

**Bury Schools Forum
Tuesday 13 June 2023
Microsoft Teams**

Attendance

Early Years

Rachel O'Neil

Headteacher – Hoyle Nursery

Maintained Primary

Richard Ainsworth,
Simon Waddington,

Governor (Plus Governors Forum)
Headteacher – Hollins Grundy Primary

Maintained Secondary

None in Attendance

Academy Primary

Rachel Pars
Martin Van Hecke

Bury College Education Trust – Elton Primary
Roch Valley Trust – St Thomas Primary School

Academy Secondary

None in Attendance

Special

Joanne Hurst
Orienne Langley-Sadler
Katherine Ashworth
Kristie Bloomfield

Headteacher – Millwood Primary
Headteacher – Elms Bank School & College
Millwood
Oak Leaning Partnership

College

Neil Howarth (S)

Holy Cross College

Pupil Referral Unit

None in Attendance

Non-Schools Sector

Helena Thom

NEU

Children's Services Department

Isobel Booler
Paul Cooke
Sam Evans
Alison Vidler
Finance)

Director of Education & Skills
Head of Schools & Academies

Principal Finance Officer (Schools & Systems

Observers:

Elissa Reevel

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Paul Lord,
Tina Owen
Carina Vitti
Susan Southworth

Headteacher – Heaton Park Primary School
Headteacher - Philips High School
Principal – Holy Cross College
Governor

2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was agreed:

That Rachel Pars, Head Teacher Elton County Primary School be nominated as Chair to the Bury Schools' Forum.

3 INTRODUCTIONS WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

All those present were welcomed to the meeting.

4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was agreed:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

5 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

6 BURY'S SCHOOL FORUM REPRESENTATION - JANUARY 2023 CENSUS

Alison Vidler presented Bury Schools' Forum Representation – January 2023 Census report.

A question was raised regarding the membership of the Forum and the vacancies that required filling.

It was explained that there were some vacancies and requests to fill these would be taken through BASH and BAPH and the Headteachers Forum and the Governor's Forum.

It was also reported that the Union Members came under the Teacher Professional Association category.

7 NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA - PLANNED REMOVAL OF RECEPTION UPLIFT

Alison Vidler presented the National Funding Formula – Reception Uplift report.

The following comments and questions were received:

- Simon Waddington asked whether the money would still remain with the Local Authority?

It was explained that this was the case, the money would remain in schools block to be allocated another way.

- It was asked whether there would be a local opportunity to add in.

It was reported that notice from the DFE was expected in relation to removing the current flexibility of applying the uplift.

8 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) DEFICIT POSITION 2022/2023

Isobel Booler presented the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Deficit Position 2022/23 report.

- It was asked whether there would be clawback for schools with surplus.

It was explained that the clawback had been carried out after taking into account the use of balances for 2022/2023.

- It was asked whether there were any patterns in relation to the schools in deficit.

It was explained that all schools had been affected by the increase in energy costs .

It was also explained that there were falling rolls currently and an older population in the north of the borough which was forecast to continue with a younger population to the south and more popular schools. Analysis was ongoing in relation to this.

A report would be brought to a future meeting of Schools' Forum in relation to school rolls.

9 DSG DEFICIT RECOVERY - PROGRAMME SAFETY VALVE (PSV)

Isobel Booler, Director of Education and Skills gave a presentation updating the Schools' Forum on Project Safety Valve.

The presentation explained:

- Where PSV was currently,
- The strategies that were in place to make sure that all PSV spending was correct and being allocated as required.
- Work being done to maximise income
- Work being done to reduce unit costs including removing Band D plus, Inclusion funding, new provision due to come on line
- Challenges from the DFE
- The Safety Valve agreement
- Number of SEN assessments and education and work being done to reduce them.

Those present were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments and the following points were raised:-

- It was explained that the special schools in the borough had taken the brunt of PSV but had been affected by the rises in SEN cases for years with Elms Bank School and College pupil number increasing from 116 to 300 over the years.
- It was suggested that all headteachers should be brought together to discuss the issues raised and it was suggested that this request be taken through BASH and BAPH.
- The need to focus on early years assessments.
- Work to ensure that children stay in mainstream provision.

- Early help 0 – 5 intervention.
- Connecting Health and Social Care provision and how systems talk to each other including nurseries talking to schools.
- Giving early years the tools to support colleagues.
- What training packages could be shared.

It was reported that a Management Plan was due to be completed by the end of the month. The draft plan would be presented to the DFE at the end of the week after which a meeting with the DFE would be taking place prior to the plan being submitted.

**Rachel Pars
Chair**

(Note: The meeting started at 4pm and ended at 5.30pm)