

## Haringey Schools Forum Minutes

5 December 2024 AT 16:00 HRS. Virtual via Teams

School Members		
Headteachers		
Special (1)	Martin Doyle (Riverside)	
Nursery Schools (1)	Sian McDermott (Rowland Hill)	
Primary (7)	Mary Gardiner (West Green)	Kate Stevens (St Aidan VC)
	Hina Shah (Earlsmead)	(A)Paul Murphy (Lancasterian)
	Ian Scotchbrook (South Harringay)	Linda Sarr (Risley Avenue)
	Bola Soneye-Thomas (Rokesly Junior School)	
Secondary (2)	Jo Davey (Fortismere)	Vacancy
Primary Academy (1)	(A)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)	Vacancy	Dan Salem (Stroud Green Primary)
	Oliver Simms (Alexandra Primary)	
	Helen Froggatt (St Aidan's VC)	(A)Jenny Thomas (Lordship Lane)
	Caroline Schloss (Alexandra Primary)	
Secondary Maintained (3)	Laurence Penn (Highgate Wood)	Vacancy
	Sylvia Dobie (Park View)	
Primary Academy (1)	Vacancy	
Secondary Academies (3)	(A)Andrea Henry (Greig City Academy)	Vacancy
	Vacancy	
Alternative Provision (1)	Vacancy	
Non-School Members		
Non-Executive Councillor	(A)Cllr Ibrahim Ali	
Trade Union Representative	Paul Rennn	
Professional Association Representative	Ed Harlow	
Faith Schools	(A)Geraldine Gallagher	
CCCG Representative	(A)Christine Bianchin	
Early Years Providers	Susan Tudor-Hart	
Independent member	Will Wawn [Chair]	
Observers		

None	
<b>Cabinet Member for CYPS</b>	
Cllr Zena Brabazon	
<b>Also Attending</b>	
Director of Children's Services	Ann Graham
Assistant Director, Schools & Learning	Jane Edwards
Assistant Director, Commissioning & Programmes	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	Muhammad Ali
Principal advisor for Early Years	Nick Hewlett
Chief Executive HEP	(A)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.
- 1.2 New members were welcomed and noted as:
  - Oliver Simms (Governor: Alexandra Primary)

## 2. APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

- 2.1 Apologies for Absence were received and noted from:
  - Paul Murphy (Headteacher: Lancasterian)
  - Cllr Ibrahim Ali
  - Christine Bianchin (CCCG Representative)
- 2.2 Substitute members were welcomed and noted from:
  - Efe Kurtloglu (NEU) substituting for Ed Harlow.

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 No declaration of interests were made in respect of any of the agenda items.

## 4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- 4.1 The minutes of the Schools Forum meeting held on 17 October 2024 were **AGREED** and **RATIFIED** as a correct record of the meeting.

### 4.2 Matters arising

- 4.2.1 Item 2.4 Chair to liaise with the new primary school Governor applicant and provide an invitation to the next meeting.  
  
*See item 1.2. Action completed.*
- 4.2.2 Item Vacancies on the School's Forum membership
  - 4.2.2 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.

*Noted all actions were ongoing*

- 4.2.3 Item 4.2.3 Vice Chair Election  
*Election of Vice -Chair to be undertaken at the January meeting.*
- 4.2.4 Item 4.2.6 Haringey Schools Audit  
Chair to liaise with Haringey Audit to circulate the checklist and assurance criteria to schools.  
*Ongoing action for the Chair*
- 4.2.5 Item 4.2.7 Neil Sinclair to provide an update on meetings with the DfE and other council directorates regarding possible aggregated procurement agreements for schools to buy into.  
*Update to be provided at the January meeting.*
- 4.2.6 Item 5.2 High Needs working party  
a) Phil Di Leo to liaise with Martin Doyle regarding the changes to the High needs working party remit.  
*Noted that the HN working party would be suspend and revise as necessary. A proposal for the direction of the working party would be brought to Schools Forum at the March meeting.*  
  
b) At the next Headteacher briefings LA officers to clarify how issues relating to SEND are cascaded and escalated along with assurances that cases are pupil focused.  
*Action noted as ongoing discussions had taken place with Secondary Headteachers. Officers will be invited to future Headteachers meetings.*  
  
