

Schools Forum - Decision Sheet

Meeting Date

19/10/23

Report Reference	Page Reference	Report Title	Purpose of Document	Recommendation	Schools Forum Decision
Item 1		Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies - Member Resignation.	Apologies from Julie Loffstadt (Headteacher - Primary), Michael Sullivan (Headteacher - Secondary) & Daniel Meyer (Governor - Primary). Resignation - Miz Mann (Academies)		Apologies accepted & noted. Resignation accepted.
Item 2		Declaration of Interests		None	
Item 3		Election of Chair	Nominations and vote.		1 nomination received. Manda George (former Vice-Chair), elected to Forum Chair with immediate effect.
Item 4		Election of Vice- Chair	Nominations and vote.	Newly created vacancy in Vice-Chair position. There were no nominations for election to this post.	Nominations and vote for Vice-Chair to be carried forward to next forum hence.
Item 5	page 1 - 8	Minutes of Meeting 29 June 2023	To agree on minutes of previous meeting	Attendance register to be corrected for next Forum.	Noted correction to attendance register to be made.
Item 6		Matters Arising		Forum Reconstitution - Constitution requires revision to update for movements in pupil numbers but also Academisation. Vacancies exist for Special School Head, and also for Academy representative following from the latest resignation. Update minutes to reflect that Nursery schools are considered as part of the 5% threshold for additional SEN funding applied to primary & secondary schools. Schools Forum Action Summary - Cost of living crisis lobby - rethink - do Forum want to make representation to the Secretary of State regarding the 2024/25 funding allocation error?	Forum constitution -membership will be recast following validation of October Census and Academisation. 5% threshold applicable to nursery schools - to be included in the minutes. 2024/25 DfE funding error - Forum felt it was worth raising concerns with DfE/ Secretary of State. Chair will draft letter. Mandatory training for new Headteachers - MD to schedule for November. PFI consultation - meeting scheduled for after half-term.
Item 7	page 9-18	Lewisham School Place Planning	Head of Business Infrastructure, Compliance and Education Operations provided an update on place planning. This was in the form of a presentation, for which slides were attached.	Short term and medium term proposals discussed , including options for reducing numbers.	Task and Finish Group to be extended to nursery school sector - as requested. Report update noted.
Item 8		High Needs Working Group Update	Verbal update at Forum following on from the High Needs Working Group meeting held on 11 October 2023, plus DBV (sessions held with Newton on 9th and 10th October).	Slides shared at Forum. Noted ongoing work with Schools Forum which is now informing the work with DfE/Newton. Steady Progress to stabilise spend, however demand/severity of need continue to place pressure.	Update noted links to report on DSG.
Item 9	page 19 - 23	Application of Quality Factor of Early Years Funding Block	The report provided options for consideration by Schools forum to agree the method for targeted allocations using the quality factor.	Option 1: £372k funding divided by no. of providers with a qualified teacher. Option 2: consider providers weighted by the no. of children on role in each setting. Option 3: Divide £372k by the total no. of providers to give a total amount allocated to each provider. Option 4 (new): forum to go back and consider Early Years rep. comment on how many teaching staff are employed in each setting.	8 voted in favour i.e. majority agreed to consider Option 4 and bring back the costings to December forum, where a vote will be taken then.
Item 10	page 24 - 34	Early Years - Pressure on Inclusion Fund	The report noted the continuing pressure on the inclusion fund arising from demand - with short term and longer term proposals.	That Schools forum agrees the use of the 2022/23 carry forward to support inclusion fund for 2023/24. That Schools Forum further notes the change in practice of the inclusion fund to reflect the rising demand within the financial constraints. Schools forum also notes that a post implementation review would be appropriate of the proposed changes recognising any local offer must remain within the financial consideration. £600k remaining - to support the High Needs Block.	Report noted. Recommendations agreed - see below.
Item 11	page 35 - 69	DSG Update Including 2022/23 Final Early Years Position, 2023/24 Updated DSG & Headline Information 2024/25	Report provided forum with detailed information on DSG for each of 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. The report also sought agreement from Schools Forum on the application of £800k funding from 2022/23 (Early Years Block).	Recommendation: Approve the application of the £800k 2022/23 unclawed funding to: - Support the expected overspend on the Inclusion Fund of £0.2m. Support the HNB pressure i.e. the £600k cost of EY on the High Needs Block. To note that the extension of the EY offer will require embedding support from the Local Authority. Schools Forum will be updated as necessary. Schools Forum is further asked to note that in partnership with Lewisham, there is a duty to operate within the overall funding levels. The funding is "once off" as it relates to residue from 2022/23. It should be noted that the proposals support funding is targeted towards EY phase. Schools forum is further asked to note the 2023/24 forecast position and also the 2024/25 partial settlement.	8 voted in favour, i.e. majority agreement for the use of the circa £800k 2022/23 carry forward to support £200k inclusion fund 2023/24. Forum agreed the remaining £600k to be used to support HNB (recognising increase in pressure arising from under 5 with SEN/EHCP) - 8 in favour. All recommendations noted.
Item 12		Any other Business	FSM Auto enrolment update – verbal update	Information shared to forum: worked with colleagues in the wider council to see if any families potentially entitled to FSM - positive result securing circa £1.3M extra funding.	All noted - School forum recognised the positive work undertaken by the LA to support schools.

Agreed by Manda George

Chair of Schools Forum