

Schools Forum Decision Sheet & Draft Minutes

Thursday, 20 October 2022

4.30 pm – 6.30pm, Virtual - Microsoft Teams

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Schools Forum -Decision Sheet

Meeting Date

20/10/22

Report Reference	Page Reference	Report Title	Purpose of Document	Recommendation	Schools Forum Decision
Item 1		Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies/Welcomes New Members	Apologies from Cathryn Arnold-Kinsey (Nursery School Head), Ann Butcher (Academies), Welcome Niall Hand (Secondary Head) and Michael Sullivan (Secondary Head).		Apologies accepted & noted. New appointments to Forum welcomed.
Item 2		Declaration of interests		None	
Item 3	1-5	Minutes of the Meeting - 28 June 2022	To agree on minutes of previous meeting	Noted and agreed as accurate	Agreed as accurate.
Item 4		Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on TOFTUA Schools Forum Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on TOFTUA - to be detailed in Item 6. Schools Forum Training - confirmed as delivered. 	Agreed by Forum.
Item 5	6-14	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 (provisional)	This report sets out the DSG position 2021/22 (final), 2022/23 (update and forecast position) and DSG 2023/24 (provisional). The report further seeks the application of circa £1m towards high needs spend. Linked to the report is a powerpoint presentation on High Needs Funding as discussed at the Schools Forum High Needs Working Group. To agree the remaining £300k held in contingency to manage any movements between paid and received. Potential issue of EY pupil numbers related to national issues on birth rates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools Forum to agree to receive regular updates at each meeting. To note the potential pressure on the High Needs Block. Application to transfer £1M carry forward surplus in the Early Years Block to fund the High Needs Block. 	All noted and agreed by Forum.
Item 6	15-17	Review Method for Funding Time Off for Trade Union Activities and Duties (TOFTUA)	The report details the current method of reimbursing for TOFTUA activities and duties. The report also clarifies approach for funding the proposal through direct delegation for maintained schools and charge for academies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of TOFTUA is paid to Schools on the basis of true cost at October. Forum asked to agree the total costs to be divided by the total pupil population across all schools including Academies (5 to 16) and continues to form the de-delegation element of the schools funding formula. HR to bring an updated paper to Forum in December, to agree the de-delegated budget position. Agreeing the billing position and process in relation to academies, to ensure transparency and clarity. 	Agreed by Forum. Agreed by Forum. Noted
Item 7	18-34	Responses to Recent Consultation Papers	Responses made by the Local Authority to support three recent consultation documents are provided for information.	Chair thanked officers for their consultation responses. No further comments or queries raised.	Responses noted.
Item 8		Any Other Business	Headlines national update – pressures facing schools	<p>Discussion for forum:- <u>Teachers Pay award</u> - general expectation is that this will not be funded; level of uncertainty.</p> <p><u>2023/24 funding</u> potentially 1.5 - 2% - no increase in funding per pupil.</p> <p><u>Utilities</u> Energy crisis - schools are a 'vulnerable' group. At this present stage it appears we (Lewisham) will not benefit from the government Energy Relief Scheme from April next year as we will be locked into a contract.</p> <p><u>FSM</u> - lagged funding. Meals contractor prices are increasing and parents are struggling to pay.</p> <p><u>Inflation</u> is at 10% currently - impact on contracts, grounds maintenance, cleaning contracts etc.</p> <p>Discussion about whether to lobby the government via a joint letter from all London Councils headteachers, about the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>Standardising school meal prices - question raised.</p>	<p>All noted -agreed that a response will be made by Schools forum to DFE to raise awareness /concern of the pressures on Schools.</p> <p>Decision was that this is not a mandate for Forum.</p>

Agreed by Matthew Ringham

Chair of Schools Forum

LEWISHAM SCHOOLS FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20th October 2022

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

		Attendance				
Primary School Headteachers		16/ 12	20/ 01	28/ 06	20/ 10	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		✓	✓	a	Jan 2022
Secondary School Headteachers						
Naill Hand	Prendergast Ladywell	✓	✓	✓	✓	Oct 2022
Michael Sullivan	Conisborough College				✓	Oct 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	✓	✓	✓	✓	June 2021
VACANT	SPECIAL SCHOOL					
Academies						
Miz Mann	STEP Academy Trust	✓	✓	✓	✓	Oct 2021
Ann Butcher	Childeric	✓	a	✓	a	June 2021
14-19 Consortium Rep						
Gerard Garvey	Lewisham Southwark College			x	x	June 2022
Early Years – PVI						
VACANT						
Diocesan Authorities						
VACANT	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (Church of England)					
Yvonne Epale	Education Commission – Catholic Diocese of Southwark	✓	✓	✓	✓	May 2021

Observers/Others in attendance		
Strategic Business Partner	Mala Dadlani	
Director of Education Services	Angela Scattergood	
Business Partner	Floyd Roberts	
LB Lewisham - SEN	Clare Gurbutt	
LB Lewisham - HR	Diane Parkhouse	
LB Lewisham - Finance	Nick Penny	
LB Lewisham - Estates	Fiona Gavin	
LB Lewisham	Ruth Griffiths	
LB Lewisham	Sandra Roberts	
NEU	James Kerr	
Leathersellers' Federation	Tony Marnham	
Clerk	Janita Aubun	

1. Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies

Apologies accepted from Cathryn Arnold-Kinsey and Ann Butcher. Welcomed Niall Hand – reappointed as Secondary School Head representative and Michael Sullivan – elected as Secondary School Head rep.

