

## Haringey Schools Forum Minutes

12 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 16:00 HRS Vitrual via TEAMS

School Members		
<b>Headteachers</b>		
<b>Special (1)</b>	(A)Dawn Woodcock (The Vale)	
<b>Nursery Schools (1)</b>	(A)Sian McDermott (Rowland Hill)	
<b>Primary (6)</b>	Leon Choueke (Coleridge)	Bola Soneye-Thomas (Rokesly Junior School)
	Hina Shah (Earlsmead)	(A)Stephanie Clarke (Alexandra)
	Mandi Howells (Muswell Hill)	Linda Sarr (Risley Avenue)
<b>Secondary (2)</b>	Paul Bernard (Gladesmore)	Patrick Cozier (Highgate Wood)
<b>Primary Academy (1)</b>	Vacancy	
<b>Secondary Academies (3)</b>	(A)Michael McKenzie (Alexandra Park)	(A)Angela Wallace (Mulberry Woodside Academy)
	Elen Roberts (Heartlands High)	
<b>Alternative Provision (1)</b>	(A)Gerry Robinson (Executive Headteacher HLP)	
Governors		
<b>Special (1)</b>	Nofer Fari (The Brook)	
<b>Nursery School (1)</b>	Melian Mansfield (Pembury)	
<b>Primary Maintained (6)</b>	Caroline Schloss (Alexandra)	Dan Salem (Stroud Green)
	Rosemary Silverman (Risley Avenue)	Vacancy
	Vacancy	Vacancy
<b>Secondary Maintained (2)</b>	Laurence Penn (Highgate Wood)	(A)Sylvia Dobie (Park View)
<b>Primary Academy (1)</b>	Vacancy	
<b>Secondary Academies (3)</b>	Vacancy	Vacancy
	Vacancy	
<b>Alternative Provision (1)</b>	Vacancy	
Non-School Members		
<b>Non-Executive Councillor</b>	Vacancy	
<b>Trade Union Representative</b>	(A)Sean Fox	
<b>Professional Association Representative</b>	(A)Efe Kurtluoglu and Ed Harlow substitute member: Emily Dydymaska	
<b>Faith Schools</b>	Geraldine Gallagher	
<b>CCCG Representative</b>	(A)Adam Beral	
<b>Early Years Providers</b>	Susan Tudor-Hart	
<b>Independent member</b>	Will Wawn [Chair]	
Observers		

<b>Cabinet Member for CYPS</b>	
Cllr Zena Brabazon	
<b>Also Attending</b>	
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	(A)Karen Flanagan
Head of Schools Finance	Neil Sinclair
Senior Finance Manager - Schools	Ali Muhammad
Chief Executive HEP	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.

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

2.1 Apologies for absence were received and noted from:

- Dawn Woodcock (Headteacher: The Vale)
- Sian McDermott (Headteacher: Rowland Hill)
- Stephanie Clarke (Headteacher: Alexandra)
- Sylvia Dobie (Governor: Park View)
- Efe Kurtluoglu (NEU)
- Ann Graham (Corporate Director of Children's Services)
- Karen Flanagan (Head of Service Integrated SEND)
- Caroline Brain (Director, Commissioning & Programmes)

2.2 The Clerk informed School's Forum that Lucy Walker-Collins (Headteacher: Stroud Green) had stepped down from the forum.

2.3 The Chair welcomed Mandi Howells (Headteacher: Muswell Hill) and Nofer Fari (Governor: The Brook) as new members to the forum. The Chair also welcomed Emily Dydymaska as a substitute member for Efe Kurtluoglu.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 No declarations of interest were made.

## **4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1 The minutes of the Schools Forum meeting held on 15 January 2026 were confirmed and approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment:  
Item 6.8.4: Noted that the vote was undertaken by phase with each representative for each separate phased asked for their vote. Within each phase the vote was unanimous in favour of the recommendation.

### 4.2 Matters arising

4.2.1 Item 1.2 Chair, on behalf of Schools Forum, to write a thank you letter to Laura's family acknowledging all of Laura's dedication, hard work and commitment.

