

**SCHOOLS FORUM EARLY YEARS WORKING GROUP**  
**10 NOVEMBER 2025 ON-LINE AT 2PM**  
**MINUTES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation/ Representation</b>
Melian Mansfield (MM)	<b>CHAIR.</b> 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
Akwai Gill (AG)	Interim Principal Advisor for Early Years
Melanie Widnall (MW)	Principal Advisor for Early Years
Cllr Zena Brabazon (ZB)	Lead Member
Ridhwaan Edoo (RE)	Early Years Finance Team
Rhonda Scott (RS) AHT Lucy Walker Collins (LW-C) - HT	Primary Head Rep (Stroud Green Primary School)
*Avril Parker-Roach (AP-R)	Childminder Rep
*Hussain Sofiean (HS)	Strategic Business Lead CYPS
*Lewis Anthony (LA)a	Early Years Finance Team
*Muhammad Ali (MA)	Senior Finance Officer - Schools
Ese Anyia (EA)	Interim Schools Account – Schools
Jane Edwards (JE)p	Director, Schools and Learning
<b>Also Present</b>	
Corinne David (CD)p	Governance Officer

\*denotes absent

**1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

MM welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
MM invited all persons present to introduce themselves.  
Apologies for absence were received and noted from LA.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 16 October**

2.1 The minutes from the meeting were reviewed and discussed with the following amendment noted:

- Item 2.2.1 c should read July 2025.
- Leap project should read LEEP project.

2.1.1 In relation to item 5.1, LB reiterated that the awards within the capital grants for school-based nurseries remained an iniquitous system against PVI settings.

**2.2 Matters arising**

2.2.1 Item 4.1b Noted that the next NLC Chairs meeting was scheduled for 28 November 2025; where School-based nursery to be an item.

- 2.2.2 Item 4.5 & 6 JE noted that the local plan has to be published by March 2026. Meetings with partner agencies will occur before Christmas.
- 2.2.3 Item 2.2b SMcD noted that the criteria had been shared with the LA; however, due to an emergency situation that took priority; this piece of work is yet to be completed.
- ACTION** a) JE to take forward the criteria for setting to access funds which supported children doing an extra year in EYs settings and share with the EYWP when available.
- b) RE to provide a report on the breakdown of funds used to support placements for children that do an extra year in EY settings; for the next meeting.
- 2.2.4 Item 4.8 & 4.9 The criteria from LB Islington have been received. The funds are larger and incorporates targeted SEND work. AG, LW-C and SMcD will be meeting to agree criteria for Haringey vulnerable learners. Work is ongoing and progressing.
- 2.2.5 Item 4.10 Noted that the £425k had to be committed by March 2026.
- 2.2.6 Item 4.13 LEEP project: see item 3.2
- 2.2.7 Item 5.3 Noted that the overview of successful applications in wave 1 capital grant to be provided by the LA, was an outstanding item.

### 3. PROPOSALS FOR USE OF THE £425K UNDERSPEND AND POTENTIAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

#### 3.1 EY Vulnerable Children's Panel.

ZB informed members that the new deprivation index has been published. The Stamford Hill area has been highlighted as an area of high deprivation in London. Noted that there are large numbers of young children in Tottenham.

- 3.1.1 LB noted that there are a significant number of places offering 15 hours childcare for disadvantage children; however, they appeared not to be taking in the children for various reasons.
- 3.1.2 The premiss behind the proposal was that there are vulnerable children that either had SEND, their parents had SEND, parents may have low mood, aspects of a child's environment that impact them before their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday which affects them in later schooling. The idea is around early intervention and accessing settings earlier. Noted that work on the criteria was currently being undertaken by AG, LW-C and SMcD.
- 3.1.3 JE noted that different families may require different support, i.e. extra hours, funding for lunches; which all settings can access. JE suggested that work on the criteria is undertaken to make sure they are right for Haringey, then allocated a sum of money which is reviewed on a quarterly basis. LW-C requested the average cost of 1 day provision for a 1-year-old, 2-year-old and 3-year-old to have some costing baselines.

