

MINUTES OF HARINGEY'S SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING THURSDAY 9 JULY 2023 AT 4PM

AT HEP:Inderwick Road, Crouch End N8

Attendance:

School Members		
Headteachers		
Special (1)	Martin Doyle (Riverside)	
Nursery Schools (1)	(A)Sian McDermott	
Primary (7)	(A) Mary Gardiner (West Green)	(A)Julie D'Abreu (Devonshire Hill Nursery & Primary)
	(A)Stephen McNicholas (St John Vianney)	Paul Murphy (Lancasterian)
	Ian Scotchbrook (South Harringay)	(A)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)	Michael McKenzie (Alexandra Park)	(A)Angela Wallace (Woodside High)
	Vacancy	
Alternative Provision (1)	Gerry Robinson (Executive Headteacher HLP)	
Governors		
Special (1)	Phil Di Leo (The Vale)	
Nursery School (1)	Melian Mansfield (Pembury)	
Primary Maintained (7)	John Keever (Seven Sisters)	(A)Dan Salem (Muswell Hill Primary)
	(A)Andrew Willett (Willow Primary)	(A) 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	Cllr Ibrahim Ali	
Trade Union Representative	(A)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	

Observers	
None	
Cabinet Member for CYPS	
Cllr Zena Brabazon	
Also Attending	
Assistant Director, Schools & Learning	Jane Edwards
Assistant Director, Commissioning & Programmes	Caroline Brain (virtual)
Assistant Director, Early Help, Prevention & SEND	Jackie Difolco
Head of Schools HR	Chidi Okwesilieze
Head of Schools Finance	Neil Sinclair
Senior Finance Manager - Schools	Patricia Harvey
Senior Manager at Mazars	Vanessa Bateman
Principal advisor for Early Years	Nick Hewlett
Alternative Provision & SAFE Taskforce Commissioning Lead	Ginny Thorne
Chief Executive HEP	James Page
Lead for Governor Services (HEP)	Anne Etchells
Clerk (HEP)	Corinne David

(A) Absent

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

1.1 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:

- Kurt Hintz (14-19 partnership)
- Julie D'Abreu (DHNPS Headteacher)
- Mary Gardiner (West Green Headteacher)
- Stephen McNicholas (St John Vianney Headteacher)
- Sian McDermott (Nursery school Headteacher)
- Linda Sarr (Risley Avenue Headteacher)
- Dan Salem (Muswell Hill Primary Governor)
- Andrew Willett (Williow Primary Governor)
- Ann Graham (LBH Director of Education)

2.2 The Clerk confirmed that there were one substitution Bola Soneye-Thomas (Rokesly Junior School Headteacher) for Mary Gardiner (West Green Headteacher).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 The following declarations of interest in regards to the agenda were made:

- Item 5: Will Wawn (Bounds Green Headteacher)
- Item 9: Gerry Robinson (Executive Headteacher HLP), Laura Butterfield (Governor HLP), John Keever (Governor Seven Sisters) and Melian Mansfield (Governor Seven Sisters). [Seven Sisters School is the current location of the primary nurture hub]

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 9 FEBRUARY 2023 AND 8 MARCH 2023 taken as item 7

4.1 The minutes of the School's Forum meeting held on 9 February 2023 were **AGREED** and **RATIFIED** as a correct record, subject to the following point of accuracy:

- The correct spelling of Jane Edwards name.
- The correct surname for Helen Froggatt.
- The correct spelling of Brian Smith.
- Item 12.10 PVU should read PVI.

4.2 Matters arising

4.2.1 Item 4.2.2 Vacancies on the School's Forum membership

a) All members to continue recruitment through all avenues to appoint to vacant positions.

b) Will Wawn to follow up with Secondary Academies to try and recruit to vacancies.

c) For each block that had vacancies, elections to take place to select members to the Forum.

d) HEP to continue to email all Governors regarding Governor vacancies on Schools Forum. Governor Forum members to make request for members at relevant Chairs and Governor meetings.

4.2.2 Item 4.2.2 Impact of the Safety Valve (SV) programme on Post 16 young people
Meeting between Kurt Hintz and Jackie Difolco had taken place. regular meetings have been scheduled to review this as part of the SV programme.

