

HARINGEY SCHOOLS FORUM MINUTES

7 DECEMBER 2023 AT 16:00 HRS: Virtual via TEAMS

School Members		
Headteachers		
Special (1)	Martin Doyle (Riverside)	
Nursery Schools (1)	(A) Sian McDermott	
Primary (7)	Mary Gardiner (West Green)	Julie D'Abreu (Devonshire Hill Nursery & Primary)
	(A) Stephen McNicholas (St John Vianney)	(A) Paul Murphy (Lancasterian)
	(A) Ian Scotchbrook (South Haringay)	Linda Sarr (Risley Avenue)
	Bola Soneye-Thomas (Rokesly Junior School)	
Secondary (2)	Jo Davey (Fortismere)	Vacancy
Primary Academy (1)	Luke Renwick (Brook House) long term substitute for Simon Knowles (LDBS Academies Trust)	
Secondary Academies (3)	Michael McKenzie (Alexandra Park)	Angela Wallace (Woodside High)
	Vacancy	
Alternative Provision (1)	(A) Gerry Robinson (Executive Headteacher HLP)	
Governors		
Special (1)	Phil Di Leo (The Vale)	
Nursery School (1)	Melian Mansfield (Pembury)	
Primary Maintained (7)	John Kever (Seven Sisters)	(A) Dan Salem (Muswell Hill Primary)
	Andrew Willett (Willow 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	Cllr Ibrahim Ali	
Trade Union Representative	Paul Renny	
Professional Association Representative	(A) Ed Harlow	
Faith Schools	(A) Geraldine Gallagher	
14-19 Partnership	(A) Kurt Hintz	
Early Years Providers	Susan Tudor-Hart	
Independent member	Will Wawn [Chair]	
Observers		

None	
Cabinet Member for CYPS	
Cllr Zena Brabazon p	
Also Attending	
Director of Children's Services	Ann Grahamp
Assistant Director, Schools & Learning	(A)Jane Edwards
Assistant Director, Commissioning & Programmes	(A)Caroline Brain
Assistant Director, Early Help, Prevention & SEND	Jackie Difolco
Head of Service, Integrated SEND	Mary Jarrett
Head of Schools Finance	Neil Sinclair
Senior Finance Manager - Schools	Patricia Harvey
Principal advisor for Early Years	Nick Hewlett
Head of CYP Commissioning	Kevin Targgart
Chief Executive HEP	James Page
Lead for Governor Services (HEP)	(A) Anne Etchells
Clerk (HEP)	Corinne David

(A) Absent

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME/ INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

2.1 Apologies were received and noted from:

- Paul Murphy (Headteacher: Lancasterian Primary School).
- Kurt Hintz (14-19 Partnership)
- Stephen McNicholas (Headteacher: St John Vianney)
- Caroline Brain (Assistant Director, Commissioning & Programmes)
- Anne Etchells (Lead for Governor Services)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 No declarations of interest were made.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 12 OCTOBER 2023

4.1 The minutes of the School's Forum meeting held on 12 October 2023 were **AGREED** and **RATIFIED** as a correct record, subject to the following point of accuracy:

- Item 6.1f should read deprivation
- Delete the P after Jo Davey's name at the top of the minutes

4.2 Matters arising

4.2.1 Item 4.2.1 Vacancies on the School's Forum membership

Noted that members were continuing to explore avenues to recruit to vacant positions.

4.2.2 Item 4.2.3 Impact assessment for PVI within EY sector

Action a: noted that the EY working party continued with proactive communication with all PVI settings. Action was closed.

Action b: the EY working party had explored the best options to obtain reliable information regarding the impact on the sector of the new funding levels. Action was closed.

Action c: A paper on the Early Years funding update and use of any underspend to be received at the February Schools Forum meeting.

4.2.3 Item 4.2.5 Forum Membership and Terms of Reference

The High Needs Working Block party continued to reviewed its membership and remit within the landscape of the Safety Valve Programme. See item 4.2.6 and 6.2. Action was closed.

- 4.2.4 Item 4.2.6 Early Years Working Party
Action noted as ongoing, for the forum to receive an update at the next meeting: Paul Murphy to extend the invitation to join the EY Working Party to all Haringey Headteachers.
- 4.2.4 Item 5.2 Forum Membership
Noted that Luke Renwick (Headteacher: Brook House) was present as long-term primary academies substitute rep for Simon Knowles (LDBS Academies Trust). Action was closed.
- 4.2.5 Item 6.3 School's Block Working Party
The outcome of the work of the School's Block Working Party was the schools block funding formula consultation – see item 7.
- 4.2.6 Item 8.1 High Needs Block (HNB) Section 251
Noted that a further paper would be received at the February 2024 meeting.
- 4.2.7 Item 9.3 Safety Valve Programme Update
Noted that Mary Jarrett /SEND had included a RAG rating for each project. Action was closed.

5. FORUM MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 The following changes to the membership of the Schools Forum were noted:
- Bola Soneye-Thomas (Headteacher: Rokesly Junior School): new primary Headteacher school member.
 - Luke Renwick (Headteacher: Brook House): long term primary academies substitute rep for Simon Knowles (LDBS Academies Trust).

