

**Schools Forum Early Years Working Group
6th January 2022 at 10am. Virtual meeting**

Name	Designation/ Representation
Melian Mansfield (MM)	CHAIR. Chair of Pembury House Nursery School
Ngozi Anuforo (NA)	Head of Strategic Commissioning, Early Help and Culture
Gladys Baah-Okyere (GBO)	PVI Settings Rep
Luisa Bellavita (LB)	PVI Settings Rep
* Joanna Conroy (JC)	Childminder
* Duwan Farquharson (DF)	Willow Director of Business
* Jane Griffin (JG)	SBM Seven Sisters Primary School
Nick Hewlett (NH)	Principal Advisor for Early Years
Sian McDermott (SMcD)	Nursery Head Rep (Rowland Hill)
Storm Moncur (SM)	Childminder
Susan Tudor-Hart (ST-H)	School Forum PVI Settings Rep
* Lucy Walker-Collins (LW-C)	Primary Rep (Stroud Green Primary School)
Melanie Widnall (MW)	Principal Advisor for Early Years
* Christine Yianni (CY)	Childcare Sufficiency Manager
* Grant Bright (GB)	Primary Rep (Rokesly Primary School)
Also Present	
Cllr Zena Brabazon (ZB)	Lead Member
Brian Smith (BS)	School's Finance 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 and Brian Smith was welcomed to his 1st meeting. Apologies have been received from Lucy Walker-Collins, Grant Bright, Joanna Conroy, Duwan Farquharson and Christine Yianni. No apologies have been received from Jane Griffin.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 17th November 2021

- 2.1 Pt 3.1 MH has spoken to GBO.
- 2.2 Pt 4.1.1 It was clarified that the 0-25 strategy referred to the overarching strategy which covers both SEND and EY services. MM and SMcD will follow up at the HNB meeting on whether this will be covering all services, as concern had been expressed that EY services were not being adequately included. **Action MM, SMcD**
- 2.3 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 3.1 The issue of the need for transparency in school's funding has been raised with Ali Mohammad in Finance; it is hoped that he will be able to resolve it. MM has spoken to Ali and will do so again as several schools are still having issues. There is a need for more narrative as to what the funds paid actually cover. BS will raise it will finance colleagues as well. BS said that any changes should have been pre-agreed with schools and so there shouldn't be any surprises. **Action MM, BS**
- 3.1.1 Ngozi **agreed** to raise it again at the SBM meeting on 19th January. **Action NA**
- 3.2 Pt 3.2 The planned meeting between Ngozi and Cllr Brabazon has now been subsumed into the EY Review meetings and so won't now happen.
- 3.3 Pt 3.3 The possibility of childminders being used in settings rather than agency staff has been considered further. It is unclear as to who would arrange the cover and have an up to date list of vacancies. It was **agreed** that it would be useful for settings to be aware of who else operates in their local area so that local arrangements can be made, if necessary, but there was no appetite for arranging this borough wide.
- 3.3.1 To be discussed further at the Provision Planning Meeting by NA and NH. A map of which settings are located where will be circulated. **Action NA, NH**
- 3.4 Pt 6.7 The modelling of 2 year olds as though they were 3 will form part of the deprivation formula modelling which will come to the next meeting. **Action NA**

4. High Needs Block minutes, 19th November 2021 for information

- 4.1 Noted.
- 4.2 SMcD said that she had met with Mary Jarrett and Jackie Difolco regarding the inclusion of the under 5's in the SEND strategy, and the issues have been moved forward. SMcD is now also on the SEND Executive.

5. Draft Early Years DSG Paper 2022-23

- 5.1 NA said that the EY Review had its last Reference Group Meeting before Christmas. The key themes coming out of the Review will be coming to this group for discussion. Some of the work streams will continue; for example early education and child care, integrated services. The next step will be to undertake action planning. To come to the next meeting. **Action NA**
- 5.1.2 *Members said that they needed to be clear as to which of the several groups was responsible for which areas; an overall shape of the Review was needed.* This will be completed before it is submitted to Cabinet.
- 5.1.3 A paper will go to February's School Forum meeting to agree the recommendations from this group.
- 5.2 The funding allocation is still indicative; the actuals, based on the number of children in attendance, won't be known until the autumn, although there is likely to be a mid-year adjustment based on the extra Census which was completed. It is hoped that there will be a top-up of around £786,000 to the funding received as numbers have now increased; the current funding is lower to reflect the lower numbers of children in attendance during the pandemic. It was noted that the take-up of places was almost back to pre-pandemic levels.
- 5.3 It was felt that there is a need for funding to support the 3 and 4 year olds who have additional needs but who don't meet the EHCP thresholds. Those who meet the thresholds are funded via the HNB. In Haringey the 2's are also funded, although this isn't a requirement.
- 5.4 There is a 6 monthly return completed to the DfE (s251 return) covering the numbers in attendance and what the expenditure has been. The DfE uses this to monitor that the borough isn't retaining more than 5% of the funding for central costs.
- 5.5 The DfE will be returning to "normal" with one January Census.
- 5.6 Funding will be on the basis of children attending settings; accurately counting them can be an issue.
- 5.7 Pupil Premium funding is increasing from 53p per hour to 60p per hour and DAF funding, per child, is increasing from £615 to £800 per year. Both from April 2022.