4.2.3 Item 4.2.3 FSM by Super output areas

Jane Edwards informed the Forum, that there was a clear plan promote and increase the take up of FSM, in regards to the Mayor of London's decision to fund FSM for all primary age children. The communication team have launched a campaign regarding the additional funding schools receive from pupils eligible for Pupil Premium. The LA is trying to centralise key information to allow for cross checking of information.

4.2.4 Item 4.2.4 Impact of LTNs on schools

Agenda item – see item 14.

4.2.5 Item 8 Dedicated Schools Block

Agenda item – see item 8.

4.2.6 EY deprivation funding

Meeting with Officers and School Forum members occurred before the extra ordinary meeting held on 8 March 2023.

4.2.7 AP paper for July SF meeting

Agenda item - see item 9.

4.3 The minutes of the School's Forum meeting held on 8 March 2023 were **AGREED** and **RATIFIED** as a correct record, subject to the following point of accuracy:

- The correct spelling of Jane Edwards name.
- Item 4.5 change the word application to calculation.
- Item 4.12 change the word draft to drafted.

4.4 Matters arising

4.4.1 Item 4.12a Communication with settings

There had been a range of communication by the LA with settings regarding the funding changes.

4.4.2 Item 4.12b Impact assessment for PVI within EY sector

Nick Hewlett informed the Forum that to undertake an impact assessment would require financial information from every setting in the borough; not all PVIs will provide that information. Noted that the LA were not aware of any settings that had closed yet; however, the impact of the new funding levels may not be felt until quarter 2. The Chair noted that there is ongoing dialogue with the LA continuing to monitor the

situation. Members discussed way to capture the current situation and impact within the EY sector: including a survey and qualitative feedback.

ACTION a) EY working party to continue with proactive communication with all PVI settings.

b) EY working party to explore the best options to obtain reliable information regarding the impact on the sector of the new funding levels.

c) Early years funding update to be an item on Schools Forum work plan.

4.4.3 Item 4.12c 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.

Further meetings have been held, with the minutes received at this meeting.

4.4.4 Item 4.12d The LA to be proactive and inform the Early Years Working group in any under/overspend as soon as it identified.

Item on going.

5 ELECTION OF THE CHAIR taken as item 4

5.1 Will Wawn invited Laura Butterfield to Chair the item. Will Wawn then invited Ann Etchells and Patricia Harvey to present the paper titled 'Schools Forum Membership'. Noted that the current Chair would be concluding their Headship at Bounds Green Schools at the end of the academic year. The current Chair of Schools Forum had been an asset for the efficient and effective operation of Schools Forum and had advised the Local Authority of his continued interest and support in the position; if no other member notifies the clerk of their wishes to be nominated as Chair.

5.2 The Local Authority made direct contact with the Department of Education (DfE) to confirm if the re-appointment would be acceptable in accordance with Schools Forum Regulations 2012. The DfE response reference CI-0197756 dated 25th April 2023, stated ..., this is permissible if members agree..., of the renewal of the existing Chair to be reappointed as Chair of Schools Forum for another term of office for 12 months.

5.3 Recommendation that Schools Forum approve; if there were no other interested parties, to the reinstatement of the current Chair for another term of office.

Will Wawn leaves the meeting to allow discussion on the proposal.

5.4 Members enquired if there was a precedent for any Schools Forums' having an independent Chair. Noted that this was a unique situation, however, as this was part of succession planning, the current work situation and confirmation from the DfE; then the option was available for members to make a determination on. Jane Edwards noted that she had been aware of another LA that had a non-school member as chair.

5.5 Members noted that for continuity with the Forum work stream and with the LA in order to allow for succession planning, the option to allow Will Wawn to continue as Chair for a further academic year was a sensible solution.

5.6 Laura Butterfield invited members to either nominate themselves or another member to be Chair for the next academic year. *No nominations were received.*

5.7 Laura Butterfield invited members to vote on the following proposal:

Approve the reappointment of existing Chair [Will Wawn] for another term of office with effect from the new school year.

All members voted in favour of re-electing Will Wawn for a further term of office as Chair of Haringey's Schools Forum.

