

**Warrington Schools Forum**
**Membership**

Membership with differentiated voting rights ~ Total Membership of 26, of whom 22 are entitled to vote on funding formula issues									
Tenure ends 31 August 2020									
Sector Representation (22)	Appointed by the Council following election by:	Member	Dates and Attendance						
			26 June 2018	2 October 2018	4 December 2018	15 January 2019	5 March 2019	25 June 2019	8 October 2019
Maintained Nursery School Senior Staff (1)	Primary Headteachers Group	Jane Wilkie (JaneW)	P	P	P				
Special School Staff (1)	Special School Headteachers Group	Maureen Brettell (MBr) <i>from 2 Oct</i>	P	P	A				
Special School Governor (1)	Governors Forum	Mike Frost (MF) <i>(from 04/12/18)</i>	A	A	P				
PRU (1)	PRU Management Board	Sam Rigby-White (SRW)	A	A	P				
UTC (1)	UTC	Lee Barber (LB)	P	A	A				
Academy Secondary (5)	Academy Schools	Gwyn Williams (GW)	P	P	P				
		Tim Long (TL)	P	P	A				
		John Carlin (JC)	P	P	A				
		Bev Scott-Herron (BSH)	P	P	S				
	Governors Forum	Kieran Walshe (KW)	A	A	P				
Academy Primary (1)	Academy Schools	Andrew Redman (AR)	A	P	S				
Maintained Primary School Sector (8)	WAPH (4)	Hazel Fryman (HF)	P	P	A				
		Gary Cunningham (GC)	S	P	P				
		Lesley McGann (LM)	P	P	P				
		Lyndsey Glass (LG)	S	P	P				
	Governors Forum (4)	Stuart Munslow (SM)	P	A	P				
		David Hart (DH)	A	P	P				
		Janet Lazarus (JL)	P	P	A				
		Hazel Coen (HC)	P	A	P				
Maintained Secondary School Sector (2)	WASCL (2)	Chris Hunt (CH)	P	P	P				
		Ed McGlinchey (EM)	A	P	P				
Private Voluntary and Independent Providers (1)	PVI Providers Forum	Ginny Taylor (GT)	P	P	A				

Representing	Member	Dates and Attendance						
		26 June 2018	2 October 2018	4 December 2018	15 January 2019	5 March 2019	25 June 2019	8 October 2019
<b><u>Non-Schools Members (4)</u></b>								
Anglican Diocese (1)	Jacqui Wightman (JacquiW)	P	P	S				
Roman Catholic Diocese (1)	Tim Warren (TW)	P	A	A				
16-19 Institutions (1)	Julie McCann (JM)	P	P	P				
Parent Governor (1)	Vacant	-	-	-				

<b>Independent Chair</b>	Maureen Banner (MBa)	P	P	P				
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Representing		26 June 2018	2 October 2018	4 December 2018	15 January 2019	5 March 2019	25 June 2019	8 October 2019	3 December 2019
<b><u>Warrington Borough Council</u></b>									
Head of Service Education and SEND	Melissa Young (MY) <i>(from 2 Oct)</i>	P	P	P					
Finance Manager	James Campbell (JC)	P	P	P					
Senior Accountant (Schools)	Garry Bradbury (GB)	P	P	P					
Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services	Cllr Jean Carter (CllrJC)	P	A	A					

**Key**

P ~ Present

S ~ Substitute

A ~ Apologies

- ~ Vacancy

X ~ Absent with no apologies

O ~ Observer

**Trades Unions**

Gary Moge (NASUWT)

