

## Haringey Schools Forum Minutes

16 October 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)	Sian McDermott (Rowland Hill)	
Primary (6)	(A)Mary Gardiner (West Green)	Bola Soneye-Thomas (Rokesly Junior School)
	(A)Hina Shah (Earlsmead)	(A)Paul Murphy (Lancasterian)
	Lucy Walker-Collins (Stroud Green)	(A)Linda Sarr (Risley Avenue)
Secondary (2)	(A)Paul Bernard (Gladesmore)	(A)Patrick Cozier (Highgate Wood)
Primary Academy (1)		
Secondary Academies (3)	(A)Michael McKenzie (Alexandra Park)	Angela Wallace (Mulberry Woodside Academy)
	(A)Elen Roberts (Heartlands High)	
Alternative Provision (1)	(A)Gerry Robinson (Executive Headteacher HLP)	
Governors		
Special (1)		
Nursery School (1)	(A)Melian Mansfield (Pembury)	
Primary Maintained (6)	Caroline Schloss (Alexandra Primary)	Dan Salem (Stroud Green Primary)
	Vacancy	Vacancy
	Vacancy	Vacancy
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	(A)Cllr Ibrahim Ali	
Trade Union Representative	(A)Sharon Hodson	
Professional Association Representative	(A)Efe Kurtluoglu	
Faith Schools	(A)Geraldine Gallagher	
CCCG Representative	(A)Adam Beral	
Early Years Providers	Susan Tudor-Hart	
Independent member	Will Wawn [Chair]	
Observers		
None		
Cabinet Member for CYPS		

Cllr Zena Brabazon	
<b>Also Attending</b>	
Corporate Director of Children's Services	(A)Ann Graham
Director, Schools & Learning	(A)Jane Edwards
Director, Commissioning & Programmes	(A)Caroline Brain
Director, Early Help, Prevention & SEND	Jackie Difolco
Head of Service Integrated SEND	(A) Karen Flanagan
Head of Schools Finance	Neil Sinclair
Senior Finance Manager - Schools	Ali Muhammad
Principal Education Welfare Officer	Salma Rahman
Interim Principal Advisor for Early Years	(A)Akwal Gill
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; introductions were made.

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

- 2.1 Apologies for Absence were received and noted from:

- Paul Murphy (Headteacher: Lancasterian).
- Mike Mckenzie (Headteacher: Alexandra Park).
- Linda Sarr (Headteacher: Risley Avenue).
- Hina Shah (Headteacher: Earlsmead)
- Gerry Robinson (Executive Headteacher HLP).
- Jane Edwards (Director Schools & Learning).
- Karen Flanagan (Head of Service: Integrated SEND)
- Melian Mansfield (Governor: Pembury)

- 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:

- Ian Scotchbrook (Headteacher: south Haringey School).
- Oliver Simms (Governor: Alexandra Primary).

- 2.3 The Chair informed the forum that the following position had been recruited to
- Secondary Headteachers: Paul Bernard (Gladesmore) and Patrick Cozier (Highgate Wood)
  - Secondary Academy Headteacher: Elen Roberts (Heartlands High).

Noted that those new persons will be confirmed onto the forum at the next meeting.

- 2.4 The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was not quorate.

## 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 3 July 2025 were noted 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.

Actions b and c were noted as completed. Actions a and d were noted as ongoing.

- 4.2.2 Item 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.

Action was closed.

- 4.2.3 Item 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.

Action was closed.

- 4.2.4 Item 5.2.2 Forum Membership

- 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.

Actions e and f were noted as completed. All other actions were noted as ongoing.

- 4.2.5 Item 7.1 Election of vice-Chair to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

On going action

- 4.2.6 Item 8.2 HNB

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.

Action was closed.

- 4.2.7 Item 9.4 Audit

- 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 Mazar, to all schools (Headteacher's, SBMs and Chair of Governors).

