

Notes

Name of meeting	SCHOOLS' FORUM Working Group
Date and time	Monday, 4 March 2024
Venue	Teams
Present	Beverley Gilbert – Brading CE Primary (Chair) Simon Richards – Haylands Primary Duncan Mills – The Bay School Irina Rowan - Senior Finance Business Partner Debra Evans – Senior Accountant

1.	<p>Notes of the meeting held on 15th January 2024 were noted.</p> <p>Working group membership to comprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair • Vice Chair • SF member with experience in managing financial systems in schools and LA • Senior Finance Business Partner • Senior accountant
2.	<p>Terms of Reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the Schools Forum Powers and Responsibilities • To establish an annual planner/schedule of work • To ensure appropriate/timely information is provided to stakeholders to enable informed decisions/contribution to consultations • To consider impact of De-delegated services on schools and school budgets
3.	<p>Schools Forum Powers and Responsibilities</p> <p>Changes to Formula</p> <p>Noted that proposed changes to the funding formula are sent out in the autumn term for consultation. Introduction of capping and scaling led to some confusion. Consultation documents should include clear explanations of pros and cons for changes, possible options and examples.</p> <p>Consultation info is needed as early as possible, to allow time for full consideration and digestion of the impact on school to enable a fully informed response.</p> <p>Action – Working Group to meet on 16 Sept 2024.</p> <p>Contracts to be Funded from DSG</p> <p>Action - If there are any current contracts, a list should be provided.</p>

Arrangements for Pupils with SEND

Confirmed that the agreement to pay £25,000 annually to Hampshire for support in reducing off-Island placements ended with the conclusion of the overall partnership.

Action – A breakdown on commissioned places requested/ - IR to identify who is responsible for this area of work.

Information on arrangements and criteria for discretionary EHCP top-up funding (including mainstream schools) requested.

Consultation on ILC Places and EOTAS

Action – Information on numbers of pupils in alternative provision (including those in school) to be included in papers for SF meeting – 21 March 24.

Arrangements for Early Years Provision

Action - Central Team and a detailed EY budget report to be provided in the papers for the SF meeting – 21 March 24. To include

- info on PVI sector numbers against School-managed pre-schools.
- Numbers of EY EHCPs
- Provision for EY SEND

Administration of Central Government Grants and MFG

Action – Information on Education Finance Team management of grants to be provided annually, including MFG and impact on individual schools – to be discussed at Working Group Meeting on 16 Sept 2024.

De-Delegation

Confirmed there is no current contingency fund. This was previously an agreed fund set aside from the DSG to support schools who may be in difficulty. A policy would be required if a contingency fund were introduced.

Insurance is buy-back service for schools. Supply costs and support for underachieving ethnic minority pupils are purchased individually by schools.

Action – Breakdown of information on de-delegated services requested for the next working party meeting on 16 Sept 24. See para 36 [Schools Operational Guidance 2024-25](#)

General Duties for 2025/26 Maintained Schools

Further information in para 35 [Schools Operational Guidance 2024-25](#)

Action – A breakdown of Education Functions was requested for the next Working Group Meeting on 16 Sept 24.

Growth Fund/Falling Rolls

Further discussion will be subject to place-planning information provided by the LA and School Capacity Survey.

Central Spend

Action - Further info on EY Service to be provided at next SF meeting – 21 March 24. Info on other elements of Central Spend requested for discussion at next Working Group Meeting – 16 Sept 24.

See para 51 (Annex 4) [Schools Operational Guidance 2024-25](#)

High Needs Block

Information continuing through Safety Valve Updates – next update due for SF meeting 11 July 24.

	<p>Scheme of Financial Management</p> <p>Received by SF annually – next review at SF Meeting 11 July 24.</p> <p>Schools Forum Membership</p> <p>Constitution, Terms of Office, election and appointment of members included in SF TORs – reviewed annually – next review 14 Nov 24.</p>
4.	<p>Next meeting two weeks before next forum to set agenda and to look to check details for next reports. Meeting date 24th June 1.00</p> <p>Future meeting 16.9.24 TBC</p>