**ACTIONS** a) AW to provide baseline childcare costs as reported from the childcare sufficiency report.

b) AG, LW-C and SMcD to draft the Terms of Reference, criteria for Haringey vulnerable learners, identify potentially how many children could access the fund and what that may cost.

3.2 LEEP project funding.

MW provided a verbal report on the reach of the LEEP project which has been delivered over two years with:

- 11 Children centre
- 4 Family Hubs
- 29 Primary Schools
- 32 Childminders
- 107 PVI and LA nursery
- 61 Home visits (HLE)
- 458 Early Years professionals have been training and over 1500 children screened.
- Over 800 parents and carers have had engagement with LEEP
- The project has been very supportive and beneficial in Early Identification and Early Help work.

3.2.1 Family hubs have secured further funded which could be allocated to the home learning strand; which would afford LEEP to continue with the two workers. The funding for the lead officer position still required securing. MW enquired if the post could be secured through the EY underspend. On an annual basis the oncosts for the lead officer was noted as £45k. Noted that there are discussions to be had in the future should the funding only be secured for one year. Noted that the NHS undertook an evaluation of LEEP last year; there hasn't been one this year.

**ACTION** MW to provide an evaluation for the last year's LEEP work.

**EYWP AGREED the allocation of £45k, for one year, to the LEEP Project to ensure the Lead officer and project continues with its current model.**

3.3 Children doing an extra year in EY setting fund.

See item 2.2.3. Noted that there was an in-principal agreement within the group, however some further modelling work on costs were required.

**ACTION** RE to provide a report on the breakdown of funds used to support placements for children that do an extra year in EY settings; for the next meeting.

3.4 Holiday provision fund for under 5s.

The proposal would be for revenue money to provide summer holiday 2026 activities for under 5s who would fit one of the deprivation / vulnerable learner criterions. JE suggested that settings could apply for funding, similar to the way settings apply for HEF funding. To allow equitable access, potentially having an East, Middle and West offer, which would be open for bids. A determination would have to be made on criteria. Noted the funding would be for a period of 4 weeks to each area (equivalent of 12 weeks funding) during the summer holiday period.

**ACTION** a) LA to provide costing analysis and bidding framework (similar to HEF criteria).

b) JE to invite Charlotte from HEF to support with the bidding framework.

3.5 Disadvantaged two's who are not in settings.

ST-H noted that from previous discussions there were a substantial number of disadvantaged 2's who, for whatever reason, were not in a setting. However, there may be some that could / would benefit from targeted support. ST-H enquired whether officers felt all avenues have been exhausted and if it would be a sensible use of funds. Members enquired if the next steps would be targeting of particular communities.

**ACTION** AG to ask Christen Yannis to provide an update on the current funded entitlement for 2-year-olds, characteristics of the families not taking up the entitlement, costs, along with a summary of the work undertaken.

3.6 Any other proposals as received by the LA.

No other proposals were received.

3.7 Current agreed allocations of funding were noted as:

- £6k for the nursery conference led by HEYSA.
- £45k for LEEP.

3.8 EYWP agreed that proposals would be shared with Schools Forum at the meeting scheduled for 12 February 2026.

**4. ANY UPDATED FROM THE LA**

4.1 JE noted that a new EY curriculum was launched on Friday 7 November 2025. Noted that school readiness refers to a child's entry point into Year 1.

**ACTION** LA to share GLD modelling tool at the next meeting.

**5. DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The date for the next EYWP meeting was agreed as: 19 January 2026 at 10am. A provisional meeting was agreed for 22 January 2026 at 12pm in case an extra meeting was required.

5.1 Agenda items

- EYs funding formula/rates.
- Funding allocation proposals for the £425k underspend.

**6. A.O.B.**

6.1 Members suggested that the new deprivation information was modelled within the new funding formula. Noted that RE had sought updated IDACI information to allow the formula to be updated. Noted that the budget setting will take place in the new year. The websites providing information on the new indices of deprivation for 2025 were noted as:

[English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release - GOV.UK](#)

[England's most deprived areas named - with Jaywick topping list - BBC News](#)

The Chair closed the meeting at 3:30pm