

Secondary Head Teachers' Forum Meeting

Wednesday 24 November 2021, 4 – 5pm, MS Teams

Minutes

Attended		
Andrew McNaughton (chair)	Charlton School	<i>Attended</i>
Simon Wellman	Telford & Wrekin Council	<i>Attended</i>
Natalie Bevan	Telford & Wrekin Council	<i>Attended</i>
Heather Davies	The Bridge School	<i>Attended</i>
Darren Lennon	Telford & Wrekin Council	<i>Attended</i>
Holly Rigby	Telford Park School	<i>Attended</i>
Tom Cash	Kickstart	<i>Attended</i>
Rebecca Carey	Telford & Wrekin Council	<i>Attended</i>
Sue Marston	Telford & Wrekin Council	<i>Attended</i>
Ben Morgan	Burton Borough School	<i>Attended</i>
Michael J Scott	Newport Girls' School	<i>Attended</i>
Steve Carter	Telford Langley & Telford park	<i>Attended</i>
Kevin Sachwell	Thomas Telford School	<i>Attended</i>
Abi Martin	Southall School	<i>Attended</i>
Andy Cooke	Telford & Wrekin Council	<i>Attended</i>
Shane Billingham	Telford & Wrekin Council	<i>Attended</i>
Jeanette Furlong	Madeley Academy	<i>Attended</i>
Stacey Jordan	Telford Priory School	<i>Attended</i>
Daniel Roycroft	HLC Secondary	<i>Attended</i>
Angus Neal	Holy Trinity School	<i>Attended</i>
Lee Hadley	Haberdasher's Abraham Darby	<i>Attended</i>
Claire Edmonds (minutes)	Telford & Wrekin Council	<i>Attended</i>
Apologies		
Nicky Minshall	Telford & Wrekin Council	<i>Apologies</i>
Jo Britton	Telford & Wrekin Council	<i>Apologies</i>

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Andrew McNaughton, chair, welcomed all attendees.
- Jo Britton and Nicky Minshall send apologies.

1. Key Updates (including COVID-19)

- PowerPoint Slides will be shared with attendees containing full details.

Director Update:

- Presented by Simon Wellman.
- Children and young people from Afghanistan have received fantastic support across the education sector. There has been continuous movement of families, both in and out of the borough.
- Strategic Partnership Board will now meet on a termly basis, and a key priority is developing a solid strategy. The newsletter will be included in the Education Noticeboard this week.
- Exclusion Reduction Task Force continues to make great progress.
- COVID-19 updated control measures have been updated.

Secondary Sufficiency Update:

- Presented by Shane Billingham.
- 150 potential additional places identified for September 2022 intake, which will meet the projected minimum demand.
- Continuous reviewing planned over the next three months to ensure sufficient places.
- Still a need for additional year 7 places for the intakes between 2023 and 2025.
- Responses to a request for schools to open up additional places across years 7 to 10, to manage in-year places, are mixed. 40% feel able to help. 60% do not.
- A proposal for spreading additional in-year places across schools is currently being considered, in the meantime FAP will deal with cases where a place cannot be allocated.
- It was noted by Simon Wellman that FAP is currently overused, and the ultimate goal needs to be the minimising of this use.
- It was also noted that although there are sufficient places for September, a lot of the solutions are on an interim basis and permanent solutions need to be identified. This needs to be done without creating a surplus of new buildings, which although would be used in the next five years, may not be needed after that.
- Andrew McNaughton asked what the intention was for filling school places. Simon Wellman said that the aim is fairness across the board.
- Kevin Sachwell suggested that it would be helpful if there was more transparency about the planned numbers in each year group so that schools can all fully understand the position. Schools will want to know that schools are indeed full, before looking at the equitable distribution of the extra pupils needing places.

Updating the SAM Portal:

- Presented by Shane Billingham.
- A reminder to all schools to update their information on the SAM portal.

Raising the Attainment of Disadvantaged Youngsters:

- Presented by Rebecca Carey.
- Overview of how RADY helps schools to become equitable on all aspects of Education.
- Overview of Strand 2: Professional Learning Programme – 6 virtual modules for teachers and school leaders, with a flexible programme outline.
- Next steps include implementation, cross phase partnership and the RADY conference 2022.
- Andrew McNaughton raised concern that, given the already full schedules for January, it might be difficult to also fit the planned conference in. Rebecca Carey explained that the idea is to capitalise on schools getting on board, and not suffer from a dip in interest in the New Year.
- Darren Lennon shared that the Linden have changed staff and colleague meetings around RADY, and that the approach has really helped and supported personal development.

