

# DRAFT

## LEWISHAM SCHOOLS FORUM

*Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th January 2024*

Membership (Quorum = 40% i.e. 7)    ✓ = present    ✕ =absent    a = apologies  
s = substitute

		Attendance				
Primary School Headteachers		29/ 06	19/ 10	14/ 12	18/ 01	Date of Appointment
Manda George	Torridon Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2022
Sharon Lynch	St William of York	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2022
Julie Loffstadt	Kilmorie	✓	a	✓	✓	Jan 2022
David Lucas	Trinity	✓	✓	x	✓	Jan 2021
Maxine Osbaldeston	Launcelot	✓	a	✓	✓	Jan 2021
VACANT	PRIMARY SCHOOL					
VACANT	PRIMARY SCHOOL					
Nursery School Headteacher						
Cathryn Arnold-Kinsey	Clyde Nursery	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2022
Secondary School Headteachers						
Niall Hand	Prendergast Ladywell	✓	✓	✓	✓	Oct 2022
Michael Sullivan	Forest Hill	✓	a	a	✓	Oct 2022
Special School Headteacher						
VACANT	SPECIAL SCHOOL					
Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher						
Heather Johnston	Abbey Manor	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2023
Primary School Governors						
Daniel Meyer	St Bartholomews	✓	a	x	✓	Jan 2022
Peter Fidel	Eliot Bank and Gordonbrock Federation	✓	✓	✓	✓	June 2021
Secondary & Special School Governors						

Pat Barber	Bonus Pastor	a	✓	a	✓	Jan 2022
Andy Rothery	Leathersellers Federation	✓	✓	✓	✓	June 2021
VACANT	SPECIAL SCHOOL					
<b>Academies</b>						
VACANT	ACADEMY					
Ann Butcher	Childeric	✓	x	✓	x	June 2021
<b>14-19 Consortium Rep</b>						
Jamie Stevenson	Lewisham College		a	✓	a	Oct 2023
<b>Early Years – PVI</b>						
Melanie Simpson	The Village Montessori	✓	x	✓	✓	Jan 2023
<b>Diocesan Authorities</b>						
Yvonne Epale	Education Commission – Catholic Diocese of Southwark	x	✓	x	✓	May 2021
VACANT	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (Church of England)					
<b>SUBSTITUTE</b>						
<b>14-19 Consortium</b>						
Jayne Morgan	Lewisham College				✓	

<b>Observers/Others in attendance</b>		
Director of Education Services	Angela Scattergood	
Strategic Business Partner	Mala Dadlani	
LB Lewisham - Finance	Lurenco Reynolds-Moxam	
LB Lewisham - Finance	Floyd Roberts	
LB Lewisham – Head of Early Years	Nikki Sealy	
LB Lewisham - SEND	Reinhild Onuoha	
Leathersellers	Tony Marnham	
Clerk	Janita Aubun	

## 1. Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies/ Welcome new members/Member Resignations

Apologies were accepted from Jamie Stevenson (14-19 Consortium) - substitute representative Jayne Morgan.

Forum welcomed a new elected member - Katie Denton (Special - Headteacher).

## 2. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. Minutes of the Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Questions and comments were invited. Minutes were agreed as accurate.

### **4. Matters Arising**

Noted that training for headteachers is still to be arranged. Forum agreed that options for attendance will be over 3 terms.

### **5. Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 – Funding Settlement**

First of four reports presented by the Strategic Business Partner - CYP. Purpose of this report was to provide schools forum with details of the overall DSG funding settlement for 2024/25, and updates on other grants.

Schools Forum were advised on the following:-

- On face value the DSG for 2024/25 will have an increase of £27M GROSS, when compared directly with the funding in the 2023/24 DSG allocations.
- In relation to other grants, the Teachers Pension Grant 2024/25 is expected to mirror that of the Teachers Pay Additional Grant. Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) 2024/25 remains a separate grant but to be rolled into core budget 2025/26.
- Pupil Premium 2024/25 - 2% increase for primary schools and 1% increase for secondary. This is likely to reflect any increases in other grants (normally the increase in pupil premium funding is an indicator for increases to other grants)
- 2% increase for LAC Pupil Premium.

