



Derby City Council

School Forum
17 October 2023
4.30pm – 6pm
Via Teams

Present			
	Paula Baines-Chambers	Primary Academy	
	Jenny Brown	Derby Cathedral School	
	Janet Bowzler	DCC, Finance	
	Nicole Caley	Secondary Head	
	Cheryl Fearn	Union Rep Observer	
	Adey Greaves	School Business Manager	
	Janice Hadfield	DCC, Finance	
	Wendy Hardy	Union Rep	
	Sabrina Hobbs	Secondary Head	
	Scott McGregor	Secondary Head	
	Paula Nightingale	DCC, Peoples Services	
	Karen Phillips	Governor Rep	
	Mike Pride	Chair, Respect Schools	
	Andy Smith	DCC, Peoples Services	
	Cllr John Whitby	Cabinet Member for CYP	
Apologies		None	
			Who
1	Minutes of the last meeting		
	<p>WH queried Item 4, this will progress once the new Director of Learning, inclusion and Skills starts.</p> <p>AS added that the Deficit Management Recovery Plan has been signed off by DfE and cabinet and is still progressing. Meetings will be set up once the new Director of Learning and Skills starts on 6 November 2023, and she will be attending the next School Forum.</p> <p>The minutes were taken as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>		
2	School Forum Presentation		
	<p>JH gave a presentation on roles and responsibilities of School Forum member (attached).</p> <p>The nursery rep left over the summer. JH asked if all members could reach out for a replacement and to please pass on any suggestions to JH/MP/SL.</p> <p>WH thanked JH for the presentation but still finding it difficult to understand. JH or JB to have an individual meeting with WH to help and go through the slides. WH to arrange.</p>	All	WH

3	Scheme for Fundings Schools' Update		
	<p>Each Local Authority has a legal framework, and any changes to the School Forum has to be updated in the document.</p> <p>There are two changes to job titles which have been updated for Andy Smith and Alison Parkin. School Forum acknowledge this and MP asked if it would be possible for any changes to be made by track changes so it is easily to pinpoint them. JH happy to do this.</p>		
4	DSG Quarter 2 Finance Report		
	<p>The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ring-fenced grant. Regulations allow any underspends or overspends to be carried forward and dealt with as part of the budget setting process for the following financial year. This report is to give account on the 2023-24 financial position forecasting to the end of the financial year March 2024.</p> <p>Recommendations to note:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forecast outturn position for 23/24, the current forecast is predicting an unprecedented and increasing in year deficit position of £11.529m • The implications for the 23/24 DSG reserve in section 4.0 which is predicting a cumulative DSG deficit position of £15.972m • The requirement of the Deficit Management Recovery Plan in Section 5.0 <p>JH picked up on points in the report:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1 recaps the values of the DSG and confirms the forecast deficit at £11.529m against an initial unmitigated deficit budget set of £12.225m. On track for the unmitigated forecast but need to work towards the mitigated plan. • 3.2 this point goes through the pressures that are affecting the High Needs Block and the deficit position, part of the budget is set at £12.225m, this includes a contingency for growth and demand of £5.514m. As at quarter 2 £4.797m of the contingency is committed, leaving a variance of £0.717m. • The table shows the demand for EHCP continue to rise at an average of 65 new requests each month (an increase from 40 in 22/23). Currently our team are processing 366 open EHCP assessments. Of these 107 are more than 20 weeks old. The second chart shows increasing month on month as demand increases. • 3.3 sets out additional support top up funding for mainstream schools 23/24 was set at £7.06m. This is currently showing a pressure of over £3m due to an increase in EHCP funding. As at August 600 mainstream pupils are receiving top up funding, 		

	<p>the current cost of an E3 remains just over £11k, which has ramped up over the last few years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underspend of £0.394m is showing due to the delay in the implementation of the HUB and Spoke model, but will be committed once underway. • Out of area placements has increased to just under 800k. Current records show that in August 2023 there are 405 OOA placements this is a reduction from 22/23 of 66 placements. The annual average placement fee has increased by 26.87% for out of area Maintained and Academy schools and 18.67% for independent schools from 2022/23. • Expanding use of personal budgets forecast a pressure of £200k Speech and Language is forecast as a small underspend of £69k. • 5. Recaps over the Deficit Management Recovery Plan, this is a requirement for all authorities to have a plan in place. This plan was agreed at Derby City Councils Cabinet meeting in June 2023. The SEND Strategy through its transformational workstreams will impact on delivering a sustainable system with better outcomes and increased parental confidence, and without the plans Derby's unmitigated deficit would be significantly higher. This is in the context of a national SEND system that is under unprecedented pressure with the overspend on the high needs block forecast to hit the £3bn mark by the end of the financial year. • MP wanted it noted that the HUB and Spoke which is planned for January will be delayed, not through the willingness of schools as 47 schools have signed up, but there are some blockers from the Local Authority, this needs to be moved on as it will be seriously detrimental to young people. AS agreed the HUB and Spoke is critical for the Deficit Management Recovery Plan and if there are areas that are stuck which sit with the LA then these need to be picked up and unblocked, and thanked MP for raising this. • MP also mentioned school environments are very challenging and there have been 11 permanent exclusions in the last 2 weeks and dynamics are changing. 		
5	Any Other Business None		

Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 5 December 2023, 4.30pm start, Teams