

DRAFT

LEWISHAM SCHOOLS FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20th January 2022

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

		Attendance				
Primary School Headteachers		10/ 06	21/ 10	16/ 12	20/ 01	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 Lofstadt	Kilmorie				✓	Jan 2022
Matthew Ringham	Our Lady & St Philip Neri	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2022
David Lucas	Trinity	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2021
Maxine Osbaldeston	Launcelot	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2021
Nursery School Headteacher						
Cathryn Arnold-Kinsey	Clyde Nursery			✓	✓	Jan 2022
Secondary School Headteachers						
Naill Hand	Prendergast Ladywell	✓	✓	✓	✓	July 2019
<i>Jane Hadlow (interim)</i>	<i>Conisborough College</i>				✓	<i>n/a</i>
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	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2022
Andy Rothery	Leathersellers Federation	✓	a	✓	*	June 2021
VACANT	SPECIAL SCHOOL					
Academies						
Miz Mann	STEP Academy Trust		a	✓	✓	Oct 2021
Ann Butcher	Childeric	✓	*	✓	a	June 2021
14-19 Consortium Rep						
Asfa Sohail	Lewisham Southwark College	✓	✓	a	a	Mar 2019
Early Years – PVI						
VACANT						
Diocesan Authorities						
Sara Sanbrook-Davies	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	Dec 2019
Yvonne Epale	Education Commission – Catholic Diocese of Southwark	✓	✓	✓	✓	May 2021

Observers/Others in attendance		
Director CYP	Angela Scattergood	
Strategic Business Partner	Mala Dadlani	
Business Partner	Lurenco Reynolds-Moxam	
Business Partner	Floyd Roberts	
Head of Finance	Nick Penny	
Director of Lewisham Learning	Sandra Roberts	
LB Lewisham	Ruth Griffiths	
Leathersellers' Federation	Tony Marnham	
NEU	James Kerr	
Clerk	Janita Aubun	

1. Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies

Apologies accepted from Peter Fidel, Ann Butcher, Jacqueline Noakes and Asfa Sohail.

The Chair along with other forum members welcomed new members of the forum: - Daniel Meyer (Primary Governor representative) from St Bartholomews, Jacqueline Noakes (Primary Head representative) from John Ball and Julie Loffstadt (Primary Head representative) Kilmorie. Also Jane Hadlow representing Secondary Heads, interim for this meeting.

Forum were informed that Michael Sullivan, has resigned from his position as Secondary Head representative. Jane Hadlow was attending as the secondary schools representative.

2. Declaration of Interest

One declaration:- Jane Hadlow is a head of a red RAG secondary school and is supported by Lewisham Learning.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 16 December 2021

Agreed

4. Matters arising

None

5. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2022/23 – Summary Overview – Part 1 of 3

The purpose of this report is to provide Schools Forum with a technical update on the 2022/23 DSG funding settlement for Lewisham.

Schools Block is the basis of the APT tool submission.

CSSB – confirmed the reduction in funding which was marginally higher than expected, reflecting the reduction in pupil numbers in the primary phase.

High Needs – noted increase in funding but equally recognised increase in pressure (now circa £11m). Key driver remains the number of young people placed out of borough.

Early Years Block funding – remains provisional until January 2022 and January 2023 pupil data census has been finalised; this includes the supplementary factor for nursery schools. It was reiterated to Schools Forum that in December 2021, the DfE confirmed increases in funding for Early Years of 17p per hour for 3 and 4 year olds and increase of 21p per hour for 2 year olds.

The report also provided an update on the “supplementary grant” supporting the increase in National Insurance for 2022/23. Forum were advised that base information has been received as stated in the report which schools could use to estimate, and that school by school information would be received in the Spring for EY, Primary and Secondary phase pupils.

With regards to the High Needs Block (special school provision only), it appears that the grant distribution will need to be a local decision. What is not clear is the funding for resource base. It

is likely that the resource base NI support will be via the Grant allocations as stated above as these people are on the census count. This will need to be checked.

Recommendation:-

Following discussion, Schools Forum agreed to delegate the responsibility to Officers for the HN funding to support NI increase - with sign off from the Chair of Schools Forum/Vice Chair.

