

**MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING
THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 4pm**

School Members		
Headteachers		
Special (1)	Martin Doyle (Riverside)	
Nursery Schools (1)	Peter Catling (Woodlands Park)	
Primary (7)	Mary Gardiner (West Green)	*Michelle Randles
	(A)Stephen McNicholas (St John Vianney)	Paul Murphy (Lancasterian)
	Emma Murray (Seven Sisters)	Linda Sarr (Risley Avenue)
	Will Wawn (Bounds Green)	
Secondary (2)	Andy Webster (Park View)	Tony Hartney (Gladesmore)
Primary Academy (1)	(A) Simon Knowles (LDBS Academies Trust)	
Secondary Academies (2)	Vacancy	Michael McKenzie (Alexandra Park)
Alternative Provision (1)	Gerry Robinson	
Governors		
Special (1)	Jean Brown (The Vale)	
Nursery Centres (1)	Melian Mansfield (Pembury)	
Primary (7)	Laura Butterfield (Coldfall)	
	*Hannah D’Aguiar (Chestnuts Primary)	John Keever (Seven Sisters)
	*Jenny Thomas (Lordship Lane)	Julie Davies (Tiverton)
	Dan Salem (Muswell Hill Primary)	Vacancy
Secondary (2)	*Laurence Penn (Highgate Wood)	Vacancy
	Sylvia Dobie (Park View)	
Primary Academy (1)	Vacancy	
Secondary Academies (3)	*Noreen Graham (Woodside)	Vacancy
Non-School Members		
Non-Executive Councillor	Cllr Daniel Stone	
Trade Union Representative	*Paul Renny	
Professional Association Representative	*Ed Harlow	
Faith Schools	*Geraldine Gallagher	
14-19 Partnership	*Kurt Hintz	
Early Years Providers	Susan Tudor-Hart	
Observers		
None		
Cabinet Member for CYPs	Cllr Amin	
Also Attending		
LBH Director of Children’s Services	Ann Graham	
Chief Executive of Haringey Education Partnership (HEP)	James Page	
LBH Assistant Director, Schools & Learning	Eveleen Riordan	
LBH Assistant Director, Finance	Thomas Skeen	
Interim LBH Head of SEN & Disability	(A)Nathan Jones	
LBH Head of Strategic Commissioning, Early Help & Culture	Ngozi Anuforo	
LBH Assistant Director Commissioning	*Charlotte Pomery	
LBH Head of Early Help & Prevention	(A) Martin Clement	
LBH Head of Finance & Business Partners	Brian Smith	
LBH Finance Business Partner (Schools & Learning)	Muhammad Ali	
LBH Service Improvement & Children’s Services	*Karen Oellermann	
LBH Principal Accountant DSG	Kristian Bugnosen	
Lead for Governor Services (HEP)/Clerk (Minutes)	Neetha Atukorale	
LBH Asst Director Early Years Help and SEND	Ann Marie Dodds	
LBH Head of Admissions and School Organisation	Carlo Kodsí	

(A) = Apologies given

* = Asterisk denotes absence

ITEM NO.	SUBJECT / DECISION	ACTION ASSIGNED TO
1.	CHAIR'S WELCOME	
1.11.2	The Chair welcomed all members present to the meeting.	
2.	APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS	
2.1	<p>Apologies had been received from Martin Clement, Zina Etheridge and Stephen McNicholas. There were no substitute members or observers present.</p> <p>New governor representatives Following the recent letter circulated by the HEP on behalf of the Haringey Governors Association requesting governor representatives two applications for nomination were received by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Salem as Primary Governor representative • Laurence Penn as Secondary Governor representative <p>No other applications were received so were successfully appointed as members onto the forum.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Dan Salem to the meeting. <i>The Clerk received retrospective apologies from Laurence Penn who was unable to access the meeting due to IT issues.</i></p>	
3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
3.1	None were made	
4	MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 14 JANUARY 2021	
	<p>Amendments: Item 7.6: Correction suggested by John Keever Delete : “stack stopping of the investment has taken place with regards to budgets” Replace with : “work has taken place to ensure that ..”</p> <p>Item 7.11: Delete GP Replace with : CP <i>(The amendments below were sent in advance by email by Will Wawn and agreed by members at the meeting)</i></p> <p>Item 8.3.4: All school members could vote on the first 5 recommendations, but only maintained school members could vote on 6th recommendation relating to de-delegation.</p> <p>Item 8.3.5: Members voted on each recommendation as below by indicating thumbs up as a reaction in zoom. It was agreed all the recommendations would be voted by all school members and the last recommendation would be voted separately by maintained school members.</p> <p>Item 12 – Delete “CP confirmed that the Leader of the Council had written to the government and the LA had been lobbying to ensure settings stay open” and replace with : “The council had written to the government and requested clarification on the disparity between funding for early years settings and reception settings in primary schools”.</p>	
5	MATTERS ARISING	
5.1	Item 9 – Report on Growth Fund Underspend for the Financial Year	

