






<b>Present</b>			
	Paula Baines-Chambers	Primary Academy	
	Sharon Buckby	DCC, Peoples Services	
	Janet Bowzler	DCC, Finance	
	Jenny Brown	Free School Head	
	Nicola Caley	Secondary Head	
	Chery Fearn	Union Rep observer	
	Helen Fearn	Primary Head	
	Adey Greaves	School Business Manager	
	Janice Hadfield	DCC, Finance	
	Karen Hayes	Secondary Head	
	Sabrina Hobbs	Secondary Head	
	Wendy Hardy	Union Rep	
	Scott McGregor	Secondary Head	
	Paula Nightingale	DCC, Peoples Services	
	Karen Phillips	Governor Rep	
	Mike Pride	(Chair) Respect Schools	
<b>Apologies</b>	Andy Smith		
		Who	
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Welcome/Introductions were made and Mike welcomed Sharon (Buckby), new Director of Learning, Inclusion and Skills to the meeting. Sharon looks forward to meeting everyone in the future.		
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b> Wendy wanted to thank Janet Bowlzer for meeting with her on 21 Nov and being so helpful and patient in helping her understand the presentation about the roles/papers of the School Forum, which JH presented at the last meeting.		
<b>3</b>	<b>October 2023 Financial Position and Forecast Outturn</b> JH commented that this is the standard update where the 2023-24 financial position is forecasted to the end of the financial year in March 2024.  Recommendations in 2.1 is to note the current forecast remains in-year deficit of £10.332m. The existing final deficit is just under £15m, which is a slight improvement from Qtr 2 but is still in a deficit position.  The requirement of the Deficit Management Recovery Plan is covered in Section 5.		 2023 December DSG Oct 2023.docx

	<p>3.1 gives the summary of £307m and how this is split into four blocks.</p> <p>The current in-year pressure being reported on the Dedicated Schools Grant is forecast at £10.322m against an initial unmitigated deficit budget set of £12.225m.</p> <p>£5.5m for growth and demand and are on track to spend the majority. Underspends are due to the hub and spoke model not being implemented as soon as planned, now this should happen in Feb 24.</p> <p>The current banding model for top up payments is causing a lot of instability across the budget.</p> <p>Also impacting is the high level of referrals coming through for assessment, costs will vary on young peoples needs. On average there are 68 requests each month which is much higher than the 40 requests back in 2022/23. Currently the team are processing 420 open EHCP's. 310 plans have been issued so there has been a 100% increase, this gives context of the volume of plans that are being dealt with within the City. JH commented that it is hard to forecast when the needs are so different.</p> <p>SB commented that we need to review the banding system to ensure stability, consistency and funding to meet needs. This will include a school action plus band s that needs are met earlier. Work will commence during Qtr 4 in consultation with schools throughout, with a view of implementing this in September 2024. This will come back to School Forum to consult with members. .</p> <p>An additional School Forum meeting may be required. We shall be undertaking a process and decision making review; consider the capacity and skills set and resources in schools to meet Children's needs in line with the Children and Family Act.</p> <p>3.4 JH carried on with the report. The special schools funding envelope refers to a small underspend of £850k caused by 90 places in Derby Schools occupied by other authorities, which means Derby children have to be placed out of authority. The example of this explains the impact of £64k pressure.</p> <p>3.6 Details on OOA placements, in 23/24 the budget was increased by £800k now £18.75m, however, the full year forecast is currently £19.5m. This includes an estimate for 7 independent places and 6 other local authority placements, the costs have not been confirmed yet and could change.</p>		
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	<p>Current records show that in October 2023 there are 440 OOA placements and this an increase from August position of 35 places, the table shows the average cost and you can see the cost have increased by 20% maintained and academy and 10% independent schools compared to this time last year.</p> <p>3.7 Small variances against the budgets that were set.</p> <p>3.10 There was also an increase in the Post 16 provision.</p> <p>3.11 KH queried the 2m transformational amount, and asked what the level of activity that is happening? Will it continue? Go back into deficit? SB commented the need for contingency, this will help implement the changes required. .</p> <p>3.13/3.14 Early Years block is at a balanced position, however will vary on census count and will be able to report better on year end forecast.</p>		
4	<p><b>Proposal for items for re Pooling</b>  JH explained this paper is the proposals for 2024/25 to repool budgets for central services.</p> <p>Section 1 – this is for maintained schools only.  Recommendations are put to the schools and then School Forum to vote whether to go ahead with the proposals.</p> <p>Section 3 covers areas School Forum would like to consider</p> <p>3.3 covers insurance, increased a little to reflect insurance cost the council are facing. Premiums have increased by 10% therefore there is a 10% increase per pupil to £16.12.</p> <p>3.4 Central staff cover, not changed for maternity and TU charges .</p> <p>3.5 detail for support for inclusion, primary pupil support grant and the behaviour support services. No changes for pupil amounts.</p> <p>3.6 Underperforming ethnic minority groups and new communities support team 56p increase.</p> <p>Unfortunately, there was no representation from the maintained primary schools, therefore the vote could not be carried out.</p> <p>It was agreed JH/SL would send out an email to all primary and secondary maintained schools to ask them to vote whether to accept/or not accept the recommendations in the report.</p>	JH/SL	 2023 Dec DeDelegation.docx

<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed Schools Block Transfer 2024/25</b></p> <p>Section 1 – 0.5% schools block to transfer to the high needs block. This is the maximum the local authority can transfer, not had final settlement with the allocations, subject to affordability and also in accordance with the regulations and would like to consult with schools if School Forum agree with the principle.</p> <p>Actual amount would be est £1.198m and section 3.2 is based on the indicative funding £29 per pupil. Transfer to school block would help ease the pressures reported in the high needs block,</p> <p>JH informed School Forum we are seeing the cumulative deficit of £14.76.</p> <p>School Forum members voted for the recommendations and 7 were in favour, therefore this was a majority vote. JH thanked everyone and will take this forward and carry out consultation with all schools.</p>		 <p>2023 December Schools Block Transfe</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b> None</p>		

**Date and time of next meeting – 30 January, 2024, 4.30pm start, Teams**