

Schools Forum Early Years Working Group

4th October 2019 at 10am. Held at Alex House

Name	Designation/ Representation
Melian Mansfield (MM)	CHAIR. Chair of Pembury House
Ngozi Anuforo (NA)	Head of Early Help Commissioning
Gladys Baah-Okyere (GBO)	PVI Settings Rep
Luisa Bellavita (LB)	PVI Settings Rep
+ Cllr Zena Brabazon (ZB)	Lead Member for the Children Service
+ Peter Catling (PC)	Woodlands Park Nursery School & Children Centre
+ Duwan Farquharson (DF)	Willow
+ Mary Gardiner (MG)	Primary Head Rep
Nick Hewlett (NH)	Principal Advisor for Early Years
+ Emma Murray (EM)	Primary Head Rep
+ Karyn Parker (KP)	Childminders
+ Elizabeth Rarieya (ER)	Woodlands Park Nursery School & Children Centre
Susan Tudor-Hart (STH)	School Forum PVI Settings Rep
+ Melanie Widnall (MW)	Principal Advisor for Early Years
Christine Yianni (CY)	Childcare Sufficiency Manager
Sarah Hargreaves (SH)	Clerk

+ denotes absence

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies were noted from Mary Gardiner, Peter Catling, Cllr Zena Brabazon and Emma Murray.

2. **Minutes of the meeting of 1st July 2019**

- 2.1 The minutes were **agreed**, signed and returned to Ngozi for safe keeping.
- 2.2 Members asked that action points be listed at the end of the minutes. **Action Clerk**

Matters arising

- 2.3 Pt 1.3 NH said that there are no childminders interested in becoming the Rep currently. It was suggested that actions are still shared with childminders so that they know what is happening. **Action NH**
- 2.4 Pt 2.3 NH has looked into the Tottenham Foundation funding for tools. It is not straightforward as a particular project needs to be applied for. Individual settings can apply; he will inform them. **Action NH**
- 2.5 Pt 2.4 MM is still to write to the LGA regarding two year old funding. **Action MM**
- 2.6 Pt 3.1. It was **agreed** that each group should feed back whatever information is relevant so that there is two-way communication between officers, schools, PVI settings. Information sharing will be put as an agenda item on the PVI Forum. Funding is the main issue for many settings. School numbers are low and several places are closing their after school provision. There are staff shortages, the minimum wage is increasing, rents

are increasing and the repairs undertaken by landlords are decreasing. Members asked why LBH is spending money on consultants when there is no money for settings. There have already been cuts made and the changing demographics are known.

2.6.1 Staff shortages are being exasperated by Brexit concerns. Agencies are going abroad to obtain staff.

2.7 The details on rents paid by settings to the borough are being collated for Cllr Brabazon.

Action NA

3. **Early Years Block Budget: Update**

3.1 Ngozi circulated her paper for the next School Forum meeting.

3.2 Conversations are being held about planning for the budget for next year.

3.3 The Census shows that the number of 2-year olds is reducing. Funding, currently £2.7m, is based on last year's number of children. There is likely to be an adjustment and hence a clawback later in the year by the DfE. (see pt 3.6). It is anticipated that £528,281 will be re-claimed due to the 2018-19 underspend. There is currently an underspend of £700,000 on 2's and the extended 30 hours places.

3.3.1 It was clarified that the previous monies have already been transferred to the HNB. It was agreed by School Forum in 2017/18 that any reserves in the EY or Schools Block should go towards the HNB overspend.

3.3.2 *Members said that they remain unhappy about this.* NA said that their concerns could be logged but it had been a corporate decision.

3.3.3 MM said that she had written to Zena Etheridge (the CEO) and to School Forum but had received no replies. She suggested that settings could write to their MPs.

3.3.4 It was noted that it can be hard to get EY issues discussed at School Forum, which concentrates more on schools. It is not clear if SF members are aware as to how this decision had been made.

3.4 It was noted that with the clawback it is hard to know the full financial position. It would be useful to have the figures before transfers have been made. HNB deficits are a national issue; the government needs to know the size of the problem; if LAs are propping up the budgets the size of the pressure is being masked. *Members asked if more funding could be made available from the School Block.* NA said that this was unlikely as school budgets are also very tight.

3.5 *Members asked that the paperwork associated with 3.4 (transfer of funds) be re-circulated to members.* **Action NA**

3.5.1 It was noted that due to the lack of funding more settings were declining to take 2-year olds.

3.6 3-year-old take up has increased due to families taking up the 30-hour offer. The 30-hour offer has also supported schools in filling vacant places (especially in the afternoons). There has been a reduction in this year's DfE funding allocation due to a decline in EYPP and 2-year-old participation numbers as noted above. DAF and maintained nursery school funding remains the same.

3.7 An announcement is expected from the DfE on an extra £66m funding for EY nationally. Details on how it will be allocated and what it can be used for are awaited. It is anticipated that it will be for the 2's and 3's and available from April 2020.

3.8 Settings explained that their costs are likely to increase by around 10% due to the increase in the minimum wage and pension contributions.

3.9 Members expressed concern that if children are not in settings by the time they are two years old, then EHCP assessments are not started and often they are left until the child is in school. The more children that are in settings results in a higher overall funding pot and so the 5% the LA can retain also increases.

3.10 The number of eligible 2-year olds on the DWP list is reducing. This term it stands at 1097. (Figures from the DWP). Eligibility is affected by changing benefit rules and families now not meeting the criteria. More working families are taking up the 30-hour places.

