

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>Support 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 1</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>Support 4</u> - to note Grants streamlined –AT NATIONAL LEVEL, then distributed to LA per NPF. EY (different to SB & HNS). <u>Summary position of EY Funding</u> . <u>What the EY remains provisional pending validation of the January 2025 census. Requirement to inform providers of their funding by 28th February latest.</u> Forum recommendation to agree the EY revisions in the hourly rates for under 2%, 2 year old funding and 3 & 4 year old. | Report 1 - noted. Report 2 - Forum AGREED the following Wfich is a max transfer of circa 0.5% to the High Needs Block. Wfich is set at minus 0.15%. The NPF is applied in full to the value for each factor i.e. ANPU, TAL etc. Wfich 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 /Governers & SBM with specific meetings to discuss the detail of the DSG Funding for 2025/26. Report 3 - noted. Report 4 - 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. 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. <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 & 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. | Recommendation agreed. 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 | | |