

Haringey Schools Forum Minutes

03 JULY 2025 AT 16:00 HRS AT HEP:Inderwick Road, Crouch End N8 9JF

School Members		
Headteachers		
Special (1)	(A)Martin Doyle (Riverside)	
Nursery Schools (1)	(A)Sian McDermott (Rowland Hill)	
Primary (7)	(A)Mary Gardiner (West Green)	(A)Kate Stevens (St Aidan VC)
	Hina Shah (Earlsmead)	(A)Paul Murphy (Lancasterian)
	(A)Ian Scotchbrook (South Harringay)	(A)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)	(A)Michael McKenzie (Alexandra Park)	Angela Wallace (Mulberry Woodside Academy)
	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)
	(A)Oliver Simms (Alexandra Primary)	
	Helen Froggatt (St Aidan's VC)	(A)Jenny Thomas (Lordship Lane)
	Caroline Schloss (Alexandra Primary)	
Secondary Maintained (2)	Laurence Penn (Highgate Wood)	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	Cllr Ibrahim Ali	
Trade Union Representative	(A)Sharon Hodson	
Professional Association Representative	(A)Efe Kurtluoglu substitution for Ed Harlow	
Faith Schools	(A)Geraldine Gallagher	
CCCG Representative	(A)Adam Beral substitution for Christine Bianchin	
Early Years Providers	Susan Tudor-Hart	
Independent member	Will Wawn [Chair]	
Observers		

None	
Cabinet Member for CYPs	
Cllr Zena Brabazon	
Also Attending	
Corporate Director of Children's Services	(A)Ann Graham
Director, Schools & Learning	Jane Edwards
Director, Commissioning & Programmes	(A)Caroline Brain
Director, Early Help, Prevention & SEND	Jackie Difolco
Head of Service Integrated SEND	Karen Flanagan
Head of Schools Finance	(A)Neil Sinclair
Senior Finance Manager - Schools	Ali Muhammad
Head of Audit and Risk Management	Minesh Janih
Chief Executive HEP	James Page
Lead for Governor Services (HEP)	(A)Anne Etchells
Clerk (HEP)	Corinne David

(A) Absent

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; introductions were made.
- 1.2 Special welcome was made to Karen Flanagan and Minesh Janish.

2. APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS, OBSERVERS AND FORUM MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

- 2.1 Apologies for Absence were received and noted from:
 - Mary Gardiner (Headteacher: West Green).
 - Sian McDermott (Headteacher: Rowland Hill).
 - Paul Murphy (Headteacher: Lancasterian).
 - Kate Stevens (Headteacher: St Aidans).
 - Ian Scotchbrook (Headteacher: South Haringay).
 - Mike McKenzie (Headteacher: Alexandra Park).
 - Linda Sarr (Headteacher: Risley Avenue).
 - Martin Doyle (Headteacher: Riverside).
 - Gerry Robinson (Executive Headteacher HLP).
 - Oliver Simms (Governor: Alexandra Primary).
 - Ann Graham (Corporate Director of Children's Services).
 - Caroline Brain (Director, Commissioning & Programmes).
 - Neil Sinclair (Head of Finance - People (Interim)).
 - Vanessa Bateman (Deputy Head of Audit and Risk Management).
- 2.2 The Chair provided thanks and tribute to the following members for their services to Haringey and Schools Forum as they were stepping down from their position:
 - Phil Dileo (Governor: The Vale).
 - Kate Stevens (Headteacher: St Aidan's VC).
 - Jo Davey (Headteacher: Fortismere).
 - Helen Froggatt (Governor St Aidan's VC).
 - Paul Renny (Trade Union representative) retired in March with Sharon Hodson as replacement.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 No declaration of interests was 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 13 March 2025 were **AGREED** and **RATIFIED** as a correct record of the meeting.

