue of staff wellbeing. We should have a Health and Safety Governance and the numbers of staff being hurt in school needs to be brought to that. Substantial gains of staff being heard.</li> <li>• Councillor Gough agreed and stated that he would meet with Tim Browne to look at the data.</li> <li>• Lee Jamieson wanted clarity on Priority One. Is it due to a funding issue or a lack of skilled workforce issue?</li> <li>• Councillor Gough stated that it was a bit of both. Solihull is looking at creating a centre of excellence for staffing, to take local people from apprentice stage right through to front line social work.</li> <li>• Councillor Grinsell stated that it would be good for the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) to work with the college developing courses to fill vacancies, local jobs for local people.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr KG, Cllr MG</b></p> <p><b>Cllr MG, TB</b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Assistant Director for Education update - Tim Browne</b></p> <p>5.1 Tim Browne recognises the challenging environment at the moment, and certainly not enough funding is part of this.</p> <p>5.2 We are looking at the relationship with funding, behaviour and the impact of Covid.</p> <p>5.3 The demographic forecasts will also be a challenge for the Borough and will be discussed later in the meeting.</p> <p>5.4 If things don't change in five years' time, we are forecasting a significant deficit.</p> <p>5.5 At the Heads' Partnership it was discussed that the DfE are not expected to raise funding in the next few years.</p> <p>5.6 The DfE are pushing the inclusion agenda hard – funding for this is already difficult.</p> <p>5.7 Tim feels that there needs to be a national shift in this.</p> <p>5.8 The DfE is challenging us more regarding children with EHCPs – their view is that we have 13% too many children with EHCPs and 43% too many children in specialist provision – this is based on a comparison with our statistical neighbours.</p> <p>5.9 We had our free school bid refused – we are now trying to fund a 150-place special school in a different way.</p> <p>5.10 We are in the process of recruiting a new Chief Executive – interviews will be held in mid-June.</p> <p>5.11 We will have a new Assistant Director starting shortly in Children Social Care.</p> <p>5.12 There are lots of plans surrounding the Early Help Programme.</p> <p>5.13 We are looking at how we can support the Early Years further via a range of initiatives, as we are conscious that there has been an increase of 300% in EHCPs. We are unsure if we have reached the peak of these increases yet. In recognition of the additional pressures on schools, we have increased the top-up by 3.7%, with a further 3% increase pending linked to inclusivity.</p>	

5.14 The DfE has increased authority/system SEND monitoring visits to bi-monthly rather than quarterly, as they have significant concerns about pressure on places, inclusion and rates of exclusions.

**Questions/comments**

- David Lewis commented on the fact that this is treasury driven rather than education driven.
- Lisa Whitehouse welcomed Tim Browne’s support for Early Years.
- Gina Godwin felt blamed for the costing, but the issues are there. There are complex needs. Why is it happening?
- Tim Browne stated that we don’t fully understand what is driving the huge increase in early years complex needs children.
- But the evidence suggests growth in high needs and complexity generally is a national issue, as only three authorities nationally have not overspent in their High Needs budget, have no statement of action and are meeting the 20 week timeframe for EHCPs.
- Councillor Gough believes there is truth on both sides. A fix with early help before crisis point could reduce EHCP plans.
- Matthew Godwin pointed out that this trend happens at the beginning of every Key Stage. He also stated that due to lack of funding for staffing and retention, class sizes are becoming bigger - creating a vicious cycle. They have seen an increase in incidents where the police have been called. The funding is needed now as otherwise it will cost more in the long run.
- Clare Thorpe stated evidence from Langley School as they have the highest EHCPs in the borough (7%). The lack of funding has an impact on the other children and staff wellbeing. We are watching them fail before we can offer support.
- Claire Smith has noted the high number of permanent exclusions – no places for these children as the local authority provision for excluded pupils is full, so they are out of education.
- Lynda Mackay stated that exclusions are becoming more prevalent in primary schools as it is the only route that head teachers have.
- Louise Minter stated that there is also an issue with recruiting specialists such as Speech & Language Therapists and Education Psychologists.

