



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)**

**Wednesday 23 November 2022**  
**Remote Meeting Held Via MS Teams**

The meeting started at 2.30 pm

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

#### WSF Members

Bryn Thomas (Vice Chair) [BT]	- HT Wolverley CE Secondary School
Marie Pearse [MP]	- HT Evesham Nursery School
Paul Essenhigh [PE]	- Executive HT Catshill Middle, Catshill First and Nursery Schools
Jeff Robinson [JR]	- Governor, Malvern Hills
Jay Hart [JH]	- HT Kingfisher School
Ed Francis [EF]	- HT Fort Royal Primary School
Tim Reid	- Church of England Board of Education
Adrian Ward [AW]	- CEO/Exec Head of Bordesley MAT
Phil Hanson	- Headteacher Pershore High School
Annette Summers [AS]	- Nursery Owner
John Bateman [JB]	- Governor, Aspire Alternative Provision (AP)

#### Local Authority (LA)

Councillor Tracey Onslow [TO]	- Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills Worcestershire County Council
Phil Rook [PR]	- Director of Resources - Worcestershire Children First
Sarah Wilkins [SW]	- Director of Education and Early Help Worcestershire Children First
Melanie Barnett [MB]	- Director of All Age Disability Services – Worcestershire Children First
Caroline Brand [CB]	- Senior Schools Finance Manager - Worcestershire Children First
Rob Phillips [RP]	- Accountancy Officer - School Funding - Worcestershire Children First

### **WELCOME**

RP confirmed that Bryn Thomas would be chairing the meeting in Malcolm's absence.

**1. Apologies**

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Malcolm Richards (Chair) [MR] | - Governor, Bromsgrove                   |
| Lorraine Petersen [LP]        | - Governor, Bromsgrove                   |
| Vivek Shah [VS]               | - Nursery Owner                          |
| Chris King [CK]               | - CEO Severn Academies Educational Trust |
| Nathan Jones [NJ]             | - HT Meadow Green                        |

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

**3. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTERESTS WITH ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (30 June 2022)**

Minutes agreed.

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None.

**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

a. National Tutoring Program (SW).

SW updated WSF and the potential clawback, and that schools can contact the Department for Education (DfE) if they believe the clawback is not correct. Schools Finance Team (SFT) have messaged all maintained schools with this & also included SW weekly newsletter to schools.

b. Autumn Statement (PR)

WSF discussed the autumn statement and the additional £2.3b extra funding for schools was welcomed but still concerns on the on inflation and pay awards. This item led straight into the next agenda item.

c. Update on Budget Planning and pressures for 2023/24 impact of cost of living, pay rises and School Forum action. (BT)

Concerns still raised on the pay awards and inflation and the cost of living for staff and schools. That £1.7b of the £2.3b would be used to fund the current pay award without helping with the other pressures within schools.

It was agreed that RP – to send a letter to Gillian Keegan from WSF concerning this issue.

Councillor Onslow asked for a copy of this when it get sent, it was agreed to send a copy to all WSF members.

PR also asked for some case studies on the impact of inflation on the school budgets so these can be shared with the F40 and ministers.

There is also an ongoing worry within schools that they are picking up a lot of the support for families as a whole at present, which is getting worse as time is passing.

d. School attendance and absence – Legal action (BT)

BT has requested further information on the amount received in grants and what it is used for.

RP explained, that from the legal guidance that the local authority can use on a proportion of the collected funds and the rest must be returned to the Secretary of State.

It was discussed that maybe this should be used as part of the strategy towards assisting schools with focusing on attendance.

PE said that he is sure there is two camps one that follow the other and another who don't, especially with the time taken and nothing coming to the school.

It was also agreed that this should be raised further to push this with the Secretary of State.

RP to comeback at the next meeting with the amount Worcestershire collected and where this went.

**7. School Funding 2023/24 Local Issues (RP)**

a. Recommended Policy (RP)

RP confirmed that the local authority is continuing with the current agreement for the funding in 2023/24

b. WSF Required Decisions (RP)

The maintained schools voted on the different parts of the delegation or delegation as per the table below.

<b>Phase/Service [Formula Factor for De-delegation indicated]</b>	<b>Primary Delegation</b>	<b>Primary De- delegation</b>	<b>Secondary Delegation</b>	<b>Secondary De- delegation</b>
School Specific Contingency (SSC) <b>[Per Pupil (AWPU)]</b>	No	Yes	No	Yes
Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty <b>[Per Pupil (AWPU)]</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No
Behaviour Support Services <b>[Low Prior Attainment]</b>	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
14-16 Practical Learning Options <b>[Per Pupil (AWPU)]</b>	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
Support for Minority Ethnic Pupils/				

Underachieving Groups – English as an Additional Language <b>[EAL 3 Years]</b>	No	Yes	No	Yes
Traveller Children <b>[Low Prior Attainment]</b>	No	Yes	No	Yes
Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility <b>[FSM Annual]</b>	No	Yes	No	Yes
Schools Insurance <b>[Per Pupil (AWPU)]</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No
Staff Costs/Duties Supply Cover –				
Civic	No	Yes	No	Yes
Trade Union	No	Yes	No	Yes
HR Related	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>[Per Pupil (AWPU)]</b>				
Additional School Improvement Services	No	No	No	No
Former General Duties Previously Funded by the Former Education Services Grant (ESG)	N/A	No	N/A	No

All members agreed to continue with the central block for another year.

c. Exceptional Premises (RP)

RP gave an update on the position we are working with the DfE and schools to supply sufficient evidence to support the request. Which without this evidence or being over 1% of the school budget this would need to be removed and protection would come via the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).

d. Split Site Funding 2024/25 (RP).

RP explained that the local authority have not made any changes to the current model for this financial year and that the DfE will be calculating this from financial year 2024/25 on and once we have some modeling we will share this with the schools.

**8. High Needs Update – DBV in Send (MB & PR)**

PR gave an update on the deficit going forward looking at being in the region of a further increase of £4.3 million in the current financial year and would give a total deficit within HLN of £15.6 million.

All information will be submitted on time for the next stage of the DBV.

We are still waiting to hear from the Government on the Statutory Override.

TO confirmed that this is being discussed at Cabinet and that they will be writing to the local MP Robing Walker with their concerns.

## **9. Period 6 School Budget monitoring END Accelerated Progress Plan (CB)**

CB gave a verbal update with the current forecasted balances of the maintained schools; it was noted we are unable to share academy balances as we don't have this information.

Deficit schools report monthly to SFT concerning their end of year position.

## **10. Nurture Group Funding (MB)**

MB updated WSF that the LA has written to all schools with a nurture group to confirm that we will not be renewing this scheme from the 1 April 2023.

This is due to not having any SLA in place or monitoring in place for this provision and that we cannot afford to increase the scheme.

## **11. Update - New Worcester Secondary School (SW)**

SW went through the process carried out to get our academy trust taking on the running of the new school. This has been confirmed to be Oasis Community Learning and Multi Academy Trust.

We are still working with the preferred bidder on the plans for the school.

### **Meeting ended**

The meeting closed at 3.15 PM

### **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next WSF meeting: - Thursday 19 January 2023 2.30 PM  
(Remote Meeting - MS Teams)