

Schools Forum -Decision Sheet

Meeting Date

28/06/22

Report Reference	Page Reference	Report Title	Purpose of Document	Recommendation	Schools Forum Decision
Item 1		Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies/Welcome New Members	Apologies from Matthew Ringham (Chair - Schools Forum), Pat Barber (Secondary Governor), Pinaki Ghoshal (Executive Director CYP), Angela Scattergood (Director of Education).		Apologies accepted & noted. Resignation noted.
Item 2		Declaration of interests		None	
Item 3	1-6	Minutes of the Meeting - 20 January 2022	To agree on minutes of previous meeting	Noted and agreed as accurate	Agreed as accurate.
Item 4		Matters Arising	Supplementary Funding	Special Schools to be funded in alignment with other mainstream schools. (note, funding is on lagged numbers). Nursery Schools - to be given an additional lump sum to ensure they are treated equitably.	Agreed by Forum.
Item 5	7-13	Schools Forum Work Plan 2022/23	This report sets out the intended work plan for Schools Forum for the financial year 2022/23.	Schools Forum is asked to review the proposed schedule of future Forum meeting dates and the work programme (Appendix 1). The report is for information and guidance in terms of the anticipated business that Schools Forum needs to consider for 2022/23. The programme presents the schedule for key elements of forum's work programme. It is expected that as the year progresses, subsequent items will be added to the work programme as a result of discussion and consideration by forum. Forum to note that consultation responses are to be a standing item throughout the year. High Needs Working Group meeting schedule is also referenced in this paper.	Noted and approved. Forum grateful that officers will be progressing with consultations on behalf of schools and will welcome feedback.
Item 6	14-21	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2021/22 Outturn Position Including Schools Balances Position	The report sets out the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG Outturn Position) including the position with regards to school balances.	Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of this report with particular focus on:- . the pressure on the DSG with a provisional net overspend of £5m –High Needs Block & Central School Services Block (CSSB). Schools Block is a balanced position. CSSSB remains a challenge. . Schools Forum to agree to receive regular updates on the High Needs Block and agree the continuation of the High Needs Working Group . Surplus balance position 2021/22 for schools and To further note the provisional position for the EY block - DfE hasn't yet confirmed the position. <u>Schools Balances</u> - forum noted this excludes Academisation. In general nursery schools are going into further deficit, primary schools are using more of their funding, secondary schools are increasing their surpluses and all-through schools have remained stable. Special Schools & the PRU have increased surplus balances.	Noted
Item 7	22-25	Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23	This report sets out the DSG position for 2022/23 and notes the potential pressure on the High Needs Block.	For School's Forum information and guidance only. Central Schools Services Block - Officers currently working through the government's White Paper, assessing new roles and responsibilities placed on Local Authorities. MD advised that as part of the MTFs, the council had supported £500k of resources to support the CSSB. Schools forum stated the early need for information to support engagement on any traded service changes or de-delegation. To note the potential pressure on the High Needs Block. To note the potentiality of DfE intervention for a recovery plan. Schools Forum to agree to receive regular updates at each meeting. Schools Forum asked to be given information with sufficient lead in time to be able to consult with relevant members, before voting at Forum.	Noted and agreed.
Item 8		High Needs Working Group Verbal Update	. SEND Green paper consultation . LA SEND inspections . Resource Base Update . Safety Valve - high needs funding	Clare Gurbutt gave a verbal presentation update:- <u>SEND Green Paper consultation</u> - consultation ends 22.7.22 and is open to all. LA will collate a draft response for circulation and information. <u>LA SEND inspections</u> - all 152 boroughs have been inspected. Lewisham did not have a written statement of action - have not been inspected as yet, due to COVID. <u>Resource Base Update</u> - Autumn term 2022 Forster Park opening 6 places for ASD, Spring Term Edmund Waller 6 places ASD, Drumbeat opening an additional 45 places at Turnham. January 2023 Watergate potentially opening 8 - 9 places for early years. Consultation events to be held for academic year 2023/24. No secondary schools have expressed an interest - capacity issues. Mala Daflani gave a verbal update:- <u>Safety Valve - high needs funding</u> - this is in essence a deficit recovery plan.	All noted.
Item 9		National Funding Formula - Consultation - Verbal Update	Verbal Update	Mala Daflani shared a presentation on the Government Consultation on working towards the hard NFF. It supports the White Paper. The consultation concludes 9th September. Main factors are High Needs funding and pressures, notional SEN budgets, split sites, exceptional circumstances, growth funding, falling rolls fund, area cost adjustment to recognise inner London pressures and PFI. In addition there is the annual funding cycle, and minimum funding guarantee. NFF timelines not yet clear but expected to be finalised by 2027/28 at the latest. LA to write to DfE for disapplication on exceptional circumstances. Secondary Schools keen to be involved in any PFI consultation.	Noted
Item 10		Any Other Business	. TOFTUA policy review . LA - Schools forum training 29th September . Thanks to - Sara Sanbrook-Davies (Primary Head representative) and Jane Hadlow (Secondary Head representative)	Discussion around time off for trade union activities relative to funding. Policy review/update to be made. Officers to bring a paper to Forum once reviewed. Forum are happy for this to be an agenda item at next Forum. <u>Schools Forum training 29th September</u> - primarily for new members.	. All noted. Forum agreed for report on TOFTUA . Forum thanked Sara and Jane for their work and support given to forum during their term of office.

Agreed by

Manda George

Vice-Chair of Schools Forum