Decision:-

- agreed.

6. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) – De-delegation Request for School Improvement and Brokerage Grant – Part 2 of 3

Report presented by Sandra Roberts, Director of Lewisham Learning. This report notes the cessation of the School Improvement and Brokerage Grant in 2023/24, with partial (50% reduction in 2022/23) which affects the deliverability of School Improvement functions via Lewisham Learning. The report seeks funding support from Schools Forum as part of the de-delegation process.

Schools Forum were informed that on the basis Schools Forum supports the de-delegation request, services from Lewisham Learning would continue as present.

If the request is not supported, an exit strategy would be actioned with immediate effect, to ensure spend for 2022/23 is within budget allocations and will have implications for the LA's ability to support schools.

The de-delegation position per school is £5.25 per pupil.

Recommendation:-

Schools Forum is asked to consider increased de-delegation to support the fallout which will require £5.25 per pupil from maintained primary and secondary phase schools. Forum were asked to support either a 1 year agreement or 2 year agreement via de-delegation.

Decision:-

- Schools Forum agreed additional support for 1 year (subject to officers returning with a strategy put together, ready for 2023/24).

7. Dedicated Schools Grant Mandate (DSG) 2022/23 – Authority Proforma Tool (APT) (Schools Funding Formula) 2022/23 – Part 3 of 3

The main focus of this report is for Schools Forum to consider with regards submission of the Schools Funding Formula to the DfE on the 21st January 2022.

Recommendation:-

Option 1 – Provides schools with a maximised Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) of 2% and leaving a residual £709,742 (0.3%) to support pressures in the High Needs Block.

or

Option 2 – Provides schools with 1.75% MFG and enables the maximum £1.057m transfer to High Needs Block to support the pressures.

As part of the consideration, Schools Forum is asked to note the difference between the two options is £347k representing a de-minimis of 0.16% of the overall budget. – all primary and secondary age schools voting.

The Strategic Business Partner lead advised Schools forum that since the reports were dispatched a pressure has come to light which will have implications for the PFI schools arising from the increase in Energy Prices. It was noted that all schools (excluding the PFI contract schools) are part of the councils main contract which is expected to fair more favourably. Expectation is that prices for schools on the councils contract could potentially see price increase of circa 30% to 50%, however the PFI contracts could see increase of potentially 100% plus. The Executive Director for CYP sought views from Schools forum if there was any appetite to support the PFI schools from the funds transferred to the LA. Schools forum did not support this position and clearly advised that any transfer of funds must support only the high needs block.

Decision:-

- Schools forum agreed option 1. i.e. 2% uplift for all schools on MFG. Noting that as no cap on ceiling has been applied, some schools will see increases in excess of the 2%.
- Additional request to allow some of the funding to support PFI schools with respect to energy price increase for 2022/23 – not supported.

8. Any Other Business

Update on Term Time Only (TTO)

Forum were informed there is a spreadsheet available on Services for Schools listing those eligible for TTO monies on a school by school basis, and who have had their position approved online by ACAS. Approx. 25% have signed COT£ agreements and should be paid by end of January 2022. Also informed that there are potentially circa 400 leaver applications to date; claim deadline is end February 2022. Forum advised to exercise caution in not misunderstanding the definition of a 'leaver'. Reminder that term time only funding is likely to be 30% contribution from the school and remainder from Local Authority Corporate Resources balance brought forward and the balance of the DSG. Finance service will undertake the costings and communicate any rebate accordingly.

Future Meetings

Schools Forum calendar dates 2022/23, advised and agreed as:-

30th June 2022

20th October 2022

15th December 2022

19th January 2023 (subject to DfE timelines)

All Schools Forum meetings continue to be held between 16:30-18:30

Sub Group meetings

High Needs Sub Group

Dates tba (normally held
7 – 10 days before
schools forum meetings)

Schools Forum Action Summary

Item	Action to be taken	Officer(s) responsible	Outcome/Current position
5 – Schools Forum 20 th January 2022	Paper 1 – Mala to come back to Chair and Vice-Chair after completing some more detailed work on the HNSB in respect of the supplementary factor.	Mala Dadlani	Pending