Will Wawn was invited back into the meeting and took over as Chair.

6 ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR taken as item 5

6.1 Will Wawn invited nominations for Vice Chair for the 2023/2024 academic year. Laura Butterfield was nominated by Will Wawn and seconded by Laurence Penn. No other nominations were received.

All members voted in favour of re-electing Laura Butterfield for a further term of office as Vice-Chair of Haringey's Schools Forum.

7 FORUM MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE taken as item 6.

7.1 Anne Etchells took the Forum through the paper titled 'Schools Forum Membership and Terms of Reference' and noted that the January 2023 census had been used to inform the number of places within each membership category as detailed within table 1, from the report.

7.2 Noted with Will Wawn becoming a non-school's member; the composition of the category would need to increase to 7 to accommodate this.

AGREED **Members approved the allocation of Schools Forum places based on the proportion of pupil places in schools at the January 2023 Census and the increase of the non-school members to 7.**

ACTION The Schools Forum membership required updating to reflect a composition of 7 non-school members [AE].

7.3 Noted that the Terms of Reference required updating to reflect that the nominating organisation for all governors was amended to Governor Services. Furthermore, it was noted that the chair wouldn't have a casting vote.

AGREED **members approved the Terms of Reference, with the amendments noted in 7.3**

7.4 The Forum discussed the membership and representation within the Special schools/education sector in regards to the Safety Valve Programme (SV) and increase in provision.

ACTION High Needs Working party to review the membership representation from within the special needs sector.

8 UPDATE FROM WORKING PARTIES

8.1 Early Years Working Party

Members noted receipt of the minutes from 14 June 2023 and the terms of reference. Melian Mansfield provided an overview of the meeting. Melian Mansfield sought further Headteacher representation on the working party.

ACTION Will Wawn to extend the invitation to join the EY Working Party all Haringey Headteachers.

8.2 High Needs Working Party.

Members noted receipt of the minutes from 21 June 2023. Martin Doyle provided an overview of the meeting. The group are reviewing the current terms of reference alongside other LA's that are also within the DfE SV programme; with a view of drafting a new Terms of Reference relevant to the current SEND landscape and scope.

- 8.3 Dedicated School Block Working Party.
No meeting have taken place since the last meeting.

9 **AP COMMISSIONING AND HLP FUNDING**

- 9.1 Caroline Brain took the forum through the Alternative Provision Commissioning and HLP funding Power Point and paper. The following was noted:
- The review of Alternative Provisions (AP) is one of 20 Projects contained within the SV Programme.
 - AP services were overspent by £628k for the financial year 2022 -23.
 - 138 children were currently accessing AP provision.
 - Exclusions remain low in Haringey (0.01%) in line with other inner London Boroughs.
 - The current expenditure is outstripping the cost base for APs in Haringey.
 - HLP deliver a broad umbrella of services as part of their service offer. HLP was contracted to support 130 places for AP.
 - HLP is registered to have 30 pupils with EHCP's; currently there are 39 pupils with EHCPs with 15 awaiting assessments: not including dual roll pupils.
 - A overview of Tuition in the Community, Simmons House, HLP Commissioned Placements & vacancies and other AP support was provided.
 - The Nurture Hub at Seven Sisters Primary School was established as a pilot in February 2021.
 - Factoring in pupil numbers, the cost per pupil shows that on budget lines that Haringey has the 4th Highest AP costs.
- 9.2 The AP review provided 3 recommendations. These were noted as:
- 1) To undertake an "in year" financial review of spend profiles to compartmentalise AP spend to understand what core delivery is and what is additional service delivery
 - 2) To implement new Service Level Agreement with HLP.
 - 3) To develop a new SEND & AP Sufficiency Strategy for the next three years 2023 -2026
- 9.3 A new Service Level Agreement is in the process of being agreed with HLP, focusing on core services which includes:
- Placements/Outreach
 - Tuition in the Community
 - Simmons House
- 9.4 The number of commissioned services will be reviewed on an annual basis and may be reduced or increased dependant on need. When a child is placed with HLP, the referring school will transfer all the income received for the pupil [AWPU/high needs /PP] to HLP, which will be overseen by the LA; with the exception of time limited Turnaround, Respite placements for which the service will invoice the schools directly. The Nurture Hub at Seven Sisters will continue until September 2024 when it is anticipated the new Primary Resource Provisions will be operational. The contract with Haringey Sixth Form will end in August 2023. Discussions are taking place to identify requirements to inform future pathways and decisions relating to this cohort.
- 9.5 Members noted that HLP was established to support, motivate and inspire the most vulnerable children within the borough to be as successful as possible in the future. Members further noted that previous concerns regarding a lack of a formal budget and oversight & scrutiny had been raised on numerous occasions with previous council officers; with no response. Noted that there had not been a previous SLA or budget from the Octagon [PRU]. The Forum debated the minutiae that HLP was never provided with a defined budget or SLA; thus, the management committee had not overspent. The LA stated that the AP budget within the High needs and care budget was over spent. Noted that the LA had received significant challenge from the DfE, regarding the AP overspend.

