



Northumberland County Council

Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group

Education and Skills Service

Meeting: Formula Funding Sub Committee of the Schools Forum
Date: 01/11/2022
Time: 9.30am
Venue: Virtual Teams Meeting

<p>Present: Bruce Parvin (Education & Skills Business Manager) Ben Watson (Business Manager Seaton Valley Federation) Graeme Atkins (Headteacher QEHS)</p>	<p>Mike Finlay (Head of Inclusive Education Services) Darren Warburton (Director of Finance Bede Academy) Graham Wilkins (Governor at St Wilfrid's RC Primary School)</p>
--	--

Notes Lisa Headington

Start time: 9.30am		Action:
1.	Welcome And Introductions: Ben Watson to Chair today's meeting.	
2.	In Attendance: As above	
3.	Apologies For Absence Colin Pearson and Mike Deane-Hall.	
4.	Membership And Membership Update No update on Membership given. BP confirmed that the quorum for Schools Forum is 40% and would be above that for the subcommittee so has no concerns about that.	
5.	Declaration Of Personal Or Pecuniary Interest In Any Agenda Item No declaration of pecuniary interest declared by members.	
6.	Minutes And Matters Arising Minutes have been previously shared. Items were subsequently agreed at the 17 November 2021 School Forum meeting, for example in relation to the Falling Rolls Fund and Mobility factor for 2022/2023. Members will recall following the decision of the School's Forum, we introduced the mobility factor of 50% at the national funding value with an intention to move to the full value from 2023/24, subject to affordability. We introduced a very small falling rolls fund of £25,000. The key thing about the falling rolls fund is that it should be temporary, and the school capacity is still required in the medium term. We haven't had any applications to the falling roles fund yet.	



Northumberland County Council

	<p><i>All agreed true record of the meeting held on 3rd November 2021.</i></p>	
7.	<p>ESFA School Funding 2023/24 Operational Guide Presentation</p> <p>BP shared an ESFA presentation highlighting the key issues for consideration for 2023/24.</p> <p>The FFC were reminded that their delegated role was to advise School Forum on the most appropriate way to distribute the DSG in 2023/24. It was highlighted that schools funding was increasing by 1.9% per pupil compared to 22/23, which didn't match inflationary pressures. A reminder that the meeting is about the distribution of the DSG for 23/24. Following consultation with Schools Forum, a consultation will be held with Schools during December, to inform the report to go to Cabinet in January, prior to the ESFA deadline of 20th January 2023. The Cabinet report recommendations seek delegated powers to the Interim Director, Children's Services and Service Director, Education i.e., Audrey to set the final formula figures, once the overall funding available is received in December.</p> <p>Discussions took place in relation to some of the details, and in particular the impact of the narrowing of the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) rates. Further information was requested for School Forum in respect of this.</p> <p>Minimum Per Pupil Funding It was highlighted that Schools in receipt of MPPF would receive only a 0.5% increase as dictated by the increase in MPPF levels. For 2022/23, there were 23 schools within Northumberland, who received funding via this mechanism.</p> <p>Transfers between Blocks The FFC asked if no transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block would be requested this year in light of the overall surplus reported to July's School Forum. BP indicated that he was not in a position to make that decision, but it should be noted that any decision should not be taken as setting a precedent as there were a number of significant costs pressures with increasing numbers and the need to fund the new Gilbert Ward Free School opening in September 2023.</p> <p>Capping and scaling continues to be an option in order to balance the overall distribution, but this was seen as a "tool of last resort", and we should be working towards reducing its influence, so schools kept more of their NFF gains</p>	BP



Northumberland County Council

	<p><i>It was agreed BP to share an abridged version of the presentation with the wider Schools Forum and that the Schools Forum report would include information in relation to the differing impact of MFG at 0% and 0.5%.</i></p>	
8.	<p>2022-23 Local Authority Funding Formula Data</p> <p>BP shared an Excel file and an accompanying ESFA document with members on the funding formula values for last year. In practice previously information was compared with the 12 NE authorities plus Cumbria as a near neighbour.</p> <p>BP highlighted some of the key factors. All authorities are generally far closer to National Funding Formula (NFF) levels than was the case previously. The vast majority of authorities are now at national funding formula for primary, key stage 3 and key stage 4 AWPU. respectively.</p> <p>Free school meals – All but two authorities are using the national funding formula factors.</p> <p>Mobility – All LAs now have a mobility element, we introduced ours at half of the NFF figures for 2022/23.</p> <p>Low Prior Attainment - is largely in line with the exception of Sunderland, who have a lower value</p> <p>Lump sum - Everybody is in line except for Newcastle and Stockton.</p> <p>Sparsity - We are in line with NFF, and this is more significant for us than for most other NE authorities, Durham and Cumbria also have significant sparsity funding.</p> <p>Growth Fund - Northumberland has redistributed much of the growth fund element through the main funding formula, this may not always be possible It was highlighted that several other authorities had higher figures set aside for potential growth. Northumberland's element continues to be reviewed according to anticipated need,</p> <p>Falling Rolls fund - £25,000 was set aside last year, no applications have yet been made in respect of this and the general feeling of FFC is that no additional provision should be made in 2023/24.</p>	
9.	<p>2023-24 NFF And School Funding Update</p>	



Northumberland County Council

	<p>A draft School Forum report was shared with members to provide further additional information in respect of the continuing implementation of the National Funding Formula, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and associated 2023/24 Schools Funding information. This includes formal consultation with Schools Forum in relation to funding for 2023/24.</p> <p>FFC was reminded that when considering the respective formula values for 2022/23 and 2023/24, the 2023/24 figures now included the School Supplementary Grant (SSG) paid separately in 2022/23.</p> <p>BP reminded FFC that any figures at this stage could only be based on October 2021 data and were subject to change when the October 2022 School Census data was available and incorporated into the 2023/24 APT Funding tool.</p> <p>On behalf of Colin Pearson, BW raised a couple of issues, pointing out mobility had been incorporated into the formula and suggesting we no longer needed to consult on it, and seeking clarification in relation to any potential block transfers.</p>	
10.	<p>Any Other Business No further business discussed.</p>	
<p>End: 10.30am</p> <p>Date and Time of Next Meeting: To be confirmed</p>		