

# Schools Forum Decision Sheet & Draft Minutes

Monday, 20 January 2025

4.30 pm – 6.30 pm , Virtual - Microsoft Teams

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<b>Item</b>	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1. Decisions of Schools Forum Meeting 20 January 2025</b>	<b>1</b>
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Schools Forum - Decision Sheet

Meeting Date

20/01/2025

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, as appropriate.	Apologies from Anne Swetson.	Apologies accepted.
Item 2		Declaration of Interests	None		None
Item 3	page 5 - 6	Minutes of the Meeting 12 December 2024	To agree on minutes of previous meeting.	Questions or comments from the last schools forum meeting.	Minutes agreed as an accurate and true representation.
Item 4		Matters Arising		. To lobby at National level regarding the cost of living crisis.	Agreed lobbying of parliament to remain on the agenda and under review.
Item 5	page 7 - 43	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2025/26	<u>Four reports</u> - Report 1 – detailed funding settlement, Report 2 – Schools Block – options to enable APT submission, Report 3 – High Needs Funding settlement, Report 4 – EY block settlement	<u>Report 1</u> - to note: <u>Report 2</u> - recommendation to agree Option 2. Forum also to note the de-delegation rates as set out in the report. <u>Report 3</u> - Forum to note the following: - Circa £5m increase in High Needs Funding 6%. - Current position for 2024/25 is approx. £2.5m overspend. - DSG has cumulative deficit circa £15m therefore that will increase to circa £17.5m. - <u>DSG</u> over-ride (ringfencing extended to 2027 March). - <u>Challenges</u> - particularly, demand, need, cost and now NI and London Living Wage. - <u>DSG</u> has suggested a separate ringfenced grant for teachers related grants – passport to special schools (would expect that to include NI increase funding). - <u>Report 4</u> - to note Grants streamlined –AT NATIONAL LEVEL, then distributed to LA per NPF. EY (different to SB & HN). - Summary position of EY funding. - <u>That</u> the EY remains provisional pending validation of the January 2025 census. - Requirement to inform providers of their funding by 28th February latest. - Forum recommendation to agree the EY revisions in the hourly rates for under 2s, 2 year old funding and 3 & 4 year old.	<u>Report 1</u> - noted. <u>Report 2</u> - Forum <b>AGREED</b> the following: - <u>WfMG</u> is a max transfer of circa 0.5% to the High Needs Block. - <u>WfMG</u> is set at minus 0.15%. - <u>The NPF</u> is applied in full to the value for each factor i.e. ANPRU, TAL etc. - <u>£100k</u> is held for growth fund - De-delegation rates 2025/26 noted as per detailed report. Remaining de-delegation rates agreed as per December Forum. - Further noted that the licence and subscription information is awaited and the detail of the NIC grants is still awaited. - Schools Forum agreed the submission of the APT to the DfE. - Schools Forum further agreed for Officers to engage with Heads /Governors & SBM with specific meetings to discuss the detail of the DSG funding for 2025/26. - <u>Report 3</u> - noted. <u>Report 4</u> - <u>Under 2s Entitlement</u> - Schools forum noted and agreed the following: - Increase in hourly rate of general uplift 54p, factors uplifted per agreed formula. - Reduction in central hold back from 5% to 4% - added to hourly rate. - That under 2's entitlement commenced in Sept 2024 (therefore the table presented at Forum, illustrated the full year impact). - <u>Agreement</u> to come back to forum with any consultation dates as necessary. - <u>2 Year Old (Families Receiving Additional Support)</u> - agreed proposal to proceed with this model as follows: - Increase in hourly rate of general uplift 40p, factors uplifted per agreed formula. - Reduction in central hold back from 5% to 4% - added to hourly rate. - <u>2 Year Old (Working Parent Entitlement)</u> - agreed - Increase in hourly rate of general uplift 40p, factors uplifted per agreed formula. - Reduction in central hold back from 5% to 4% - added to hourly rate. - <u>3 &amp; 4 Year Old Funding</u> - Schools forum agreed the following: - Increase in hourly rate of general uplift 19p, factors uplifted per agreed formula. - Teacher grant related 19p - added to quality factor (step-by-step shows 11p, which we believe is the part-year effect and 19p is the full year effect). - Reduction in central hold back from 5% to 4% - added to hourly rate.
Item 6	page 44 - 54	Lewisham Learning - Options for De-delegation and Funding 2025/26	Report considers the funding for Lewisham Learning.	Forum to consider this report as a sub-report relating to reduction in funding arising from falling numbers and academisation. To note that the gap could be redressed by expanding the service and charging policy to academies, special schools and Nursery schools.	AGREED Forum noted all as recommended and vote carried. No objections, no abstentions.
Item 7		Redundancy and Early Retirement Due to Ill Health	Report to follow.	Lewisham is currently reviewing both elements mainly for clarity and also engaging with other LA.	Schools Forum noted - A detailed report to be presented to Forum at June 2025 meeting.
Item 8	page 55 - 58	Membership of Schools Forum	Purpose of this report - to discuss the membership of schools forum following the recent academisation of schools in Lewisham. The report further notes the vacancies and completion of terms of 2 members.	Forum informed that even with the academisation of schools in Lewisham, the current schools forum membership is aligned and therefore fit for purpose – no change required at this time.	<b>Recommendation agreed.</b> Forum also agreed that in relation to all vacancies and membership completion of terms, the specific groups are required to go back to their consultative leads and seek nominations ready for the June schools forum.
Item 9		Any Other Business	No items		