4.2 Matters arising

- 4.2.1 Item 4.2.1 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.
All actions were noted as ongoing actions.
- 4.2.2 Item 4.2.2 Vice Chair Election
Election of Vice -Chair to be undertaken at the July meeting.
See item 7
- 4.2.3 Item 5.2 An update on the future direction of the High Needs Block Working Party to be received at the next meeting.
See item 8.2
- 4.2.4 Item 6.8 Chair and Vanessa Bateman/ Minesh Jani to follow up regarding financial audit check list.
See item 9
- 4.2.5 Item 6.18 Chair to approach other London Chairs of Schools' Forums regarding a joint approach to DfE on school funding levels.
The Chair had approached other London Schools' Forum Chairs, however there was a lack of appetite to take forward any actions. Noted that Barking and Dagenham had a similar local formula model and may be interested in a joint approach.
ACTION Cllr Ali to provide the details of B&D Schools Forum Chair to Will Wawn to allow approach.
- 4.2.6 Item 6.24a Cllr Brabazon to provide an update at the July meeting in regard to lobbying to DfE from other Lead Members.
See item 4.2.7.
- 4.2.7 Item 6.24b Cllr Brabazon and the Chair to review options of lobbying local Haringey MPs over school funding challenges.
There had been discussions with Kathy West MP; noting the issues with school funding was well known within local and central government. Noted that Cllr Brabazon would continue to lobby at all presenting opportunities. Action was closed.
- 4.2.8 Item 6.29 Finance and LA officers to review with secondary schools the best avenue to proceed.
The matter was referred to the next Schools' Forum for an update.

Secondary school representatives requested that a decision was reached by mid-September (before Q2 return) to allow for financial planning

5. FORUM MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

5.1 The Forum noted receipt of the paper titled “Schools’ Forum Membership and Terms of Reference”. Due to the size and distribution of the pupil population the report recommended the following changes within the primary representative groups:

- A reduction in the number of primary maintained headteacher and governor representatives by 1 to 6 Headteachers and 6 Governors.
- To increase the number of primary academy headteacher and governor representatives by 1 to 2 Headteachers and 2 Governors.
- The proposed changes would decrease maintained members by 2 and increase the number of academy members by 2. No changes in the overall number of places, was proposed.

5.1.1 The Chair sought agreement from the Forum to adopted the updated Terms of Reference and the Forum membership for 2025/26.

AGREED Forum Members approved the adoption of the allocation of Schools Forum places for 2025/26 and the Terms of Reference for 2025/26.

5.2 Long term vacancies on the Forum

The Clerk informed members that following positions had been vacant for at least one academic year, most cases longer, despite numerous recruitment campaigns:

- Maintained Secondary Headteacher (1 position).
- Academy Secondary Headteacher (1 position).
- Maintained Primary Governor (1 position).
- Maintained Secondary Governor (1 position).
- Academy Primary Governor (1 position).
- Academy Secondary Governor (2 positions).
- Alternative Provision Governor (1 position).

5.2.1 2025/26 vacancies

The Clerk noted that with known members leaving (item 2.2) and the changes to the forum memberships (item 4.1) vacancies for 2025/26 would be:

- Maintained Secondary Headteacher: 2 positions.
- Academy Primary Headteacher: 1 position. further noted that the current member had not be in attendance for over 1 year – this could rise to 2 positions.
- Academy Secondary Headteacher: 1 position.
- Maintained Special Governor: 1 position.
- Maintained Primary Governors: 1 position. Further noted that a current member had not be in attendance for over 2 years – this could rise to 2 positions.
- Academy Primary Governors: 2 positions.
- Academy Secondary Governors: 2 positions
- Alternative Provision Governor: 1 position.

5.2.2 The Chair noted that it was not good practice for Schools’ Forum to continue in maintaining the current level of vacancies and suggested the number of representatives in each category could be reviewed; whilst the proportion within each category was maintained. Members discussed the pros and cons of modifying the Schools Forum membership and strategies to fill current vacancies.

ACTIONS

- a) Clerk to approach Dan Salem regarding a further primary governor nomination.
- b) Clerk to approach all NLCs in advertising the current vacancies to ensure a geographical balance.
- c) Clerk to approach Caroline Schloss regarding interest from Tom Spencer (Ferry Lane) in joining Schools' Forum
- d) Laurence Penn to raise Schools' Forum vacancies at the Secondary Chairs meeting.
- e) Long term vacancies and the Powers of Schools' Forum to be an agenda item at the next meeting.
- f) A short presentation about Schools' Forum at the next available governors briefing.

