

FALLING ROLLS WORKING GROUP
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday 2nd MAY 2018

Attending: Manda George, Rebecca Sherwood, Nicola Howard, Anita Gallagher, Ian Morris, Dave Richards

Apologies: Terry Segarty, Pia Longman

This was an initial meeting following the Schools' Forum meeting held in March 2018. Unfortunately, Terry Segarty was unable to attend and asked Manda George to chair in his absence. It appears that some HT representatives had not been invited to the meeting in error.

1. Composition of the group

The group is currently made up of Headteacher representatives from the Schools' Forum. It was recognised that there is a need for the group membership to be wider. It was agreed that the groups should remain with schools' forum HT representatives in the first instance to establish the operational aspects of the group.

2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for the Schools' Financial Support Panel (formerly Schools in Difficulty) were circulated as an example. It was agreed that terms of reference for the Falling Rolls Fund will need to be established.

Action: Manda George to bring draft Terms of Reference to the next meeting

3. Current situation

The following information was shared with the group:

- This year there was approximately 600K allocated to the Growth Fund and 100K for the falling rolls fund. This had been previously agreed by the Schools' Forum. It was felt by the groups that this was disproportionate and would need to be reviewed to reflect the current situation.
- Accounts for last financial year have been finalised.
 - There are currently 19 schools in deficit (it is not clear how many of these have a falling roll).
 - 60% of schools have an in year deficit.
 - The Local Authority are currently providing £1.3 million pounds in loans to schools in difficulty.
 - 50% of schools are losing pupils for a variety of reasons.
- There are a number of schools that have been expanded. Some of those schools have been unable to fill their roll
- Schools are taking steps to try and manage their decreasing budgets. Many schools are minimising staffing either by reorganisation or by not replacing staff who are leaving. The group is concerned about the potential impact this could have on outcomes for children.

4. Eligibility Criteria

There are national regulations and DfE criteria which have to be met in order to be eligible for additional funding for falling rolls. One of the **statutory** criteria is that schools have to be good or outstanding in order to qualify.

Other criteria will need to be established and agreed by Schools' Forum e.g. there will need to be evidence of current funding levels for any school applying. Schools will need to prepare a business case and there will need to be a formal process.

Actions:

- **Manda George to circulate minutes of the meeting.**
- **Manda George to draft Terms of Reference prior to next meeting.**
- **Terry Segarty to ensure all HT representatives from Schools' Forum Group are invited to next meeting.**
- **Manda George to provide feedback to Schools' Forum at next meeting.**
- **Date of next meeting - TBC**