

**Schools Forum Early Years Working Group
2 October 2025 on-line at 9am**

Name	Designation/ Representation
Melian Mansfield (MM)	CHAIR. Chair of Pembury House Nursery School
*Gladys Baah-Okyere (GBO)	PVI Settings Rep
Luisa Bellavita (LB)	PVI Settings Rep
Joanna Conroy (JC)	Childminder
Duwan Farquharson (DF)	Willow Director of Business
Sian McDermott (SMcD)	Nursery Head SF Rep (Rowland Hill & WPNC)
Susan Tudor-Hart (ST-H)	V Chair. School Forum PVI Settings Rep
Melanie Widnall (MW)	Principal Advisor for Early Years
Cllr Zena Brabazon (ZB)	Lead Member
Ridhwaan Edoo (RE)	Early Years Finance Team
Lucy Walker-Collins (LW-C)	Primary Head Rep (Stroud Green Primary School)
*Fiona Crean (FC)	Headteacher Rep (Belmont Infants)
Avril Parker-Roach (AP-R)	Childminder Rep
*Hussain Sofiean (HS)	Strategic Business Lead CYPS
Lewis Anthony (LA)	Early Years Finance Team
Muhammad Ali (MA)	Senior Finance Officer - Schools
Ese Anyia (EA)	Interim Schools Account – Schools
Jane Edwards (JE)	Director, Schools and Learning
Also Present	
Corinne David (CD)	Governance Officer
Will Wawn (WW)	Chair of Schools Forum

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

MM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MM invited all persons present to introduce themselves.

2. Terms of Reference

2.1 The Terms of Reference for the Early Years working group dated June 2023 were received and shared with members. Members discussed the membership and noted:

- JE was standing in for Nick Hewlett.
- Patricia Harvey had left the authority. MA would replace Patricia Harvey.
- Storm Moncur, child minder; had left.
- For Cllr Zena Brabazon to continue as a co-opted member (without voting rights) mirroring Schools Forum set up.

2.2 It was accepted that Headteacher representatives could have a substitute; providing that person had sufficient EYs knowledge.

2.3 Noted that the Chair was elected on a three-year cycle.

3. Local Authority Update

- 3.1 JE provided apologies that there had been no EYWP meetings since January 2025. Noted that wider Haringey nursery circumstances had taken priority coupled which reduced officer capacity had resulted in the current situation.

4. DfE updates

- 4.1 MW provided the group with an update; the following highlights were noted:
- New EYFS Ofsted framework.
 - Further funded entitlements funded by the DfE.
 - Further information on wrap around and school-based nurseries.
 - Noted that PVI's are struggling with funding and pupil numbers.
 - Noted that LWC was on the DfE school-based nursery working group.
 - Information is shared via the school's bulletin, EY strategy group, EY bulletin, PVI group and NLC Chairs group.
 - Year one of the wrap around programme has been completed; a variety of settings have been funded. Moved into year Two of the programme with further places being created with a focus on SEND expansions.
 - Three primary schools have participated in the breakfast club earlier adopter scheme.
 - 18 September the DfE published guidance on establishing school-based nursery provision.

ACTION

a) Power point on wrap around and school-based nurseries to be circulated to the EYWP.

b) School-based nursery to be an item at the NLC Chairs meeting.

c) Officers to provide the detail of the July 2026 EYFS clawback once known.

- 4.2 DfE had circulated details of phase two school nurseries. The DfE are seeking for school-based nursery's to be all day (8am to 6pm) and operate 48 weeks per year. The DfE agenda for the second and third round is a focus on children from the most disadvantaged areas. There have been expansions and additional spaces within the PVI sector and primary schools. Some PVI providers have opened up in primary schools. There are different models available which will allow access to the funding.
- 4.3 Noted that long standing PVI settings are now closing down due to a lack of funding and declining pupil numbers. Further noted that Haringey are committed to a variety of EY settings and childcare; however, it is the DfE / government policy and how the funding is packaged that is driving towards school setting provision. The funding is ring fenced. Reassurances were provided to members that the council and Cllr Brabazon would continue to lobby DfE / government regarding the funding for the whole EY sector including PVI settings.

