



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>SCHOOLS FORUM</b>
Date and time	<b>8.30AM – WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018</b>
Venue	<b>Thompson House, Sandy Lane, Newport PO30 3NA</b>
Present	Beverley Gilbert (Chair) – Brading CE Primary David Thornton – Federation of Carisbrooke and Newport CEPs Matthew Parr-Burman – Island Innovation Federation Kay Wood – Summerfields Primary Gordon Kendall – Bembridge CE Primary Julie Stewart – Medina House School Jackie Boxx – Island Learning Centre Caroline Sice – Lanesend Primary Academy Jayne Hill – Niton and Brighstone Pre-Schools Amanda Bitchenor – Chatterbox Day Nursery Sue Bowen – Church of England Diocese
Elected Member	Cllr Paul Brading – Cabinet Member for Children’s Services
Officers	Brian Pope – Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion Barry Downer - Senior Finance Business Partner Brendan Hodson – Finance Business Partner Chris Jones – SEN Service Manager Diane Hiscock – Clerk
Apologies	Duncan Mills – Cornerstone Federation Fidelma Washington – Isle of Wight College Mike Hayward – Island Innovation Federation

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS  
Members and officers were welcomed to the meeting.
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST  
No Declarations of Interest were received.
3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME  
No public questions had been received.
4. MINUTES  
RESOLVED :  
THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [17 October 2018](#) be confirmed.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- 5.1 Item 9.5 – A meeting to discuss school utility costs has been arranged to take place next week.

**Action – DT to feedback at the meeting on 20 December 2018**

6. HIGH NEEDS BUDGET 2019/20 [Paper B](#)

- 6.1 BP gave a brief introduction to the report which was produced following a meeting with headteachers held on 5 November 2018, to discuss options to address the budget gap of £1.05m in the high needs block. A consultation had been sent to schools but received low feedback.

At the meeting headteachers were generally supportive of the proposal to move 0.5% from the schools block to the high needs block (as discussed at the last schools forum meeting) if there was provision for the outreach service at Medina House to be re-instated.

- 6.2 [Paper B](#) had been circulated in advance of this meeting and members were asked to submit any questions.

- 6.3 Members asked for information on the savings made through joint procurement of places and management of SEN services with Hampshire. A report will be submitted to schools forum, as part of the ongoing review of high needs provision. The rising number of EHCPs is likely to affect future savings. The increase between 2015 and 2018 was from 670 to 1000 and is the main cause of the deficit in the high needs budget.

A joint bid has been made for an SEMH special free school to serve students from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The outcome of the bid should be known in January 2019.

**Action - A further report will be submitted to the schools forum meeting in March 2019 (or January if possible).**

- 6.4 Members felt it would be useful to have a plan to show the expected impact of savings over the next 3 years

- 6.5 Following questions on the funding system, there was brief discussion on how funding is delegated to schools.

- 6.6 It was confirmed that headteachers were broadly in support of the need to move 0.5% from the schools block to the high needs block, but would wish to see reinstatement of the outreach service at Medina House.

- 6.7 It was also confirmed that schools forum were being asked to consider only the recommendations given in paper B. Other options for consideration, including a banding system, will be subject to public consultation and future reports to the forum.

**Action – A draft report on proposals for a banding system for EHCPs will be submitted to the schools forum meeting on 20 December 2018.**

- 6.8 Members asked if reports will include details of the actual impact of savings overall, on support for children and on individual schools. It was felt that this information would assist with future decision making. Headteachers can be asked to provide feedback on the affect to their schools over time.

- 6.9 Members discussed how short term decisions can be linked to a longer term strategy (i.e. 3-year plan). Information on block purchasing of places and options to replace provision (i.e. WISE) has been collected and will be included in future reports to schools forum.

**Action – BG, KW, CS, MPB and DM to request information on impact of changes over the last year through headteacher meetings.**

**Also to follow up with ongoing updates to feed in to schools forum.**

- 6.10 BH reported on the feedback from the consultation that had been re-sent to schools (noted in item 6.1 above and in item 10.17 at the meeting held on [17 October 2018](#)). A further 8 responses had been received (3 after the deadline and 5 following the re-issue). Including the original responses 10 were in favour of the 0.5% transfer and 11 were opposed.

An application could be made to transfer greater than 0.5% but 17 were opposed to this and only 4 in agreement. Members were disappointed at the low level of responses from headteachers.

- 6.11 It was noted that any alternative suggestions for making savings within the high needs block would be welcomed.

RESOLVED :

THAT the transfer of 0.5% of the final schools block funding to meet high needs pressures in 2019/20 be agreed.

- 6.12 Members asked for clarification on the aspects of outreach support that would continue as noted in recommendation 2 in paper B. It was confirmed that this refers mostly to the SOS outreach at Medina House. The SLA with the Island Learning Centre will integrate with the SOS outreach and all referrals will go through one system. The Speech and Language Service is also changing. Consultation will be required to help identify the most appropriate provision. It was agreed that longer term planning would support a more effective service.

- 6.13 The outreach service had moved to a sold service, but not enough schools signed up to the SLA for it to continue. Further discussion and consultation will also be needed to identify alternative savings that can be made from the high needs budget to support continuation of outreach funding.

RESOLVED :

THAT the continuation of outreach funding in 2019/20 with the additional cost met through alternative savings with the high needs budget be supported.

Further discussions to take place to develop an agreed strategy.

- 6.14 It was noted that EY (Early Years) providers are identifying issues earlier, which are likely to lead to the requirement for an EHCP. However, this information is only picked up if an EHCP is requested at the time. It would be helpful for schools if the EY team are able to gather information on anticipated needs, to plan for the future.

- 6.15 The age limit for EHCPs was extended to 25, contributing to the increase in numbers of EHCPs. An ongoing robust review process is required, in partnership with parents, so that young people are supported through transition to adult life.

- 6.16 SENCOs (SEN Co-ordinators) also need further training to enable them to deal with the wide range of complex needs that are coming through. It was noted that there are also issues with ASD screening that need to be addressed.

- 6.17 A paper on proposals for the high needs budget 2019/20 will be submitted to the schools forum for consideration at the meeting in January 2019.

RESOLVED :

THAT the proposals detailed in the [October 2018](#) schools forum report, for the council to conduct further modelling and consultation as required ahead of setting the high needs budget be endorsed.

7. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Schools Forum has been arranged to take place **Thursday 20 December 2018 – 8.30am at Westridge Community Learning Centre, Brading Road, Ryde PO33 1QS**

DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – All at Westridge Community Learning Centre

Thursday 17 January 2019

Thursday 21 March 2019

**8.30am start, all at**

**Westridge Community Learning Centre, Brading Road, Ryde PO33 1QS**

The meeting closed at 9.50am

CHAIR