3.10.1 Members felt that the leaflets which say that families “maybe” getting the 15-hour funding leads some to think that they will definitely get it. Some parents don’t have access to be able to apply on-line. There is a DfE project on behavioural insights looking at how to reach people, however, the messages do not always reach people. The semantics of language are important and different people hear information differently.

3.11 It was noted that there has been a dip in the number of 2-year-old applications. *Members asked Ngozi to ask parents what the issues were for them. It was additionally felt that settings should have paper versions of the application forms available for those parents without internet access.*

Action NA

3.12 PVI settings need to be made aware to sign post families to children centres. They are more likely to know how they can help families apply. Health Visitors and JCP have also been briefed on how children’s centres can support families to apply.

3.13 It was felt that some parents are not taking up the offer of day care as the times offered are not what they need.

3.14 The “Golden Ticket” approach is being used in conjunction with the welfare benefits team to pre-identify relevant families so that they don’t need to go through the whole application process. This is also used with children within the social care system. It is seen to be a good way to track children. The response rate is being monitored.

3.15 Reps. from the different types of settings were asked to get their colleagues to respond to the Census. It was felt that an email to settings was needed, in addition to access via the Portal. It was noted that the LA has the statutory power to cut funding to settings which do not respond. Although this hasn’t been implemented to date, it could be kept as an option.

3.15.1 Members said that there was some confusion around the annual census data deadline and the deadline for submitting actual headcount data. Ngozi said that going forward there will be an alignment of the data collection which will give better real time data. *Members asked if the cut off date will be the same this year?* It will. Once there is a single collection point for data it may be possible to penalise those who do not respond.

3.16 In the future there will need to be more robust conversations on budget plans, especially with SBMs, to support them to understand the way funding is allocated and paid.

3.16.1 It was noted that when children move from nursery to school, once the child is recorded as being on the school roll, they are not eligible for nursery funding. This means that if the school has staggered admission times parents have to pay for anytime(s) that they are still using the nursery for. The school is receiving the full funding but is not taking the child full-time. Some schools have agreed not to take the funding until the Oct 12th deadline.

Action NA

4. Free entitlement - overview

4.1 The take of the 30-hour offer is good. There are many 4-year olds in schools.

4.2 *Members asked why there are less 4-year olds in the analysis report than 3’s.* The team will look at the raw data used to form the report and bring this back to the group.

4.3 There are 237 children coming in from other boroughs, to settings throughout the borough. It is not known how many Haringey children attend settings elsewhere.

4.3.1 Some children who apply to two boroughs are identified through the annual census.

4.4 The two-year-old take-up is reducing. The national take-up of 2-year-old places and 15-hour free entitlement is 68%; LB Haringey is 47%.

4.4.1 Of the 346 children who received ‘Free For Two’s’ funding, 28% of them went on to receive the 30 hours funding, showing that more families are going into work

4.5 There will be a meeting with Ellika McAuley regarding SEND children with sector reps. Nick said that he has met with Ellika regarding Early Support places; in particular eligibility and capacity to respond and how this will be reported to School Forum. It was **agreed** that a follow up meeting is needed. There needs to be clarify for parents as to what they can spend the funding on. It is not clear as to whether the funding will be administered in the same way as Pupil Premium.

4.5.1 *Members asked if the lack of take-up had been analysed by ethnic background.* The data shows that a higher proportion of children taking up the two-year-old offer are from black

African and Caribbean communities, whilst this picture changes when we look at the take up profile for the universal offer for 3 year olds. Take up data has also been analysed for the London Mayor Project which is supporting work to increase take up by children of Somali, Turkish and Kurdish families. *Members asked that take-up be tracked against under achievement in schools.* Although it was noted that care needs to be taken as to how information is presented as assumptions can be made.

4.6 Ngozi will update her report. Any further comments to be sent to her. **Action All**

5. **DfE Updates: 2-year-old programme – extended eligibility, Cross-borough forum in Haringey**

5.1 Those 2-year olds who have no resources to public funds or are unaccompanied or where the child has 'settled status' but the parents don't, may be included in future wider criteria; NA to forward the details. Many of these children will already be known to services.

Action NA

6. **Childcare Sufficiency Update: Provider Surveys on Deprivation and Early Years Pupil Premium**

6.1 **Provider Surveys:** There has been a low response rate, so the returns are not representative of all providers. 14 have been received from PVI settings and 8 from schools. Reps were asked to chase their colleagues. (There are around 125 settings delivering the entitlement and 40 childminders).

Action Sector Reps

6.1.2 It would be useful to know how many children access FSM during the school lunch time and paid for by EYPP.

7. **AOB**

7.1 It is unclear as to where the strategy worked on earlier in the year is now. An additional meeting will be arranged to discuss it.

8. **Dates for future meetings**

8.1 7th November at 2.30pm (strategy meeting) and 20th November at 10.30am.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

There being no further business the meeting closed at **12.05pm**.

Signed:

Date:

Actions Log from the minutes

Item	Action	By Whom
2.3	To share actions from the minutes with childminders	NH
2.4	To think about projects which could be put forward for Tottenham Foundation funds	NH
2.4	To inform settings that they can apply for Tottenham Foundation funds themselves	NH
2.5	To write to the LGA about concerns around the 2-year-old funding	MM
2.7	To collate the details on rents paid by settings using LBH premises	NA
3.5	To circulate the paperwork on the previous transfer of EYF money to the HNB to members	NA
3.11	To ask parents what issues concern them which leads them to not taking up their 2-year-old entitlement	NA
4.6	To provide any further comments to Ngozi on her report.	All
5.1	To circulate the details on the possible widening of the criteria for 2-year-old funding	NA
6.1	To chase settings to return their provider surveys	Sector Reprs