**6. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Outturn – Verity Dixon**

- 6.1 The discussion in the previous items reflects in the out-turn figures.
- 6.2 Very little movement since the last Finance WG in January. Most are within the parameters set except for growth and High Needs Block.
- 6.3 We have had a three-year loan from the DfE to fund bulge classes. Not all was spent in 2022/23 - £841,000 surplus on pupil growth, relating to a DfE grant which will be spent in the summer.
- 6.4 There has been an increase in personal transport in the High Needs Block.
- 6.5 High Needs budget continues to increase with the annual deficit for 2022/23 £3.885 million, giving a cumulative deficit to £16.4 million.
- 6.6 The DfE have stated that local authorities will be unable to roll the deficit forward in two years’ time and it will be up to the council to fund the ongoing deficit.
- 6.7 A case scenario modelled by the Delivering Better Value programme is a £50 million deficit in five years’ time.
- 6.8 The modelling supports what everyone has been discussing. EHCPs has increased 16% this year and we forecast 8% increase next year. We can’t see yet what is happening in Early Years.
- 6.9 Compared to last year, the in-year deficit is lower when you take into account one off expenses.

	<p><b><u>Questions/comments</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antoinette noted how odd it is we don't flinch at these figures now.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Demography School Place Planning – Ann Pearson</b></p> <p>7.1 In relation to primary, the Government states that we should operate between 2% and 5% surplus places to allow mid-year flexibility. At the October census we were at 4% overall but this is masking a significant issue as it is not evenly spread. We have growing numbers in Reception and Year 2 and increased capacity in KS2. This is being driven by in-year migration.</p> <p>7.2 The current Reception year group is operating at an 8% surplus.</p> <p>7.3 There has been a real change in the demographic trend for 0-4 years. This usually grows between 8-10% but this year it has reduced to 0% and we have therefore lost this 8-10% growth. We are working with schools on this impact.</p> <p>7.4 We can see a decrease of 9% in the birth rate which will compound this problem.</p> <p>7.5 If this trend continues, we are looking at <b>500 empty Reception places by 2025</b>. We have flagged this now with schools and are working on how to manage that surplus.</p> <p>7.6 There is localised pressure in KS2 where we have had to put in bulge classes. Our current Year 2 is our biggest bulge year. This will be the 2027 Year 7 intake.</p> <p>7.7 Nationally Year 7 is the largest year group, and this had been planned for. We put in 600 permanent places to meet the bulge. We weren't able to plan for the last two years in-house migration which has happened at speed, could not be foreseen, and has caused pressures in the system - especially for Year 7.</p> <p>7.8 We are operating at 0% capacity across the board in secondary. We are not allowed to hold places. We are operating three Year 7 bulge classes.</p> <p>7.9 Every Solihull child has received an offer of a secondary place.</p> <p>7.10 Year 7 numbers between now and 2027 will fluctuate.</p> <p>7.11 We will continue to monitor and model but from 2028 onwards it looks like we will start to see those lower numbers predicted.</p> <p>7.12 In-year migration has been significant over the last two years: particularly overseas migration from Hong Kong. 1,400 Hong Kong children have been placed and a huge thank you to all our schools for accommodating this. Nicole Heatherington (School Admissions) also passes on her thanks.</p> <p>7.13 For September, we will be implementing: - bulge classes in Years 3, 4 &amp; 5; additional places in Year 6; three bulge classes in Year 7; and additional places in Years 8 &amp; 9.</p> <p>7.14 The drop-off in primary will be difficult but we may be able to use it for Early Years and SEND provisions.</p> <p>7.15 This information has been shared at Heads' Partnership, Solihull Governors, now Forum and we are happy to discuss further with schools if required.</p> <p><b><u>Questions/comments</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charlotte Shadbolt queried whether this report included house building, Yes it does.</li> <li>• Claire Smith aired her concerns about 6<sup>th</sup> Form and these bulge classes. She queried the forecast for 6<sup>th</sup> Form and not enough space being available in 6<sup>th</sup> Form for local children.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ann Pearson stated that it is tricky but needs to be factored in and recognised that we need to be better at focussing on 6<sup>th</sup> Form. It is work that is being worked on. We get growth funding for Reception to Year 11 only.</li> <li>• Lisa Whitehouse made a point that families will be entitled to 15 free hours of childcare from September. This will cause further increases in demand and parents unable to get childcare for their children. Lisa is concerned that with this increase in demand, the quality will suffer.</li> <li>• Steve Fenton stated that there are a number of things that we still do not know and Forum will need to consider these in due course.</li> <li>• Antoinette Fisher queried if the bulge classes are mainly for local children. She also thanked all the schools for supporting the council in this, as we are solution focused.</li> <li>• Ann Pearson stated that this is not always the case and children have to travel: sometimes siblings are attending different schools. There is an admission code that we have to lawfully follow.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>National Funding Formula 2024-25 – Steve Fenton</b></p> <p>8.1 The Government released the National Funding Formula document in April 2023.</p> <p>8.2 The body of the report gives the key headlines but there is a six-page appendix with further detail.</p> <p>8.3 The Government completion of full National Funding Formula is due in April 2027. This document sets out the next steps from April 2024.</p> <p>8.4 There are a few areas which impact on Solihull. The first being SEND. There are three major areas. They allow scope for budget transfer from Schools Block to the High Needs Block with the consultation of all schools, Schools Forum and if needs be the Secretary of State.</p> <p>8.5 Our High Needs Block goes past £750,000 so currently the Council has no plans to seek a transfer. Our problems are more systemic, as our Delivering Better Value work shows.</p> <p>8.6 Steve’s view is that as the funding is seen as a one-off. The only merit in seeking a top slice is if it was requested by Forum - for example if forum saw merit in collectively funding, for example a particular training programme.</p> <p>8.7 The harsh reality is that no public body can keep spending money it hasn’t got - no matter what the reason.</p> <p>8.8 Under the National Standards for SEN, the government are looking at developing a National Notional SEN budget. Steve’s view is that they could move much more quickly on this, as most other authorities are now closely emulating the NFF. Steve will pick this up over the summer and emulate the national guidance as closely as possible.</p> <p>8.9 Steve will build a model - operating on the basis that it doesn’t change the actual funding schools receive - it’s just the signal on how much funding is available notionally for governors. Steve will bring this model to Forum in the Autumn.</p> <p>8.10 Growth and falling roles: very topical in Solihull. It is positive that we have flexibility and they do not just take an average over an area – they take specific areas and consider growth and reduction in pupil numbers separately.</p> <p>8.11 Point 3.6.6 in the report states that growth fund will be allowed to be re-purposed into SEN set up of new school-based provisions (e.g. additional resourced units).</p> <p>8.12 In relation to falling roles, contingency funding could only be considered if a school faces a temporary reduction and the LA could demonstrate demography would add numbers back quite quickly.</p> <p>8.13 Forum’s view and unanimously of heads, traditionally is a historic reluctance to fund schools with falling roles, because the funding has to be top-sliced from all other schools.</p>	<p>SF</p> <p>SF</p>