The Clerk took over as Chair for item 6.

6. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR

- 6.1 The Clerk sought nominations for the position of Chair for 2025/26. Forum Members nominated Will Wawn. No other nominations were made. Will Wawn confirmed that he was willing to stand as Chair for a further year.

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

Will Wawn took over as Chair.

7. ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR

- 7.1 The chair sought nominations for the position of Vice Chair for 2025/26. No Forum members were nominated or volunteered for the position.

ACTION Election of vice-Chair to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

8. UPDATE FROM WORKING PARTIES

- 8.1 Early Years Working Party.

The Early Years Working Party has not meet since January 2025. A meeting will be arranged before the next Schools' Forum meeting in October.

- 8.2 High Needs Working Party.

There were no further updates received. Noted that the working party had not met, since the onboarding and roll out of the Safety Valve Programme, as the work is now undertaken by the work streams of the Safety Valve Programme.

ACTION Chair to feedback to Martin Doyle that the High Needs Working Party has been superseded by the Safety Valve Programme and for the time being is not required. However, moving forward should there be a requirement then a group could be called for a focused piece of work.

- 8.3 Dedicated School Block working party.

No meetings have taken place since the last meeting.

9. OUTCOME OF INTERNAL AUDIT

- 9.1 Minesh Jani provided the Forum with a synopsis of the paper; noting that it had been circulated prior to the meeting. There was a general trend of improved assurance; a summary of outcomes for 2024/24 was noted as:

- 14 schools were scheduled to be audited; however, 1 was cancelled as the school was scheduled to be closed and 1 was deferred at the Headteacher's request.
- No schools received a 'nil' rating.

- Seven schools received limited assurances.
- Five schools received Adequate' or above' assurance rating.
- One school received an improved Assurance from their last audit.

9.2 The priority of the recommendations raised from the 12 audits undertaken were as follows:

- Priority 1 recommendation: 10.
- Priority 2 recommendations: 48.
- Priority 3 recommendations: 71.

9.3 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 a number of years and spend on them exceeds the thresholds for going out to tender.
- An Information Asset Register which outlined the data collected and utilised by the schools were not maintained, in line with the guidance issued by the Information Commissioner Office.

9.4 Members expressed their discontent in regard to Mazars practice and information sought by the auditing officers. Members provided an overview of their experiences and robustly shared their concerns of Mazars explaining they were seeking information which did not comply with the Haringey financial framework or mirrored other operational practices in Haringey. Further noted that schools felt that Mazars checklist appeared to be expanded beyond Haringey's requirements to include work practices of other LAs. Minesh Jani reassured members that Haringey has a programme which will be reviewed against Mazars' to ensure Mazars is compliant with Haringey's requirements. Further noted that for the next cycle of audits, auditors will attend the school site at least once. Minesh Jani agreed to share the audit programme and check list.

ACTION a) Audit to ensure there is alignment between Haringey's finance handbook, Haringey's programme and Mazars audit programme for Haringey Schools.

b) Audit to circulate the checklist template provided to Mazars, to all schools (Headteacher's, SBMs and Chair of Governors).

10. DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET OUTTURN 2024-2025

10.1 Ali Muhammad provided the Forum with a synopsis of the paper; noting that it had been circulated prior to the meeting. There has been a year-on-year decrease in the Central School Services Block rate per pupil of 2.5%. The High Needs Block has seen an increase in the funding rate as well as an increase in the number of pupils funded. However, there is a lag in funding the increased demand and the actual cost of per pupil expenditure currently exceeds the available budget.

10.2 A total budget of £139.86 million was allocated for 2024/25. 100% of the funding was passported to schools as budgeted, after the block transfer of 0.5% from the High Needs Block (£1,167,130), along with the block transfer of 0.05% (£122,000) to the Central School Services Block for the Education Welfare Service, and the allocation of £328,254 to the Growth Fund.