**Presenting an Item:**

Paula Worthington Assistant Director, Early Help, Education &amp; SEND, WBC

**Substitutes:**

Chris Metcalfe

Substitute for Jacqui Wightman

Cath Cooke

Substitute for Andrew Redman

Moira Bryan

Substitute for Bev Scott-Herron

**Minutes:**

Gill Sykes

	<i>Item</i>	<b>Action</b>
1.	<p><b>Apologies and Welcome</b></p> <p>The chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made and apologies were noted.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes from the previous meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and matters arising were addressed. Comment regarding page 5 paragraph 3: LG clarified the funding situation around SENDIF for children entering mainstream school.</p> <p>Noted that an additional Schools Forum meeting has been arranged for 15 January 2019 to coordinate with finance deadlines.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Consultation response</b></p> <p>Paula Worthington (PW) presented a report following the top-slice consultation. The report includes an overview of the options considered, the responses to the consultation and the next steps. Comments were received and some will be shared next week with the Ofsted inspectors when they come for the local area SEND inspection.</p> <p>The Chair discussed the importance and difficulty of the decision to be made, and reminded that they are the representatives of their professional bodies and have been trusted to make the right decision.</p> <p>The impact assessment was discussed in line with deprived areas linked to progress and attainment and how this top slice may affect this further for a number of schools. Garry Bradbury (GB) explained why there was a handful of losers with 0.37% top slice via additional funds allocated to Warrington for 2019/20. If comparing against NFF then there are no losers. Each scenario had two figures, one against NFF and what you actually receive. 2018/19 had additional funding. One of the scenarios is that we don't replicate that position.</p> <p>GW spoke on behalf of WASCL and made it very clear that WASCL are not happy with the top-slice, but would support the 0.37% option on a pragmatic basis. GW noted that one of the key principles last year when Schools Forum agreed the NFF was that it would give some certainty in planning budgets. GW requested that the minutes note that any agreement to top-slice this time does not mean that there would be an agreement next year. WAPH noted that they have the same opinion as WASCL in relation to any future top-slice.</p> <p>Schools Forum would like to see a strategic plan from the local authority for tackling the historic deficit. It was noted that the current deficit projection is £1.9m and this will be rolled over into 2019/20. It was noted that in the longer term there are concerns if the deficit accumulates. The deficit position is not unique to Warrington, it is a countrywide issue. It was noted that the LGA and the F40 Group are putting a lot</p>	

	<i>Item</i>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>of pressure on the government as a collective voice on this issue. Parent power needs to be harnessed to support appropriate challenge to central government. GB noted that 2019/20 will be another difficult financial year.</p> <p>The query was raised about whether reserve balances held in some schools could be used in places of deprivation. Noted that this query had already been addressed at a previous Schools Forum.</p> <p>It was noted that schools are feeling the strain ‘on the ground’ with cuts and tighter SEND decisions meaning schools are having to deal with more SEND needs in mainstream. PW and the local authority are working very hard to do everything they can at the moment. It was noted that Warrington local authority have been championed by others for its inclusive approach.</p> <p>The three options being considered following the consultation are as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Option A – No top-slice Option B – Maximum permitted top-slice (0.5%) Option C – Retention of growth/headroom funding (estimated 0.37% top-slice)</p> <p>A vote was taken and Option C was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Schools Forum is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Note the results of the consultation. <b>NOTED</b></li> <li>b) Agree with the proposal to top slice the Schools Block by retaining the growth and headroom funding and transfer these monies to the High Needs Block in line with the responses to the survey. <b>AGREED UNANIMOUSLY</b></li> <li>c) Note that a request has been submitted to the Department for Education to move funds between the Schools Block and High Needs Block subject to agreement from Schools Forum on the 4 December 2018. <b>NOTED</b></li> </ol>	
4.	<p><b>Information regarding school funding</b></p> <p><u>Teacher Pay Grant</u> GB informed that since the last meeting the teacher pay grant has been issued, and then was reissued because of their calculation error (double counted some children in reception). They have acknowledged the error. Schools will see their initial allocation in this financial period and 28 schools will see an adjustment of between £2 and £493. Once recalculated if there is a reduction, they will honour the incorrect calculation. £750k has gone into schools budgets in Period 8. Noted that it is not a true reflection of what the pay award has cost, and is calculated on numbers of children on roll and not number of teachers employed.</p> <p><u>Little Extras</u> Still unsure when this will be received, it had been promised for December but not received yet. It is a one off payment and it is an average of £10k for primary and £50k for secondary.</p>	

	<i>Item</i>	<b>Action</b>
	We should receive the settlement for the DSG blocks in December for the next financial year. Once we have the final confirmation of the schools block GB will calculate the individual school budgets for the next financial year based on the decision about top-slicing (which has been agreed at this meeting). This will not be before 20 December 2018 hence the January 2019 Schools Forum meeting. Arrangements for de-delegations will also be discussed at the meeting in January 2019.	
5.	<b>AOB</b> – no items	
6.	<b>Meeting schedule:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday 15 January 2019 at 5.15 pm</li> <li>• Tuesday 5 March 2019 at 5.15 pm</li> <li>• Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 5.15 pm</li> <li>• Tuesday 8 October 2019 at 5.15 pm</li> <li>• Tuesday 3 December 2019 at 5.15 pm</li> </ul> <i>(Venue – Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School)</i>	

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.  
The meeting was closed.