#### Recommendation:-

- Schools Forum noted this report, which sets the financial context for the remaining sub reports, (Schools, Central Services to Schools, High Needs and Early Years), which are part of this agenda.

### **6. Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 - Schools Block Submission of the Authority Pro-forma Tool (APT)**

Second of the four reports. The purpose of this report was to consider options for finalising the APT submission to the DfE on the 22nd January 2024. This report also requires Schools Forum to consider and agree the levels of de-delegation for 2024/25.

Schools Forum were informed about the options for finalising the APT submission to the DfE on 22nd January 2024.

#### Recommendation:-

- Option 1: Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) uplift is applied at the 0.5% maximum for 2024/25.

- Option 2: MFG at 0.0% (lowest MFG allowable), this is the officer recommendation. And to further agree the transfer of the remaining circa £0.6m to the high needs block (which is within the 0.5% that is allowed to be transferred).
- De-delegation - Forum advised that officers miscalculated the amount in terms of academisation. Noted that normally the agreed value is divided by the relevant data (e.g. pupil numbers), to determine the unit rates. Not viable however because of 6 schools converting. Instead, the 2023/24 unit rate has been adjusted for inflation (where agreed with Schools Forum), to determine a new de-delegation level.
- Schools forum was asked to approve the de-delegation levels as per this new methodology. Schools Forum is asked to support Lewisham Learning from the contingency - report to forum in Summer 2024.

Agreed:-

- Option 2 – ten members voted in agreement i.e. 0% MFG from 2024/25 with forum approving the transfer of the remaining circa £0.627m on the high needs block (which is within the 0.5% that is allowed to be transferred) – majority vote carried.
- De-delegation - 6 voted in favour of de-delegation as in table 4 of the report. There were no oppositions. Vote carried.
- 6 voted in favour to support Lewisham Learning from contingency for 2024/25 - subject to a report to forum in the Summer 2024. This report is expected to provide details of measures taken by LA and financial support required arising from reduced funding as schools academised. There were 2 abstentions.

## 7. Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 – Early Years Block

Third of the four reports. This detailed the funding associated with the delivery of the Early Years Agenda, which is currently being extended in line with DfE policy changes. The report was supplemented by a verbal update from the Head of Early Years which explained the implementation and support of the national policy.

### Recommendation:-

- Schools forum was asked to agree the funding formula for 2024/25 as set out in the table in the report. i.e. the 3 & 4 year old funding, 2 year old funding - deprivation, working parent and under 2 year old offer.
- That following the full implementation of the Early Years strategy, schools forum asked to agree the holistic view of the service and present back to forum in due course.
- Forum asked to note the report - note that the funding remains indicative and as such there is a requirement to establish a suitable contingency.
- Note the added responsibilities with regards to Special Educational Needs Inclusion Funding (SENIF).
- Note that 5% central hold back is now extended across all elements of the offer, with the expectation that this will reduce going forward.
- Note that the Head of Early Years will follow up by a more detailed updated strategy paper, in the Summer.
- Forum noted report to the next forum meeting on the changes to SENIF within affordability and also update on the implementing the EY strategy.

### Outcome:-

- Ten members voted in agreement to allocate the hourly rate as per the table in the report, which is the majority vote.
- Nine members agreed to the holistic view of the service once the national policy is implemented vote carried.
- Forum noted the rest of the report.

## **8. Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 - High Needs Block**

The fourth of four reports. Report provided detail around the funding but also supporting data on SEN needs. The report was supplemented by a presentation by the Head of Integrated SEND Services - CYP which focused on feedback from the High Needs Working group, including the DBV submission.

### Recommendation:-

Schools forum noted the content of this report that focuses on:-

- the overall funding position for 2024/25 which shows a modest increase in funding of circa £2.4m (from £76.8m to £79.2m) - an increase of approximately 3%.
- the pressure on the High Needs Block being on average circa £4m to £5m – however that has been against a backdrop of significant higher levels of High Needs Funding. The settlement for 2024/25 is therefore likely to add further pressure to the HNB.
- Lewisham council continuing to progress with its local mitigation plan placement and sufficiency plan, which is now supplemented by the Delivering Better Value (DBV), DfE initiative, assuming the recently submitted grant application be successful.
- Considering this report alongside the agreement of the 2nd report which discusses the submission of the APT tool and the potential transfer of max 0.5% to the High Needs Block.

