

Durham County Council Schools Forum Meeting, 22 September 2021, Item No 4, Outstanding Action Points

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To list action points from previous meetings, including outstanding and recently completed actions.
- 2 Action points are shown below, including a reference to the minutes where the action was identified. Completed actions will be included in the report, for information, for six months after completion.

Outstanding actions

1. List of S.106 monies to be made available

- 26 March 2020, agenda item No. 2c, paragraph 40
- Responsibility of David Shirer
- Nick Grieveson asked if there was a list of s.106 monies that could be shared with schools.
- Information will be reported to the Forum meeting in September 2021.
- Update, September 2021: data is in the process of being collected and evaluated. Once that exercise is complete it be presented to the November meeting of the Forum.

2. Council to make representations to the DfE about a permanent exclusion of early years providers from business rates

- 23 September 2020, agenda item No. 3 paragraphs 23 to 24
- Responsibility of Jim Murray
- The Council made representation to DfE through the Early Years LA Covid-19 working group and continues to challenge through this mechanism, that permanent exclusion for early years providers is included in a range of support measure to assist childcare business sustainability.

- Update, September 2021: the dfE is considering the representations made and any changes are expected to be announced in the November 2021 Comprehensive Spending Review.

3. Breakdown to be provided of how the balance of Early Years funding is to be used

- 29 June 2021, agenda item No. 2, paragraph 13
- Responsibility of David Shirer
- Options are being considered about how this reserve could be targeted to the most disadvantaged pupils, taking account of an appropriate amount to hold in reserve.
- Update, September 2021: progress to be updated in November 2021.

4. Formal report on Service Level Agreement charges during lockdown

- 29 June 2021, agenda item No. 2, paragraph 49
- Responsibility of David Shirer
- Update, September 2021: this is still outstanding, but in respect of the Primary Swimming Programme, the following applies:
- Due to the challenges of Covid-19, which precluded some sports activities in general, required extensive adaptations to cleaning and social distancing when activities did resume, and affected availability of staff and transport, elements of the swimming SLA were reduced in 2020/21. During the summer term 2021, DCC provided an alternative, alternating two week timetable for the safe delivery of school swimming lessons throughout County Durham's swimming pool facilities. Following national guidance about the safe management of school swimming lessons, the alternating timetable was delivered in June and July.
- Since schools have returned for the 2021/22 academic year DCC is once again delivering weekly swimming lesson timetables to schools within the SLA. Provision is always dependent on the operation of pools (which is mostly beyond the control of the SLA swimming co-ordinators) and availability of trained staff.

Regionally and nationally there is a shortage of trained swimming instructors, but DCC works hard to maintain sufficient staff to support all planned lessons.

- DCC is also working with key stakeholders from National Governing bodies to create and pilot both local and national frameworks for teaching and learning along with supportive material to enhance the learning experience and to improve outcomes in statutory swimming. The team has worked with schools to arrange additional lessons in response to requests to increase participation in school swimming and water safety tuition.
- Schools have been charged the full SLA charge for the current financial year. Charges in 2020/21 and partly in 2021/22 were in line with Council and Government guidance under the PPN 02/20 supplier relief advice to public bodies. DCC will continue to provide this under service level agreements to all schools who wish to participate.
- The transport payments associated with swimming lessons are separate from the DCC School Swimming SLA. The coordinators of school swimming lessons work closely with DCC Integrated Passenger Transport team to organise travel to and from school swimming lessons at the most reasonable cost achievable, and schools in the SLA should expect costs to be a reasonable reflection of the service they receive. Where lessons did not take place earlier in the Covid-19 pandemic, costs for travel that did not take place were refunded. However, it should be expected that schools will be charged the full cost for the transport they receive this year.

5. School and academy membership of Forum to be reviewed

- 22 September 2021, agenda item No. 3, paragraph 58
- Responsibility of David Shirer
- Update to be provided in meeting.

Completed actions

1. Council to consider whether to exclude early years providers from business rates in 2021-22.

- 23 September 2020, agenda item No. 3 paragraphs 23 to 24
- Responsibility of Jeff Garfoot
- **Outcome:** childcare providers will qualify for business relief from April to June then will be reduced to 66% from July to March. (See agenda for 29 June 2021, item No. 2, paragraph 11) .
- To remain on action point list until after November 2021 meeting

2. Council to consider proposal from EY members to use the balance of EY funding

- 26 November 2020, item No. 2, paragraph 20
- At the meeting on 15 April 2021, members were advised that the proposal had not been agreed. In the council's view, the proposal did not sufficiently demonstrate impact and would not be targeting services where it was most needed. Dr Jane Todd asked what is the suggestion instead on how the money is to be used and allocated?
- Advice from CYPS is that any proposal for the good use of the contingency funds should be considered within a policy-based framework of impact for children who are more disadvantaged than their peers. Future requests should outline how the additional money would demonstrate equity for children and support providers to deliver additional services for those children who would benefit from extra support or intervention.
- (See agenda for 29 June 2021, item No. 2, paragraphs 12 to 14).
- To remain on action point list until after November 2021 meeting

Contact

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