News Bulletin



Issue 10: 15 November 2022







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Resourcing our Partnership

We thought it may be helpful to provide a reminder of some of the key points and proposals from our recent 'Resourcing our Partnership' event, to help us achieve our aims and set sustainable budgets in the future:

Short term actions for schools:

- Take any opportunity that you can to make savings,
- Only fill posts if absolutely necessary and on a fixed term basis, if possible,
- Put on hold any significant spending plans beyond your planned budget,
- For those schools projecting deficits even before the pay awards work with the Central Team to establish change management plans for implementation in September 2023,
- For secondary schools start planning to amend curriculum delivery models to manage the increased cost pressures from September 2023.

Longer term actions for the Central Team:

- Consider changes to the operation delivery model within the Trust to deliver efficiency savings from September 2024, or earlier,
- Develop and trial new education delivery models and SEND support structures for primary schools for implementation in September 2024. If you would be interested in this trial, please contact the Central Team. We would particularly welcome schools that are projecting a deficit, even before the pay awards, and schools that have a significant number of unfilled vacancies for classroom support staff.

Thank you to those of you that have already been in contact with ideas, we really value your input.

We will keep you up to date with progress and the next stage will be the consultation on the Core Services Charge and Scheme of Delegation for the 2023-24 academic year, which is due to be issued on 19th January 2023.

We recognise that this is very challenging time and are encouraged that the strength of our partnership will enable us to get the best possible outcome, with the interests of children, young people and our staff at the heart of our decision making.

Changes in the Central Team

I'm sorry to let you know that Fiz Forrest will be leaving her role as Governance and Compliance Officer at the end of this term. I'm sure that you will agree that Fiz has made a huge impact since joining us and has helped us to make some really good progress with our Governance arrangements. Fiz's knowledge and drive to improve will be something that we will really miss but we wish her every success with her new role in the NHS.

We are putting in place some interim arrangements to cover Fiz's current role and have split the role between Governance and Compliance.

Firstly, we have appointed Chris Hills as our Governance Professional on a part time, fixed term contract until 31st March 2023. Chris is an experienced Governance Professional and has worked in several other local authority areas as well as also taking up the role of Clerk in some LSP schools. We are hoping that Chris will start with us on 21st November and he will be your point of contact from then onwards. We will circulate his email address as soon as we have it. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming Chris to our team and we will put arrangements in place to introduce Chris to both Chairs of Governors and Clerks.

Neill Bird will be picking up the Compliance elements of Fiz's current role on a part time and interim basis until 31st March 2023. As many of you will know, Neill has previously undertaken this role, so will be able to hit the ground running.

We will review how successfully this interim arrangement works before making long term plans to be in place from 1st April onwards.

Louise



GDPR - Data Protection Impact Assessments

You will know that DPIAs are a GDPR requirement as they help identify and minimise data protection risks when a project/system involves processing personal data.

I have put one for CPOMS that applies to all LSP schools - Foldr / School Business Managers / GDPR / DPIAs

These are hefty documents and others will follow in due course.

Please can I ask you all to send me any current DPIAs so that I can publish and make available to all.

Neill Bird

LSP Trust Board Summary - November 2022

At a meeting held in person at Gordano School on 9th November June 2022, the Board undertook the following actions:-

- Welcomed Marie Horton as a new Trustee
- Noted Trustee resignation for James Shepherd
- Received a briefing in respect of Ofsted MAT Summary Evaluations
- Received an update on Challenge Partners Peer Review
- Received and challenged reports on Attendance, School Improvement and SEND
- Noted feedback from Resourcing our Partnership meetings
- Received feedback from the Chair's Development Group
- Received feedback from Audit Committee
- Approved a cleaning contract
- Convened the AGM for 14th December 2022
- Approved minutes of previous Board meeting
- Reviewed the Trust risk assessment
- Noted the date of the next Board meeting 06/12/22.

