
MINUTES OF HARINGEY'S SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH 2023 AT 4PM Held Virtually: Over Teams

School Members		
Headteachers		
Special (1)	(A)Martin Doyle (Riverside)	
Nursery Schools (1)	Sian McDermott	
Primary (7)	Mary Gardiner (West Green)	Julie D'Abreu (Devonshire Hill Nursery & Primary)
	Stephen McNicholas (St John Vianney)	Paul Murphy (Lancasterian)
	Ian Scotchbrook (South Haringay)	Linda Sarr (Risley Avenue)
	Will Wawn (Bounds Green) [Chair]	
Secondary (2)	Jo Davey (Fortismere)	Vacancy
Primary Academy (1)	(A)Simon Knowles (LDBS Academies Trust)	
Secondary Academies (3)	(A) Michael McKenzie (Alexandra Park)	(A)Angela Wallace (Woodside High)
	Vacancy	
Alternative Provision (1)	(A)Gerry Robinson	
Governors		
Special (1)	Phil Di Leo (The Vale)	
Nursery School (1)	Melian Mansfield (Pembury)	
Primary Maintained (7)	John Keever (Seven Sisters)	Dan Salem (Muswell Hill Primary)
	Andrew Willett (Willow Primary)	Alex MacAskill (West Green Primary)
	Helen Froggatt (St Aidan's Primary)	(A)Jenny Thomas (Lordship Lane)
	Vacancy	
Secondary Maintained (3)	Laurence Penn (Highgate Wood)	Vacancy
	Sylvia Dobie (Park View)	
Primary Academy (1)	Vacancy	
Secondary Academies (3)	Andrea Henry (Greig City Academy)	Vacancy
	Vacancy	
Alternative Provision (1)	Laura Butterfield (HLP) [Vice Chair]	
Non-School Members		
Non-Executive Councillor	(A)Cllr Ibrahim Ali	
Trade Union Representative	Paul Renny	
Professional Association Representative	Ed Harlow	
Faith Schools	(A)Geraldine Gallagher	
14-19 Partnership	(A)Kurt Hintz	
Early Years Providers	Susan Tudor-Hart	

Observers	
None	
Cabinet Member for CYPS	
Cllr Zena Brabazon	
Also Attending	
Assistant Director, Schools & Learning	Jane Edward
Assistant Director, Commissioning & Programmes	Caroline Brain
Head of CYP Commissioning	Kevin Taggart
Head of Finance	Neil Sinclair
Interim Schools Finance Manager	Brian Smith
Chief Executive HEP	James Page
Clerk (HEP)	Corinne David

(A) Absent

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

2.1 The Clerk confirmed that apologies for absence had been received from:

- Jackie Difolco (Assistant Director, Early Help, Prevention & SEND Division)
- Mary Jarrett (Head of Service, Integrated SEND)
- Anne Etchells (Lead for Governor Services)
- Simon Knowles (LDBS Academies Trust)
- Cllr Ibrahim Ali
- Anne Graham (Director of Children's Services)
- Josephine Lyseight Assistant Director of Finance (Deputy S151 Officer)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 No declarations of interest were made.

4. EARLY YEARS BLOCK

4.1 Kevin Taggart took the forum through the power point 'Early Years DSG block funding 2023-24' which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Noted that the information has already been received and scrutinised at the Early Years Working Group. The Highlights were:

- a) Total 2023/24 funding allocation stood at £21,051,258.
- b) Total 3- & 4-year-old funding stood at £16,733,467; of which £12.5million allocated to 3&4 YO universal Free entitlement (15 hours) and £4.1 million allocated to 3&4 YO extended free entitlement.
- c) Total of £1.2 million reduction: TPPG, 5% LA retained funding and quality supplement.
- d) Total funds available for allocation stood at £15,485,310.
- e) Two proposed options for allocating deprivation funding:
 - 1) Option 1. Universal approach – maximise the hourly rate for all settings by paying every setting 3&4 YO deprivation funding.
 - 2) Option 2. Targeted approach – only pay 3 & 4 YO eligible for EYPP deprivation funding.
- f) Option 1. Total universal funding rate £5.70 p/h. The contingency funds reallocated to the base rate. The result is an increase of £0.02p/h in the base rate.
- g) Option 2. Models for funding settings without a deprivation funding ranged from £5.64 to £5.69. Funding for settings with deprivation funding ranged from £5.74 to £6.04. It includes a contingency to mitigate uptake in provision increase only.

