

Haringey Schools' Forum

Minutes of the first meeting of Haringey Schools' Forum
held on Wednesday 22nd January 2003 commencing at 6:00pm
at Haringey Professional Development Centre

Attendance:

Schools Block – Headteachers

- John Hill
- Jill Hughes
- Rachel Singer
- Andrew Wickham
- Margaret Finch
- Hugh McBride
- Tony Hartney
- Andrew Nixon
- Roz Hudson
- Chris Cahill
- Vacancy (primary community)
- Vacancy (special)

Schools Block - Governors

- Martin Burrows
- Liz Pine
- Liz Rosenfeld
- Rob Sharp
- Walter Smith
- Andrew Johnston
- Nathan Operaeche
- Edgar Neufeld
- *(substitute – Jimmy Bryan)*
- Arthur Phillips
- Denise Tunstall
- Humphrey Walters
- Graham Day
- *(substitute – Kath Howell)*

Non Schools Block

- London Diocesan Board (CE)
- Westminster Diocese (RC)
- Indu Shukla (Race Equality JCC)
- Tony Brockman (Trade Unions)
- Melian Mansfield (EYDCP)
- Judy Bax (Lead Member)

Observers

- Ruth Whittaker (Learning & Skills Council)
- Graham Horsewood and Mike Cording (Greig City Academy)
- Glyn Rowlands (Trade Unions)

• denotes present

Officers present: Paul Roberts, Director of Education Services
Gary Peile, Deputy Director (Planning & Resources)
Phil DiLeo, SEN Development & Strategy Manager
Berl Goldbart, Clerk

Apologies:

Jill Hughes, Edgar Neufeld, Graham Day, Melian Mansfield and Tony Brockman.

Substitutes:

Jimmy Bryan (for Edgar Neufeld) and Kath Howell (for Graham Day).

1. Welcome

Gary Peile welcomed all members, observers and officers to the meeting.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 Circulated Paper

- 2.1.1 Gary Peile spoke to a paper *Constitutional and Procedural Matters, Roles and Responsibilities*, which had been circulated with the Agenda papers. He noted that the Forum will build on links between schools and the LEA and their input into the budget making process.
- 2.1.2 It is envisaged that meetings will rotate between daytime and evening slots.
- 2.1.3 The document will be re-circulated to recognise additional observers and observer speaking rights.
- 2.1.4 A paper on expenses will be brought to the next meeting.

2.2 Consultation

The LEA is required to consult the Schools Forum on the following:

2.2.1 School Funding Formula

- (a) Proposed changes to the formula; and
- (b) Financial effects of changes.

2.2.2 Contracts

The terms of proposed contracts for supplies or services above a certain threshold, where the costs will be met from schools' budgets either directly or through buy-back.

2.2.3 Financial Issues

The Forum must be consulted annually on the following:

- (a) the arrangements to be made for the education of pupils with special educational needs;
- (b) arrangements for the use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school;
- (c) arrangements for early year's education;
- (d) arrangements for insurance;
- (e) prospective revisions to the scheme for the financing of schools;
- (f) administrative arrangements for the allocation of central government grants paid to schools;
- (g) arrangements for free school meals; and
- (h) any other funding matters that the LEA wished to consult the Forum on.

3. Membership Report

- 3.1 A revised membership list was circulated. There are some vacancies.
- 3.2 Two substitute representatives were present (see attendance list).

4. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

4.1 Chair

Judy Bax (Non-Schools Block, Lead Member for Lifelong Learning) was nominated, seconded and duly *elected*.

4.2 Vice-Chair

Denise Tunstall (Schools Block, Governor, Alexandra Park Secondary School) was nominated, seconded and duly *elected*.

5. School and LEA Funding in 2003-04: Policy Guidance Note

- 5.1 This policy note from the DfES had been circulated in advance with the Agenda Papers.
- 5.2 Gary Peile drew attention to the following:
 - 5.2.1 The Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel wishes to maintain spending on the Youth Service, as encouraged in the paper.
 - 5.2.2 There is a social deprivation factor in the Haringey Formula, as encouraged by the Secretary of State.
- 5.3 Glyn Rowlands (Observer, Trade Unions) drew attention to the narrative on remodelling the workforce and the use of potential additional resources.
- 5.4 The paper was *received*.