**ACTION** Chair to confirm actions had been completed.

4.2.8 Item 10.3 EYB

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.

Action was noted as ongoing

**5. EDUCATION WELFARE SERVICE**

Receipt of the paper was deferred until the next meeting, as the forum was not quorate.

**6. 2026-2027 DSG FUNDING MODEL STRATEGY**

6.1 Muhammad Ali took the forum through the paper. It was noted that item 2.1 illustrated the provisional factor values for the 2026–27 National Funding Formula (NFF). The structure and funding factors used in the 2026–27 NFF will remain consistent with those applied in the 2025–26 cycle. Noted that the LA continues to have control over the minimum per pupil funding levels. Noted that the drop in pupil numbers further affects the overall amounts coming into the LA.

6.2 The Schools' Forum noted the consultation timeline as detailed within 3.3.

6.3 The Schools' Forum noted the proposed 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, and the transfer of £122,000 from the Schools Block to the Central Services Schools Block (CSSB) for the disapplication request to the Secretary of State by the deadline of 17 November 2025.

6.4 The Schools' Block Working Group will meet in November to agree on the funding models to be included in the consultation; with recommendation received at the Schools' Forum meeting in January 2026. The Schools' Forum will review and approve the proposed funding formula and Authority Proforma Tool (APT) based on consultation feedback.

6.5 Noted that Schools' Forum would receive a paper at the January meeting detailing the 2026/27 SEND band fundings. Noted that the SEND team are modelling different financial settlements to establish potential impact, recognising that there are budgetary pressures on schools and therefore would be really challenging to increase the block transfer from the schools block to the high needs block beyond 0.5%. JD highlighted that the Safety Valve agreement was modelled on 3% inflation, however this has fluctuated, and instruction was given to model our DSG management plan on 2.3% for future years. Modelling scenarios include:

- a. Inflation at the same as 25-26 at 7% would mean we should be able to continue with the status quo and bandings remaining the same, however this is dependent on demand and rising costs of independent placements projected.
- b. Lower inflation rates would result in financial amounts attached to bandings being reduced.

Higher inflation rates would result in the banding rates remaining the same.

- 6.6 Schools' Forum agreed, and noted previous year's convention, to delegate to the Schools Block working group the local authority formula models for 2026-27 for consultation with schools in October/November 2025.

## **7 EARLY YEARS BLOCK 2024-25 FINAL OUTTURN AND 2025-26 OPENING UPDATE**

- 7.1 Receipt of the paper was deferred until the next meeting, as the forum was not quorate.

## **8 UPDATE FROM WORKING PARTIES**

### **8.1 Early Years Working Party.**

The Forum was informed that there had been two meetings on 2 October and 16 October. A further meeting had been arranged for 10 November to review possible proposal for the EYWP to fund through the underspend.

**ACTION**      Minutes from the EYWP to be received at the December meeting.

- 8.2 Dedicated School Block working party.  
No updates had been received.

## **9 PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2025-2026**

- 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.

## **10 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Agenda item for the next meeting was noted as: procurement working group

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 4:50pm

## AGENDA

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) 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  HEP
4.2.4	<u>Forum Membership</u> a) Clerk to contact 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.	Clerk/DS  Clerk  Clerk/CS  LP
4.2.5	Election of vice-Chair to be an agenda item at the next meeting.	Clerk
4.2.7	<u>Audit</u> a) Audit to ensure there is alinement between Haringey's finance handbook, Haringey's programme and Mazars audit programme for Haringey Schools.  b) Audit to circulate the checklist template provided to Mazar, to all schools (Headteacher's, SBMs and Chair of Governors).  <b>ACTION</b> <u>Chair to confirm actions had been completed.</u>	Audit  Audit  Chair
4.2.8	<u>EYB</u> 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.	NS & AM  NS & AM
8.1	Minutes from the EYWP to be received at the December meeting.	Clerk
10.1	Agenda item for the next meeting was noted as: procurement working group	Clerk