

Collaborative Funding Meeting – 3 July 2018 – Minutes and Agreed Actions

Attendance

- See attached attendance list – please inform Gemma Strugnell of any omissions/errors **(All)**

Context/Background

All parties have focused on improving funding for schools for an extended period of time. Delegates were given the opportunity to summarise key elements of their work and current planning. In turn, this allowed specific priorities – that are important to all groups – to be identified.

Delegates agreed that maintaining separate identities and strands of specialist work would be maintained. This would, in effect, add to the strength of future collaborative work and expertise.

Agreed Actions

The development of shared priorities was, however, seen as crucial and they can be summarised as follows:

- Developing strategies to communicate effectively across the group – Chatham House rules apply until parties agree that information should be shared more widely. **(All)**

Action – Parent groups to liaise with professional associations regarding distribution lists in order to help put forward key messages.

- A Memorandum of Understanding – simple in content and form – should be developed.

Action – Jules to draft a short document which can be shared and developed. All parties to agree at our next meeting.

- Short term priorities
 - enhancing funding for the High Needs Block/SEN/ANB
 - pressing government (the Treasury) to fully fund** any public sector pay recommendations relating to schools – STRB and NJC – support staff and teachers

*** We should be mindful to ensure that public perceptions relating to the funding of pay increases must be carefully and sensitively managed. We must also ensure that if a funding pressure is eased by the government meeting salary cost increases, such help should not be offset by an increase in costs elsewhere (National Insurance employer contributions).*

- Longer term priorities – these can be discussed and agreed at future meetings. All parties acknowledged the importance of further investment in “the quantum” and the importance of making adjustments to the current National Funding Formula. The Comprehensive Spending Review will provide an important staging post.
- Agreeing data sets – all parties agreed that it was important to identify 3-4 key pieces of data that could be used as a centrepiece for information sharing and negotiation during 2018-19:
 - The cost of funding recommendations made by STRB and NJC
 - The immediate shortfall in funding for High Needs provision
 - The total money withdrawn from school budgets since 2015 (to 2020), the Institute for Fiscal Studies has proposed a percentage reduction of 4.6%
 - A figure highlighting per pupil reduction in funding from x-y

Action – Andrew Baisley to liaise with experts from the group to confirm figures/data. It would be extremely helpful to have these confirmed by 1 September 2018.

- Coordinated events – it was agreed to have a rolling programme of high profile events and these would complement regional and localised activities:
 - 28 September – 1000+ head teachers to lobby the chancellor on the agreed priority areas.

Action – Jules to circulate relevant literature and to engage with colleagues within this collaborative group to maximise participation. **#stillnotlistening**

- Parent led activity with support from professional associations
#wishyouwerehearing –

Action Sarah, Mel, Alison to liaise with Matt and others

- The importance of personalised stories was emphasised and exemplars should be widely shared and distributed (ALL)

- Lobbying – delivering crucial messages to decision makers was seen as crucial.

Action – Doug to liaise with professional associations and other groups about the possibility of a joint parliamentary briefing. It was recognised, however, that there may be other way to achieve this goal.

- Ongoing support and communication – all parties were keen to meet again to review agreed actions and to plan for the future.

Action – Gemma to coordinate a follow up meeting by mid-September at the latest.