

Schools Forum Draft Minutes, Decision Sheet & Final Minutes

Tuesday, 28 June 2022

4.30 pm – 6.30pm, Virtual - Microsoft Teams

For more information contact: janita.aubun@lewisham.gov.uk tel: 020 83147030

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LEWISHAM SCHOOLS FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th June 2022

Membership (Quorum = 40% i.e. 9) ✓ = present ✕ =absent a = apologies
s = substitute

		Attendance				
Primary School Headteachers		21/ 10	16/ 12	20/ 01	28/ 06	Date of Appointment
Jacqueline Noakes	John Ball		x	a	✓	Dec 2021
Manda George	Torridon Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2022
Sharon Lynch	St William of York	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2022
Julie Loffstadt	Kilmorie			✓	✓	Jan 2022
Matthew Ringham	Our Lady & St Philip Neri	✓	✓	✓	a	Jan 2022
David Lucas	Trinity	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2021
Maxine Osbaldeston	Launcelot	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2021
Nursery School Headteacher						
Cathryn Arnold-Kinsey	Clyde Nursery		✓	✓	✓	Jan 2022
Secondary School Headteachers						
Naill Hand	Prendergast Ladywell	✓	✓	✓	✓	July 2019
Jane Hadlow	Conisborough College			✓	✓	Jan 2022
Special School Headteacher						
Lynne Haines	Greenvale	✓	✓	✓	✓	Dec 2021
Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher						
Heather Johnston	Abbey Manor	✓	✓	✓	✓	Dec 2020
Primary School Governors						
Daniel Meyer	St Bartholomews			✓	✓	Jan 2022
Peter Fidel	Eliot Bank and Gordonbrock Federation	✓	✓	a	✓	June 2021
Secondary & Special School Governors						
Pat Barber	Bonus Pastor	✓	✓	✓	a	Jan 2022

Andy Rothery	Leathersellers Federation	a	✓	✓	✓	June 2021
VACANT	SPECIAL SCHOOL					
Academies						
Miz Mann	STEP Academy Trust	a	✓	✓	✓	Oct 2021
Ann Butcher	Childeric	*	✓	a	✓	June 2021
14-19 Consortium Rep						
Gerard Garvey	Lewisham Southwark College				*	June 2022
Early Years – PVI						
VACANT						
Diocesan Authorities						
Sara Sanbrook-Davies	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	Dec 2019
Yvonne Epale	Education Commission – Catholic Diocese of Southwark	✓	✓	✓	✓	May 2021

Observers/Others in attendance		
Strategic Business Partner	Mala Dadlani	
Business Partner	Lurenco Reynolds-Moxam	
Business Partner	Floyd Roberts	
Schools Finance – LB Lewisham	Mark Pearson	
LB Lewisham - SEN	Clare Gurbutt	
LB Lewisham	Ruth Griffiths	
LB Lewisham	Nikki Sealy	
Leathersellers' Federation	Tony Marnham	
Clerk	Janita Aubun	

1. Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies

Apologies accepted from Matthew Ringham, Pat Barber, Pinaki Ghoshal and Angela Scattergood.

2. Declaration of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 20 January 2022

No comments, agreed.

4. Matters arising

Supplementary Funding – Special Schools

Agreed that Special Schools be funded in alignment with mainstream schools, thereby modelling the same method – this is effectively an enhanced top up. (note, the DfE position is that funding is based on lagged numbers so October numbers will be used - actual). Also nursery schools - to be given an additional lump sum from the early years contingency, to ensure they are treated equitably, as there appears a disparity – Forum agreed

5. Schools Forum Work Plan 2022/23

This report set out the intended work plan for Schools Forum for the financial year 2022/23. Meetings are strategically set and allow forum an understanding of what will be reported as well as enabling members to make proposals.

- Forum were sought permission to include consultation updates as a standing item and this was agreed.

Members conveyed their gratitude for officer input in the consultation processes going forward and would like to see the responses.

Forum were informed that the permission to continue with the High Needs Working Group is also referenced in this document.

6. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2021/22 Outturn Position Including Schools Balances Position

Schools Forum was asked to:

- note the contents of this report with particular focus on:-
 - high needs block – ongoing pressure.
 - CSSB – continued reduction in funding followed by potential cessation & transfer to Revenue Support Grant. Their remains lack of clarity on both roles & responsibilities and funding.
 - EY block not finalised at time of forum meeting.
 - Schools Balances - forum informed that this excludes Academisation.
 - nursery schools are seeing pressure - and have deficit recovery plans in place,
 - primary schools are using more of their funding, secondary schools surplus is increasing with all-through schools having remained stable.
 - Special Schools & the PRU have increased surplus balances.

Stating the obvious – Primary pupil numbers is overall presently reducing, whilst secondary and special numbers are increasing.

Schools finance has started receiving the schools budget plans – gentle reminder that the budget plans need to be REALISTIC and not too prudent or too risk averse. To support strong financial management in schools the plans also need to cover the 3 year period to enable Governing Bodies and heads to develop appropriate action plans.

