

## CUMBRIAN SCHOOLS FORUM – SEN, SOCIAL DEPRIVATION, ACCESS AND INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

**Notes of the meeting of the SEN, Social Deprivation, Access and Inclusion Working Group held on Tuesday, 6 March 2007 at Newton Rigg, Penrith.**

**Present:** Mrs N Bates, Steven Bowditch (Special Schools), Chris Brooksbank (South Lakeland Primary and Chair of Group), Stephanie Fearn (CE Diocese), Janet Mansfield (Community Secondary), Eugene Tumelty (VA Secondary), Anton Hodge (LA), Ashleigh Sutton (LA)

**Apologies:** Ms J Richardson, Mr C Peuple, Jane Blacklock, Keith Little (CCC Labour Group), Ann Henderson (LA)

### **1. Notes of the Meeting held on 6 February 2007**

The notes of the meeting of the SEN, Social Deprivation, Access and Inclusion Working Group held on 6 February 2007 were agreed.

### **2. Matters Arising**

It was reported that there had been discussions regarding the Forum taking over the role previously held by the PHA group. However there were reservations about the Forum taking over this wider role. One solution would be to hold a single meeting with representation from the Forum to consider financial issues. This could be combined with CASH.

There was a discussion regarding the issue of personalised learning. The government is clearly targeting this at schools with low attainment and/or in socially deprived areas. There was a view that personalised learning should be for every child/student.

There had been no responses from other LAs to inquiries made by members of the Forum regarding use of Social Deprivation indicators.

All

### **4. Review of Funding for Social Deprivation and Personalised Learning**

This item looked at work undertaken since the last meeting, specifically on the use of Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). It was accompanied by a background paper from Lancashire County Council and a visual presentation.

The LA had spoken with 31 other authorities and so far feedback had been received from 5 of those, plus one organisation which represented a number of authorities. A copy of the presentation made at the meeting is attached to these notes.

The merits of IMD were discussed in comparison with Free School Meals (FSM). There was a view that FSM did not produce an equal comparison between rural and urban areas. On the other hand the

data used for IMD dated back to 2001 and did not take account of socio-demographic changes during the past 6 years.

The Group also considered briefly another measure known as Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDAC). It was felt that this measure would capture the same group of children who would fall into the FSM bracket, although there would be no issues regarding unwillingness to claim even where eligible.

The Group therefore asked for a report to the next meeting which:

AS

- outlined the detail, pros and cons of the 3 methods (FSM, IMD and IDAC)
- compared allocations for schools using the three methods

Heads would also try to contact colleagues in Lancashire to ascertain how successful their movement to using Super Output Areas had been.

All

#### **5. Date of Next Meeting**

23 March 2007 – To invite the five Special School Heads and the Head of a secondary school strategic facility (UCC).

Representative from SEN to attend. ***(Note this meeting cancelled until 17<sup>th</sup> April)***

#### **6. Any Other Business**

The Group thanked Ashleigh Sutton for the work she had been undertaking and which had been presented in a clear and concise manner.