

Southend Education Board (EB), Resources Sub Group (RSG)

9th June 2020, 4.15-6.00, (held virtually on-line through MS teams)

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting

| Membership of the sub group for Resources | (nominations received) representation |
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| 3 nominations from the Education Board (Headteacher/governor) | Robin Bevan (secondary) CHAIR Maurice Sweeting (SECAT, governor) Stuart Reynolds (secondary, head teacher) |
| 4 other members nominated from the four associations | Nick Booth (primary) Vacancy Jackie Mullan (special) Anthony McGarel (governor) |
| 1 school business manager nominated from the RSG | Simon Oxenham (SHSB) |
| Council Officer representation as required for the papers | Paul Grout (Senior Finance Business Partner) Gary Bloom (Head of SEND) Christine Hickey (School Finance Service Manager) Cathy Braun (Head of Access and Inclusion) cc. Elaine Hammans (Head of Early Years) Brin Martin (Director of Learning) |

| Time | Agenda item | Decision? Action |
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| 4.15 | Membership Apologies And council officer representation as required for papers Officers present: Paul Grout Gary Bloom Cathy Braun Christine Hickey | Nick Booth and Maurice Sweeting were not present at the meeting. Action: Robin to write to both members to confirm their intended absence. (Subsequent action note – this action has been completed) |
| | Membership Vacancies | 1 current vacancy Anthony informed the group this is his last meeting as a governor chair representative but would be happy to continue in his capacity as a Post 16 representative if allowable. Action: Robin to confirm with the Education Board clerk allowable |

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| | | <p>membership of the RSG group.</p> <p>(subsequent action note) – above action complete and the EB clerk responded, “that aside from the 3 RSG Education Board nominated representatives, the RSG is free to elect its own members as it sees fit to best serve the required composition of this group”.</p> <p>Action: Therefore any remaining vacancies on the RSG group and required representation will be discussed as an Agenda item at the next RSG in October.</p> |
| 4.20 | Minutes of the last meeting 03.12.19 | No amendments. Minutes agreed and now Final |
| 4.25 | <p>DSG final outturn 2019/20</p> <p>DRAFT EB Paper and Appendices supplied ahead of the meeting</p> <p>Officer Lead: Paul Grout</p> | <p>Revised paper actions agreed following group discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Para 4.10, remove the first sentence “it therefore continues to remain minded”. 2. Para 4.12, make clear that special school top up rates have also been frozen over the last 3 years. 3. Para 4.14, articulate the actual value of the 2018/19 late credits received in 2019/20. 4. Para 5.1, add a % representation of the total DSG reserve balances compared to the total 2019/20 DSG grant allocation. <p>The paper was acknowledged as a clear and straight forward paper to take through to the Education board.</p> <p>Key discussion items only for noting:</p> <p>A question / clarification point was raised as to whether DSG early years funding would be reduced in relation to the impacts of Covid-19 and any furloughed staff.</p> |

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| | | <p>Paul responded that at this time, the Department for Education have continued to agree to honour the full and original expected amount of DSG funds for early years providers. And the correct and right approach by the Local Authority was to continue to honour and agree that funding passported through to providers at the expected rates. The DfE have however provided flexibility to re-distribute DSG child care funding between settings due to key worker / vulnerable children etc., i.e., if there usual setting has closed and are therefore receiving child care from another setting. This is therefore the risk for a particular setting that there DSG funding may be reduced if that funding has been transferred to another setting to support that particular child.</p> <p>A further point was raised by the group, that indeed Early Years providers in general are financially vulnerable at this time due to loss of private income. There are also only allowed to furlough staff where the majority (a particular threshold) of their income is from private payers.</p> |
| 4.45 | <p>DSG High Need detailed budget allocations 2020/21</p> <p>DRAFT EB Paper and Appendices supplied ahead of the meeting</p> <p>Officer Lead: Paul Grout</p> <p>In consultation with: Gary Bloom Cathy Braun</p> | <p>Revised paper actions agreed following group discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Section 10.3, to include a Para. in relation to other comparable local authority approaches to supporting the SEND team with financial contributions from high needs. <p>The paper was acknowledged as a clear proposal paper to take through to the Education board.</p> <p>Key discussion items only for noting:</p> <p>What was the basis for the proposed 4% uplifts and does that allow head room within the allocations.</p> |

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| | | <p>Paul responded that the 4% was based on a balanced modelling view of the following: considering no uplifts have been awarded on special school / enhanced mainstream unit top up rates for last 3 years (due to the needs to contain spend levels), affordability to the now high needs block in 2020/21, and head room for the full year effect of those increases alongside any further placements.</p> |
| <p>5.35</p> | <p>2018/19 Southend Academy School year end balances and 2019/20 Maintained School year end balances. (RSG discussion item only)</p> <p>Tables supplied ahead of the meeting</p> <p>Officer Lead: Christine Hickey</p> | <p>Points for noting through to Education Board seeking agreement to raise through to the ESFA:</p> <p>And for noting Academy and Maintained schools balances are publicly available information. the supplied RSG table simply pulls the information to a very helpful summary overview.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2 multi academy trusts “Learning in Harmony” and “Partnership Learning” have shown all individual schools balances within those trust as £1,000 only. It is a legal accounting requirement to show individual balances for each school. 2. The deficit balances were noted in relation to “Challenger Multi Academy Trust” and “Parallel Learning Trust”. <p>It is therefore a recommendation that the Education Board agree to write to the ESFA to seek clarification regarding the balances held on behalf of these Southend schools, and that these trusts are being worked with and supported to ensure the continuity and quality of provision for our Southend children.</p> <p>Key discussion items only for noting:</p> <p>Pleasing that Maintained school balances overall are now in a more comfortable position than the previous year, although some still remain with small level of reserve balances.</p> |

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| 5.50 | <p>Early Consideration to DfE central block funding reduction for 2021/22 (RSG discussion item only)</p> <p>Part 2 – Appendix supplied ahead of the meeting</p> <p>Officer Lead: Paul Grout</p> | <p>Paul advised that at this time there are no further proposals to bring to the attention of the EB in relation to this matter. (a part 2 confidential matter)</p> <p>And that we await confirmation from the DfE that this funding provision will be further decreased by the anticipated 20% from 21/22. (bringing the total reduction to 40%). This will then also allow further informed planning too commence. It remains expected this information will be released by the DfE in July 20, alongside considerations to DSG budget planning for 2021/22 and will therefore will be brought back to the attention of the RSG and EB in October.</p> <p>And it remains minded, the Education board agreed the 20/21 top slice from the schools block to central block to protect these services at the current funded level in 20/21 on the basis a long term plan was produced to mitigate further funding requirements from a school block transfer.</p> |
| 6.00 | <p>AOB:</p> <p>Date of next meetings and forward plan</p> <p>Future RSG meeting dates – Southend High School for boys 4:15 pm to 5.30/6.00 pm current planned papers ahead of Education Board (EB):</p> <p>October 2020 (Date tbc ahead of EB date tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSG 2021/22 Indicative budget allocations including 2021/22 Individual School Block (ISB) allocations. | None |

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| | <p>December 2020 (Date tbc ahead of EB date tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DSG 2021/22 Final Budget planning including ISB allocations and Forecast Outturn 2020/21 <p>June 2021 (Date tbc ahead of EB date tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DSG Final Outturn 2020/21• DSG High Need detailed budget allocations 2021/22• 2020/21 Year End School Balance tables <p>Meeting close</p> | |
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