

**Schools Forum Early Years Working Group  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 11am. Virtual meeting**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation/ Representation</b>
Melian Mansfield (MM)	<b>CHAIR.</b> Chair of Pembury House
Ngozi Anuforo (NA)	Head of Strategic Commissioning, Early Help and Culture
Gladys Baah-Okyere (GBO)	PVI Settings Rep
Luisa Bellavita (LB)	PVI Settings Rep
Peter Catling (PC)	Woodlands Park Nursery School & Children Centre
Joanna Conroy (JC)	Childminder
* Duwan Farquharson (DF)	Willow
Jane Griffin (JG)	SBM Seven Sisters Primary School
* Nick Hewlett (NH)	Principal Advisor for Early Years
Storm Moncur (SM)	Childminder
Emma Murray (EM)	Primary Head Rep
Susan Tudor-Hart (ST-H)	School Forum PVI Settings Rep
Lucy Walker-Collins (LW-C)	Stroud Green Primary School
Melanie Widnall (MW)	Principal Advisor for Early Years
* Christine Yianni (CY)	Childcare Sufficiency Manager
Sarah Hargreaves (SH)	Senior Governance Officer

\* denotes absence

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 Introductions were made. Apologies have been received from Nick Hewlett and Christine Yianni. Lucy Walker-Collins was welcomed to her 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- 1.3 The Chair said that Ellika McAuley (SEND Team Leader) would be joining the meeting later.

**2. Minutes of the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

- 2.1 The minutes were **agreed**, they will be signed and returned to Ngozi for safe keeping when this is next possible.

**3. Matters arising not on the agenda**

- 3.1 Pt 4.1 Social care and finance will be covered when Ellika joins.
- 3.2 Pt 4.3 The new Finance Manager will be starting on 1<sup>st</sup> June. They will be covering EY finance and admin.
- 3.3 Pt 6.3 Settings confirmed that they are receiving their money monthly but they are still learning too late what the amount will be. It was **agreed** that it would be very useful to know by March what the funding is going to be for the following year. Ngozi was asked to suggest "end of February" to the finance team, in case the deadline slipped. **Action NA**
- 3.3.1 *Members asked if this is the same finance team as works with schools?* It is.
- 3.4 Everyone wants to be kept informed of what is happening.

- 3.5 Some settings are only taking 2 year olds if their parents are willing to pay a top up eg. the 3 hours policy.
- 3.6 There were no further questions on the paper CY had provided to answer some of the actions from the previous meeting.

#### **4. Minutes of the High Needs Block of 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021 for information**

- 4.1 Noted.
- 4.2 Terms of Reference: it was **agreed** to re-visit these. The relationship between the EYF and HNB is important so that discussions around SEND in EY are not lost between the two groups. **Action NA**

#### **5. Deprivation Support for Vulnerable Children**

- 5.1 The funding formula has changed due to the IDACI formula changing. Funding was previously based on the 2015 formula and is now based on the 2019 version. It is a national calculation not a local one.
- 5.2 The deprivation supplement is a weighting which follows the child, based on child level characteristics. It needs to be clarified if the local model for deprivation is still fit for purpose and, if not, what needs to be changed.
- 5.2.1 It was **agreed** that the funding should follow the needs of the child and not be dependent on where the child lives. There are changes to the population in the borough and so a new model may be needed for 2022-23. To go on the next agenda. **Action NA**
- 5.3 Money being moved from different funding blocks remains a concern. The pressure on the LA is to balance the DSG, which explains why they moved money from the EY to HNB budgets. The DfE is now saying that, due to the Covid-19 turbulence, underspend can now be retained in the EY budget. This can be used to offset extra expenditure incurred due to Covid-19. It was noted that the HNB overspend is so large that moving money into it will have limited impact.
- 5.4 Some members suggested that some parents wished their children to attend children centres as they perceive them as having better facilities and this can result in the PVI sector losing out on child attendees.
- 5.5 It is not known if the current reduction in the number of children attending settings is due to Covid-19 or wider issues eg. an overall reduction in the number of qualifying children, either because they are moving out of the area or there are less qualifying children due to the change in the formula. Some parents are not taking up their entitlement because their working hours have changed. It is currently hard to tell what is a short term “blip” and what is a new normal.
- 5.5.1 It was noted that the demographic in primary schools changes between nursery, where some children are paying to attend and reception, which is free. Also, the levels of deprivation are remaining constant but the numbers qualifying for funding is reducing.
- 5.5.2 Many two year olds have “Golden Tickets” as their parents have lost their jobs. Covid-19 has increased existing issues. There are many children who are vulnerable or who have additional needs but who do not count as having a SEND diagnosis.