	<p>8.14 Split sites: only Valley School is on a split site which will qualify for the new criteria in April 2024, but it will be less than our current factor of £100,000. However, the minimum funding guarantee will offer protection.</p> <p>8.15 We are there with the National Funding Formula bar a few marginal and technical things.</p> <p>8.16 Schools Forum need to come back in the Autumn regarding Notional SEN budget and by the end of the year with Growth Fund.</p> <p><b><u>Questions/comments</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antoinette Fisher commented that there were no surprises with the government approach.</li> <li>• Steve stated Early Years is not mentioned and how their funding is worked out. If they don't get the hourly rates in Early Years right, it will be a challenge for all providers.</li> <li>• Gina Godwin noted that the local MP was visiting her setting tomorrow and that she would be discussing the funding with them.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>Peer Review &amp; Developing Better Value (DBV) - Tim Browne</b></p> <p>9.1 We have been 'invited' to join the Delivering Better Value programme. Part of this included doing 'Deep Dives' into specific areas.</p> <p>9.2 Over the next five years if we don't do anything, we will see a cumulative deficit of £81 million and a £50 million pound spend.</p> <p>9.3 SEMH increase. EHCP increase and demand over 40%. 300% increase in EHCPs for under 5s. Lower number of EHCPs in mainstream (8-10%).</p> <p>9.4 Shortage of specialist places. When placed in independent settings, this cost is typically twice that of a state funded school.</p> <p>9.5 From our deep dive we found that 76% of EHCPs were required: 24% were not.</p> <p>9.6 We have been successful in £1 million bid to support schools in training for improve the confidence and capability of schools to meet the needs of pupils with more complex needs.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Work Group reports:</b></p> <p><b>a) Finance Group 03-05-23 - David Lewis</b></p> <p>10a.1 We have discussed most things that were brought up at the Finance WG meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.</p> <p>10a.2 We currently have 152 students out of borough - at an average cost of £46,000 each and transport costs of £92,000 for all.</p> <p>10a.3 We have a new special school opening for September: The Heights. This will still not cover the needs of the borough. We are aware we will never have capacity for all these complex cases and due to this will always have children going out of borough.</p> <p>10a.4 Early Years inclusion was allocated a budget of £426,000. This overspent for the first time last year. Early Years inclusion funding means settings do not have to complete a EHCP process before funding can be released.</p> <p>10a.5 There has been an 300% increase in EHCPs in this sector.</p> <p>10a.6 The Early Years Team have been invited back to Finance WG next year to discuss the wider impact of Early Years.</p> <p>10a.7 Tim Browne made the point that a number of these cases can end up in tribunal (95% which LAs lose). We have recently found that where the school backs us up, we have a better success rate. In the last month we have won four or five cases. Tim shared a recent case where a child was sent to an independent school at the cost of £200,000 (this is rising to £250,000). Could this money have been better spent supporting the child in a different way? Councillor Karen Grinsell wants to support these tribunals as the cost is astronomical. Antoinette Fisher stated that a lack of</p>	