Alternative Provisions & CiC Update:

- Presented by Andy Cooke.
- Paper to summarise the outcomes of the summer term alternative provision consultation is out next week. The proposal is to pilot innovative approaches with a view to develop them.
- Details of funding are still to be finalised, decisions to be made by the end of January.
- Other than emergency cases, the 8 December 2021 FAP is being dedicated to find a way forward for the panel. There is an open invite if schools wish to attend, to discuss new protocols.

Emotional Health & Wellbeing Panel Review:

- Presented by Natalie Bevan.
- Panel has been operation since November 2019, and a review is needed to identify frustrations in the system and develop areas for improvement.
- The review is open until 10 December 2021.

UK Disability History Month:

- Presented by Natalie Bevan.
- Overview of UK Disability History Month 2021, 18 November to 18 December 2021.
- Southwater One will be lit up in purple on Friday 3 December 2021 in recognition of the event.
- A request was made for stories of events put on as part of UK Disability History Month, for use in future positive comms.

Skills Area Update:

- Presented by Sue Marston.
- Post-16 subgroup is due to be refreshed, with all secondary schools invited to be involved.
- Next meeting is planned for 1 December 2021, 2 – 3pm. Sample of a previous agenda was shared, as well as current attendees. Help was sought identifying the base of some members of the group – David Hughes (Abraham Darby), Chris Knight (administration) and Phil Goodwin (Park).
- Simon Wellman emphasised the need for the post-16 group to refresh itself, as not all schools are currently represented.
- Jeanette Furlong noted that one of the key impediments is the inconsistency of data sharing between Telford College and some of the schools. It was suggested that the LA could initiate an agreement to push consistency and encourage the college to share information with all schools on an equal footing. A chat outside of the meeting between Sue Marston and Simon Wellman would be a good first step.
- Updates given on the September Guarantee, NEETS and FutureFocus activity.

2. Ofsted Updates

- Schools invited to share their experiences about Ofsted visits this year.
- Lee Hadley said that curriculum, sequencing, enabling knowledge and core knowledge were the focus. There was also a heavy emphasis on SEND. The change this time, from the last visit, was that previously senior leaders were kept at arm's length but this time they were allowed more involvement, partly due to the school playing the well-being of curriculum leaders 'card'. There was also more weight on the input of governors, who were given some difficult questions to answer. The method of assessment for PHSE was also queried for the first time.
- Ben Morgan said that curriculum in particular was looked at, and agreed with the new focus on PSHE. Emphasis was given to middle leaders being held at arm's length, so the advice is to ensure curriculum leaders are well prepared. Not as much emphasis on governors, in his experience, but agreed with the focus on SEND and scrutiny on how the curriculum is adapted to meet individual pupil need.
- Simon Wellman said that all information shared is helpful, and the emphasis that Ofsted currently place on SEND can't be underestimated. The national picture for SEND is a tricky one, and this is

being fed down into individual school inspections. There is real focus on how the curriculum is being adapted, including for K support kids.

- Simon Wellman also mentioned that frustration has been fed back around Ofsted's lack of acknowledgement around COVID-19 and the additional stress that this causes. It seems that as the term progresses, the conversation about COVID-19 is reducing.
- Holly Rigby said that wasn't their experience, and COVID-19 was very much the starting point of their inspection. Sexual violence was also a hot topic. Theirs was, however, only a monitoring visit.
- Ben Morgan said that it was very much made clear that the inspectors were taking a snapshot for the two days they were in, but not much was said about COVID-19 at all so it sounds like there are some inconsistencies between visits.
- Lee Hadley noted that the 'different flavour' for different visits is unhelpful.

3. COVID-19 Winter Guidance for Schools:

- Presented by Simon Wellman.
- Following a dip over half term, Telford is experiencing a rise in positive cases. This is particularly noticeable in the 10-19 age group.
- Schools have been sent an updated list of public health recommendations.
- Almost half of 12 – 15 year olds in the borough have been vaccinated, which is higher than the national figure.
- Information on upcoming pop-up clinics are being shared as information comes through.
- Updates on cleaning, CO2 monitoring, ventilation, social distancing and mask wearing were given.
- Guidance provided around Christmas activities

4. AOB

- Updated Telford & Wrekin schools emergency plan template due to be issued at the beginning of September 2022.

6. Date of next meeting

- Thursday 27 January 2022, 4 – 5pm, MS Teams.
- Angus Neal to chair.