2. Declaration of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 28 June 2022

No comments, minutes agreed as accurate.

4. Matters arising

Report on TOFTUA

Detailed in forum agenda Item 6.

Schools Forum Training for Members

Training confirmed as delivered, on 29th September 2022.

5. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) – 2021/22, 2022/23 & 2023/24 (provisional)

This report set out the DSG position 2021/22 (final), 2022/23 (update and forecast position) and DSG 2023/24 (provisional). Linked to the report was a powerpoint presentation on High Needs Funding as discussed at the Schools Forum High Needs Working Group. This included officers discussing EHCPs benchmarked against the residential population and distribution across schools.

2022/23 projections – schools block is expected to balance. Surplus balance b/f from 2021/22 @ circa £400k but some of this surplus is to be used to fund growth in our secondary schools and remaining potentially to support TTO once this exercise is concluded.

Central Services Block – continued pressure as the funding continues to be reduced year on year. Once we have clarity from DfE around the role and expectation on LA (white paper) we can progress the detailed piece of work. To support the process £500k has been provided by the General Fund.

High Needs Block – potentially £5M deficit 2022/23 (includes approx. £11M b/f from 2021/22). Much of the pressure is from the Early Years sector (0 – 5yrs) and Further Education (FE). We are in 3rd tranche of the Delivering Best Value DfE scheme.

Early Years Block – Following the annual cleansing process, the DfE has confirmed additional funding of £1.3m based. Proposed that £1m supports HNB with the remaining supporting contingency for any potential future drift in funding verses payments.

Schools Forum was asked to:-

- note the potential pressure on the High Needs Block – noted.
- agree the application to transfer £1M carry forward surplus in the Early Years Block to fund the High Needs Block – agreed.
- £300k to be held in the central contingency, owing to the national issues faced on birth rates – agreed.

2023/24

We await the detail of the funding settlement late December including growth funding and any additional funding from the autumn statement

Potentially an increase in Early Years Funding based on the consultation paper response in summer
Further 20% reduction in Central Services Block. (circa £400k)

6. Review Method for Funding Time Off for Trade Union Activities and Duties (TOFTUA)

Forum were presented with a report detailing the current method of reimbursing for TOFTUA activities and duties. This agenda item is to recognise historic drifts so that schools do not lose out and that all schools contribute.

The report clarified the approach for funding the proposal through direct de-delegation for maintained schools and charge for academies.

It was explained that on October count date, we have to be made aware who the trade union representatives are. HR will apply the cost for trade union support divided by the whole school population to get the recovery rate. That recovery rate will be applied for both mainstream schools and academies, thereby ensuring transparency. Forum queried over whether we can make this process 'mandatory' for academies. HR to find out from the academies who is in and who is out. Forum were informed that if an academy is out of scope, then the trade unions need to recover the funding from them direct either via the regional office or locally a trained union representative from their MAAT.

Schools Forum agreed the following:-

- Allocation of TOFTUA to be paid to schools on the basis of true cost as at October.
- The total costs to be divided by the total pupil population across all schools including academies (5 to 16) and continue to form the de-delegation element of the schools funding formula. Policy needs to cover special schools, AP and maintained nursery.

Schools forum noted:-

- HR to bring an updated paper to Forum in December to agree the de-delegated budget position, and agree the billing position and process in relation to academies, ensuring transparency and clarity.

7. Responses to Recent Consultation Papers

Forum were made aware of three recent consultation papers included in the Forum reports, namely:-

- SEND Green Paper Consultation, London Borough of Lewisham response
- Sept 2022 EY National Funding Formula Consultation Lewisham
- Sept 2022 National Funding Formula Consultation Lewisham

The responses were noted and the Chair thanked officers for their consultation feedback. There were no further comments or queries raised by members.

8. Any Other Business

Discussion with Forum on the following:-

Teachers Pay Award

Schools not clear if this award will be funded. Unions are balloting. Degree of uncertainty for schools.

2023/24 funding

Potentially no increase in per pupil funding which is @ 1.5- 2%

Energy Crisis

Schools are classed as a vulnerable group but as a council we may not benefit from govt. support which may be offered as part of the Energy Bill Relief Scheme.

Free School Meals (FSM) – schools are funded on lagged numbers. School meals providers are increasing their prices. How can schools passport that increase to parents?

Inflation – currently peaking at 10%. How will this affect school contracts for example. Schools are not receiving a level of funding to sustain this.

Loby

Forum discussed whether to loby government via a joint letter from all London Council headteachers about the cost of living crisis. Agreed that a response will be made via Schools Forum to DfE to raise awareness/concern of the pressures on schools.

School Meal Prices

Question raised regarding standardisation of prices. Fewer schools are in the Lewisham catering contract and there are many variations. Decision was that this is not a mandate for Forum.

Future Meetings

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

<p>High Needs Sub Group</p> <p>1st December 2022 12.30 – 2pm</p>

Schools Forum Action Summary

Item	Action to be taken	Officer(s) responsible	Outcome/Current position
6 – Schools Forum 20 th October 2022	TOFTUA – updated policy paper to bring to the next Forum in December, to agree the de-delegated budget position.	Diane Parkhouse	For December 2022 forum
8 – AOB. Schools Forum 20 th October 2022	Cost of living crisis - to lobby at National Level.	All headteachers	