<p>5.2</p>	<p>2020-21. Will Wawn explained that the report that was tabled at item 9 includes the growth fund for 2021-22 but does not include a report on the growth fund underspend for the financial year 2020-2021 which was an agreed action (Item 4.2) from the last forum meeting. He highlighted that it was important to have information on the growth fund underspend for 2020-21 to ensure that this is not absorbed into the overall DSG deficit for the fiscal year.</p> <p>BS confirmed that a report will be tabled at the June meeting. ACTION : BS/KB/MA/TS</p> <p>Item 6 –Melian Mansfield reported that a letter had been circulated to all Chairs of Governors and two governors had come forward for nomination as reported at the beginning of the meeting. The forum currently has two vacancies for a Primary Academy Governor representative and a Secondary Academy Governor representative. A letter will be circulated to all Chairs of Governors of Academy Schools via the Clerk. ACTION NA Clerk</p>	<p>BS/KB/MA/TS</p>
<p>5.3</p>	<p>Item 11.1 – One member asked why the Scrutiny Panel restructure report was not included on the agenda today. ER explained that it had been agreed by the pre-meeting group that this item would be deferred to the meeting in June. ACTION : ER</p>	<p>ER</p>
<p>5.4</p>	<p>Item 12.8 – Following on from the statement in the minutes that Social Care officers did not always attend meetings for older pupils –one member asked about the action that had been taken to address this.</p> <p>AMD confirmed that work is being done with the social care team to ensure that they attended the meetings and it was followed up if they did not attend for unforeseen circumstances. AG emphasised that social care officers did attend meetings.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>ORDER OF AGENDA</p>	
<p>6.1</p>	<p>The Chair brought forward the update from the High Needs Block group and letter as AG needed to leave the meeting early due to the LA Ofsted inspection.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>LETTER AND UPDATE FROM HIGH NEEDS BLOCK WORKING PARTY</p>	
<p>7.1</p>	<p>MD reported that the working party met on 12th February. It was the last meeting attended by NJ before he left Haringey Council. <i>16.20pm – Cllr Amin arrived at this point</i></p>	
<p>7.2</p>	<p>MD reported that considerable discussion had taken place about Early Help other areas discussed were: Deficit recovery, banding recovering, SEN provision in Haringey and the transfer of funds from the High Needs Block to Early Help. He explained that this a historical arrangement where £1.3 million is transferred from the High Needs Block to Early Help. This was initiated approximately 15 years ago to ensure struggling families received funding that the Early Help did not have at the time. Although the transfer amount had reduced from £2 million to £1.3 million.</p>	
<p>7.3</p>	<p>The working party had carried out research which indicated that Early Help should not be funded by the High Needs block. A pan London consultation regarding the High Needs block had listed what should and should not be funded. Early Help had not been included. MD sent the Chair a letter based on this research which was circulated with the minutes.</p>	

