

Schools Forum – 15th July 2021

Notices of Concern

Recommendation

1. Members note the issue and withdrawal of Notice of Concerns to schools.

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People:

PART A

Why is it coming here – what decision is required?

2. No decision required.

Reasons for recommendation

3. The agreed protocol for issuing a Notice of Concern includes the provision that information on the issue and withdrawal of a Notice of Concern will be provided to the Schools Forum on a termly basis.

PART B

Background:

4. Since last Forum, Notices of Concern have been withdrawn for Greenhall Nursery and St Peters, Caverswall. Notices of Concern were issued to these schools following projected budgetary deficits. Both schools finished 2020/21 with in year surpluses and have set balanced budgets for 2021/22.
5. No new Notices of Concern have been issued. Two schools finished 2020/21 in a deficit position and the Schools Finance Team are working with them to put Licenced Deficit agreements into place. No new Notices of Concern are required for any 2021/22 budgetary deficits.
6. Following a query to the DfE, we've received confirmation that where a school and its nursery share a single registration then the two budgets should be offset against each other. As a result, consideration will be given to nursery budgets – where there is single registration - alongside the Individual Schools Budgets, going forwards.

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List of background papers:

Schools Forum 7 December 2016 – Item 6 Notices of Concern: revised protocol
School Forum

School Forum 28th March 2019 – Item 39 Update to the Staffordshire Scheme for Financing of Schools