# DRAFT

## LEWISHAM SCHOOLS FORUM

*Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20th January 2025*

Membership (Quorum = 40% i.e. 6)    ✓ = present    x =absent    a = apologies  
s = substitute

		Attendance				
		27/ 06	24/ 10	12/ 12	20/ 01	Date of Appointment
<b>Primary School Headteachers</b>						
Manda George	Torridon Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2022
Naheeda Maharasingam	Rathfern		✓	✓	✓	Oct 2024
David Lucas	Trinity	✓	✓	✓	✓	Feb 2024
Maxine Osbaldeston	Launcelot	✓	✓	✓	✓	Feb 2024
Daniel Meyer	St. Bartholomews	✓	a	✓	✓	Feb 2024
<b>Nursery School Headteacher</b>						
Cathryn Arnold-Kinsey	Clyde Nursery	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2022
<b>Secondary School Headteachers</b>						
Michael Sullivan	Forest Hill	✓	✓	✓	✓	Oct 2022
<b>Special School Headteacher</b>						
Katie Denton	Greenvale	✓	✓	a	✓	Jan 2024
<b>Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher</b>						
Heather Johnston	Abbey Manor	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2023
<b>Primary School Governors</b>						
<b>Secondary &amp; Special School Governors</b>						
<b>Academies</b>						

Niall Hand	ACADEMY	✓	✓	a	✓	June 2024
<b>14-19 Consortium Rep</b>						
Jamie Stevenson	Lewisham College	x	a	a	a	Oct 2023
<b>Early Years – PVI</b>						
Melanie Simpson	The Village Montessori	✓	✓	a	✓	Jan 2023
<b>Diocesan Authorities</b>						
Yvonne Epale	Education Commission – Catholic Diocese of Southwark	✓	✓	✓	✓	June 2024
Sarah Ambrose	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (Church of England)	✓	x	✓	✓	June 2024
<b>SUBSTITUTE</b>						

<b>Observers/Others in attendance</b>		
Director of Education Services	Angela Scattergood	
Strategic Business Partner	Mala Dadlani	
Head of Lewisham Learning	Anthony Doudle	
LB Lewisham – Head of EY	Nikki Sealy	
Head of Finance	Nick Penny	
LB Lewisham - Finance	Lurenco Reynolds-Moxam	
NEU	James Kerr	
Clerk	Janita Aubun	

**1. Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies**

Apologies of Absence from Jamie Stevenson.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

Minutes were agreed as accurate.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

Cost of living crisis – Will continue to remain on the agenda for review.

#### **5. Dedicated Schools Grant 2025/26**

##### Four reports

Report 1 – detailed funding settlement.

Report 2 – Schools Block – options to enable APT submission.

Report 3 – High Needs Funding settlement.

Report 4 – EY Block settlement

Officers also presented tabled 2025/26 DSG slides, to supplement and provide additional clarity to changes; for example streamlining of grants

#### **Decisions:-**

##### **Schools Block**

- Agreed Option 2
  - which is a max transfer of circa 0.5% to the High Needs Block
  - MFG is set at minus 0.15%.
  - The NFF is applied in full to the values for each factor i.e. AWPU, EAL etc
  - £100k is held for growth fund

Option 1 – 2 votes

Option 2 – 4 votes

1 abstention

##### **De-delegation 2025/26**

- Forum noted the de-delegation rates as set out in the detailed report.
- Remaining de-delegation rates agreed as per the December forum meeting.

Schools Forum to further note that the licence and subscription information is awaited  
Schools Forum to note the detail of the NIC grants is still awaited.