	<p>Educational Psychologists has also hampered both these tribunals and the system generally.</p> <p>10a.8 Charlotte Shadbolt queried whether the school could get even a percentage of this funding to support the child? There is a huge disparity in costs. Even if a tiny proportion of this funding came into schools, they would have more capacity to support in tribunals.</p> <p>10a.9 Lisa Whitehouse stated that for Level 1 children, they receive £1 per hour per child. This is a very small amount of money in comparison to the £200,000 discussed.</p> <p>10a.10 Louise Minter stated that we need to turn the system on its head so that when we need the money, it is available. We are setting the children up to fail.</p> <p>10a.11 Councillor Gough stated that the specific of this recent case needs to be discussed further.</p> <p><b>b) SSSAB (Solihull Schools Strategic Accountability Board) &amp; Head Teachers Conference – Louis Minter (verbal report)</b></p> <p>10b.1 The last SSSAB meeting was held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April. The next one is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>10b.2 We had a number of updates from the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) and Educational Psychology (Ed Psych) service, who have been trialling a really good project supporting SENDCo: this is to be rolled out into schools.</p> <p>10b.3 In relation to Ed Psych, there are two task and finish sub-groups as of September: School Improvement and Inclusion.</p> <p>10b.4 SSSAB will focus on school improvement in September looking at end of year data and what the priorities are.</p> <p>10b.5 Inclusion is massive in schools: specifically around SEND. A small group have trialled an inclusion audit and this is now being rolled out to all settings.</p> <p>10b.6 Another group will look at the Inclusion strategy actions in schools.</p> <p>10b.7 Headteacher Partnership in January will focus on Inclusion, diversity and equality.</p> <p>10b.8 We had updates on supporting families.</p> <p>10b.9 HR updates. Mainstream schools still find the Oracle system challenging. Bernie Farkas stated that business managers have been supporting one another and her business manager has since handed her notice in. Verity Dixon stated that a lot is being done on the ground to help with this and some mainstream schools are running manually. Antoinette Fisher thanked everyone for the work being done.</p> <p>10b.10 Early Help Offer: we have further discussion on this in June.</p> <p>10c.11 We had an update on the family hubs.</p>	<p>Cllr MG, Cllr KG, TB</p>
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>11.1 Councillor Karen Grinsell mentioned that within the Integrated Care System partnership, there is Fairer Future Funding where working with the voluntary community sector, you can receive a grant up to £10,000. This is something worth exploring with schools. A press release has just been released and we should share this. Antoinette agreed and thought it is worth exploring and should be brought up at the next SSSAB and published in Headlines.</p> <p>11.2 The next Forum meeting clashes with Heads' Partnership on 13<sup>th</sup> July. SSSAB to discuss the date further, as Heads' partnership might only need to be for half a day.</p> <p>11.3 Date to be confirmed after SSSAB meeting (15<sup>th</sup> June).</p> <p>11.4 Antoinette Fisher thanked all for attending and presenting.</p> <p>11.5 Meeting closed at 11:02am.</p>	<p>Cllr KG/AF/ SC</p> <p>LM/AF</p>

**12. Dates of future meetings:**

Schools Forum

Thursday, 13 July 2023 TBC

Room 1 Civic Suite

DRAFT