6. UPDATE FROM WORKING PARTIES

- 6.1 Early Years Working Party.
Members noted receipt of the minutes from 22 November 2023. Melian Mansfield provide a verbal overview of the meeting; the following was noted:
- a) Discussion on options for the £231k underspend was discussed. Waiting for costing of the different costings which will be received at the next meeting.
 - b) There had been 2 celebration events: the EY conference was well received and the EY strategy launch went well.
- 6.2 High Needs Working Party.
A meeting was held on 29 November 2023; minutes will be received at the next Schools Forum meeting. Martin Doyle provided a verbal overview of the meeting. The Block received models/examples of how High Needs Working Parties worked in the landscape of Safety Valve Programme, from other LA's were received and discussed. The High Needs Working Party will continue to review all options and provide Schools Forum the agreed direction of the Block by the February 2024 meeting; being supported by the LA : Mark O'Conner (Head of Service) and Ola (project support officer).
- 6.3 School's Block Working Party.
Noted the outcome of the Blocks work was the funding formula consultation - Item 7. The Chair extended his thanks to all the members of the group for all their hard work producing the consultation document.

7. SCHOOLS BLOCK FUNDING FORMULA CONSULTATION 2024-25

- 7.1 Patricia Harvey took the Forum through the 2024/25 consultation. The highlights were notes as:
- a) The School's Working Block held 4 meetings
 - b) Consultation closes on 8 December 2023.
 - c) Funding is estimated: where the Government first published data in July, however this was republished in October due to errors in the data set.

- d) The working group used October 22 census data. To be as accurate as possible, also used the latest uncleaned census data
- e) There was a question in regards to the drop in secondary pupil numbers. There were 7 schools that hadn't returned their census and had to use last year's data.
- f) Allocations and census is indicative not final.
- g) The LA are now in receipt of the final cleansed Censuses data; however, has to be checked and through the DfE.

7.2 Two different models were used in the consultation:

- a) National Funding Formula.
- b) Variation model: providing strategic support to the primary sector.

7.2.1 Noted that these are not the final budget allocations for 2024/25; they are for modelling and estimation purposes. Noted that historically Haringey has been late going out to consultation on ATP; to try and provide schools with more accurate information.

7.3 Noted that within the consultation there was a minor error in table 2 – the Chair provided an overview of that. Further noted that on Question 6: Figure of £1.140m represents the 0.5% agreed transfer from the School's Block to the High Needs Block as part of the Safety Valve Programme. The £1.140m was the draft figure; when reviewing the October 22 data; this is not the correct figure that will be applied. The essence of question 6 is to support the 0.5% transfer from the School's block to the High Needs Block. This will be a 0.5% transfer for the lifespan of the Safety Valve Programme: a 5-year commitment.

7.4 Ann Graham confirmed that 0.5% transfer is a statutory agreement with the DfE; noted other LA's had gone higher with 1% or higher. Further noted that a meeting with the DfE today had gone very well. It had been made clear to the DfE that the LA is working closely with Schools Forum; which is in the management structure of the Safety Valve Programme.

8. SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME UPDATE

8.1 Mary Jarrett provided the Forum with an update on the Safety Valve programme, noting that the powerpoint presentation had been circulated prior to the meeting. The highlights were noted as:

- a) Starting to see a slight reduction in numbers of children receiving an ECHP; predicted a 7% rise, where have a 5% increase. Moving forward numbers will be slightly lower moving forward.
- b) Bandings and top up consultation, review is underway. Noted that the LA required the returns to ensure the moderation of the band descriptors and allocation of top ups within the funding envelope.
- c) Cabinet paper in regards to additional places will be going through at the beginning of the new calendar year. Noted that with the support of the special schools additional capacity has been delivered before scheduled.
- d) On track to meet the savings this quarter and the savings throughout the programme.

8.2 Noted that Officers were expecting an Ofsted Inspection of SEND early in the new academic year.

9. SCHOOLS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY

9.1 Patricia Harvey provided the Forum with a verbal update on schools in financial difficulty, noting a written report will be received at the February meeting. Reported in July that there were 25 schools in deficit at the end of last academic year. The LA have an internal rag rated financial risk matrix which reviews the following items: schools in deficit, their census data, budget details, details of any licence deficits, school improvement, audit outcomes.

9.2 Based on the census data, looking at the probability and potentially for those schools that have a significant drop and are either on the verge of or having a deficit. More proactive approach working with schools. The LA now has all of the October 23 CENSUS (including academy schools); although not yet confirmed by the DfE. Now looking strategically for 24/25 budget setting.

9.3 *Q: When working with schools are you including the Governing Bodies in that work?*

A: The LA have regular meeting with schools in deficit and also attend those GBs. The offer of Haringey schools finance team to attend meetings is extended to GBs. The LA holds the information on the GB structure and if there are vacancies; due to the knock-on effect on the GBs work. At the restructure scrutiny panel, evidence of Governors work and challenge is requested, usually in the form of committee / GB minutes.

10. MEETING DATES FOR 2023-2024

10.1 The dates and the media of future meetings were agreed as:

- Thursday 11 January 2024 4PM. Face to face at HEP.
- Thursday 8 February 2024 4PM. To consider hybrid option. To confirm at the January meeting.
- Thursday 4 July 2024 4PM. Face to face at HEP.

11. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

11.1 No AOB was received.

The meeting closed at 5pm.

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT FOR 11 January 2024 MEETING

ITEM	ACTION	FOLLOW UP
4.2.1	<u>Vacancies on the School's Forum membership</u> Members continued to explore avenues to recruit to vacant positions.	All
4.2.2	<u>Early Years</u> A paper on the Early Years funding update and use of any underspend to be received at the February Schools Forum meeting.	EY block/Nick Hewlett
4.2.4	<u>Early Years Working Party</u> Paul Murphy to extend the invitation to join the EY Working Party to all Haringey Headteachers.	Paul Murphy