Special schools advised that there is an expectation that their surpluses would contribute to any imminent expansions.

7. Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23

Forum were informed that in relation to the Central Schools Services Block, officers are currently working through the government's White Paper, assessing new roles and responsibilities placed on Local Authorities, particularly around safeguarding, admissions etc.

MD advised that Officers had commenced detailed work on "services for schools" in relation to changes both in CSSB funding and expectations in the white and green papers. There continues to be vagueness around roles and responsibilities, and associated funding. We had hoped the white paper would provide clarity but it doesn't, which makes the task of considering the "schools offer" very complicated.

Schools forum requested engagement with schools as early as possible to facilitate discussion at forum around any funding request from schools.

Recommendation & Agreement:-

- Note the potential pressure on the High Needs Block.
- Note the potentiality of DfE intervention for a recovery plan.
- Forum agreed to receive regular updates at each meeting.
- Note the implications for the CSSB and further work being undertaken

8. High Needs Working Group – Verbal Update

Verbal update presented to Forum by Clare Gurbutt – to note for information, on SEND Green Paper consultation, LA SEND inspections, Resource Base.

Noted:-

- SEND Green Paper consultation consists of 22 questions; consultation ends 22.7.22 and is open to all. LA to collate a draft response for circulation and information.
- LA SEND inspections - all 152 boroughs have been inspected. Lewisham did not have a written statement of action – have not been inspected as yet, due to COVID.
- Resource Base Update – Autumn term 2022 Forster Park opening 6 places for ASD growing to 21, Spring Term Edmund Waller 6 places ASD growing to 16, January 2023 Drumbeat opening an additional 45 places at Turnham, primary age with a capacity to extend to 63. January 2023 Watergate potentially opening 8 – 9 places for early years and Y1 at Ladywell site.
- Consultation events to be held for academic year 2023/24. No secondary schools have expressed an interest – particular pressure due to capacity issues.

MD gave a verbal update:-

Safety Valve – high needs funding – this is effectively a deficit recovery plan. Working with the DfE is now imminent; this is not unique for Lewisham. 55 other LA's are part of this process. Conversations with the DfE are to commence circa Spring time; this phase is known as the "delivering better value". An officer group will be set up to facilitate the next stage process with the DfE. Discussion around inclusivity in high needs in Lewisham.

9. National Funding Formula – Consultation – Verbal Update

MD shared a presentation on the Government Consultation working towards the hard National Funding Formula (NFF) which supports the White Paper. The consultation launched 7th June and concludes 9th September 2022.

Officers will be submitting a response. Overall Lewisham is complaint with the hard formula. However there are some aspects that require further consultation. Key factor for Lewisham will be the PFI factor.

- Noted that Secondary Schools are keen to be involved in any PFI consultation, which we feel will be imminent.

10. Any Other Business

- TOFTUA policy review
Permission requested to bring a paper review to the next forum meeting on Time Off For Trade Union Activity. No suggestion to reduce trade union activity but policy update needed to see if the funding for this can be managed from the current de-delegation or not. Forum agreed for this to be an agenda item at the next meeting.
- Schools forum training 29th September

Primarily for new members and anyone who missed the previous schools forum training.
- Schools Forum member resignations

Chair thanked Sara Sanbrook-Davies and Jane Hadlow for their contributions as representatives on forum and wished them well.

Future Meetings

Schools Forum calendar dates 2022/23, advised and agreed as:-

20th October 2022

15th December 2022

19th January 2023 (provisional date, subject to DfE timelines)

All Schools Forum meetings continue to be held between 16:30-18:30 and remain virtual, unless advised otherwise.

Sub Group meetings

High Needs Sub Group
6th October 2022 10 - 11:30am
1st December 2022 10 – 11.30am

Schools Forum Action Summary

Item	Action to be taken	Officer(s) responsible	Outcome/Current position
10 – Schools Forum 28 th June 2022	AOB – TOFTUA – policy review paper to bring to the next Forum in October.	Mala Dadlani	For October 2022 forum