## **9. Revision of Membership of Schools Forum**

Purpose of this report was to note the change in membership arising from the recasting, following the academisation of six schools.

Any members who represented the 6 schools must step down with immediate effect.

The Academy schools will need to submit their representatives in compliance with the revised membership.

Noted that with academies there is no split between governors/board representatives and headteachers.

Forum also advised that there are two natural vacancies in the Primary Headteacher Sector through expiration of term of office in January 2024 i.e. David Lucas & Maxine Osbaldeston.

### Recommendation:-

Schools forum were asked to note and agree the following:-

- That as a consequence of six schools academizing, there is a significant shift in the balance of pupils supported by maintained schools to academy schools.
- The report confirms the new membership, effective for the financial year 2024/25.

- Schools Forum to agree the revised membership and accordingly invite the relevant School representative groups to confirm representatives to fulfil the schools forum membership in accordance.
- That the relevant academy representation group nominate the 5 new members as per the revised forum membership.

Outcome:-

- Forum noted the report.
- Agreed: Appropriate representatives to go back to their voting sectors and nominate. Clerk to inform Primary Heads consultative lead and liaise with Lead officer on any Governor Vacancies. Director of Education to contact Academies.

## 10. Any Other Business

SBM briefing next Tuesday 23rd January. Headteachers briefing Thursday 25th (time tbc).

### Future Meetings

Dates to be arranged.

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

### **Sub Group meetings**

#### High Needs Sub Group

Dates to be arranged.

### Schools Forum Action Summary

Item	Action to be taken	Officer(s) responsible	Outcome/Current position

<p><b>Matters Arising - Schools Forum 14 December 2023</b></p> <p><b>Matters Arising - Schools Forum 14 December 2023 &amp; Schools Forum 18 January 2024</b></p>	<p>Cost of living crisis - to lobby at National Level. Letter to be drafted for forum approval, making representation to the DfE/Secretary of State regarding the 2024/25 funding allocation error.</p> <p>Mandatory training for ALL headteachers</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Mala Dadlani</p>	<p>Position to be reviewed following year-end i.e. post March 2024.</p> <p>Pending – to be arranged.</p>
<p><b>6 - Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 – Schools Forum 14 December 2023</b></p>	<p>Notional SEN</p>	<p>Mala Dadlani</p>	<p>Working Groups requested a series of training sessions for schools to better understand notional SEN.</p>
<p><b>8 - Additional Funding for Schools in Deficit. - Schools Forum 14 December 2023</b></p>	<p>Final outcomes report to forum for scrutiny with headlines.</p>	<p>Mala Dadlani</p>	<p>Engagement with schools in January – feedback to school at Forum meeting in Summer.</p>
<p><b>6 – Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 – Schools Block Submission of the Authority Pro-forma Tool (APT). Schools Forum 18 January 2024</b></p>	<p>Supporting Lewisham Learning from the contingency.</p>	<p>Anthony Doudle</p>	<p>Report to forum in Summer 2024.</p>
<p><b>7 – Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 – Early Years Block. Schools Forum 18 January 2024</b></p>	<p>Following the full implementation of the Early Years strategy, schools forum asked to agree the holistic view of the service and present back to forum.</p> <p>Proposal to consider SENIF</p>	<p>Nikki Sealy</p> <p>Nikki Sealy</p>	<p>In due course.</p> <p>Paper to forum in Summer 2024</p>
<p><b>8 – Revision of Membership of Schools Forum. Schools Forum 18 January 2024</b></p>	<p>Appropriate representatives to go back to their voting sectors and nominate.</p> <p>To inform Primary Heads consultative lead and liaise with Lead officer on any Governor Vacancies.</p> <p>Director of Education to contact Academies.</p>	<p>Clerk – Janita Aubun</p> <p>Angela Scattergood</p>	<p>Before June forum.</p>