# Schools’ Funding Forum (SFF)

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| subject: | Schools’ Funding Forum Guidance & Elections  |

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| date: | 17 September 2020 |

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| summary OF REPORT:This report seeks agreement from the Schools’ Funding Forum (SFF) for an adjustment to its guidance document and membership.To inform the SFF of the pending membership elections and appointments. |
| FOR: | Decision and Information |

1. **Guidance Document**

* 1. The current terms and conditions of the SFF does not stipulate the number of seats a single school or Academy Trust may hold. This means the same school or Academy Trust could potentially seek to hold multiple seats on the Forum which could have a possible negative effect on the overall representation of all schools and academies across the county. This was raised at a previous SFF meeting where it was agreed it would be reviewed.
	2. The authority has sought confirmation from the ESFA that it would be permissible to change the regulations of this Forum to prohibit this possibility and such confirmation has been received.
	3. Appendix 1 highlights the change to the Kent School Funding Forum Guidance document (paragraph 3.2 and 3.3) to reflect the limitation that only one representative can hold a seat on the SFF from any individual school or academy trust.
1. **Additional School Funding Forum Seat**

2.1 The [Schools forums structure](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740722/Schools_forums_structure.docx.pdf) document published by the ESFA places a requirement on this forum to have a member for alternative provision academies if such academies exist within its remit

2.2 On the 1st September 2020 the North West Kent Alternative Provision Service converted to academy status. This results in the need to create an appropriate seat on this forum.

1. **Pending Elections**

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| **Group Representing**  |  **Number of vacant positions**  |
| Maintained Primary School | 1 |
| LA Representative | 1 |
| Academies and Free Schools | 1 |
| AP Academy | 1 |
| TOTAL | 4 |

* 1. As detailed in the above table and taking note of the previous item there are now a number of vacancies on this forum.
	2. The authority will make arrangements in accordance with the Kent School Funding Forum Guidance to fill these vacancies.
	3. It is envisaged that there will be elections for the maintained primary school seat and the academy and free school seat.
	4. As there is only one eligible academy to fill an alternative provision academy seat, the authority will approach the relevant trust to discuss an appointment.
	5. Further arrangements will be made to appoint a LA representative member.
	6. It is hoped that all necessary arrangements to fill the vacancies can be completed in time for the next meeting.
1. **Recommendation**

4.1 It is recommended that the SFF adopt the amended Kent School Funding Forum Guidance document by means of a formal vote.

4.2 It is recommended that the SFF acknowledge the requirement to create an alternative provision academy seat.

4.3 It is recommended that the SFF acknowledge the intention of the authority to make the necessary arrangements to fill current vacancies.