Schools Forum -Decision Sheet

Meeting Date

28/06/22

Report Reference	Page Reference	Report Title	Purpose of Document	Recommendation	Schools Forum Decision
Item 1		Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies/Welcome New Members	Apologies from Matthew Ringham (Chair - Schools Forum), Pat Barber (Secondary Governor), Pinaki Ghoshal (Executive Director CYP), Angela Scattergood (Director of Education).		Apologies accepted & noted. Resignation noted.
Item 2		Declaration of interests		None	
Item 3	1-6	Minutes of the Meeting - 20 January 2022	To agree on minutes of previous meeting	Noted and agreed as accurate	Agreed as accurate.
Item 4		Matters Arising	Supplementary Funding	Special Schools to be funded in alignment with other mainstream schools. (note, funding is on lagged numbers). Nursery Schools - to be given an additional lump sum to ensure they are treated equitably.	Agreed by Forum.
Item 5	7-13	Schools Forum Work Plan 2022/23	This report sets out the intended work plan for Schools Forum for the financial year 2022/23.	Schools Forum is asked to review the proposed schedule of future Forum meeting dates and the work programme (Appendix 1). The report is for information and guidance in terms of the anticipated business that Schools Forum needs to consider for 2022/23. The programme presents the schedule for key elements of forum's work programme. It is expected that as the year progresses, subsequent items will be added to the work programme as a result of discussion and consideration by forum. Forum to note that consultation responses are to be a standing item throughout the year. High Needs Working Group meeting schedule is also referenced in this paper.	Noted and approved. Forum grateful that officers will be progressing with consultations on behalf of schools and will welcome feedback.
Item 6	14-21	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2021/22 Outturn Position Including Schools Balances Position	The report sets out the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG Outturn Position) including the position with regards to school balances.	Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of this report with particular focus on:- . the pressure on the DSG with a provisional net overspend of £5m –High Needs Block & Central School Services Block (CSSB). Schools Block is a balanced position. CSSSB remains a challenge. . Schools Forum to agree to receive regular updates on the High Needs Block and agree the continuation of the High Needs Working Group . Surplus balance position 2021/22 for schools and To further note the provisional position for the EY block - DfE hasn't yet confirmed the position. Schools Balances - forum noted this excludes Academisation. In general nursery schools are going into further deficit, primary schools are using more of their funding, secondary schools are increasing their surpluses and all-through schools have remained stable. Special Schools & the PRU have increased surplus balances.	Noted
Item 7	22-25	Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23	This report sets out the DSG position for 2022/23 and notes the potential pressure on the High Needs Block.	For School's Forum information and guidance only. Central Schools Services Block - Officers currently working through the government's White Paper, assessing new roles and responsibilities placed on Local Authorities. MD advised that as part of the MTFs, the council had supported £500k of resources to support the CSSB. Schools forum stated the early need for information to support engagement on any traded service changes or de-delegation. To note the potential pressure on the High Needs Block. To note the potentiality of DfE intervention for a recovery plan. Schools Forum to agree to receive regular updates at each meeting. Schools Forum asked to be given information with sufficient lead in time to be able to consult with relevant members, before voting at Forum.	Noted and agreed.
Item 8		High Needs Working Group Verbal Update	. SEND Green paper consultation . LA SEND inspections . Resource Base Update . Safety Valve - high needs funding	Clare Gurbutt gave a verbal presentation update:- <u>SEND Green Paper consultation</u> - consultation ends 22.7.22 and is open to all. LA will collate a draft response for circulation and information. <u>LA SEND inspections</u> - all 152 boroughs have been inspected. Lewisham did not have a written statement of action - have not been inspected as yet, due to COVID. <u>Resource Base Update</u> - Autumn term 2022 Forster Park opening 6 places for ASD, Spring Term Edmund Waller 6 places ASD, Drumbeat opening an additional 45 places at Turnham. January 2023 Watergate potentially opening 8 - 9 places for early years. Consultation events to be held for academic year 2023/24. No secondary schools have expressed an interest - capacity issues. Mala Daflani gave a verbal update:- <u>Safety Valve - high needs funding</u> - this is in essence a deficit recovery plan.	All noted.
Item 9		National Funding Formula - Consultation - Verbal Update	Verbal Update	Mala Daflani shared a presentation on the Government Consultation on working towards the hard NFF. It supports the White Paper. The consultation concludes 9th September. Main factors are High Needs funding and pressures, notional SEN budgets, split sites, exceptional circumstances, growth funding, falling rolls fund, area cost adjustment to recognise inner London pressures and PFI. In addition there is the annual funding cycle, and minimum funding guarantee. NFF timelines not yet clear but expected to be finalised by 2027/28 at the latest. LA to write to DfE for disapplication on exceptional circumstances. Secondary Schools keen to be involved in any PFI consultation.	Noted
Item 10		Any Other Business	. TOFTUA policy review . LA - Schools forum training 29th September . Thanks to - Sara Sanbrook-Davies (Primary Head representative) and Jane Hadlow (Secondary Head representative)	Discussion around time off for trade union activities relative to funding. Policy review/update to be made. Officers to bring a paper to Forum once reviewed. Forum are happy for this to be an agenda item at next Forum. <u>Schools Forum training 29th September</u> - primarily for new members.	. All noted. Forum agreed for report on TOFTUA . Forum thanked Sara and Jane for their work and support given to forum during their term of office.

Agreed by

Manda George

Vice-Chair of Schools Forum

Agenda Item 3

LEWISHAM SCHOOLS FORUM

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The main focus of this report was to set out the DSG position for 2022/23 and note the continuing pressure on the High Needs Block.

Forum were informed that in relation to the Central Schools Services Block, officers are currently working through the government's White Paper, assessing new roles and responsibilities placed on Local Authorities, particularly around safeguarding, admissions etc.

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