Action was completed and closed.

4.2.2 Item 2.2 Cllr Brabazon to source a new non-executive Councillor to sit on Schools Forum.

Action was noted as ongoing.

- 4.2.3 Item 4.2.2 Vacancies on the School's Forum membership  
All members to continue recruitment through all avenues to appoint to vacant positions.
- 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 continual actions. The Chair provided a presentation at the recent LA briefing for Headteacher and Governors on 2 February. The information had been circulated to the school sector.
- 4.2.4 Item 4.2.3 Laurence Penn to raise Schools Forum vacancies at the next Secondary Chairs meeting.
- Laurence Penn had brought up the secondary sector vacancies at the recent Chairs meeting. Action was completed and closed.
- 4.2.5 Item 4.2.4 Members to inform the Chair if they are interested in taking up the position of Vice-Chair
- Action was noted as an ongoing.
- 4.2.6 Item 4.2.5 Chair to double check with audit that information/check list will be circulated to schools in a timely manner/before the start of the new school financial year.
- Ali Muhammad had been in liaison with the Audit Team and provided an updated from Governance and Finance. Audit Team have been asked to share the updated information with schools and Mazars.
- ACTION** Chair to email Audit to ensure the audit check list is shared with schools and Chairs of Governors.
- 4.2.7 Item 4.2.6 An update to be provided in regards to discussions relating to collective school procurement. Either at the March or July meeting.
- A small working group has been convened including Mandi Howells, Dan Salem, Ali Muhammad, Will Wawn and an SBM. There has been an initial conversation with the Head of Procurement. There will be a meeting with the DfE procurement team; which will allow an understanding of the opportunities and set a savings goal.
- ACTION** Receive a Terms of Reference and plan at the next meeting.
- 4.2.8 Item 4.2.9 Members to contact the Chair if they were interested in joining the DSG school block work party for autumn 2026 term.
- Action was noted as an ongoing.
- 4.2.9 Item 6.5a Ali Muhammad to share the anonymised free text responses in the consultation relating to the 0.5% transfer to the high needs block with Jackie Difolco to allow for any misunderstandings to be addressed and explain how funding is/are being used.
- Action was completed and closed.
- 4.2.10 Item 6.5b Jackie Difolco to share progress reports from the Safety Valve Programme with Elen Roberts, Karen Flanagan to take the most recent

progress report to next Secondary Heads meeting 27 January.

Action was completed and closed.

- 4.2.11 Item 6.7 Ali Muhammad to share the anonymised free text responses in the consultation relating to the de-delegation for Trade Union Representation allow for any misunderstandings to be addressed and explain how funding is/are being used.

Action was completed and closed.

## **5. UPDATE FROM WORKING PARTIES**

### **5.1 Early Years Working Party**

Members formally receive the minutes from the meeting held on 10 November 2025. Noted that the EYWP had met on 19 January 2026 and 22 January 2026; the work formed the report received in item 6.

## **6. EARLY YEARS BLOCK 2025-26 UPDATE AND BUDGET SETTING 2026-27**

- 6.1 Jane Edwards took members through the paper titled: 'Early Years Block 2025-26 update and budget setting 2026-27'.

6.2 The Early Years Block indicative allocations for 2026/27 reports an increase of 16% £6.3m due to additional funding for 2-year-old working families and under 2's expansion of the 30-hour entitlement. This funding is earmarked for formula purposes (97% pass through rate) and must be allocated to settings and early years provision. The LA is permitted to retain £1.3m (3%) for administration/central purposes from 2026/27 allocations.

6.3 There will be a shortfall of £174,000 in the centrally retained budget for 2026/2027. The revised budget will total £1,314,495.00. The Director of Commissioning and the Director for Schools and Learning will review the impact and determine how best to mitigate any risk to service delivery and impact on early years providers.

