

# **Surrey Schools Forum Minutes of Meeting**

## **Friday 14 May 2021 1.00pm Virtual Meeting on TEAMS (due to COVID 19)**

Approved by members at their meeting on 8 July 2021

### **Present**

Chair

Rhona Barnfield Howard of Effingham School (academy member)

Joint Vice Chairs

Kate Keane Ewell Grove Infant and Nursery School (Primary head)

Justin Price Freemantles School Special school head

Other school and academy members:

Donna Harwood-Duffy Dorking Nursery Maintained nursery head

Susan Chrysanthou Furzeffield Primary Primary Head

Clare McConnell Bisley CE Primary Primary Head

Zoe Johnson-Walker The Winston Churchill School Secondary head

David Euridge Reigate Valley/Wey Valley Pupil referral unit member

Geoffrey Hackett Burpham Primary Primary governor

Fred Greaves Oakwood School Secondary governor

Lisa Kent Manor Mead and Walton Leigh Schools (special governor)

Matthew Armstrong-Harris (part) Rodborough Academy member

Sir Andrew Carter South Farnham Primary Academy member

Kerry Oakley The Warwick School Academy member

Kate Carriett George Abbot School Academy member

Elaine Cooper SWAN academy trust Academy member

Gavin Dutton Pirbright School Academy member

Jo Hastings (item 8 on) Ottershaw Infant and Junior Academy member

Paul Kinder Warlingham School Academy member

Nicky Mann Wallace Fields Infant Academy member

Ruth Murton Thamesmead School Academy member

Non school members

Sue Lewis Private, voluntary & independent nursery providers

Joe Dunne Diocese of Arundel and Brighton (Roman Catholic)

Jonathan Gambier Guildford Diocese (Church of England)

Tamsin Honeybourne Teaching union member of Education Joint Committee (EJC)

Christine Ricketts Post 16 providers

### **Local Authority Officers**

Liz Mills (LM) Director–Education, Lifelong Learning & Culture

Eamonn Gilbert (EG) Assistant Director (Commissioning)

Jane Winterbone (JW) Assistant Director (Education)











One member asked whether the group could look at the benefits of earlier intervention. LM agreed on the importance of earlier intervention and early help, including bringing together people across the system including the voluntary sector. In particular early intervention with children with speech and language delay, and with mental health issues, might prevent a long term SEND diagnosis.

Another member asked whether appeals were expected against placements in Surrey special schools. EG advised that the admissions system had been changed, so that while parents could still state a preference for a specific school (which the local authority then had to consider), they were no longer required to state a preference. That meant fewer parental preTm0 g0 G[sta)-5(te)-5( )8(a)-3( p)-5(re)9(fe)-5

## **10 Review of mainstream special educational needs (SEN) funding**

EG proposed to establish a representative working group to review mainstream SEN funding. He recognised that most stakeholders wanted to move away from specifying hours of support in education health care plans (EHCPs). He proposed that the group should agree terms of reference by the end of the summer term and that new ways of funding mainstream SEN and SEN centres should be implemented by agreement and implemented in September 2022.

Kate Keane asked that it should be made clear that the local authority was not seeking to reduce funding for individual schools by this work but just to ensure that it was better used. EG saw it as an opportunity for schools to work more closely together and to be more creative, rather than automatically providing 1:1 support. The Chair noted that the present system encouraged expectations of 1:1 support.

Another member noted that many EHCPs already specified 1:1 or pair or small group work. EG thought the scope for this might not be as widely known as it might be and that there was scope for a working group to identify problems in the present system.

Members also noted that while schools could access resources for COVID 19 catch up costs, the local authority had been given none. It was also noted that interest from Surrey schools in running summer schools had been limited, because the funding offer from DfE was insufficient, even if the staff could be found.

The Chair asked whether the same working group would manage the two proposed strands of the review (peer review of use of IPSB and review of descriptors). EG confirmed that it would. He proposed to approach phase councils for nominations.

EG acknowledged that the proposed timescale, including consultation in December 2021 and reporting the results to Schools Forum in early January, was ambitious, but saw it as important that schools knew the outcome by the 15 February deadline for offering key stage transfer places, s o



Kate Keane asked that proposals for de-delegation should include proposals for underspends to be carried forward or refunded to maintained schools.

LM was happy to receive further suggestions for the consultation paper outside

## Information requested on 2020/21 high needs block outturn

<b>2020/21 High Needs Spend</b>	<b>Full Year Budget £000</b>	<b>Full year Outturn £000</b>	<b>Full year Variance £000</b>
Placements			
Non maintained/independent (NMI)	51,886	59,262	7,376
Post 16 specific providers	7,580	6,713	-867
Non Maintained Specialist	5,056	5,168	112
Other Local Authority Specialist Children with Disabilities (C	5,755	6,585	830