#### **6. Early Years DSG Funding: 2021-2022 Update**

- 6.1 During the pandemic the DfE paid settings for the number of places they are registered for. Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 they have paid on the basis of occupancy. If the occupancy level is less than it was in January 2020 settings can apply for top-up funding. If the attendance rate is less than 85% of capacity then the top-up is also paid.
- 6.1.1 In Haringey 85% of all places is 3,313 places. Attendance will be averaged out across the year. This figure will be known after the recent Census figures are finalised next week. The final figures will need to be submitted in July.
- 6.1.2 Ngozi highlighted to settings that the top-up funding will not necessarily cover all the gap in funding.
- 6.1.3 *Members asked why the figure of 85% had been arrived at.* It is what the DfE has chosen!

- 6.1.4 There will be no new requests for data from settings; the count will be based on the information already held. It is therefore important that all settings ensure that their child data is up to date.
- 6.2 There will be 3 Census counts this year for all providers, including childminders. For schools this won't be a large change, although they will have to count the 2 year old provision, which isn't normally reported on. This will basically mean that all settings will be funded on a termly basis.
- 6.2.1 Storm and Joanna said they were happy to chase childminders if needed. **Action SM, JC**
- 6.3 *Members asked if this new system was likely to generate problems for funding levels.* There is some concern on the child occupancy figures. Further analysis of the data is needed but expectations may need to be lowered as to likely funding levels.
- 6.4 Ngozi said that she would share her slides with the group. **Action NA**

## 7. Early Years/SEND Update

- 7.1 Ellika McAuley was welcomed to the meeting.
- 7.2 Ellika explained that there is a statutory framework for funding 3's and 4's so that they can access their entitlement. Some LA's, including Haringey, also fund 2's, but this is not statutory. It provides an early opportunity to promote inclusive practices.
- 7.3 The Early Support places are pre-commissioned and are funded via the HNB. This also helps with the planning for places as the children get older.
- 7.4 It was noted that, for schools, the top-up funding is not in fact topping-up anything as there is no core DSG funding for the 2's. This can mean that the school ends up paying for the place if the parents are not able to. This compares to an Early Support place in a setting, which will receive the funding.
- 7.4.1 There are also many delays in receiving the money.
- 7.5 *Members asked if the overall framework should also include the Early Help places as there is a need to be strategic and to think about the earliest opportunity to provide support.*
- 7.6 Joanna thanked Ellika for reaching out regarding a particular child she had required support for.
- 7.7 It was confirmed that the Language Lift-Off places are only available for children in the 3 children centres. There are 18 places in total, 3x6.
- 7.8 It is believed at around 20% of current children have SEND.
- 7.9 Members thanked Ellika for attending and asked if she could attend further meetings.

## 8. Data Collection

- 8.1 Ngozi emphasised that the interface with the DfE is data driven, it is therefore important that all settings are collating and keeping accurate and timely information.

## 9. Date for Next Meeting

- 9.1 This needs to be before the next School Forum meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Ngozi to provide a date. **Action NA**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

There being no further business the meeting closed at **12.35pm**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

## Actions from the EYF minutes: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Item	Action	By Whom
3.3	To speak to Finance about the possibility of knowing the following year's financial settlement by the end of February	NA
4.2	To revisit the previous Terms of Reference and to align them with the HNB	NA
5.2.1	To check whether the current deprivation supplement is still fit for purpose	NA
6.2.1	To chase childminders, if needed, for their data returns	SM, JC
6.4	To share the presentation slides with the group	NA
9.1	To circulate a date for the next meeting	NA