

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 |

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|-----------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| 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 |
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| 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 COTÉ 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

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| High Needs Sub Group |
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| Dates tba (normally held 7 – 10 days before schools forum meetings) |
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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 |