Breakdown of Unspent Earmarked Funds

As outlined in last week's Bulletin, we have now updated your 2022-23 Submitted Budget on Orovia with the latest revenue and capital balances (although they remain unconfirmed). Your October budget monitors have been uploaded and the deadline for submission for mark up for Central Team review is 25th November. When you have completed your monitor, it would be helpful if you could let us know it's ready for us to review. You should report these balances to your governors, but please ensure that they are aware that they remain subject to auditor adjustment.

Many of you projected that some of your earmarked funds/grants would be fully spent at the time of the April 2022 budget monitor. If these were not fully spent at year end, this will have resulted in variances between your projected outturn in April and your final balance. As part of our feedback to Trustees on final balances, we need to report these unspent earmarked funds to Trustees. Last year, we were able to get this detail from the Funds Workbooks, but due to the way the income has been aggregated, it is not possible to extract the level of detail we now require. There is a form for you to download and we would like all schools to complete this by Friday, 2nd December including a nil return. Please email your completed for to 1spfinance@lsp.org.uk. Thank you.

Following on from this exercise, we will be asking those schools where the revenue outturn position (*excluding* earmarked funds) varies to that submitted in April by more than £20,000 or 3% of their annual funding to review the differences between the actual year end position and that projected earlier in the year. We will be contacting these schools during the week beginning 5th December and support and guidance will be given to help schools undertake this exercise. This analysis will be due by 13th January 2023.

Funding for Ukrainian Pupils

We now have further information from North Somerset Council and Bath and North East Somerset about the dissemination of DfE funding via local authorities to support the education of Ukrainian pupils between 1st March 2022 and 28th February 2023. Detailed guidance about the payments from the respective LAs is available to <u>download</u> and calculators to help you estimate your funding are now available - see links below.

NSC Ukrainian Pupil Funding Calculator

BNES Ukrainian Pupil Funding Calculator

PE and Sport premium - updated guidance

The DfE has confirmed funding allocations for 2022-23 as in previous years i.e., £10 per pupil (Years 1-6) from January 2022 census plus £16,000 lump sum. Final allocations have been published and have been downloaded and saved in Foldr.

Please read the updated guidance as a reminder how the PE and sport premium should be used to secure sustainable improvements in the 5 key indicators:

- 1. Increased confidence, knowledge and skills of all staff in teaching PE and sport
- 2. Engagement of all pupils in regular physical activity
- 3. The profile of PE and sport is raised across the school as a tool for whole school improvement
- 4. Broader experience of a range of sports and physical activities offered to all pupils
- 5. Increased participation in competitive sport

The guidance also emphasises that funding should not be used to fund capital expenditure. This is defined for academies in line with the Academy Trust Handbook and described as follows: "capital assets or funding are those from which an entity expects to derive benefit for more than one year: typically land, buildings, vehicles and information technology. They are usually called fixed assets."

Also, please can we remind schools that funding must be spent by 31st July 2023 to avoid claw-back of funding.

FOCUS ON Governance

Important: Unofficial Guidance from the Safe Schools Alliance - Supporting Trans children in schools (11/11/22)

A briefing for maintained and academy schools on provision for transgender pupils is available here.

Governors: Link to a recording of the recent Ofsted Webinar: Governance & Inspection

Ofsted apologises to those of you who registered for this webinar last week but were unable to access the session. A full recording is available here (you will just need to enter your name and email address) - no other information is required;

https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/9060651340003476995

For those who prefer to attend live sessions, two further sessions are being arranged and you can register for these here;

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Important: Unofficial Guidance from the Safe Schools Alliance - Supporting Trans children in schools (11/11/22)

A briefing for maintained and academy schools on provision for transgender pupils is available here:-

<u>Guidance for maintained schools and academies in England on provision for transgender pupils</u> (safeschoolsallianceuk.net)

Governors: Link to a recording of the recent Ofsted Webinar: Governance & Inspection

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