c) Primary and Secondary Headteachers representatives on SEND Decision making boards (SEND Executive, Safety Valve Steering Group and HEYPSHA) to cascade information to their Headteacher colleagues.  
*Ongoing action*
- 4.2.7 Item 8.1 Safety Valve Programme  
MJ to request to attend the next secondary Headteacher meeting the specification for the 34 place ASD resource provision.  
*There were on going conversations with settings. An update to be provided at the January meeting.*
- 4.2.8 Item 9.1 Proposals for the use of any potential Unallocated Growth Fund  
Jane Edwards to submit the draft paper to the NLC Chairs to allow review and discussion of the proposals.  
*Paper had been shared with NLC Headteacher Chairs. Paper will be received at the January meeting.*
- 4.2.9 Item 10.1 January meeting date  
a. Clerk to email Schools Forum seeking their availability to attend.  
b. Anne Graham and Zena Brabazon to check deadline for the signing and submission of the APT.  
c. Neil Sinclair to check the APT submission.

## 5. DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET MODELLING FOR 2025/26

- 5.1 Neil Sinclair and Muhammad Ali took the forum through the paper titled 'Dedicated Schools Budget Modelling for 2025/26'. The purpose of the report was to provide the results of the 2025-26 Haringey primary and secondary schools DSG funding formula consultation and recommendations to set the distribution of the 2025-26 Schools block DSG for devolved school budgets.
- 5.2 There has been a delay from the Department for Education (DfE) publishing their guidance with regard to the 2025/26 Dedicated Schools Grant, and the implications for Schools funding for 2025/26. This year the DfE has not yet released a draft Authority Proforma Tool (APT) for any LA to 'model' 2025/26 school budgets as they have done in previous years.
- 5.3 Due to the delay in receiving the provisional allocations for the 2025-26 financial year, the consultation with schools was based on the principles established in last year's DSG allocation funding formula. Specifically, the LA will adopt 100% of the National Funding Formula (NFF) factor values (with Area Cost Adjustments) and the proposed amounts/percentages for block transfers and de-delegation. The Schools Block working group will review any decisions made by the Schools Forum during December 2024.
- 5.4 The consultation responses were noted as:

Questions asked in the consultation	Yes	No
To support High Needs Block Transfer of 0.5% from Schools Block (as part of Safety Valve Program)	26	1
To set Growth Funding budget to £300,000	27	0
Block Transfer to CSSB of £122,000 for Education Welfare	25	2
ONLY For Maintained Sector Schools: Total amount de-delegated from maintained sector for Trade Union	23	1
ONLY For Maintained Sector Schools: To support de-delegated budget from maintained schools for targeted support for schools in financial difficulty of £150,000	10	15

- 5.5 The Forum discussed the funding model for split sites. The transitional protection for 2024/25 will no longer be available for 2025/26 moving forward; as the setting was operating on a single site. Noted that the LA had been advised by the ESFA they would refuse a block transfer from the Schools Block to the Early Years Block to fund a nursery school split site. Separately from any future discussions regarding the use of both sites for the nursery school; any funding would be taken from the Early Years block and would not be subject to a transfer from the Schools Block.

**ACTION** Finance and Early Years officers to discuss funding for the split site nursery school ensure 2024/25 funding was received in the cash flow.

- 5.6 Forum members discussed the proposal of £150k to support schools in financial difficulty within the finance team and how that money would be targeted. Officers noted that the money would allow the central team to be strengthened to provide the additional support required by school. Current members of the Finance Team were fully funded. This would then also mean that schools would then not be charged to

the service. Members further asked which services would receive funding, noting that investment in Procurement, HR and SEND support would also alleviate financial pressures within schools. Officers noted that for the short term the funding would be used within the Finance Team to increase capacity. In the longer-term funding could be used to provide resources to other services or teams like HR and procurement. Members enquired if match funding had been sought from the Council. Officers noted that all avenues of income were being reviewed and would be seeking funding from the council; including match funding.