- 10.3 The Early Years Block started the year in a positive position, with a surplus of £742,278. A budget of £30.96 million was allocated, but actual spending came in lower at £29.88 million. The reported underspend was showing as £1.08 million. However, the following caveats on the underspend were noted as:
- a) The 2024/25 claw back total is unknown; but expected to be similar to 2023/24 (£423k).
 - b) The total committed amount from the 2023/24 carry forward (£742k) was yet to be determined pending further financial scrutiny.

ACTION a) LA to confirm current spend, commitments and uncommitted amounts and report to the Chair of the Early Years Working Party ASAP. With a written report to be received at the first meeting.
b) Schools Forum to receive a written report at the next meeting.

- 10.4 The High Needs Block spend will be monitored as part of the Safety Valve programme.
- 10.5 At the end of financial year 2024-25, 21 schools had a licenced deficit with the total amount outstanding of £2.947m in comparison to financial year 2023/24, 19 schools had a licenced deficit, when the total amount outstanding was £4.231m.
- 10.6 Further noted that Haringey Council will shortly be issuing a Terms of Reference document on "Schools in Financial Difficulty" to all maintained schools, identified as being in financial difficulty. Specifically, schools with a cumulative financial deficit exceeding £100,000 or 5% of their budget for primary schools, and £200,000 or 3% of their budget for secondary schools, will receive support from the "Schools in Financial Difficulty Group." The Terms of Reference will outline the expectations and procedures for these schools, including the requirement to report on and manage the repayment of their cumulative financial deficits in a structured and transparent manner.

11 SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME UPDATE

- 11.1 Jackie Difolco and Karen Flanagan took members through the May 2025 progress report. noting that it had been circulated prior to the meeting. The following highlights were notes:
- a) The SLCN pathway continues to be embedded ensuring consistent approach in all primary settings, the next stage will be to embed this with secondary settings
 - b) ASC resource provision at Earlsmead is being delivered 1 year ahead of schedule with 3 children attending; further 3/4 additional pupils are expected to be phased between now and March 2026 and up to capacity (15) by March 2028.
 - c) Riverside expansion was delivered a year early, with all children successfully phased in.
 - d) The Brook expansion is due for completion by September 2025 with 10 children starting and a further 8 admitted during 2026-2027. There is a slight delay to due capital works with interim plans in place for students starting in September, plan to be fully operational by end of Sept.
 - e) SEMH provision at Alexandra Primary is due for completion by September 2025 with 3 children starting in September. There is a similar situation as The Brook re: slight delay.
 - f) SEMH provision at Park View is expected to be completed by September 2026.
 - g) Within the statutory assessment team, increasing staff capacity has resulted in an increase of annual reviews being completed which is now averaging at 60%. There is work to do with schools to ensure that annual reviews are completed within a timely way.
 - h) SEND Supported Internships - there are 45 interns engaged in the programme. Recent graduation ceremony held for 10 young people with employers, coaches and parents and carers. Some of the young people have already secured part

time employment over the summer. From September there will be over 120 internships available from 8 employers with 40 courses.

- i) The introduction of the Early Years Inclusion Fund is continuing to work well, providing funded support for children aged under 5 without an EHCP. This is being monitored to ensure effectiveness.
- j) HLP post 16 provision has been extended until August 25 to enable provision to be developed. From September 25, HLP will return to being a PRU.
- k) The new bandings model is in place from this academic year. This will be reviewed with a paper brought to Schools Forum in Jan to confirm banding rates from April 26..

- 11.2 As the Safety Valve programme moves into the next phase of works, with a focus on embedding and reviewing the effectiveness of each project The need to report as frequently has reduced; therefore, Schools Forum will receive reports at every other meeting moving forward. Further noted that the programme steering board will now meet every 8 weeks.