Schools Forum agreed the submission of the APT to the DfE.

Schools Forum further agreed for Officers to engage with Heads /Governors & SBM with specific meetings to discuss the detail of the DSG funding for 2025/26.

##### **High Needs Block**

Schools Forum noted as follows:-

- Circa £5m increase in High Needs Funding 6%.
- Current position for 2024/25 is approx. £2.5m overspend.
- DSG has cumulative deficit circa £15m therefore that will increase to circa £17.5m.
- DfE over-ride (ringfencing extended to 2027 March).
- Challenges - particularly, demand, need, cost and now NI and London Living Wage.
- DfE has suggested a separate ringfenced grant for teachers related grants – passport to special schools (would expect that to include NI increase funding).

## Early Years Funding

Schools Forum noted as follows:-

- Grants streamlined –AT NATIONAL LEVEL, then distributed to LA per NFF \_EY (different to SB & HNB).
- Summary position of EY funding.
- That the EY remains provisional pending validation of the January 2025 census.
- Requirement to inform providers of their funding by 28<sup>th</sup> February latest.

## EY – 3 & 4 Year Old Funding

Schools forum agreed the following:-

- Increase in hourly rate of general uplift 9p, factors uplifted per agreed formula.
- Teacher grant related 19p -added to quality factor (step-by-step shows 11p, which we believe is the part-year effect and 19p is the full year effect).
- Reduction in central hold back from 5% to 4% - added to hourly rate.

9 voted in favour. There were no objections and no abstentions.

## 2-Year Olds of Families Receiving Additional Support

Proposal to proceed with this model was agreed by Forum as follows:-

- Increase in hourly rate of general uplift 40p, factors uplifted per agreed formula.
- Reduction in central hold back from 5% to 4% - added to hourly rate.

9 voted in favour. There were no objections and no abstentions.

## 2-Year Old Working Parent Entitlement

1% move to the direct hourly rate.

Schools forum agreed the following:-

- Increase in hourly rate of general uplift 40p, factors uplifted per agreed formula.
- Reduction in central hold back from 5% to 4% -added to hourly rate.

9 voted in favour. There were no objections and no abstentions.

## Under 2's Entitlement

Schools forum noted and agreed the following:-

- Increase in hourly rate of general uplift 54p, factors uplifted per agreed formula.
- Reduction in central hold back from 5% to 4% -added to hourly rate.
- Noted that the under 2's entitlement commenced in Sept 2024 (therefore the table presented at Forum, illustrated the full year impact).
- Agreement to come back to forum with any consultation dates as necessary.

9 voted in favour. There were no objections and no abstentions.

- Forum considered this report as a sub report relating to reduction in funding arising from falling numbers and academisation.
- Noted that the gap could be redressed by expanding the service and charging policy to academies, special schools and Nursery schools.

12 voted in favour. There were no objections and no abstentions.

## **7. Redundancy and Early Retirement Due to Ill Health**

Lewisham is currently reviewing both elements mainly for clarity and also engaging with other LA.

- A detailed report will be presented to Forum at June 2025 meeting.

## **8. Membership of Schools Forum**

Forum informed that even with the academisation of schools in Lewisham, broadly speaking the current schools forum membership is aligned and therefore fit for purpose – no change required at this time.

- Vacancies and completion of terms – The specific groups are required to go back to their consultative leads and seek nominations in time for the June schools forum.

## **9. Any Other Business**

### **Future meetings**

26 June 2025  
23 October 2025  
11 December 2025  
20 January 2026 (provisional date, subject to DfE)

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

### **Sub Group meetings**

<b><u>High Needs Sub Group</u></b>
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Dates tbc
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## Schools Forum Action Summary

Item	Action to be taken	Officer(s) responsible	Outcome/Current position
<b>Matters Arising – Schools Forum 14 December 2023, Schools Forum 18 January 2024, Schools Forum 27 June 2024, Schools Forum 12 December 2024, Schools Forum 20 January 2025</b>	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 2025/26 funding allocation suitability.	Chair	Position remains on the agenda for review.
<b>7 – Redundancy &amp; Early Retirement Due to Ill Health, Schools Forum 20 January 2025</b>	Updated paper is to be brought to the June Schools Forum meeting following further liaison with other Local Authorities.	Director of Education and HR Education lead Advisory Manager	June 2025 Schools Forum
<b>8 –Membership of Schools Forum – vacancies and completion of terms, Schools Forum 20 January 2025</b>	Seek nominations for vacancies and January 2025 completion of terms.	Consultative Leads & Clerk – Janita Aubun	For June 2025 forum