- 9.6 Members noted that the current exclusions levels in Haringey were low due to the work of schools recognising the social and emotional impact of Covid on pupils, thus trying all available avenues to provide additional support and also due to the intensive and high-quality work undertaken by HLP. Noted that the autumn term exclusion figures would be lower than spring and summer terms. Members urged the LA to review exclusion trends over a year period.
- 9.7 Members noted that the HLP Management Committee had received and reviewed the new SLA. Officers stated that the HLP SLA was clear that commissioned places (58) were fully funded throughout the year, to allow for flexibility and outreach work; funding Benchmarking against other AP offers had taken place. The core budget hadn't been reduced. Noted that pupils had been placed within HLP and would receive their educational entitlement from HLP; a funding envelop had been identified to provide for those pupils.
- 9.8 Members emphasised the importance of AP provision being pupil outcome led; where HLP had evidence of a high success rates for the pupils the service worked with. Members highlighted the potential impact funding cuts would have on the boroughs most vulnerable children; where HLP would have to cut core services to pay back the £628k, over a three-year period. Noted that HLP will have to make staff redundancies and other cuts. Secondary Headteachers informed the Forum that HLP was a key service used by all secondary schools and sought reassurances that the quality provision would not be affected by the requirement to pay back the £628k. Member requested a risk assessment was undertaken to allow for a wider understanding of how the current offer would be impacted, changed or cut.
- ACTION** A risk assessment is undertaken to allow for a wider understanding of how the current HLP offer would be impacted, changed or cut.
- 9.9 Members discussed the current imbalance of primary and secondary places. Officers noted that within the SV programme there was a work stream to develop 118 primary places in primary resource provisions located in different areas across Haringey.
- 9.10 Members urged officers to review the potential cost benefits of funding and commissioning places and outreach services at HLP against the requirement to commission out borough provision.
- 9.11 Jane Edwards reminded members that the complete body of work for AP sits within the SV programme. The SV funding would be at risk if the High Needs Block overspend isn't reduced within 5-year programme. There were no additional funding streams to support AP.
- 9.12 The Forum discussed the options being developed for ESOL classes. Noted that there had been discussions at IYFAP regarding the increasing numbers of, and what the best provision for, Year 11 that were new to Haringey with no English was. The LA was working in collaboration with partners reviewing all options.
- 9.13 Noted that the Model for Change Board would resume meetings in the new academic year with Jane Edwards as Chair.
- ACTION** A further report on AP to be brought back to the October meeting.
- 9.14 See appendix A for pre-submitted questions and answers.

