

High Needs Block Committee

**Draft minutes of the meeting held on
26th September 2022 at 1.30pm via Zoom**

Schools Forum Members

Martin Doyle: Headteacher Riverside School – Chair

+ Sian McDermott: Headteacher Rowland Hill Nursery School and Children Centre

Melian Mansfield: Pembury House Chair of Governors

Mike McKenzie: Secondary Heads Rep. Headteacher Alexandra Park School

Will Wawn: Primary Heads Rep. Headteacher Bounds Green School, Chair, Schools Forum

+ Gerry Robinson: Alternative Provision

+ Kurt Hintz: CoNEL

Also Invited

Mary Jarrett: Integrated Head of Service

+ Phil di Leo: Chair of Governors, The Vale

+ Brian Smith: Schools Finance Manager

Attending

+ Robin Hindley: CoNEL

+ Brian Smith: Finance Team

Ali Muhammad: Finance Team

Sarah Hargreaves: Senior Governance Officer

+ Denotes absence

1. Welcome, apologies for absence and acceptance

1.1 The Chair (Martin Doyle) welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies for absence have been received from Phil di Leo, Robin Hindley and Brian Smith.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 15th June 2022

2.1 The minutes were **agreed** as a correct record of the meeting. They will be signed and returned for safe keeping when this is next possible.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

3.1 Pt 3.1 Martin, Robin and Dean are meeting shortly to discuss the Year 14 placements.

Action MD

3.2 Pt 3.2 The s251 report will now be included in the Safety Valve programme.

3.3 Pt 3.3 MJ said that the SEND Bandings criteria will link into the ISOS work.

4. Minutes of the Early Years Working Party of 20th June, for information

4.1 The minutes were noted.

5. Safety Value Programme: Mary Jarrett

5.1 Mary said that she has been meeting with Ann Graham and Jackie Difolco. LB Haringey will have five years in which to prove that they can deliver a balanced budget. If this is achieved the DfE will pay off the HNB deficit. It therefore needs to be seen as a payment by results programme. If no further action were to be taken the current overspend is projected to be around £83m within five years.

5.2 There will be a meeting with the DfE on **16th October** to discuss the 18 project ideas. Will has seen them in his role of Chair of School Forum. The projects will address the five priorities

already laid down within the SEND Strategy. It was confirmed that Early Years issues are included in the projects.

- 5.2.1 *Members asked when they would have the opportunity to comment on the projects.* Mary explained that there won't be an opportunity to do this.
- 5.3 Mary advised that there are around 60,000 children within the LB Haringey area, of whom around 9,000 have a SEND diagnosis. This is higher than the England and London averages. It is not known whether this is because there are more children with additional needs in the local area or if it is due to the Haringey thresholds being set at a lower point.
- 5.4 Money is locally spent disproportionately on those post 16. More young people are kept in education placements post 19 than in other areas where they join adult social care services or enter into apprenticeships. There are dangers that they are not therefore adequately prepared for adulthood and their EHCPs are not ended. Although there is not a high number of people involved each placement is expensive and so the cost is high.
- 5.5 23% of the budget is spent on speech, language and communication needs, which is an increase of 18% over the last five years. Expenditure on SEMH has increased as well. There are 63 pupils at Blanche Nevile school of whom only 1/3rd are LB Haringey residents.
- 5.6 There has been a 10% increase in the number of EHCPs in the last ten years. It is predicted that the impact of Covid will be felt for another two years at least.
- 5.6.1 There however has been an improvement in the number of Plans which are issued within 20 weeks. It is still the case that an EHCP is needed at KS2 or above in order to access SLT services.
- 5.6.2 It was **agreed** that it would be more productive to fund mainstream schools better rather than issuing EHCPs for under 5's. This is because early issues can frequently be alleviated by attendance at an education setting.
- 5.7 The aim is to move to more spot purchasing of independent places and services for those who particularly need them.
- 5.8 The Safety Value Programme will require a culture change. Projects will be placed in one of three bands:
- Culture Change
 - Training: some will be provided by HEP, eg. for SENCOs, Quality First Teaching and leadership around SEND issues
 - Commissioning of Services. The efficiency of the expenditure will need to be considered, along with demand management and overall cost
- 5.8.1 Some projects will require pan-London solutions; eg. Blanche Nevile School provides a service for several boroughs but is not necessarily financially advantageous to LB Haringey.
- 5.9 A programme lead has been appointed. They will provide highlight reports to the HNB. Individual project leads could also be invited if there are particular issues of relevance to discuss.

6. The Role of the HNB in Supporting the Safety Value Programme: Chair

- 6.1 The projects will be submitted to the DfE on October 6th, prior to the meeting on October 16th, but Schools Forum will not get chance to see them until October 13th
- 6.2 After discussion, it was **agreed** that the HNB had a role in oversight and challenge but it is not in itself a delivery agent. Maximum impact can be achieved via good delivery by officers and advocacy by the HNB.
- 6.3 There is a role for the HNB to advocate for more quality 16-25 year old provision in borough.
- 6.4 Work could be undertaken to consider how EHCPs can be ceased ethically with move-on options provided. More annual reviews need to be undertaken so that it is clear how young people are progressing.
- 6.5 Members to consider suitable additional members to be invited to join the HNB. **Action All**

7. AOB

7.1 Future meeting dates. The next meeting was confirmed as:

16th Nov at 4pm Online

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at **2.45pm.**