

Peterborough Schools Forum Meeting

Meeting:
14th January 2025 09:30 – 11:30

Attendees:

Helen Price (HP, Chair) Carrie Traill (CT), Scott Hudson (SH), Rachel Davies (RD), Jude Macdonald (JM), Alan Sadler (AS), Andy Lyons (AL), Debbie Hayes (DH), Gemma Mead (GM), John Gilligan (JG), Hannah Oliviero (HO), Helen Andrews (HA), Ian Graham (IG), Jonathan Lewis (JL), Lorraine Geco (LG), Matthew Van Lier (MVL), R Mercuri-Butcher (RMB), Mohammed Younis (MY), Pam Setterfield (PS), Kate Pereira (KP), Rachael Holland (RH), Howard Nelson (HN).

Item	Actions
1.	Welcome. Apologies & Declarations of Interest Declarations of Interest: HP mentioned that she will touch on growth in the meeting and noted that their schools are part of that growth, which should be recorded in the minutes.
2.	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising - HP discussed the action point around Academy representation, noting that the TOR needs checking, it doesn't explicitly limit representation to two per trust. The proposal is to take this back to the PCEOS group for a decision. - HP welcomed JL to the call and congratulated him on their new role. They mentioned that there was a query about whether JL would slot in permanently, which will be reviewed in the next PCEOS Meeting. - HP noted that the minutes mentioned expressing interest in a Vice Chair, but earlier minutes indicated that a Vice Chair was not needed due to having Co-Chairs. They suggested changing this unless someone wishes to put themselves forward.
3.	Schools Budget Setting 25-26 School's Budget Setting: RD presented the school's budget setting for 25-26, including the funding formula, additional grants, and the allocation for Peterborough. She highlighted the uplift in the school's block allocation, the net decrease in primary school numbers, and the increase in secondary school numbers. RD also mentioned the additional grants for National Insurance contributions and other usual grants, which are yet to be confirmed.

	• Funding Allocation and Budget Modelling: RD explained the allocation of £240.3 million for distribution to schools, including money for business rates. She discussed the draft budgets, the inclusion of grants in the baseline, and the illustrative nature of the budget models. RD asked the schools forum to comment on the proposals following the December announcements. • JL and RD expressed concerns about the insufficient funding increase, which does not cover the pay award and support staff increases. HP and SH agreed that making representation to MPs and organizing a concerted approach to address the funding challenges is necessary. • Growth Policy and Falling Roles Funding: RD provided an overview of the growth policy and falling roles funding, mentioning the sub-group set up to review the policy. She discussed the proposed draft proposals, funding for people, and the use of the subgroup to review final numbers. RD asked for approval of the growth funding criteria and the central retained amount for 25-26. • JL raised concerns about the definition of basic need in the growth funding criteria, emphasizing the need to avoid funding popular schools through this approach. RD acknowledged the need for a clear definition of basic need and agreed to consider this feedback. JG identified that this definition was included in the paper. • Central Schools Block and Services Block: RD presented the central schools block and services block funding, including the breakdown of the 1.8 million for 25-26. No further comments were made.
4.	Early Years Funding 25-26 PS presented the proposals for the 25-26 early years funding rates, including the increases in funding allocations and the proposed rates for three and four-year-olds, two-year-olds, and under twos. Some concerns were raised by the forum about the adequacy of the funding for SEN children and the need for a formalized process for the early years working group.
5.	Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision GM introduced the draft document on ordinarily available inclusive provision, which has been Co-produced with various stakeholders. The document aims to provide a comprehensive guide for SEN professionals and will undergo further consultation and feedback before finalization. The forum emphasized the importance of consulting with teachers and stakeholders to refine the ordinarily available inclusive provision document. They noted the need for feedback on specific bullet points and the practical implementation of the strategies listed. JM inquired about the update on the SEND working party. CT confirmed that there is no update at this meeting but promised to provide one at the next meeting in February.

6.	Actions Academy Representation: - Take the proposal to cap Academy representation at two per trust back to the PCOS group for a decision. (HP) New CEO Representation: - Review the membership and decide on the permanent slot for the new CEO representative at the next PCEOS meeting. (HP) School Funding Representation: - Organize a representation to MPs regarding the insufficient funding increase for schools, considering the challenges of pay awards and falling primary school roles. (HP/SH) Growth Policy Review: - Bring back the growth policy and funding criteria to the forum after the subgroup meeting in February for further review. (RD) Growth Fund Definition: - Clarify the definition of "basic need" in the growth policy to ensure it does not fund growth due to school popularity. (RD) Growth Fund Surplus: - Provide details on what happens if the growth fund amount required is less or more than the allocated £1,000,000. (RD) Early Years Inclusion Funding: - Include Jude in discussions about the inclusion funding mechanism to ensure appropriate funding for children with high needs. (PS) Formalize Early Years Working Group: - Document the formal link between the Early Years Working Group and the Schools Forum, including terms of reference and remit. (PS, RD, CT) SEND Working Party: - Provide an update on the SEND Working Party at the next meeting in February. (CT/JB) Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision: - Gather feedback from head teachers and other stakeholders on the Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision document. (GM)
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