

COUNTY FORUM: Autumn Term 2017

SUMMARY REPORT

Meeting: **County Forum Meeting** comprising of the County Consultative Committee and East Sussex Governors' Forum (ESGF)

Date: 19th October 2017

Venue: Cooden Beach Hotel, Bexhill

Present: Cllr Bob Standley, Cllr Trevor Webb, Cllr Alan Shuttleworth, Denise Kong, Monica Whitehead, Karen Marr, Jane McCarthy-Penman, Matthew Jones, Jessica Stubbings, Clare Cornford, Victoria Spencer-Hughes, Beth Armstrong.

Apologies: Cllr Galley, Stuart Ford, Richard Sage, Geoff Lucas, Fiona Wright.

Item	Decisions and Outcomes	Action																																		
1.	Election of Chair Cllr Standley was elected as chair of the County Consultative Forum. Proposed by Cllr Webb.																																			
2.	Minutes of previous County Forum Meeting – 25th April 2017 The minutes were noted as a true record.																																			
3.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received and noted as above.																																			
4.	Declaration of Interest Disclosures by all members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct. No interests declared.																																			
5.	Urgent Items No urgent items were raised																																			
6.	<p>The Spring and Summer Local Area Forum Meeting attendance figures were noted as below:</p> <table><tr><th rowspan="2">Area</th><th colspan="2">Total number of governors attending</th><th colspan="2">Total number of schools represented</th></tr><tr><th>Spring 2017</th><th>Summer 2017</th><th>Spring 2017</th><th>Summer 2017</th></tr><tr><td>Eastbourne</td><td>21</td><td>18</td><td>15</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>Hastings/Bexhill</td><td>22</td><td>16</td><td>19</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>Lewes</td><td>20</td><td>15</td><td>15</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>Uckfield</td><td>20</td><td>27</td><td>14</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>TOTALS</td><td>83</td><td>76</td><td>63</td><td>61</td></tr></table>	Area	Total number of governors attending		Total number of schools represented		Spring 2017	Summer 2017	Spring 2017	Summer 2017	Eastbourne	21	18	15	15	Hastings/Bexhill	22	16	19	11	Lewes	20	15	15	14	Uckfield	20	27	14	21	TOTALS	83	76	63	61	
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7.	Academies Update – Jessica Stubbings JS updated members of the group that Parkland Infant and Junior schools and Shinewater School had converted to academy under SWALE and Castledown Primary School has converted under the ARK academy chain. JS advised of forthcoming academy conversions that are out to consultation. JS advised that the policy context has changed again and that there is now no pressure on schools to convert to academy status.	
8.	Exclusions and Attendance – Beth Armstrong. Members of the County Forum received a presentation on Attendance and Exclusions in East Sussex. Members of the Forum agreed that the subject should go to the Local Area Forums with the presentation focussing mainly on exclusions. Governors need to be aware of the different options that are available. The presentation needs to have examples of good practice and exemplary models, case studies and solutions they can take back to their school. Look at areas/schools where exclusions are successfully managed. Agreed that the message from pupils about why they say they are off school is very powerful. BA was thanked for her presentation.	
9.	Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing in Schools. Members of the Forum received a presentation on Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing in East Sussex. Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing in schools is becoming an increasing problem. 1 in 10 pupils have a mental health problem. This is a national issue and the system is not working. Schools have been identified as having a key role and in improving resilience in pupils. There should be a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing. Staff development is important and having mental health ambassadors and mental health first aid. Governors can champion mental health and access training. Governors should have the confidence to focus on issues outside of progress. Schools can apply for a school health grant. Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) hubs can share best practice. Members of the Forum agreed that the subject should go to the Local Area Forums with the presentation. Governors should be encouraged to examine the questions they need to ask and what they should be checking to ensure the right things are happening in school. VSH was thanked for her presentation.	
10.	Educational Attainment in Schools 2016-2017 Members of the Forum received an overview of the key outcomes for the academic year 2016-17. Some governors had already received this briefing at the Headteacher Breakfast Briefings. Maths is an issue at all Key Stages, partly due to a lack of maths teachers. The impact of teaching maths in different ways will not be seen for a few years. The Key Stage 4 data is hard to compare to previous years due to changes in the grading system that were introduced this year. It was decided not to take this item through to the Local Area Forums, but to circulate the report and data to all governors electronically along with a reminder that governors should refer to the Governor Datapacks, and log into ASP (Analyse School Performance) and Fisher Family Trust for more information about their school's data. It was also agreed to ask governors for feedback on the Headteacher Breakfast Briefings.	CC
11.	Governor Local Area Forums <ol style="list-style-type: none"> County Forum Members received the Summer Term Local Area Forums 2017 Summary Report. County Forum Members were happy with the topics discussed at the Summer Local Area Forums. Agreed items for the Autumn rounds of Local Area Forums <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclusions and Attendance Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing in Schools 	

	Hot Topic Question: From the presentations: What will governors take back to their Governing Boards; do governors have all the information they need?	
12.	Any other Business	
13.	Dates of Future Meetings 1 st February 2017 at St Mary's House, Eastbourne	