

Schools Forum - Decision Sheet

Meeting Date

27/06/24

Report Reference	Page Reference	Report Title	Purpose of Document	Recommendation	Schools Forum Decision
Item 1		Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies.	To include any apologies of absence, any new member appointments and leavers.	No apologies. <u>Welcome new and re-elected members</u> , Sarah Ambrose - New Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (CE) representative, Niall Hand new Academy representative and Yvonne Epale, Education Commission-Catholic Diocese of Southwark, re-elected. <u>Completion of Term</u> , Peter Fidel, Primary Governor and Ann Butcher, Academy, terms of office finishes June 2024. Retirement:- Sharon Lynch Primary Representative Resignation:- Julie Loffstadt Primary Representative	New member appointments noted. Member completion of terms of office noted - June 2024. Sharon Lynch, Peter Fidel, Ann Butcher and Julie Loffstadt: greatly thanked for their valuable contribution to Forum.
Item 2		Declaration of Interests			None
Item 3	page 1 - 7	Minutes of the Meeting 18 January 2024	To agree on minutes of previous meeting	Questions or comments from the last meeting.	Forum minutes agreed as accurate and true representation.
Item 4		Matters Arising		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To lobby at National level regarding the cost of living crisis. Headteacher training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed to remain on the agenda and under review once we have more clarity on parliamentary elections, funding allocation and pay review. Mandatory FINANCE training for headteachers to be arranged in the Autumn term. NOTIONAL SEN TRAINING - 2 dates for online Notional SEN training has been arranged (2nd & 9th July), with a face to face session also in October (venue tbc).
Item 5	page 8 - 13	Schools Forum Workplan 2024/25	The purpose of this report was to provide schools forum with a workplan for 2024/25 financial year. Three key items have been requested to be standing items – funding updates, High Needs (DBV), and Early Years policy changes.	To recognise that this is a typical agenda with standing items i.e. Early Years and High Needs Block. Continue to be updates on key matters. Also to note the dates of the Schools Forum meetings 2024/25.	Forum approved the workplan. There were no comments or objections.
Item 6	page 14 - 25	Proposed De-delegation for Lewisham Learning (School Improvement) 2024/25	The purpose of this report was to discuss with Schools Forum the support provided to schools through Lewisham Learning. The report also notes financial support for 2024/25 to maintain services.	To maintain the 2023-24 level of de-delegation from April 2024 for 1 year and increase the TRIIE budget (E40K) if agreed by Schools Forum. This is not to support Lewisham Learning. Agree a paper back to Forum in autumn term (before January) to consider 2025/26 funding arrangements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 members (primary & secondary sector only), voted in agreement to support the Lewisham Learning partnership by funding an additional E40K for 2024/25 to deliver the TRIIE project and to maintain the current level of de-delegated funding. Zero members opposed. There were no abstentions. Members were in agreement to having a report presented to schools forum in either October or December meeting, which considers the 2025/26 funding arrangements.
Item 7		Update on Early Years	Standing Item to provide forum with any updates on the national policy. Main paper considering the SENIF funding has been deferred in view of the election period, with intention to bring that paper to the December 2024 meeting. Slides on the Expansion of	Schools forum was asked to note the contents of the update on Early Years Entitlements and Introduction of the Wraparound Childcare Programme.	Forum noted the contents of the report. Chair also thanked the Head of Early Years for her hard work in developing the programme.
Item 8		Verbal Update on High Needs Block	Updates following the High Needs Working Group meeting. To include the Pilot for 2024/25 (financial support for schools with higher than average EHCP), the update also included training for schools with regards to notional SEN funding. Formal paper not brought to forum as pending parliamentary elections result and the potential effect nationally on Early Years.	Forum to note the the following updates:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in out of borough placement is slow, but LA more robust in our decision making and financial implications. All new resource bases in primary schools are now live; Launcelot Primary school is the last to be rolled out. Looking to create a small secondary school resource base to include ASD. More young people from our special schools are moving on to local FE colleges this September. 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. We have stayed significantly below the anticipated overspend for 2023/24 F/Y. DBV Programme - DfE grant award letter received late May 2024. Notional SEN Budget - As mentioned earlier in Matters Arising, two training sessions. To ensure Headteachers are clear about this aspect of their budget. Recognising the value of funding a school should consider when making decisions around SEN. Additional Funding for Schools with more than 5% of learners with EHCP - to encourage more inclusive practice and include Early Years provision. Approx. E650k top sliced from the High Needs Block for this. Pilot for an additional year. 	Report to be brought to Forum post the funding announcement i.e. potentially October or December 2024 meetings. Additional Funding for Schools with more than 5% of learners with EHCP - following discussions within the group, it was agreed that a decision could not be made based on the current options and that a further meeting of the high needs group needs to be convened to revisit and report back. Key issue is potential impact on EY settings.
Item 9		DSG 2023/24 Outturn (Including Schools Balances Position) and DSG 2024/25 Funding Update	The purpose of this report was to update Schools Forum on the 2023/24 DSG outturn position including summary level position for schools. The report also provided an initial DSG 2024/25 position.	Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of this report with particular focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pressure on the DSG –High Needs Block surplus balance position for schools Provisional Schools Block position- noting a further report to forum once we have confirmation of the 2023/24 EY pupil validation and associated finances. Recognising the ongoing pressure on the High Needs Block Provisional EY block:- will require updating post validation of the 2023/24 pupil data Revision still awaited with regards the under 2 year old offer which at present carries a level of risk. Schools in Financial Difficulty (schools supported with one off funding) - all 20 schools have to undertake a SRMA visit. 	Forum noted the contents of the report. Agreed: Provisional EY block - to bring a paper once we know the final E/Y position.
Item 10		Any other Business	PFI Factor	PFI Factor - DfE have asked for a sinking fund (a debt financing model). Submitted to DfE. DfE require more information.	Forum made aware of potential risk

Agreed by Manda George

Chair of Schools Forum