10 SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME UPDATE

- 10.1 Jackie Difolco took the Forum through the SV power point and disapplication request for inflationary top ups for Special Schools paper. In March 2023 Haringey's SV Programme's had formally been approved by the DfE. The programme had a portfolio of 18 projects which would reduce costs by £47.9m over five years. Haringey's SV Programme is forecast to achieve a balanced budget in 2027-2028. The funding is subject to full compliance of Haringey eliminating the cumulative deficit no later than 2027-28. The powerpoint provided an update on the 18 projects.
- 10.2 As part of the SV agreement Haringey Council agreed a freeze in Special School top-ups for the duration of the programme and undertake a systematic review of all HNB top-up funding.
- 10.3 The Forum discussed the conditions on continued funding for the programme by the DfE. Noted that there are terms and conditions attached to the funding. Noted that if the LA continued projected expenditure with no changes (based on 10% growth in demand and complexity of need), projections indicated a £78 million overspent by 27/28. Noted that the position was unsustainable. There was acknowledgment that the LA couldn't do nothing and allow the deficit to grow further.
- 10.4 Noted that there are 18 projects within the programme; monthly updates are provided on the dedicated web page:
www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/local-offer/about-local-offer/local-offer-news/haringey-safety-valve-programme
- 10.5 The Chair proposed that Schools Forum vote on the recommendation that there was a disapplication of 3.4% inflationary increase to Haringey Special Schools on top ups. The decision would be for 1 academic year.

Schools Forum UNANIMOUSLY AGREED the application of a disapplication request to the Department of Education to freeze Special School top-up funding; creating a £420,000 saving within the High Needs Block (HNB). The decision would be for 1 academic year.

11 DEDICATED SCHOOLS BLOCK / DSG OUTTURN 2022/23

- 11.1 Patricia Harvey took the Forum through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2022/23 Outturn and Finance Update paper. The following was noted:
- Schools Block: the total £135.05m of the schools' block was passported to schools using the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) and local variations agreed by the Schools Forum.
 - Central Schools Services Block: the total £2.78m of the Central Schools Services block is retained by the council as a contribution towards the council's statutory duties.
 - High Needs Block: The budget allocation was £50.57m with an in-year overspend of £2.22m. The LA received £11.96m from the DfE as acceptance of the SV programme; resulting in a closing deficit of £11.87m.
 - Early Years Block: Indicative budget was £20.15m. The previous years Early Years reserve of £1.23m was used to offset the overpayment of the 3- and 4-year-olds. The final out turn was £32k surplus.
 - Cumulative DSG: The DSG closing position was £11.55m in deficit.
- 11.2 The council will continue to supported schools in financial difficulty with dedicated central finance support, providing cashflow advances and assisting with redundancy costs of restructures relating to permanent staff savings via the Restructure and Scrutiny Panel for 2023/24. Noted that there were 25 schools in deficit at the close of March 2023.

11.3 The Forum noted and ratified the following:

- DSG outturn position for 2022/23
- LMS Reserve balances for Schools 2022/23
- 2023/24 DSG allocations
- The Safety Valve Programme

12 UPDATE ON EWO REFORM AND ACCOUNT OF £122K EXPENDITURE CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK UPDATE

12.1 Jane Edwards took the forum through the briefing paper on updates on the EWO reform progress. Noted that a full report will be received at October 2023 meeting. Further noted that from September new statutory guidance takes effect, which increased responsibility, but with no additional funding. The EWO team will receive further training in July. An overview of actions taken since January and actions that will be taking place from September were provided. Noted that the service will be recruiting to the principle EWO position. It was anticipated that the successful candidate will be in post by November 2023.

ACTION EWO paper to be received at the October Schools Forum meeting.

13 OUTCOME OF INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMME 2022-23

13.1 Vanessa Bateman took the forum through the Annual Report on Schools and provided an overview of the 2022/23 Schools' Audit Work; the following was noted:

- Nine out of 13 schools completed received "Adequate" or above assurance rating;
- Two schools received the top rating of Substantial Assurance;
- No schools received a "nil" rating;
- Three schools received "Limited" Assurance; and •
- Three schools demonstrated a reduction in assurance from the last audit, these schools will be followed up early in 2023/24 to ensure control environment has strengthened.

13.2 The common themes arising from the audit work were:

- Governors not providing evidence of their DBS certificate, particularly where the previous certificate requires an update;
- Contracts have been rolled over for several years, and spend on them exceeds the thresholds for going out to tender;
- Evidence not retained to clearly show that reconciliations are prepared by one officer, and then reviewed by a second independent officer.