- 4.2 The recommendation from the EY working group was to agree Option 1. The following was noted:
- It ensures the most equitable distribution of deprivation funding for all early years settings.
 - There was no contingency fund.
 - The hourly rate for all 3- and 4-year-olds settings would be £5.70.
 - For financial year 2024-25 there would be a review of the early years funding formula and how it is best used to target children in deprivation.
- 4.3 Noted in previous draft iterations of the Early Years DSG block funding 2023-24 and minuted at the last Forum; there had been a large contingency fund to support those setting in financial difficulty; this would not be available within option 1.
- 4.4 Melian Mansfield was invited by the Chair to provide comments on the proposed options. Melian Mansfield provided a short summary of the journey resulting in the current situation; this was noted as:
- In 22/23 the funding provided to settings was higher than it should have been.
 - The increased amount had been paid from April 2022.
 - The error was discovered in January 2023.
 - Before this the Early Years working group and Schools Forum had been told that there had been an underspend in 2021/22 and 22/23.
 - The Early Years working group had reviewed programmes to make best use of the underspend; however, this has been withdrawn with the money used to offset the over payment.
 - The Early Years working group has meet 4 times in January and February; reviewing the consequences for settings.
 - The funding envelope (£15.4 million) is the allocation from the Government, which the LA must work with. See item 4.1.
 - There will be large funding reduction this year with settings having to deal with the consequences and make make compensations.
 - Five different options were reviewed.
 - Option 1 provided the highest funding envelope to all settings.
 - When 0–5-year-olds have good quality education and early interventions they have the best possible outcomes in future years.
- 4.5 Susan Tudor-Hart was invited by to provide comments on the proposed options. When the contingency envelope was reviewed and applied, it would not help many settings. The other options required significant application which would delay the distribution of funding. Option 1 is a simple calculation, allowing the money to be passported out to settings quickly.
- 4.6 *Q: How acceptable is it for the pupil premium money to be passported to all settings?*
- A: Early Years Pupil Premium is still being paid out. Historically this was funded using different applications of data sources which were reviewed in detailed. It is difficult to pre-judge what the result of the over payment for 2022/23 is. An impact review has been requested and will be undertaken as the year progresses.
- 4.7 *Q: Would deprivation funding be passported to all setting in 2024/25 forward?*
- This formula would only be used for one year only. it is a one-year decision due to the extreme circumstances. The Early Years working party will be reviewing the best options to allocate and target funding from 2024/25 onwards.
- 4.8 Members noted that no option provided a satisfactory solution to the current situation. It is a difficult position for all settings; however, there was a requirement to move forward and where necessary the LA will provide officer support and advice where it can. Each setting will have their own challenges to overcome.

4.9 Q: *What would be the position if settings informed the LA that they would have to close due to the funding levels?*

A: Officers have discussed this scenario and what support / interventions could be offered. There are no additional funds that could be access; but officers can make themselves available to provide settings.

4.10 Members discussed the scenario if there were to be an underspend during 23/24 and the possibility of funding some of the proposed projects noted in January meeting. The LA noted that some of the projects had already been agreed and will continue. Officers had been tasked with improving lines of communication; providing clarification on what projects are being funding and what the wish list projects are to allow the LA to take forward possible projects if funds become available.

4.11 The Chair recommended that option 1 Total universal funding rate pf £5.70 p/h to the Forum for agreement.

Schools Forum UNANIMOUSLY AGREED option 1: total universal funding rate of £5.70 p/h for all 3- & 4-year-old settings

4.12 The Chair made further recommendations/actions:

a) Communication with a wide range of different setting about the new funding was undertaken tactfully, sensitively and swifty. Noted that Caroline Brain has draft a letter which support from Melian Mansfield and Susan Tudor-Hart.

b) Expectation that the LA will undertake an ongoing impact assessment; with a written report to be received at the July Schools Forum meeting.

c) Early Years working group to hold a further meeting before the end of term to review how the receipt of the new funding formula and allocations have been received.

d) The LA to be proactive and inform the Early Years Working group in any under/overspend as soon as it identified.

4.1 LA Officers were invited to attend a PVI meeting to explain the current situation and the approach used in the current funding formula.

5. FORMAT OF AND NEXT MEETING

5.1 **AGREED that the next meeting will take place face to face at HEP on Thursday 13 July 2023 starting at 4PM.**

5.2 Agenda item

Consider a mixed model approach for meetings in 2023/24 (some meetings face to face others virtual).

6. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

6.1 The Chair noted that an action from the February meeting was for the finance team to inform school of the school level funding amounts. The Chair enquired when would this be shared with schools, to allow work on budgets to be undertaken. Brain Smith informed the Forum that the information should be ready for circulation by the end of the week (10 March 2023).

The Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 5pm.