

Email from Alan Brookes, Chair of KAH received on 19 March 2019

KAH Executive met on Tuesday and have agreed the following response to your email. I hope that it adequately covers all the points raised but do come back to me should further clarification be required:

- *This would definitely be the last time that the SFF would consider a request from KAH for collaboration funding.*

We are disappointed that the forum wishes to definitively rule out any further conversations in the future regarding KAH as we believe that our work is of value to all schools and will become increasingly important in the coming years. This having been said, we are grateful for the clarity of the position and will plan the future accordingly.

- *That the KAH would develop a subscription or other model with schools that would make KAH and the collaborations it supports self-sustaining and share that plan with the SFF*

KAH is currently involved in exploring other funding streams that would ensure self sufficiency and obviate any need to submit further requests to the forum. These include scheduled meetings with the Department for Education School Improvement Team, recently held discussions with the leader of the council and a planned approach to the Education Endowment Foundation. We will continue to revisit the subscription model but currently believe that this would significantly damage the inclusivity of the association and our role in bringing coherence and cohesion across the county. There have been brief conversations regarding the possibility of implementing a charge for aspects of our school improvement work but we are reluctant to pursue this route for fear that this would result in KAH entering into competition with the Education People rather than providing brokerage which enables TEP to maximise their operation

- *That the KAH would provide SFF with a detailed breakdown of how the £100k funding would be used*

The key priorities of KAH are to provide a voice for all Kent Heads both nationally and within the county, to facilitate school improvement work in its widest sense, to improve recruitment and retention and leadership development and to achieve coherence across the system. Conversations are taking place regarding the co-construction and delivery of educational priorities with the local authority (Matt Dunkley and Paul Carter) in order to address perceived needs throughout the sector. Although much of this work is carried out by headteachers on a voluntary basis, there is a need for additional capacity and the £100,000 will therefore be allocated as follows:

- £70,000 for delivery of jointly agreed area and county wide school improvement priorities, including allocation of funding to improvement projects led by schools and creation of professional capacity for KAH to facilitate these projects. Whilst 19/20 priorities are yet to be finally established, they are likely to build on this year's area and countywide projects encompassing underperformance of boys at KS4, transition, closing the gap for vulnerable students at KS4, primary literacy / phonics alongside a particular focus on improving provision and outcomes for SEND students at all key stages
- £15,000 for work on recruitment and retention
- £15,000 on delivery of leadership strategy, including headteacher induction, KLE recruitment and deployment

Kind regards
Alan