

LEWISHAM SCHOOLS FORUM



Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th June 2014

Membership (Quorum = 40% i.e. 8)

✓ = present

✗ = absent

		Attendance
Primary School Headteachers		
Irene Cleaver	Athelney	✓
Steve Davies	Coopers Lane	✗
Liz Booth	Dalmain	✓
Paul Moriarty	Good Shepherd	✗
Lisa Pearson	Torridon Infants	✗
Michael Roach	John Ball	✓
Nursery School Headteacher		
Nikki Oldhams	Chelwood	✓
Secondary School Headteachers		
Anne Potter	Addey & Stanhope	Apologies
Bob Ellis	Conisborough College	Apologies
David Sheppard	Leathersellers Federation	✓
Carolyn Unsted (Chair)	Sydenham	✓
Special School Headteacher		
Lynne Haines	Greenvale	✓
Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher		
Liz Jones	Abbey Manor	Apologies
Primary & Special School Governors		
Keith D'Wan	Athelney	✓
Dame Erica Pienaar	John Ball	✓
Mark Simons	Coopers Lane	✗
Secondary & Secondary Special School Governors		
Simon Nundy	Trinity	✓
James Pollard	Addey & Stanhope	✗
VACANT	Special School	
Academies		
Declan Jones	Haberdashers' Aske's	✓
16-19 Consortium Rep		
Theresa Williams	LeSoCo	✗
Early Years Rep		
Cathryn Kinsey	Clyde Nursery	✗
Diocesan Authorities		
Rev Richard Peers	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education	✗
Stephen Bryan	Education Commission	✗

Also Present	
Frankie Sulke	Executive Director
Alan Docksey	Head of Resources & Performance
Dave Richards	CYP Group Finance Manager
Hayden Judd	Principal Accountant – Schools Team
Janita Aubun	Clerk
Kim Knappett	Teacher Unions (ALT)

Apologies for Absence

An apology was received from Anne Potter, Bob Ellis & Liz Jones.

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 20th March 2014

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

2. Matters Arising

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

Alan Docksey reported two Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearances remain long outstanding for teachers, and that their pay will be suspended if this is not received. The threat of this had led to satisfactory action on the other outstanding cases.

3. End of Year Financial Position

Hayden Judd presented the report for Forum to consider the schools' carry forward position at the end of the financial year and put forward options for capping schools with excess balances. Consideration was also given towards the final position of the DSG at the end of the financial year.

Note - the issue of single status appeals was raised at Forum and the potential impact that this has on Greenvale School's balances.

Recommendations agreed:-

Forum agree that all schools that had an excess balance as @ 31 March 2013 and where that balance has increased as @ 31 March 2014 with no valid or verified reason given,

- (a) The school will be sent a letter requesting an appropriate spend plan. The proviso is that if it is not utilised by year end, the excess balance will be capped.
- (b) Finance officers will monitor the progress on the agreed plan during the year.

4. Budget Update

Dave Richards presented a paper which looked at a number of items including the DSG notification, Fair Funding consultation, consultation regarding converting non-recoupment academies and amending the funding of LAs for pupils in free schools from 2015-16.

School Funding Reforms

Lewisham would not receive any extra funding. The Local Authorities that would receive extra are shown in Appendix A to this agenda item.

School Budget Plans 2014 – 2017

90% returned.

10% nil return – Finance are investigating the outstanding returns.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

Schools have received draft notifications of funding for this. A final allocation for academic year 2014/15 will be calculated in May 2015 based on actual numbers.

Forum noted the following recommendations:-

- the new funding proposals issued by the DFE
- the consultation on academy recoupable funding
- the new level of DSG at £268.6M
- the latest position on the Universal Free Meals Grant
- the position on the school budget plans
- the schools that are likely to apply for a licensed deficit

5. Investment Proposal For 19-25 PMLD Provision

Report presented by Alan Docksey.

- Proposal to extend the age range of Greenvale Special School and to provide 20 places for 19-25 year olds with PMLD.
- The expectation is that the proposal would generate an annual DSG revenue saving of £270K with estimated capital spend of £1.2M. Pay-back period 5 years.

The Forum agreed to support the use of £1.25M of DSG-CERA to support the project.

6. Funding Reviews

Report presented by Hayden Judd.

Issues discussed:

- A proposal to pass collaborative funding directly to schools or to Banker schools.

➤ Progress of the Lewisham Futures Board

Agreements:-

The Chair proposed and Forum agreed that the collaborative funding agenda item be taking to Primary Strategic including SEN funding.

7. Education Services Grant Consultation

Report presented by Alan Docksey to discuss and note the DFE consultation paper on how education services can be provided more innovatively and efficiently.

- The paper comes across as a manifesto for Local Authorities to charge schools for a range of activities that are considered LA responsibilities and to look at shared services in certain areas. The approaches set out in the ESG consultation are part of those being employed by the Lewisham Futures Board in its work to identify savings.

The contents of the paper were noted by Forum.

8. Any Other Business

Chair informed Forum of Erica Pienaar's ennoblement to Dame Erica Pienaar and this was applauded by Forum which extended its congratulations.

Irene Cleaver – Primary Head at Athelney School. Forum was advised that this will be her last Schools Forum meeting. Irene was thanked for her contribution to the Forum's work.

Meeting closed 6.20pm

Date of next meeting 25 September 2014

SCHOOLS FORUM ACTION SUMMARY – from schools forum 20th March 2014 & 19th June 2014

ITEM	ACTION TO BE TAKEN	OFFICER(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION	OUTCOME/CURRENT POSITION
Schools			

<p><u>Forum</u> <u>20/3/14</u></p> <p>3. Energy Policy</p>	<p>Data on energy consumption to be produced.</p>	<p>Martin O'Brien</p>	<p>To be reviewed at September 2014 Forum</p>
<p><u>Schools Forum</u> <u>19/6/14</u></p> <p>3. End of Year Financial Position</p>	<p>A list of the deficit schools to be produced for the Chair.</p>	<p>Dave Richards</p>	<p>For Carolyn Unsted to speak to the schools concerned.</p>
	<p>Benchmarking of Lewisham school balances against others in London.</p>	<p>Dave Richards</p>	<p>To be reviewed at September 2014 Forum</p>
	<p>Case study of excess balances factors for a secondary, primary & a special</p>	<p>Hayden Judd</p>	<p>To be reviewed at September 2014 Forum</p>
	<p>Progress report on the Single Status appeals & timetable for completion</p>	<p>Diane Parkhouse</p>	<p>Pending</p>
<p>6. Funding Reviews</p>	<p>Collaborative Funding admin proposal – agreement to go to Primary Strategic</p>	<p>Hayden Judd</p>	<p>For follow up with Sue Tipler</p>