

DRAFT MINUTES- MEETING OF THE SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM (SFF)

8:00 – 11:00, 16 September 2016

John Wigan Room, Oakwood House, Oakwood Park, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8AE

Present: John Dennis (Chairperson), Phil Sayer (Vice Chairperson), Janice Brooke, David Whitehead, Alison Coppitters, Lynda Downes, Mikala Jeffrey, Michael Blanning, Michael Powis, Tracey McCartney, Roger Gough (Member), Patrick Leeson, Simon Pleace, Ian Hamilton (Clerk).

Apologies: Rosemary Joyce, Alex Tear, David Stanley, Ben Cooper, Robert Masters, , Peggy Murphy, Richard Powell, Louise Burgess, John Bird, Ceranne Litton, Neil Willis, Mike Smith, Andrew Flower.

1.	<p>Minutes of the SFF meeting held on 8 July 2016</p> <p>Two items were raised by members of the SFF in respect of the accuracy of the minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Michael Powis - requested that it be noted that he is representing Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership and not Simon Stock Catholic School.- Alison Coppitters noted that the minutes did not include members that had been re-elected to the SFF as part of the recent elections. <p>With the exception of the two points above the SFF minutes for the 8 July were ratified as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The final version of the minutes on KELSI now reflects these changes, which can be accessed via the following link: minutes 8 July.</p> <p>Matters arising</p> <p>One election for the final position representing academies on the SFF had taken place since the last SFF on the 8 July and Andrew Fowler (Headteacher) at Dane Court Grammar School was successful and has duly been elected to this position</p>	
2.	<p>Schools Capital Group (SCG) –Terms of Reference</p> <p>Phil Sayer (PS) introduced this item to the group. At an early point in the discussions Patrick Leeson (PL) updated SFF members on the current context of schools capital funding. The majority of the capital programme is now all spent on Basic Need which is informed by the Kent School Commissioning Plan (SCP).</p>	

	<p>This meant that, whereas historically the SCG had a role in advising the LA on the targeting of funding, it was now very much a default position that all available capital funding is used for Basic Need.</p> <p>On this basis PL felt that the SFF should consider whether the continuation of the SCG was warranted.</p> <p>John Dennis in the main agreed with this recommendation to disband the SCG, however he requested that regular updates on the SCP was provided to the SFF and also that the SFF instead of the SCG would now be the point of contact if a school had a special capital issue that in the past would have been directed to the SCG.</p> <p>Keith Abbott (Director of Planning and Access) is invited to the next SFF meeting the 9 December to provide members of the group with an update on the Kent's SCP.</p> <p>PS requested that the dissolution of the SCG in communicated to members of the group. This request was agreed and a letter will now be sent out to members of the SCG thanking them for their service.</p>	Ian Hamilton
3.	<p>Early Years National Funding Formula Consultation.</p> <p>This item was split into two parts; the first was a presentation by Simon Pleace (SP) that detailed the proposed changes and the implications for Kent from the DfE consultation. To view the presentation and paper for this item click on this link.</p> <p>The second part of this item was for the group to formulate its response to the consultation. An initial response had been prepared and circulated to members of the group prior to the meeting. SP took the members of the group through this response and some changes were made as a result of the discussions. The consultation document was then updated with these changes and a final response on behalf of the Local Authority and the SFF was agreed. To access the contents of the Early Years Consultation response, click on Early Years Consultation response.</p> <p>A member of the SFF asked the general question if more could be done through additional communication channels in order to raise the profile of certain aspects of the consultation. This suggestion received a lot of interest and support from the group. One avenue of communication to be explored is the feasibility of sending a letter to Kent MPs highlighting the implications of the reforms to Early Years settings in Kent.</p>	Roger Gough and Simon Pleace
4.	Update on 2017-18 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	

	<p>Simon Pleace presented this item to the SFF. At the last SFF meeting on the 8 July the expectation was that the Department for Education (DfE) would shortly release the second phase of the schools funding consultation. This unfortunately was not the case and the proposed changes in the first phase of the consultation have now been put on hold until 2018-19.</p> <p>During August, SP circulated a briefing note to members of the SFF updating them on revised schedule of change announced by the DfE and the purpose of this item was to refresh the group on the detail of this document.</p>													
	<p>AOB</p> <p>SFF members were reminded that the next SFF meeting was on the 9th December and this included lunch directly after the meeting.</p>													
	<p>SFF meetings – Academic Year September 2017 to August 2017</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th><th>Timings</th><th>Venue</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9 December 2016</td><td>8:00 to 12:00</td><td>Oakwood House</td></tr> <tr> <td>28 April 2017</td><td>8:00 to 12:00</td><td>Oakwood House</td></tr> <tr> <td>30 June 2017</td><td>8:00 to 12:00</td><td>Oakwood House</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Timings	Venue	9 December 2016	8:00 to 12:00	Oakwood House	28 April 2017	8:00 to 12:00	Oakwood House	30 June 2017	8:00 to 12:00	Oakwood House	
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