6.4 As part of the Safety Valve programme, it had been agreed that the Early Years Block will make a cumulative contribution year on year to the High Needs Block. The methodology of the contribution for 2026/2027 is based on the total cost of £540,000 apportioned against each of the early years funded entitlements. Jackie Difolco informed the Forum that the actual cost for this financial year of the EY Inclusion Fund (children with SEND but without an EHCP) has been £837k. From 2027/28 there will be an ongoing commitment from the Early Years Block to the High Needs Block for children with SEND but without an EHCP. Data analysis will be undertaken to ensure the contribution is based on an informed modelling approach.

6.5 The DfE have not provided an allocation for the Teachers Pay & Pension Grant (TPPG) for 2026/2027 therefore various 3-&4-year-old hourly rate options were reviewed to ensure maintained schools did not incur any losses should they have received the TPPG as a separate payment.

6.6 The quality supplement for development of peer-to-peer support between settings will remain at £76k.

- 6.7 The Early Years Working Group recommends the adoption of the following net hourly rates for 2026/27:
- The Early Years Pupil Premium rate for eligible children: £1.15
  - Hourly Rate for Under 2's working family entitlement: £13.99
  - Hourly Rate for 2YO working family entitlement/ additional support: £10.07
  - Base rate for all 3- and 4-year-olds: £6.89
    - Deprivation rate for those eligible pupils who qualify for EYPP: 20p
- 6.8 As of January 2026, the Early Years funding reserves totals £1,569,154. The Early Years Working Group has committed £232,000 of the carry forward for an Early Years Conference and a contribution to the LEEP project using reserves carried forward from financial year 2023/2024 totaling £425,332. The Early Years Working Group is currently working on the following proposals which will be costed and the amounts will be reported at the next Schools' Forum meeting. The proposed projects were noted as:
- Priority Early Learning Places.
  - Deferred entry to reception fund.
  - Access to EYs holiday provision for vulnerable families.
- 6.8.1 Any remaining underspend will be evenly distributed between all early year's settings; methodology to be determined.
- 6.9 The Chair moved the Forum to a vote on the 2026/27 principles of funding allocation and childcare rates.
- 6.9.1 To agree with the 2026/27 funding allocation principles as detailed within the report.  
**Members unanimously agreed the funding allocation principles.**  
There were no abstentions or disagreement with the funding allocation principles.
- 6.9.2 To agree the base rate for all 3- and 4-year-olds of £6.89 with a 20p deprivation rate  
**Members unanimously agreed the 3- and 4-year-old base rate and deprivation rate.**  
There were no abstentions or disagreement with the proposal.
- 6.9.3 To agree the hourly rate for 2yo working family entitlement/ additional support of £10.07.  
**Members unanimously agreed the 2yo working family entitlement/ additional support rate.**  
There were no abstentions or disagreement with the proposal.
- 6.9.4 To agree the hourly rate for under 2's working family entitlement of £13.99.  
**Members unanimously agreed under 2's working family entitlement rate.**  
There were no abstentions or disagreement with the proposal.
- 6.9.5 The Chair sought an in-principal agreement from Schools Forum regarding the EYWP recommendation of spend up to £425k of accumulated reserves against the proposed projects detailed in 6.8 and 6.8.1. **Schools Forum provided an in-principal agreement to spend of up to £425k of accumulated reserves against the proposed projects detailed in 6.8 and 6.8.1.**

**ACTION**      To receive a costed and detail report on the proposed projects as detailed in 6.8 and 6.8.1, at the next meeting.

## 7 UNUSED GROWTH FUND 2025-26 DISTRIBUTION

- 7.1 Muhammad Ali took members through the paper titled 'Unused growth fund 2025/26 distribution'. In 2025-26 the growth fund was set at £328,254. There has been payment to two primary schools for oversized infant classes (£35,534) and one secondary for the EAL integration programme (£164,594). By the end of the financial year 2025/26 £128,126 would be unspent.
- 7.2 The recommendation was to distribute the unused growth fund back to primary schools only. The formula equates each pupil to the monetary value of £7 calculated as follows:

$$\left( \frac{\text{Total unused allocation}}{\text{Oct 2024 Census total primary pupil number}} \right) = \text{£7}$$