12 CONTINUATION OF EAL INTEGRATION FOR YEAR 11 NEW ARRIVALS AND OUTREACH SUPPORT (GROWTH FUND)

- 12.1 Jane Edwards provided an overview of the paper titled 'Continuation of EAL Integration for Year 11 New Arrivals and Outreach Support (Growth Fund)'. There continued to be a significant number of in-year applications from families with Year 11 pupils arriving from overseas. This trend is particularly evident in the months immediately following the end of the Autumn Term. Following collaborative discussions with secondary Headteachers, the commissioning Team and the Schools and Learning Service. It was agreed that a resource provision be set up at Park View.
- 12.2 The curriculum offer at the Park View EAL provision includes ESOL Entry 1, Life in the UK, Mathematics, Reading, Art, E-Learning, ICT, Physical Education, Food & Nutrition, and a social curriculum delivered during form time. To ensure students were adequately prepared for post-16 education, the programme has incorporated career pathways guidance and support with college applications. Between January 2025 and May 2025, the Park View Integration Programme has admitted a total of 14 Year 11 EAL pupils from overseas.
- 12.3 Under the new proposed model, the service will begin accepting referrals through the Fair Access Panel from September 2025 and will operate with a capacity of up to 40 pupils (two classes of 20). the total proposed funding for the provision amounts to £184,594.
- 12.4 The recommended funding model proposes that 11% (£20,000) of the total cost be met from the AP Budget, with the remaining 89% (£164,594) funded through the Growth Fund. The Growth Fund is intended to address in-year pressures, and it is proposed that £164,594 be drawn from the £300,000 allocation reserved by Schools Forum for the 2025/26 financial year to support this provision.

The Chair sought a vote on the recommendation as detailed in 12.3 and 12.4.

Schools Forum UNANIMOUSLY AGREED the allocation of £164,594 of Growth Fund to Park View for the continuation of a Haringey Integration Programme for Year 11 EAL new arrivals and outreach support.

13 PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2025-2026

- 13.1 The proposed meeting dates for Schools Forum for 2025/26 were noted as:
- Thursday 16 October 2025 at 4pm: face to face.
 - Thursday 4 December 2025 at 4pm.
 - Thursday 15 January 2026 at 4pm.
 - Thursday 12 February 2026 at 4pm.
 - Thursday 19 March 2026 at 4pm.

- Thursday 2 July 2026 at 4pm.

13.2 The Chair noted that the minimum number of meetings required were 5. Noted that there may not be a requirement to hold the December meeting. A final determination on this will be made at the October meeting.

14 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

14.1 No AOB items were received.

The Chair closed the meeting at 5:50pm

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT FOR 16 OCTOBER 2025 MEETING

ITEM	ACTION	LEAD
4.2.1	<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
4.2.5	Cllr Ali to provide the details of Barking and Dagenham Schools Forum Chair to Will Wawn to allow approach regarding a joint approach to DfE on school funding levels.	WW & Cllr Ali
4.2.8	Finance and LA officers to review with secondary schools the best avenue to proceed with a verbal updated at the next meeting.	NS & AM
5.2.2	<u>Forum Membership</u> a) Clerk to Dan Salem regarding a further primary governor nomination. b) Clerk to approach all NLCs in advertising the current vacancies to ensure a geographical balance. c) Clerk to approach Caroline Schloss regarding interest from Tom Spencer (Ferry Lane) in joining Schools Forum d) Laurence Penn to raise Schools Forum vacancies at the Secondary Chairs meeting. e) Long term vacancies and the Powers of School Forum to be an agenda item at the next meeting. f) A short presentation about schools Forum at the next available governors briefing.	Clerk/DS Clerk Clerk/CS LP Clerk/WW HEP/ WW
7.1	Election of vice-Chair to be an agenda item at the next meeting.	Clerk
8.2	<u>HNB</u> Chair to feedback to Martin Doyle that the High Needs Working Party has been superseded by the Safety Valve Programme and for the time being is not required. However, moving forward should there be a requirement then a group could be called for a focused piece of work.	WW/MD
9.4	<u>Audit</u> a) Audit to ensure there is alinement between Haringey's finance handbook, Haringey's programme and Mazars audit	Audit

	<p>programme for Haringey Schools.</p> <p>b) Audit to circulate the checklist template provided to Mazar, to all schools (Headteacher's, SBMs and Chair of Governors).</p>	Audit
10.3	<p><u>EYB</u></p> <p>a) LA to confirm current spend, commitments and uncommitted amounts and report to the Chair of the Early Years Working Party ASAP. With a written report to be received at the first meeting.</p> <p>b) Schools Forum to receive a written report at the next meeting.</p>	<p>NS & AM</p> <p>NS & AM</p>