7.4	<p>If this transfer had not taken place during the last 7-8 years, the High Needs Block would not be in deficit. Although, the working party recognised that funds are needed for Early help, the working party requests that Schools Forum notes the reason for the High Needs Block deficit and is concerned about the high amount of transfer funds. The working party also does not want to deprive Early Help of funds, however a clear rationale for this at a strategic level was requested.</p>	
7.5	<p>AG confirmed that the transfer was set up 15 years ago in response to a tragic incident in Haringey. She highlighted that a review of the transfer amount had taken place and the amount had been reduced. She explained that the Early Help work had moved forward with a new operating model and an Early Help panel. There is further work planned with locality support closer to schools, the transfer funding is a contribution towards this. She reported that there will be some new appointments as Mary Jarrett will be replacing Nathan Jones. A permanent replacement has been found for Ann-Marie Dodds and Martin Clement will be leaving Haringey Council to take up another post. AG made it clear that she wanted to give the new appointees some time before a review takes place. Although, a review will take place and be reported in the future. ACTION AG</p>	AG
7.6	<p>One member highlighted that it was important to know the officers who are in post, their responsibilities and the decision making bodies as this isn't clear.</p>	
7.7	<p>One member explained that Early Help was introduced as a government initiative, so it was quite possible other authorities fund Early Help in different ways and this should be explored.</p>	
7.8	<p>The Chair emphasised the importance of a thorough review that is carried out correctly at the right point.</p>	
7.9	<p>One member clarified that before funding methodology was split into the funding blocks of HNB, Early Years, Schools and CSSB. Schools Forum previously voted on central retention until it got rolled into CSSB. So there are funds of £350K from the schools block in the CSSB and other authorities fund Early Help in this way.</p>	
7.10	<p>One member commented that considerable funding goes into Early Help and yet there was little engagement with Special Schools. She also raised concerns that schools don't share funds for pupils who go into alternative provision.</p> <p><i>5.40pm - AG left the meeting at this point.</i></p>	
8	DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2020-21 & DEFICIT RECOVERY PLAN	
8.1	<p>KB presented the report was circulated in advance of the meeting and was tabled for information. The purpose of the report was to provide an update on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2020-21 Financial position at period 9 • The Deficit Recovery Plan <p>The recommendations of the report were as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School forum to note the progress of the Deficit Recovery Plan • School forum to recognise that the Deficit Recovery cannot be self-contained within the High Needs Block and SEND sector and a cultural shift in the Borough should be considered as necessary to instigate meaningful change 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To produce for next forum a more statistic led report detailing current SEND climate, at the conclusion of the current stage of intelligence and data gathering to be led by the key decision makers 	
8.2	<p>KB highlighted that a report on the High Needs Block will be provided at the next meeting in June. ACTION KB/BS/MA/TS</p>	KB/BS/MA/TS
8.3	<p>The introduction gives an overview of updates from the DfE. There hasn't been any confirmation from the DfE however it has been indicated that consultations may take place in Spring 2021 about the introduction of the hard funding formula with the second phase in Spring 2022.</p>	
8.4	<p>The paper was produced prior to when school budgets were confirmed. Schools have since been informed of budgets.</p>	
8.5	<p>KB highlighted Table A which gives a breakdown of the Haringey DSG Out-turn for Period 9. This indicates a cumulative in-year deficit projected of £6.5 million mainly for the High Needs block which added to the deficit from previous year of £10 million brings a total deficit of £16.5 million. In view of this a deficit recovery plan will be needed.</p>	
8.6	<p>The report also gives an outline of the steps the DfE will be taking and a section that benchmarks Haringey across other LAs. The data suggests that other LAs also have large deficits mainly due to High Needs block deficits and with one LA reporting a deficit of £20 million.</p>	
8.7	<p>KB explained that the report was a finance led paper other teams had also put a lot of work into providing the data.</p>	
8.8	<p>One member asked if the deficits referenced in the LMS exchange tables were in year or total deficits. KB confirmed that the tables referred to in-year deficits.</p>	
8.9	<p>Another member commented that it is very helpful to see comparative data. He also thanked AG for her work and support and felt confident about the future.</p>	
8.10	<p>The Chair commented that it is helpful to have comparative data and thanked KB for the report.</p>	
8.11	<p>One member asked if there is a timescale for deficit recovery. KB confirmed that it was difficult to commit to a timescale as there are new SEN officers, however he commented that is likely to take a few years to resolve.</p>	
8.12	<p>One member emphasised that this needed to be accelerated as there is just one Schools Forum Meeting scheduled for the academic year in June and there needs to be a strategy around this.</p>	
8.13	<p>Anne-Marie Dodds reassured members that work is being carried on SEN support, ensuring that children are being provided with support, development of the local offer, work on benchmarking, in and out of provision is all taking place, the use of alternative provision and the access to therapies. She suggested that going</p>	