- 5.7 Members enquired which schools would be eligible for targeted support within the proposal; including those not applying the national funding formula to the budget. Officers noted that it was about reviewing all schools that were experiencing financial difficulties/ challenges. The LA is aware of schools' budget forecasts and those without SBMs and it will be directing resources accordingly.
- 5.8 A member noted the support and time received from the Finance Team had been incredibly helpful for their school moving forward.
- 5.9 The Forum noted that there was a 0.5% transfer agreed for the life of the Safety Valve programme. Noted that there is provision, if required, for the LA to come back to Schools Forum and seek an increase on the percentage transfer.
- 5.10 The Chair moved the Schools Forum to a decision on the following recommendations:

5.10.1 **Recommendation a) To support High Needs Block Transfer of 0.5% from Schools Block (as part of Safety Valve Program)**

Noted settings with a Reception through to Year 11, maintained and academies could vote on the recommendation.

**Members unanimously agreed Recommendation a.**

There were no abstentions or disagreement with the proposal.

5.10.2 **Recommendation b) To set Growth Funding/Falling Rolls budget to £300,000**

**Members unanimously agreed Recommendation b.**

There were no abstentions or disagreement with the proposal.

5.10.3 **Recommendation c) Block Transfer to CSSB of £122,000 for Education Welfare**

**Members unanimously agreed Recommendation c.**

There were no abstentions or disagreement with the proposal.

5.10.4 **Recommendation d) Total amount de-delegated from maintained sector for Trade Union.**

Noted only Maintained settings could vote on the recommendation.

**Members unanimously agreed Recommendation d.**

There were no abstentions or disagreement with the proposal.

**5.10.5 Recommendation e) To support de-delegated budget from maintained schools for targeted support for schools in financial difficulty of £150,000.**

Members discussed whether there was a requirement to go out to further consultation once more detail/clarity on this proposal was provided. The Chair recommended that further discussions, with detailed proposals, were held with NLC Chairs and Secondary Headteachers; before the next Schools Forum meeting; to allow a vote at the January meeting.

**ACTION**      Detailed proposal paper to be received and determined at the January meeting.

**6. TO CONFIRM THE DATE FOR THE NEXT SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING: EITHER 9 JANUARY OR 16 JANUARY 2025.**

- 6.1 The Clerk noted that when members were asked after the October meeting the majority of members could attend a meeting on 16 January 2025. The Chair recommended that the meeting was moved to 16 January 2025 to allow Officers additional time to prepare papers.

**7. PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2024-2025**

- Thursday 16 January 2025
- Thursday 6 February 2025 at 4pm
- Thursday 13 March 2025 at 4pm
- Thursday 3 July 2024 at 4pm

**8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

- 8.1 Member item request: Special School funding for EYFS children.  
Noted that the matter had been resolved outside of the meeting.

- 8.2 The Chair provided thanks, on behalf of Schools Forum, to Mary Jarrett who will be leaving Haringey and moving to Waltham Forest as a Deputy Director. Officers and members provided further their thanks for Mary Jarrett.

- 8.3 The Chair informed Schools Forum that Rachel Boston, was also leaving the Council and provided thanks for her work, in particular to work related to the Safety Valve Programme.

The Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 5:45pm.

## SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS

Item	Action	Lead
4.2.2	<u>Vacancies on the School's Forum membership</u> 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.	All  WW  All  HEP
4.2.3	<u>Vice Chair Election</u> Election of Vice -Chair to be undertaken at the January meeting.	Clerk/WW
4.2.4	<u>Haringey Schools Audit</u> Chair to liaise with Haringey Audit to circulate the checklist and assurance criteria to schools.	WW
4.2.5	Neil Sinclair to provide an update on meetings with the DfE and other council directorates regarding possible aggregated procurement agreements for schools to buy into.	NS
4.2.7	<u>Safety Valve Programme</u> MJ to request to attend the next secondary Headteacher meeting the specification for the 34 place ASD resource provision: update to be received at the January meeting.	JD
4.2.8	<u>Proposals for the use of any potential Unallocated Growth Fund</u> Paper to be received at the January meeting	JE
5.5	Finance and Early Years officers to discuss funding for the split site nursery school ensure 2024/25 funding was received in the cash flow.	MM /AM
5.10.5	<u>De-delegated budget from maintained schools for targeted support for schools in financial difficulty of £150,000</u> Detailed proposal paper to be received and determined at the January meeting	NS/AM