6. Budget 2003/2004

6.1 General Issues

- 6.1.1 Gary Peile presented the paper *Budget Report 2003/2004* which had been circulated with the Agenda Papers.
- 6.1.2 He explained how the base for the Education Formula Spending Share (FSS, formerly SSA – Standard Spending Assessment) had been arrived at by central government. The methodology has been changed, primarily by alterations to the area cost adjustment. The floor increase in real terms, compared with SSA 2002/2003, is 3%, Haringey's settlement.
- 6.1.3 Secondary Schools, particularly in the East of the Borough, will be the most badly affected owing to the fact that some time-limited Standards Funds have ceased whilst others will be withdrawn.
- 6.1.4 Officers' current estimates, as contained in the paper, are that the main government funding streams, including Standards Funds (best estimates), School Standards Grant and Post-16 Funding from the Learning & Skills Council, have increased in cash terms by 2.1%.
- 6.1.5 The estimated average funding gap is 3.7%. The range is 2 – 8%.
- 6.1.6 It has been suggested that the DfES, both officials and ministers, had not realised the effect the changes will have in Haringey.
- 6.1.7 Members will be recommending that £600K be found from outside Education FSS for central commitments on Special Educational Needs (SEN); for example, the purchase of school places outside the Borough.
- 6.1.8 The picture is expected to be better in the following two years as the methodology is not expected to change again. The DfES indicative increases for Education FSS on a like for like basis are:
- | | |
|------------------------|------|
| 2003-2004 to 2004-2005 | 5.5% |
| 2004-2005 to 2005-2006 | 5.8% |
- Caution must be exercised owing to further changes in Standards Funds (outside of Education FSS), pupil numbers and both wage and non-wage inflation.
- 6.1.9 Although some schools have reasonable balances, others have small balances or deficits. It will be difficult for many schools to get through the next year in expectation of the potential cash increases for the next two years as set out above.
- 6.1.10 Potential under-funding owing to population underestimates has been taken up.
- 6.1.11 Officers are collating information from individual schools urgently.
- 6.1.12 The report was *received*.

6.2 Comments by the Forum on the Budget

- 6.2.1 Questions and comments encompassed several issues included the play service and extended schools and the effects of the budget settlement on schools.
- 6.2.2 Noted that the Primary & Special and Secondary Headteacher associations have already written to the DfES.
- 6.2.3 It was *agreed* that the Forum should write to the Secretary of State highlighting the effect the settlement will have on Haringey communities and, particularly, secondary schools in the East of the Borough. Forum Members did not believe that this was intended. This was delegated to the Chair and Vice-Chair. **Action: Chair and Vice-Chair**
- 6.2.4 The following resolution was *agreed* for submission to The Executive:

“Members of the Schools' Forum are shocked and very concerned at the effect the draft Budget Settlement will have on schools in the Borough. Secondary schools in the east fare worst, but all schools are faced with managing budgets that will not meet their current level of expenditure. The effective cuts range from an average of 4% for primary to nearly 8% for secondary.

Cuts of this order will inevitably lead to staff reductions; teachers and classroom assistants who have been so effective in supporting individual children, in raising achievement, improving behaviour, and reducing exclusions, are likely to be made redundant. Headteachers who have achieved real improvements are fearful of seeing their schools slip back. Stability and progress within the service is put at risk.

We cannot believe that the government intended to undermine the education of some of London's most needy children in this way, and we urge the Council to make every effort to communicate to the Government the scale of the problem we face, and to press the government to respond appropriately."

[*Note:* The Forum delegated the Chair and Vice-Chair to draft the resolution based on views expressed by Forum Members at the meeting. Forum Members were invited to comment on the draft.]

7. Draft Capital Programme

- 7.1 A summary of the Draft Capital Programme had been circulated with the Agenda papers.
- 7.2 Gary Peile explained that this had been examined, in depth, by the Asset Management Working Party.
- 7.3 The capital figures are not as bad as the revenue settlement. The PFI cost shown is an additional contribution for revenue costs arising.
- 7.4 The paper was *received*.
- 7.5 Arising, *agreed* that officers should investigate whether Asset Management Plan Working Party Minutes can be circulated to Forum Members. **Action: Clerk**

8. Fair Funding – Results of the Review

- 8.1 A report *Review of the Haringey Fair Funding Scheme for 2003/04* had been circulated with the Agenda papers. This included an appendix on *The Delegation of Resources to Support Inclusive Learning*.
- 8.2 Owing to delay in convening the Schools' Forum, not of Haringey's cause, it had been impossible to consult the Schools Forum. Next year this will be rectified.
- 8.3 Gary Peile summarised the results of the consultation and Phil diLeo spoke to the issues covered in the Appendix.
- 8.3.1 In respect of SEN/AEN there will be no great change in the amount of money available; it will be distributed differently. Funding for complex needs will be retained to be distributed by the Complex Needs Panel, which has headteachers represented on it. The SEN/AEN Funding User Group will be monitoring the implementation. Other funding will be in the delegated budget; it mustn't get lost. There will be transitional arrangements. A series of seminars and drop in sessions will be held after the half-term break. The meeting emphasised that it will be important to get information to parents.
- 8.3.2 In response to a question about early exemplifications, Gary Peile responded that the target is to get budgets out by the end of February. Schools have been asked to return their Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) basic pupil count quickly.
- 8.3.3 In response to a question about amalgamation and transitional funding Gary Peile explained that the revised formula would generate additional funding in the year following amalgamation.
- 8.4 The report was received.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Agreed to circulate potential dates as soon as possible. It was suggested that, in line with time rotation, the meeting be held at 4:00pm or earlier, possibly starting with a buffet lunch.

Action: Clerk and Chair

Closure

7:30pm