

SCHOOLS FORUM**Date of Meeting:** 12th October 2017**Subject:** Schools Forum – Early Years Sub Group and Review of Forum Membership**Report of:** Christine Clarkson**Contact Details:**
Name: Christine Clarkson
Tel: 01706 – 925003
E-mail: christine.clarkson@rochdale.gov.uk**Confidential:** Not applicable**Introduction and Context**

Under the Schools Forums Regulations 2012 all LA's must have a Schools Forum with agreed Terms of Reference. Representation from the Schools Members must be broadly in line with pupil numbers in sectors and, in view of academy conversions, LA's must review this regularly. In addition the Forum must have a representative from the Early Years private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector.

Summary

The recent conversions of schools to academies have not changed the balance of pupils across sectors significantly; therefore the LA is recommending the membership remain as currently i.e. 7 primary, 4 secondary and 2 academy. In addition the LA recommends the setting up of a Sub Group to discuss Early Years issues for recommendation to Schools Forum.

Recommendations

Schools Forum agree the setting up an Early Years Sub Group (Task and Finish) to discuss and propose recommendations to Forum.

Forum note the review of schools representation on Forum following the conversion of 2 primary schools to academies.

Implementation Date:

Date of meeting

Reference to Key Documents/Previous Papers:

Schools Forum Regulations 2012

**Report to the Schools Forum
12th October 2017**

Schools Forum – Early Years Sub Group and Review of Forum Membership

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To propose the establishment of a Sub Group of Forum to consider Early Years matters. In addition to present the review of member representation following the conversion of two schools to academies w.e.f September 2017.

2. Background

- 2.2 Under the Schools Forums Regulations 2012 all LA's must have a Schools Forum with agreed Terms of Reference. The current membership includes a Representative from the maintained nursery schools sector together with a Representative from the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector. The Regulations also require Schools membership of Forum to be broadly representative of the pupil numbers in the Authority with the exception that there must be at least 1 academy, 1 secondary and 1 Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) Representative if the Authority has a school in that sector. The LA is required to ensure membership of Forum is updated regularly to reflect conversions of schools to academies.

3. Strategy and Context

- 3.1. As Schools Forum is an important statutory and consultative body for the LA for schools finance issues, it is important that the membership reflects the make up of schools, providers and pupils in the Borough.

4. Findings

Early Years Representation

- 4.1. The current Principles, Constitution and Terms of Reference (ToR) for Schools Forum were last revised in September 2016. The representative for the Early Years PVI sector has come up for renewal. The previous member did not wish to be re-elected and there has been no other volunteers come forward. One of the issues highlighted in recruiting to this position has been that the representative feels isolated with a lot of the issues discussed not relating to their sector. Under the Regulations Schools Forums are required to have a member representing the early years PVI sector.
- 4.2. With this in mind the LA considers it would be more effective to set up an Early Years Sub Group to consider issues in more depth and provide recommendations to Forum. A representative from the PVI sector from this group can attend with voting rights when any Early Years issues are presented to Forum. The Sub Group will meet as a Task and Finish Group as required and have the following representation.

- 1 x Nursery School
- 1 x Independent School
- 1 x Academy
- 2 x Nursery class
- 2 x Pre-school
- 2 x private nursery

4.3. The Terms of Reference for the Group are attached at Appendix A.

Schools Member Representation

4.4. Since September 2016 two primaries have converted to academies and there are two more undergoing conversion. As outlined in 2.2.above primary, secondary and academy membership should be broadly proportionately representative of pupil numbers and this needs to be reflected in the ToR.

4.5. The table below summarises the current membership, together with pupil numbers as at May 2017 but reflecting the transfer of 2 primary schools to academies which took place in September 2017.

TABLE 1	% as at	September		Schools	Current		Proposed
Category	September	2017		Membership	Schools		Membership
	2016	No of Pupils	%	Required	Membership	%	
Primary	61%	20,309	61%	8	7	54%	7
Secondary	27%	7,215	24%	3	4	30%	4
Academy	12%	5,501	15%	2	2	15%	2
TOTALS	100%	33,025	100%	13	13	100%	13

4.6. It can be seen that, following the transfer of 2 schools to academies, the balance of pupils remains broadly as last year. Whilst there are two more primary schools in the process of conversion this has a minimal effect on the calculation. Based purely on, this membership should be 8 primary, 3 secondary and 2 academy. As discussed at Forum in October 2016 membership based purely on the pupil numbers would change the balance between primary and secondary schools significantly. Therefore it is proposed to retain the membership as currently at 7 maintained primary, 4 maintained secondary and 2 academy representatives with the latter being 1 primary and 1 secondary representative, if possible. One representative for the primary and secondary sector must be a Governor. It is considered this is still broadly proportionate to the pupils mix across the Authority.

4.7. Under the regulations, the membership and arrangements for Schools Forum is a Local Authority decision with consultation with Forum.

5. Summary

5.1. The ToR were last updated in 2016 and, since this time, there has been two schools converted to academies with two pending. The conversions have not changed the balance of pupils across sectors significantly; therefore the LA is recommending the membership remain as currently:

7 primary representatives (to include 1 Governor)

- 4 secondary representatives (to include 1 Governor)
- 2 academy representatives (1 primary and 1 secondary)

5.2 In addition the LA recommends the setting up of an Early Years Sub Group to agree Early Years issues for recommendation to Schools Forum.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. Schools Forum agree the setting up an Early Years Sub Group (Task and Finish) to discuss and propose recommendations to Forum.
- 6.2. Forum note the review of schools representation on Forum following the conversion of 2 primary schools to academies.