$\frac{\text{£128,126.66}}{18,307 \text{ statutory aged primary pupils}}$

- 7.3 Each primary school would receive a calculated amount based on the number of statutory aged pupils on roll for the October 2024 census, with each pupil worth £7. The October 2024 was used as it was this census that drove for the 2025/26 DSG funding envelope and allocation.
- 7.4 **Schools Forum agreed with the recommendation to distribute the unused growth fund back to primary schools using the methodology detailed in 7.2 and 7.3. With funds received within the March cash flow.**

**ACTION**      For 2026/27 the unused growth distribution model to include alternative options, including a formula for falling rolls.

## 8 DEDICATED SCHOOL GRANT (DSG) 2026/27 AND CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES (CSSB) BLOCK FUNDING

- 8.1 Muhammad Ali took members through the paper titled 'Dedicated School Grant (DSG) 2026/27 and Central Schools Services (CSSB) Block Funding', the following breakdown of CSSB funding for both LA managed services and commissioned services for 2026–27:
- Education Services Grant (ESG) £549k *including commissioned services £24k.*
  - Schools Standards – *commissioned service £263k*
  - Looked After Children Placements - £339k
  - Early Help £350k
  - Servicing of Schools' Forum – *commissioned service £9.7k*
  - Admissions - £318k
  - Governor Support – *commissioned services £127k*
  - Music and Performing Arts - £168k
  - Support Costs - £192k
  - Copyrights Licences – estimated £220k
  - Rolling in funding (TP, TPEG, CSBG & NIC) – estimated £146K
  - CSSB split of funding. £2.258m local authority managed and £0.423m commissioned services for 2026-27.
  - Total CSSB allocation 2026-27 £2.682m

## 9 PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2026

- The meeting scheduled for Thursday 19 March 2026 at 4pm was cancelled.
- Thursday 2 July 2026 at 4pm

## **10 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

- 10.1 Jackie Difulco informed Schools Forum that there was a public announcement that the safety valve programme, for all LAs part of one, will be ending on 31 March 2026. All LA's have received a letter stating that any deficit on the High Needs Block, as of the 31 March 2026, 90% of the balance will be wiped with the remaining 10% falling to the LA. Information will be forthcoming regarding any deficit accrued in the next two years; when the statutory override ends. In regards to Haringey's Safety Valve programme, the letter also provides a commitment to the same level of funding that had been agreed as part of the agreement; as there is a programme of work against those. Every LA has been asked to produce a SEND Local Reform Plan which will include targets, KPIs with expectations to deliver against the plan. Officers acknowledged that the LA will continue with a SEND transformation programme. Further noted that the School's White paper is expected on 23 February.

**ACTION**      An update following the announcement that the safety valve programme ending on 31 March 26 and impact on Haringey to be provided at the next meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 5:35pm.

## ACTIONS

Item	Action	Lead
4.2.2	Cllr Brabazon to source a new non-executive Councillor to sit on Schools Forum	Cllr Brabazon
4.2.3	<u>Vacancies on the School's Forum membership</u> All members to continue recruitment through all avenues to appoint to vacant positions.  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
4.2.5	Members to inform the Chair if they are interested in taking up the position of Vice-Chair	All
4.2.6	Chair to email Audit to ensure the audit check list is shared with schools and Chairs of Governors.	Chair
4.2.7	Schools Forum to receive a Terms of Reference and plan at the next meeting relating to collective school procurement.	DS&AM
4.2.	Members to contact the Chair if they were interested in joining the DSG school block work party for autumn 2026 term.	Primary Headteachers
6.9.5	Schools Forum to receive a costed and detail report on the proposed EYWP projects as detailed in 6.8 and 6.8.1, at the next meeting.	JE/ Early Years
7.4	For 2026/27 the unused growth distribution model to include alternative options, including a formula for falling rolls.	JE
10.1	An update following the announcement that the safety valve programme ending on 31 March 26 and impact on Haringey to be provided at the next meeting.	JD