<p>8.14</p> <p>8.15</p>	<p>forward some assurance will need to be provided that the actions taking place will have an impact.</p> <p>One member commented that the tables were useful but there was an X marked against the number of Haringey Schools if deficit.</p> <p>KB understood that there are two schools in deficit.</p> <p>MA confirmed that a report on schools with a licensed deficit will be confirmed at the June meeting. ACTION KB/MA/TS/BS</p> <p>BS reiterated that it is recognised as a national issue and the High Needs Block did receive an additional £3.4million in funding last year which is much higher than the inflation rate with a 9.5% increase.</p>	<p>KB/MA/TS/BS</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>EARLY YEARS BLOCK UPDATE 2021-22</p>	
<p>9.1</p> <p>9.2</p> <p>9.3</p> <p>9.4</p> <p>9.5</p>	<p>NA presented the report. The recommendations included in the report were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Schools Forum notes the indicative funding for the Early Years Block in 2021-22. 2. That Schools Forum agrees the proposed allocation of the Early Years Block towards the funding rate for 2021-22 as set out in this report. 3. That Schools Forum notes and agrees the proposed budget allocation for centrally retained funds as set out in this report. <p>NA confirmed that there has been an increase in funding to 8p an hour for the 2 year old entitlement and, for the vast majority of areas, by 6p an hour for the 3 and 4 year old entitlements. The DfE have indicated that this is to reflect the increase to the London living wage.</p> <p>NA highlighted that the principles haven't changed in terms of the Early years block and the LA is still required to pass-through 95% of their 3 and-4-year-old funding from the government to early years providers.</p> <p>She reported that the elements and the structure of inclusion funding had not changed. However there has been an increase in the block allocation of funding for the year 3 and 4 Universal Free Entitlement.</p> <p>NA highlighted Table 1 in the report and commented on each funding stream as below:</p> <p>Table 1 - Funding Stream 2021-22 Indicative Allocation £m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 & 4 Year Old Universal Free Entitlement (15hr) £12, 886,855 <p>There has been an increase this rate from the previous year however there has been a slight drop in the number of pupils taking the universal 15 hours based on pupil numbers from the last census in January 2020. This has been mitigated as the funded rate has increased.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Year old Offer £2,432,749 <p>There has been an increase in the funded 2 year old programme as well as an increase in the funded rate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Pupil Premium £119,632 <p>There been a slight uplift to the allocation for early years pupil premium. Considerable work has taken place with parents to claim for pupil premium.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Access Fund £71,340 SEND Teams have done a lot of work to increase the take up of disability access funding. • Maintained Nursery Schools £1,216,623 The amount has remained the same. • Total £21,036,306 Overall Overall the block has increased but there are variations in the take up. <p>NA gave an overview of Appendix A that was circulated with the report.</p>													
<p>9.6</p>	<p>Appendix A – Provisional Early Years Funding Breakdown 2021-22 The breakdown includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of the changes in the calculation of a proposed new funding base rate for 3- and 4-year olds from £5.07 to £5.13 per hour. The two-year olds funding rate increases from £5.74 to £5.82. These new rates will be applied from April 2021 • The deduction of £0.38 for the deprivation supplement and any other supplements used to support the quality of education for pupils. • The proposed 5% centrally retained apportionment for 2021-22 to remain the same as 2020-21 as below: 													
<p>9.7</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Elements</th> <th>Proposed £</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EY Commissioning Sufficiency and Funding Administration</td> <td>£320,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EY Quality Statutory Moderation and Advisory Service</td> <td>£471,310</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Corporate Overheads</td> <td>£19,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TU Representation</td> <td>£18,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£828,310</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Elements	Proposed £	EY Commissioning Sufficiency and Funding Administration	£320,000	EY Quality Statutory Moderation and Advisory Service	£471,310	Corporate Overheads	£19,000	TU Representation	£18,000	Total	£828,310	
Elements	Proposed £													
EY Commissioning Sufficiency and Funding Administration	£320,000													
EY Quality Statutory Moderation and Advisory Service	£471,310													
Corporate Overheads	£19,000													
TU Representation	£18,000													
Total	£828,310													
<p>9.8</p>	<p>Questions from members followed as below: One member explained that the indicative allocation is for 2021-22 which was released prior to December and DfE will reviews this from August to September based census counts. As pupil numbers are expected to reduce and the totality of the block is likely to reduce – he questioned what the implications will be on the cap on central retention.</p>													
<p>9.9</p>	<p>He also questioned if the increase of the 2 year olds and 3 and 4 year olds passed to the base rate or will it be held back for deprivation.</p> <p>NA responded by stating that the team are aware of the inherent risk of the reductions in numbers and a significant clawback. Conversations have been taking place with the DfE, it has been made clear that the Spring Term has not been a normal term. She explained that the DfE appear to be gathering information on census data and where LAs have seen a significant gap in the Spring Term a bid for exceptional funding may be possible. The amount for deprivation has remained the same. She explained that she has raised this risk with her team.</p>													