5.8 Whilst nationally maintained nursery schools funding is due to rise by 3.5% it is possible that the 3 Haringey centres could loose out as they are currently relatively well funded.

6. Two Year Old Offer - funding rate, criteria and model for funding

6.1 For the 2's funding is £6.03ph. This is a flat rate and there are no supplements payable. 3-4's receive £5.68ph. 5% for central costs is retained, from this block only. (Nothing is retained from the 2's funding or the schools block). Costs are increasing, in particular the London Living Wage is increasing to £11.05ph, there are also increases in National Insurance from April '22, increased heating costs etc. This makes 2's year old places unviable for some settings. There also currently high staff cover costs as although children are not getting too sick with Covid the adults are.

6.1.1 There was general agreement that any additional funding should be added to the base rate to benefit all settings.

6.2 It was noted that although schools can receive Covid funding from the DfE maintained nursery schools and the PVI settings can't.

6.3 *Settings asked officers to raise these issues at all relevant forums.* NA and NH confirmed that this happens, but the DfE is also under pressure from the Treasury to save money. LB said that she had written to the Duchess of Cambridge (and had received a reply) on issues to do with under 5's funding.

6.4 Currently £76,000 is ring fenced for the Quality supplement. After full discussion it was **agreed** that this was sufficient, but shouldn't be reduced. (Any reduction would only be a short-term cost saving and not of long term benefit).

6.5 When all other outlays have been met the funding available to spend on a deprivation supplement is 37p per child ph.

6.6 *Members asked if PVI settings had been encouraged to apply for part 3 Covid business support?* They should be encouraged to apply. However, the LBH guidance is that the scheme isn't going to be re-opened; settings which have already received it will get a 2nd grant (as long as they are still operating) but new applications won't be accepted.

6.6.1 NA said that 14 settings had received business rate relief. There is also discretionary business rate relief. It was noted that this is business support and is different to school support. However, businesses can only claim it if parents pay their own fees and so it does not apply to settings only offering 15 or 30 hours. Officers will check the details on eligibility and raise the gap for PVI's with the DfE. **Action NA, NH**

6.6.2 ZB said that she would write to the Head of Regeneration to see if the local rules can be looked at again. **Action ZB**

6.7 Nurseries, it was noted, are helping to keep the economy moving and are businesses in their own right.

6.8 *There is £15,000 spent on outreach and marketing. Is this sufficient to pay towards a salary and who is the officer?* NA said it is a contribution towards Christine Yianni's role and publicity materials.

7. Deprivation Supplement Review

7.1 The deprivation supplement modelling isn't yet complete.

7.1.1 The rents for the PVI sector are still an issue.

7.2 The 2's funding will benefit from the full pass through to give the uplift to £6.03 ph.

7.3 The centrally retained funding will depend on what the total funding will be (depending on children in settings).

7.4 The proposed headline funding figures are:

£ 471,000	Quality Improvement Team ,Early Years Team, Advisory Team
£320,000	Admin Team, Childcare Sufficiency Team
£19,000	Corporate Overheads *
£18,000	Trade Union levy for schools and maintained nurseries

* BS explained that this covers HR, legal and finance services. Some are charged on a per capita basis but there are different calculations for different elements. NA will circulate the details. **Action NA**

7.5 It was **agreed** that an additional meeting was needed to discuss the deprivation supplement in more detail. Papers will be circulated in advance. **Action NA**
12 noon SMcD, ZB, NH, BS, MW left the meeting.

8. AOB - Members Updates

8.1 LB asked for guidance on applying for funding via Panel for 2 year olds. NA said to speak to Ellika McAuley.

9. Date for Next Extra Meeting

9.1 **Agreed as 20th January at 1pm** via Teams.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

There being no further business the meeting closed at **12.15pm**.

Signed:

Date:

Actions from the EYF minutes: 6th January 2022

Item	Action	By Whom
2.2	To check that the SEND strategy adequately includes services for children under 5 years	MM, SMcD
3.1	To ensure that the Finance Team give further narrative explanations as to what funding allocations cover. To speak to Ali Mohammad	MM, BS
3.1.1	To raise the same issue at the SBM meeting on January 19 th	NA
3.3.1	To discuss at the Provision Mapping Meeting which settings could support each other with staffing vacancies and to circulate a map of all settings locations	NA, NH
3.4	To include two year old funding modelling in the deprivation supplement modelling	NA
5.1	To draft actions following on from the EY Review and to bring them to the next meeting	NA
6.6.1	To raise with the DfE the gaps in Covid support funding which preclude PVI settings from applying	NA, NH
6.6.2	To write to the Head of Regeneration to see if the rules around local support can be changed to allow PVIs to apply for support	ZB
7.4	To circulate the breakdown of how corporate costs are charged	NA
7.5	To circulate papers for an additional meeting on the deprivation supplement	NA