



Report to Schools Forum

Date: 23rd March 2021

Title: Report of the DSG Recovery Board

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Recommendations:

Schools Forum is asked to:

- a) Agree the terms of reference of the DSG Recovery Board and that a report from the Board will be a standing item on the Schools Forum agenda.
- b) Note the initial priority workstreams.

1. Background

1.1. Schools Forum agreed the establishment of a DSG Recovery Board to focus on proposals to manage the DSG deficit. Whilst the main focus of the Board is expected to be high needs spend there are also pressures against the Central Schools Services Block that will require the development of savings proposals for future years.

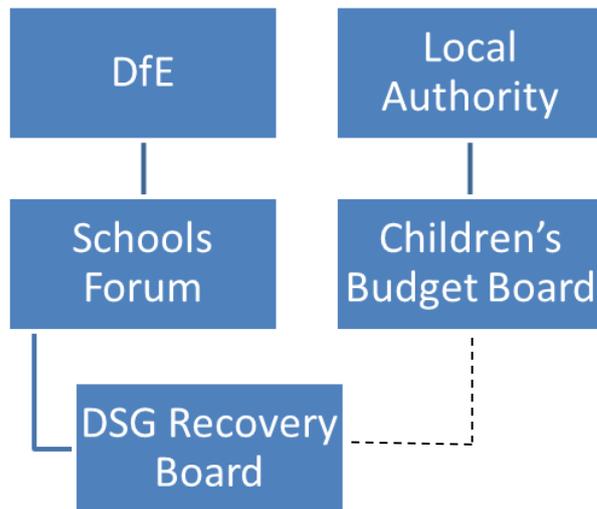
1.2. At Schools Forum meeting in January 2021 the representatives from the Forum were confirmed and the full membership of the Board is as follows:

Simon James	Service Director Education
Liz Williams	Head of Finance (Children’s Service)
Gareth Drawmer	Head of Achievement & Learning
Hero Slinn	Head of Integrated SEND
Hassan Zouaoui	Finance Business Partner (Schools)
David Hood	Secondary Representative
Kathryn Tamlyn	Primary Representative
Jeanette Cochrane	Secondary Representative

Gaynor Bull
Bradley Taylor
Jon McGrath

Governor Representative
Special Schools Representative
Bucks College Representative

1.3. The governance structure for the Board is summarised in the following chart. The Board will report directly into Schools Forum and will be a standing item on the Schools Forum agenda for each meeting. There will also be a dotted line through to Children's Budget Board and therefore into the financial reporting for the local authority.



1.4. The Board met for the first time on 5th March and the main focus was the Terms of Reference for the Board and an initial discussion on priority workstreams.

1.5. The draft Terms of Reference circulated to the Board are attached as Appendix 1 to this report and Schools Forum is asked to confirm this document.

1.6. A project plan is being drawn up to reflect the initial priority workstreams. These have been identified as:

- 1) Financial modelling and benchmarking against other local authorities
- 2) Post-16 demand and provision
- 3) Placements in other local authority provision
- 4) Demand management

1.7. This work will cross reference with the SEND Sufficiency Strategy and plans for capital expenditure.

1.8. It was also agreed that whilst the focus of the Board will be on demand and spend within the high needs block there will also be a need to develop and monitor savings plan for the central schools services block.