

Report for: Corporate Committee 18 March 2020

Title: Schools Audit

Report authorised by: Eveleen Riordan, AD, Schools and Learning

Lead Officer: Eveleen Riordan, AD, Schools and Learning

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Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** Non Key decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 Our aim is for all schools to be at substantial or a good level in their audit. Where limited or nil is an outcome, we will agree with the school an action plan for how the school will address the areas of concern and move to a more secure position at the next audit.
- 1.2 We are aware that there are occasions local factors that might move a secure school to a position that gives greater cause for concern. We want our schools to work closely with the LA and advise at an early point if there are any factors which threaten or pressurise their ability to come out of audit in a strong position. To assist this, Schools Forum agreed on 26 February 2020 that a sum of money from Schools in Financial Difficulty (SiFD) fund would be used to support an LA led SLA to our schools to provide timely and strong financial support and advice to our schools to enable them to have strong financial processes in hand.
- 1.3 The governance arm of the Haringey Education Partnership (HEP) leads on training for our governors. The last Audit and Risk Management governor training was on Wednesday 4 March. The handout from the training is attached. As you can see, it is a comprehensive look at the audit process and how to ensure that your school achieves a strong outcome.
- 1.4 To ensure that those who most need it are accessing the training, all schools in the audit window are targeted for the training – this inevitably means that those schools which are nil/limited are targeted more frequently as they are audited more often.
- 1.5 Where nil assurance is recoded in two consecutive audits, the AD for Schools and Learning and the Head of Audit will call in the relevant Head and CoG to discuss the outcome and agree how the position will be moved upward.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Corporate Committee note the update.

3. Use of Appendices

3.1 Appendix 1 – School Governors Presentation 4th March.