<p>9.10</p>	<p>The increases that have taken place have been on the base rate, which is where the core costs are covered. So where possible stability needs to come from the base rate. The deprivation rate should be a contribution for children.</p> <p>One member highlighted that the funding for the maintained nursery schools is likely to be conditional so long term funding nationally appears very fragile. It is clear that a long term solution and funding formula is required. It will be very difficult for budgets to be set for the financial year. He requested that this is reviewed again at the June meeting. ACTION NA</p> <p>NA explained that the DfE have officially confirmed the importance of nursery settings, however there isn't clarity on funding. There should be more information in the Summer Term. She highlighted that this is a national issue.</p> <p>One member highlighted that there has been a national campaign for about 5 years as settings have been under funded for a long time. She also raised concerns that early years settings have remained open throughout the pandemic without being able to apply additional funding, whereas funding was available to schools.</p> <p>She requested clarification on sustainability funding and supplementary funding. She also asked what would happen in the event of an underspend and if funds would be passed over.</p> <p>NA responded by stating that there could be a change in funding later in the year. In terms of the underspend DfE guidance was that this should be retained. She acknowledged that this would be difficult to predict as there may be a reduction in pupil numbers. An indication is likely to be available in the Summer Term.</p> <p>A vote was taken on the proposal indicated on the report to agree :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed allocation of the Early Years Block towards the funding rate for 2021-22 as set out in the report • The proposed budget allocation for centrally retained funds as set out in this report <p>The votes cast for the proposals above were: 13 votes in favour No votes against This was agreed unanimously</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>GROWTH FUND UPDATE</p>	
<p>10.1</p>	<p>The report which had been circulated to members was tabled for information.</p> <p>CK presented the report and explained that the report is an annual report with any unspent Growth Fund to be carried forward and added to the formula allocations for the following financial year.</p>	
<p>10.2</p>	<p>He explained that the main bulk of places are for year 7. The bulge classes are popular with schools. A bulge class has been put in place for the Tiverton amalgamation.</p>	
<p>10.2</p>	<p>One member requested clarification on the figures in the report as the report indicated an allocation of £932,000 whereas the table indicated £992,000.</p>	

	<p>CK clarified that the allocation of £932,000 was for 2020-21 whereas the table indicated allocations for 2021-22.</p>	
10.3	<p>One member requested that a report is brought to the June meeting on the actual demand for the 2021-22 spend. ACTION BS/KB/MA/TS</p>	BS/KB/MA/TS
10.4	<p>One member explained that the table at the bottom of the report showed oversized KS1 class which was incorrect.</p> <p>CK explained the table showed indicative funding for modelling.</p>	
11	<p>WORKPLAN 2020-21</p>	
	<p>The workplan had been circulated with the other papers for the meeting. One member requested clarification on the membership item.</p> <p>The Clerk explained that this referred to an annual report for membership based on the census data which will be presented to the forum at the June meeting. ACTION Clerk - NA</p>	Clerk - NA
12	<p>UPDATES FROM WORKING PARTIES</p>	
	<p>As the High Needs Block Working Party had already given an update a brief update from the Early Years working party was given below by MM.</p> <p>Early Years It was reported that the paper that was already discussed at item 9 was reviewed by the group. The census data had been discussed, concerns had been raised about the unstable position.</p>	
13	<p>PROTOCOL FOR OBSERVERS</p>	
	<p>The Clerk asked members if a protocol for observers was needed in view of two observers attending the last meeting at very short notice.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that a protocol would be required. WW confirmed that other LAs do have a one page protocol and he would endeavour to obtain a sample. ACTION Clerk</p>	Clerk
14.	<p>ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS None</p>	
15.	<p>DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 June 2021 	

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 5.40pm

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM	ACTION	FOLLOW UP
4.2	Produce report on the underspend for the growth fund for 2020-21 to be tabled at the meeting on Thursday 24 June.	KB/MA/TS
5.2	Circulate a letter on behalf of the Haringey Governors Association to all Chairs of Governors of Academy Schools requesting governors to come forward for nomination.	NA - Clerk
5.3	Produce a report on the Scrutiny Panel Restructure for the June meeting	ER
7.5	Review and report on the transfer from the HNB to Early Help	AG
8.2	Report on schools with a licensed deficit	KB/MA/TS/BS
8.15	Report on HNB funding	KB/MA/TS/BS
9.10	Update on Early Years block funding	NA
10.3	Report on the actual demand for the 2021-22 spend	KB/MA/TS/BS
11	Report on annual membership based on census data	NA-Clerk
13	Produce a one page protocol on the attendance of observers	NA -Clerk