5. Early Years Block Schools Forum paper

- 5.1 JE shared the Schools Forum paper titled: 'Early Years block 2024/25 final outturn and 2025/26 opening'. The paper provided an overview of why there was a difference in the funding; details of different grant allocations for 2024/25 were provided in paragraph 2.1.

- 5.2 The final July 2025 EY DSG allocation confirms a £166k clawback, resulting in a final closing balance of £1,569,154. The main reason for the low clawback was noted as heavy promotion and marketing of the free entitlement resulting in high numbers of families accessing provision. The EYWP had committed £232k for work with the Anchor project and EY conference. Resulting in a balance of £1,337,154. Once the £912,152 is accounted for (as discussed at previous meetings) the final uncommitted outturn is £425k – which corresponds to the amount the EYWP sought clarification on before moving forward with potential projects.
- 5.3 Discussions were held regarding the reserves with the suggestion that the EYWP made strategic decisions regarding the allocation of £425k, by January 2026. It was further suggested that the £912k, should currently be left untouched until the settlement for 2026/27 is known; with future plans compiled once the funding landscape is known.
- 5.4 Officers noted that the EYB was continuing to contribute to the Safety Valve Programme. For 2025/26 this totalled £360k which had already been passported from the EYB to HNB. The contribution for 2026/27 will be £540k. Further noted that the funding from the DfE for the hourly rates of under 2s and 2YO resulted in a significant uplift. This may not be as generous next financial year. Once the cumulative contribution to the safety valve is applied to the HNB it may impact the base rate. Officers noted that it was prudent accounting to have a contingency to mitigate against current unknown.

6. Impact / evaluation of Anchor project

Item deferred until the next meeting.

7. June conference cancellation and new plans

Due to circumstances within Haringey; the June conference was cancelled. A new conference would be planned for Summer 2026.

8. Spending of the reserve

- 8.1 Discussions on areas to spend the £425k were held with members; the following potential areas were suggested:

- Supporting children from the poorest social circumstances who don't qualify for the additional hours as the parents aren't in work; but need the support.
- A small fund for social care (children with a CP or LAC or Early Help) to access 30 hours childcare.
- Small fund for children that do an extra year in EY settings; before going to school.
- Nursery schools were running an EY conference at a cost £6k offering 85 places to EY practitioners.
- Leap project funding is dwindling; perhaps continuing to support funding for projects that already have proven successful.

EYWP AGREED to fund £6k for the Nursery Schools EY

- ACTION**
- a) Members to start compiling ideas about how support for families in difficult economic circumstances, to access 30 hours nursery provision would look like.
 - b) SMcD to circulate the criteria for settings to access the fund which supports children doing an extra year in EYs settings.
 - c) Members to receive a breakdown of funds used to support children doing an extra year in EY settings.

The next EYWP meeting was AGREED for 16 October at 11am on line via Teams.

The Chair closed the meeting at 10:10am

ACTIONS

Item	Action	Lead
4.1	<p>a) Power point on wrap around and school-based nurseries to be circulated to the EYWP.</p> <p>b) School-based nursery to be an item at the NLC Chairs meeting.</p> <p>c) Officers to provide the detail of the July 2026 EYFS clawback once known.</p>	<p>CD</p> <p>JE</p> <p>Haringey</p>
8.1	<p>a) Members to start compiling ideas about how support for families in difficult economic circumstances, to access 30 hours nursery provision would look like.</p> <p>b) SMcD to circulate the criteria for settings to access the fund which supported children doing an extra year in EYs settings.</p> <p>c) Members to receive a breakdown of funds used to support children doing an extra year in EY settings.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>SMcD</p> <p>Officer</p>