14 UPDATE ON LTNS

14.1 An update on the impact of LTNs to be received at the next meeting.

15 MEETING DATES FOR 2023-2024

Members **AGREED** the meeting dates as follows:

- Thursday 12 October 2023 at 4pm [face to face]
- Thursday 7 December 2023 at 4pm
- Thursday 11 January 2024 at 4pm
- Thursday 8 February 2024 at 4pm
- Thursday 4 July 2024 at 4pm

15.1 Members noted that the 2023/24 work plan would be circulate with the minutes from the meeting.

16 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

16.1 No AOB was received.

The meeting closed at 6:45pm

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT FOR 12 OCTOBER 2023 MEETING

ITEM	ACTION	FOLLOW UP
4.2.1	<p><u>Vacancies on the School's Forum membership</u></p> <p>a) All members to continue recruitment through all avenues to appoint to vacant positions.</p> <p>b) Will Wawn to follow up with Secondary Academies to try and recruit to vacancies.</p> <p>c) For each block that had vacancies, elections to take place to select members to the Forum.</p> <p>d) HEP to continue to email all Governors regarding Governor vacancies on Schools Forum. Governor Forum members to make request for members at relevant Chairs and Governor meetings.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>WW</p> <p>All</p> <p>HEP</p>
4.2.2	<p><u>Impact of the Safety Valve (SV) programme on Post 16 young people</u></p> <p>Update on KH & JD meeting to be provided at the next SF meeting.</p>	KH & JD
4.4.2	<p><u>Impact assessment for PVI within EY sector</u></p> <p>a) EY working party to continue with proactive communication with all PVI settings.</p> <p>b) EY working party to explore the best options to obtain reliable information regarding the impact on the sector of the new funding levels.</p> <p>c) Early years funding update to be an item on Schools Forum work plan.</p>	<p>EY working party</p> <p>CD</p>
7.2	<p><u>Forum Membership and Terms of Reference</u></p> <p>The Schools Forum membership required updating to reflect a composition of 7 non-school members.</p>	AE
7.4	<p><u>Forum Membership and Terms of Reference</u></p> <p>High Needs Working party to review the membership representation from within the special needs sector.</p>	HNB
8.1	<p><u>Early Years Working Party</u></p> <p>Will Wawn to extend the invitation to join the EY Working Party all Haringey Headteachers.</p>	WW
9.8	<p><u>AP Commissioning</u></p> <p>Undertake a risk assessment to allow for a wider understanding of how the current HLP offer would be impacted, changed or cut.</p>	CB >
9.13	<p><u>AP Commissioning</u></p> <p>A further report on AP to be brought back to the October meeting.</p>	CB & GT
12.1	<p><u>EWO reform</u></p> <p>EWO paper to be received at the October Schools Forum meeting.</p>	JE

Item 9: AP schools forum report and AP gap analysis.

The 'narrative' presented in the papers on AP seems totally at odds with discussions about AP, exclusions the success in this area that we had in the last couple of years.

1.Scrutiny/oversight: In terms of strategic oversight, the Model for Change Strategic Delivery Board has not met since February 2023. How have these proposals for changes in AP provision been discussed and agreed with no external oversight? I sit on the M4C board and this is the first I've heard of any of this. Given that AP supports many of our most vulnerable children, and we know that the picture nationally has been one of increasing need, the lack of scrutiny and oversight for plans with long term implications raises significant concerns.

In late 2018, a review of alternative provision commenced and sought to identify how Haringey Council, in collaboration with local primary and secondary schools, could improve the offer of Alternative Provision and develop greater coherence, both structurally and operationally, to meet the diverse needs of pupils at every stage of their statutory education.

Over several months, the review looked at opportunities to build upon existing good practice while addressing wider issues in the legislative, funding and local contexts.

Consequently, the review established that a complex and far-reaching programme of change was needed to reduce the number of pupils at risk of being excluded from school and improve the scope for children and young people to remain engaged in a high-quality education offer.

As is presented in The Model for Change (paragraph 7.3.2), this new delivery model will:

- Introduce the concept of a fixed term intervention and reintegration place for Key Stage 3 pupils, (where it is safe and appropriate to do so)
- Introduce a strengthened outreach and support for re-integration role, which will be part of the core function of the PRU and designed to support the direct activities of mainstream schools.
- Seek to scale down The PRU over time to deliver a smaller number of places, in the context of a wider framework of whole system support and reintegration.
- Establish a long-term goal / target to reduce provision to 25-30 education places achievable by September 2023.
- Enable current funding to be re-directed towards intervention support and outreach into mainstream schools.

