



Schools Forum

Report title: Schools Forum Work Plan for 2022/23

Date: 28th June 2022

Key decision: No.

Item number: 5

Outline and recommendations

This report sets out the intended workplan for Schools Forum for the financial year 2022/23.

The workplan may evolve as it becomes necessary to update Schools Forum on relevant matters.

*Review the proposed schedule of future meeting dates and the work programme.
(Appendix 1)*

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

This report is for information and guidance in terms of the anticipated business that Schools Forum needs to consider for 2022/23.

Most items on the agenda are standing items based on the knowledge of timely decision making requirements.

Summary

- 1.1. The Strategic Business Partner for CYP (SBP) is proposing the attached programme of work for the coming financial year. This will provide a logical and structured framework to support a cycle of well-informed decision making, given the volume and complexity of the work of Schools Forum.
- 1.2 The programme presents the schedule for key elements of forum's work programme. It is expected that as the year progresses, subsequent items will be added to the work programme as a result of discussion and consideration by forum.
- 1.3 Schools forum is asked to review and approve the proposed schedule of future meeting dates and the work programme. (Appendix 1)

Background

- 1.4 Each Local Authority is required to operate a Schools Forum. The Department for Education (DfE) has published a good practice guidance which can be accessed on the link below.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/888371/Schools_forum_operational_and_good_practice_guide.pdf
- 1.5 In May 2020 the DfE updated the guidance to facilitate schools forum meetings during this period of Covid 19. This practice is expected to continue until the point the DfE amends the regulations. We will over the course of the year, consider opportunities for in person meeting as well as hybrid meetings.

Extract from Schools Forum Operational and good practice guide

6. The Schools Forums (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, which will come into force on 18 June, make provisions to enable schools forums to meet

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remotely while they are unable to meet physically in a room during the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19).

7. This includes, but is not limited to, telephone conferencing, video conferencing, live webcast, and live interactive streaming.

- 1.6 Schools forum's are required to meet a minimum of four times a year. The timing of the meetings are set to strategically enable decisions to be made /supported to assist for example:-

June	Updates on closure of accounts position and consideration of intelligence on budget planning.
October	Updates and consideration of any policy decisions. It is common for the Department for Education to publish data and announce any changes during the summer break.
December	Review any key discussions that impact upon and inform the setting of the 2023/24 schools' budget
January	Notification of the 2023/24 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) settlement and agreement of the schools delegated budget share, including any de-delegation.

- 1.7 Schools Forum has noted the ongoing pressure on the High Needs Block, and in response to this agreed a High Needs Working Group and mitigation plan. For this reason "update from the High Needs Working Group" is to remain a standing item on this workplan. It is anticipated that this process continues for 2022/23 especially as the High Needs Block is now very much under pressure. Report elsewhere on this agenda provides further details with regards the 2021/22 outturn and projections for 2022/23. The DfE is progressing its next cohort of LA to develop recovery plans with (known as Safety valve). Early indication suggests that the DfE will commence work with potentially 55 other Local Authorities over the course of 2022/23; Lewisham is currently scheduled for engagement as part of the safety valve scheme in Spring 2023.

- 1.8 With regards to DfE updates on DSG, again this will remain a standing item for 2022/23. The DfE had previously anticipated providing updates on topics such as:-

- Hard formula (live consultation concludes 9th September 2022)
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Green Paper (live consultation concludes 22nd July 2022)
- Ofsted – LA SEND Inspection (imminent consultation –expected to run over summer)
- White Paper on Schools "opportunity for all"
- Nursery schools supplementary funding
- Review of Hospital provision

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- Streamlining of the Teachers pay grant (0-5 and post 16)

Meeting Dates for Schools Forum 2022/23

1.9 The dates for Schools Forum for 2022/23 are as follows, and as stated above, the meetings are currently scheduled as virtual, however we will review the position over the course of the year.

Month	Date	Time	Venue
June	28 th	4.30 to 6.30pm	Virtual – Microsoft Teams
October	20 th	4.30 to 6.30pm	Virtual – Microsoft Teams
December	15 th	4.30 to 6.30pm	Virtual – Microsoft Teams
January	19 th (subject to change dependant on DfE timelines)	4.30 to 6.30pm	Virtual – Microsoft Teams

1.10 The dates for the High Needs Working Group meetings are set as follows:

Month	Date	Time	Venue
June	23 rd	10:00 to 11:30am	Virtual – Microsoft Teams
October	6 th	10:00 to 11:30am	Virtual – Microsoft Teams
December	1 st	10:00 to 11:30am	Virtual – Microsoft Teams

Financial implications

1.11 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

Legal implications

1.12 The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 requires that School Forums must meet at least 4 times a year. The Schools Forums (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, which came into force on 18 June 2020 makes provision to enable Schools Forums to meet remotely while they are unable to meet physically in a room during the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19).

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Equalities implications

1.13 There are no direct equalities impacts arising.

Climate change and environmental implications

1.14 Not applicable

Crime and disorder implications

1.15 Not applicable

Health and wellbeing implications

1.16 Not applicable

Report author and contact

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Appendix 1 – Proposed dates of Schools Forum meetings and work plan 2022/23 financial year

Date of Forum meeting	Agenda Item	Lead Officer	For information/Decision/Approval
28th June 2022	2022/23 Workplan	CYP Strategic Business Partner	Approval
	2021/22 Closedown position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • including Schools Balances • TTO 	CYP Group Finance Manager	Information
	2022/23 DSG funding update	CYP Group Finance Manager	Information
	Update on DfE items including White paper & Green Paper	Director of Education	Information
	High Needs Funding – update	Head of SEN	Information/Decision/Approval
	Items requested by Schools – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade Union fees • Funding support for schools with high SEN pupils 	CYP Group Finance Manager	For discussion
20th October 2022	2022/23 DSG update	CYP Group Finance Manager	Information
	High Needs Funding – update	Head of SEN	Information/Decision/Approval
	Update from DFE	CYP Group Finance Manager	Information/Decision/Approval

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	Scheme for Financing Schools and Schools Finance Manual update	CYP Group Finance Manager	Information/Decision/Approval
	Schools Health check following June Budget submissions	CYP Group Finance Manager	Information
15th December 2022	2023/24 Schools Funding Formula	CYP Group Finance	Information/Decision/Approval
	High Needs Working Group Update	Head of SEN	Information/Decision/Approval
	White Paper & Green Paper	CYP Group Finance Manager	Information/Decision/Approval
19th January 2023	2023/24 DSG funding settlement Including Schools Funding Formula	CYP Group Finance Manager	Information/Decision/Approval
	Schools Forum constitution and membership	CYP Group Finance Manager	Information/Decision/Approval
	Schools Health Check following November submissions	CYP Group Finance Manager	Information

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