

Hampshire Schools Forum

Date 4 December 2025
Time 2pm
Location Ashburton Hall, Ell, Winchester

Present

Primary	Claire Hope, Peter Bassett John Littlewood Fiona Wyeth
Secondary	Chris Anders (Chair) Paul German, Pete Main, Mark Maranda, Chris Sermon
Special	Marijke Miles,
Education Centre	Vicky Essex
Academy	Keith Norman
TLP	Jo Ayres Susan Kent
Post 16 Diocese	David Woolley
Also Present	HCC Cllr Chadd, Cllr Forster, Natalie Smith, Andrew Minall Richard Vaughan, Anita Blackwell (Clerk)
Apologies/ Absent	Nursery Joan Kerr
Primary	Sefton Lucas, Stacey Parsons, Jason Anderson, Tina Nowell, Ian Waine <i>June Kershaw, Kishor Patel, Richard Austin</i>
Secondary	Keith Atton
Special	Roy Cleaver, Justin Innes
Academy	Hilary Manton, Kathryn Marshall <i>Susan Hamilton</i>
Other Members	Diane Wycherley Sara Russell <i>Nicci Atkinson Simon Evans</i>

1	Welcome and apologies.	
	Apologies received and recorded as above	
2	Declarations of Interest	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change since previous meeting 	
3	Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 October 2025	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All in agreement that the minutes of the last meeting are a true and accurate record of the meeting. 	
4	Actions Arising	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 5 – Place Planning – on agenda. 	

5	School Place Planning – Richard Vaughan	
	<p>Presentation circulated with agenda Questions points raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 – statutory duty to secure sufficient schools and places – RV explained how always try and use existing capacity or expand existing schools if appropriate. • Cllr Forster gave update on ministerial visit last week to secondary school/college where time was spent with SEN students and teaching staff, amongst others and highlighted how well the school and county were working together. Anticipated that the number of EHCPs will grow after the SEN White paper but a lot of the provision to be delivered in mainstream through the use of Resource Provision. • Figure of £17,854 per head queried for Resourced Provision as being tight given the variety of SEN needs. It was clarified that this was an average figure and will vary according to need. NS explained that as in mainstream if needs can't be met through allocation can apply for increased funding. • Challenges around running small schools discussed and small secondary schools. • Discussion around the impact of an Ofsted judgement on if a school is considered for closure. Emphasis is always on what is right for the children. 	
6	Schools Budget 2026/2027 – Andrew Minall	
	<p>Paper circulated with agenda Questions /points raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is falling role protection only eligible if likely to recover in three years, will the contingency emergency fund apply automatically and is there any evidence that it works? AM explained that the three year criteria is mandated nationally and the transitional protection will be applied to maintained schools automatically. The transitional protection applies to a small number of schools and provides protection for the remainder of the academic year allowing management time to take action. This forms part of schools wider budget planning alongside dealing with other financial pressures and issues. • Don't currently have a confirmed allocation for coming year but the principles will be applied as detailed in paper. • What is contained with the “Other functions” heading of the Central Schools Service Block? Other functions include a range of activities with a main area of spend relating to education welfare. • Why are Central Copyright licences funded? DfE took decision to negotiate on all schools' behalf – we are expected to pay for it. <p>All voted and are in agreement with the recommendations in the report that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that Schools Forum support the proposed approach to setting the mainstream school funding formula for 2026/27 as outlined in paragraph 5.6 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that Schools Forum support the disapplication of the regulations in relation to exceptional premises costs for a small number of schools as outlined in paragraph 5.9 • It is recommended that Schools Forum support the disapplication of the regulations in relation to second year of lump sum protection for one school as outlined in paragraph 5.10. • It is recommended that Schools Forum support the proposed approach to allocating funding within the high needs block as outlined in the high needs block section of the report. • It is recommended that Schools Forum approve the central school services block in line with the DfE allocation. • It is recommended that Schools Forum approve 'in principle' the allocations of the central provision funded by maintained schools and de-delegation budgets. 	
7	Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit Management Plan Update – Natalie Smith	
	<p>Presentation previously shared. Questions /points raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there any prospect in a change in the law? There would need to be something in the White paper regarding change in legislation although policy reform will be very difficult. • Tension around 20 week timeliness discussed with specific placement not being named. NS explained that it legally needs to be finalised within 20 week. • Consults – is there any legislation regarding how many parental options are considered and the issue regarding parents requesting special schools but not visiting - so may not be appropriate as no peer group for child. AGENDA ITEM • Challenge with HUB – parents don't see response from Special Schools just yes/no – and then result in Tribunal – reliant on case worker to share with parent, and this is improving. • Increase of request for EHCP assessments – any data on which district/areas that come from? More affluent areas are the highest which is a known national programme- Sutton Trust info to be added into minutes. Double Disadvantage? - The Sutton Trust • Local Area Partnership – Schools reps – NS asked all to ensure that they were aware of who their rep was and that information was disseminated to all. 	
9	AOB	
	<p>CA concluded the meeting thanking everyone for the conversations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM gave update on F40 work increased focus week commencing 19 January • Next meeting date - 19 January – VIRTUAL 	