Given the above, our current plan in no way departs from the original aim of the MfC, and indeed for 2023/24 the number of places has remained higher than the level recommended in the MfC.

In respect of oversight and scrutiny, officers from the LA have worked closely with stakeholders, and attended all HLP management committees since Autumn 2022, to understand the service offer and work with HLP to ensure a balanced budget and to identify areas for savings.

The new AD for Schools & Learning is now in post and has organised MfC at the beginning of the new term.

2. Exclusions: There has been a significant reduction in exclusions in Haringey (in large part thanks to HLP) which we have very much been celebrating in Haringey. However, this achievement seems to be downplayed in these documents. If we reduce financial support

for HLP, which is in reality what these papers seem to suggest, surely we risk exclusions rising again? This is against a backdrop of well-documented increases in need nationally. Additionally, in order for HLP to mitigate a £600k deficit and return to a position of in year surplus, what are the implications for the offer and support for the children at HLP?

The reduction in official permanent exclusions is testament to the work of numerous teams in the LA including HLP, schools themselves and the weekly HAPI panel administered by the LA.

In accordance with the Timpson Review the reduction in official exclusions needs to be matched by a reduction in managed moves to Alternative Provision.

3. EHCP funding: There are a substantial number of children with EHCPs at HLP (39) and a sizeable group being assessed/waiting for EHCPs (15). Given the budgetary significance of EHCP funding and the transient nature of the HLP cohort (moving back to the original schools), is the EHCP funding actually following each child?

The LA works with schools to recover EHCP funding that is assessed when a child moves settings.

All AP “top up” rates already incorporate the full cost of the placement, and any funding should flow back to the LA centrally as it would for any special or AP setting, then follow the child back to their mainstream school accordingly.

4. Benchmarking data (powerpoint report) - What year is this data from and what point in the year is taken? Given when AP opened and then the impact of the pandemic, being sure when this ‘snapshot’ was taken, makes a material difference to how it’s interpreted. Also, we know that uptake of AP builds across the academic year. Is utilisation measured at a sensible point in the year e.g. Summer term rather than Autumn term?

The data was taken from HLP management committee reports over a period of 18 months from November 2021 up until the most recent report in May 2023 and therefore provides a rolling view and not a snapshot of a single point in time. The initial AP Needs & Gap analysis was presented in Feb 2023. We have added additional data taking the report to May 2023 to reflect the recent increase in placement requests at HLP which we will continually monitor and review.

Data was also taken from the school’s financial bench-marking site and also the relevant school census.

5. Short term vs. Long term strategy: If we don’t invest in AP, there will be significant long term implications that will take years to address. It felt like we were making a lot of positive progress with AP and these reports suggest a return to ‘old Haringey’ and they raise significant safeguarding questions about the support and planning we are putting in place for a complex and highly vulnerable group of children.

The local authority continues to invest in AP, with outreach remaining free to schools and respite being subsidised. Indeed, the top up funding is provided to HLP on a stable annual basis to ensure budgets are set at a level above average compared to our statistical neighbours.

The accommodation and premises HLP operate from are limited to a certain capacity, specifically:

- 12 at Simmons House
- 58 at Commerce House
- 8 at the Library
- Plus, additional capacity at Philip House for post 16

Place and top up funding needs to reflect this accordingly as the LA has a responsibility to all stakeholders to ensure that services provide value for money and are of a high quality. This is in line with the LA's requirement that all commissioned services be funded proportionately, be evidence based, needs led, based on objective data and remain within budget.

Commissioning Officers are currently in negotiations with additional AP provision in Haringey, to increase the Haringey AP Local Offer to ensure that schools have access to a wide range of services to support children & young people.

Item 11 DSG outturn:

Given the significant increase in schools in deficit over the last year (nearly doubled from 13 to 25) and the decrease in the total school surplus for those schools still in surplus, what conversations is Haringey having with the DfE about the long-term implications if funding doesn't change?

Ongoing discussions are being held with DfE regarding funding allocations at a local and national level.