

**MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING
THURSDAY 24 MAY 2012**

Attendance:

School Members		Non-School Members
Head teachers	Governors	
Special Schools [1] A Martin Doyle [Moselle]	<i>Special Schools [1]</i> * Vik Seeborun [The Vale]	<i>(non-Executive) LB Haringey Councillor [1]</i> * Cllr Zena Brabazon
<i>Children's Centres [1]</i> A Val Buckett [Pembury House CC]	<i>Children's Centres [1]</i> * Melian Mansfield [Pembury House Children's Centre]	<i>Professional Association Representative [1]</i> * Julie Davies [Haringey Teachers' Panel] <i>Trade Union Representative [1]</i> A Pat Forward [UNISON} <i>[Children's Service Consultative Cttee]</i>
<i>Primary Community [7]</i> A Evelyn Pittman (Tetherdown) A Maxine Pattison [Ferry Lane] * Fran Hargroves [St Mary's Infant] A Will Wawn [Bounds Green] Linda Sarr [St Ann's] * Cal Shaw [Chestnuts] * Julie D'Abreu (Devonshire Hill)	<i>Primary Community [7]</i> * Miriam Ridge [Our Lady of Muswell] Nathan Oparaechie [St Mary's CE Jnr] * Sarah Crowe [Devonshire Hill Primary] * Asher Jacobsberg [Welbourne] A Jeffrey Reynaud [Earlham] A Louis Fisher [Earlsmead] * Laura Butterfield [Coldfall]	<i>14-19 Partnership [1]</i> A June Jarrett [Sixth Form Centre] <i>E. Y. Private and Voluntary Sector</i> * Susan Tudor-Hart <i>Faith Schools</i> Mark Rowland
<i>Secondary Community [4]</i> * Alex Atherton [Park View] * Tony Hartney [Gladesmore] Patrick Cozier [Highgate Wood] A Monica Duncan [NPCS]	<i>Secondary Community [3]</i> * Liz Singleton [NPCS] * Sarah Miller [Gladesmore] * Imogen Pennell [Highgate Wood]	
<i>Academies</i> Paul Sutton [Greig City Academy]	Observers [non-voting] <i>LBH Cabinet Member for Children & YP</i> * Cllr Ann Waters	Substitute Members at this meeting * Mike Claydon for Monica Duncan * Bill Barker for June Jarrett
		Also present * Steve Worth, School Funding Manager * Neville Murton, Head of Finance CYPS * Carolyn Banks, Clerk * Phil diLeo,

* indicates attendance A indicates apologies received

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TONY HARTNEY [CHAIR] IN THE CHAIR

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
1.	CHAIR'S WELCOME	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. In particular he welcomed Cllr Ann Waters, the newly appointed Cabinet Member for Children. He also thanked Cllr Reith for her commitment and contribution to the Forum.	
2.	MEMBERSHIP (Agenda Item 2)	
2.1	The Clerk reported that Julie D'Abreu (Headteacher) at Devonshire Hill had replaced Jane Flynn (Headteacher) at Alexandra Primary.	
2.2	There were no other changes to the Forum's membership.	
3.	APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Agenda Item 3)	
3.1	Apologies for absence were received from Val Buckett, Will Warn, Evelyn Pittman, Maxine Pattison, Linda Sarr, Jeffrey Renaud, Louis Fisher and Pat Forward.	
3.2	Bill Barker substituting for June Jarrett and Mike Clayden substituting for Monica Duncan.	
4.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 4)	
4.1	There were no declarations of interest.	
5	MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2012 (Agenda Item 5)	
5.1	AGREED: The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record.	
6.	MATTERS ARISING	
6.1	Min 6.1 SW advised that all schools had been notified of their budgets and had been provided with information on nursery funding. Also information had been forwarded from the Head of Early Years regarding the allocation of full-time nursery places.	
6.2	Min 8.3 Schools had been provided with information on where to access the online schools finance manual.	
6.3	AA expressed his thanks to the previous Chair, Tony Brockman and to officers for their successful campaign in securing the higher Area Cost Adjustment. SW stated that it had been a good campaign which had been very well supported by schools, parents and others.	

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6.4	7.5 It was noted that a further report on childcare transitional funding was still outstanding.	BE
6.5	8.6 LB asked that consideration be given to a clause being introduced in future contracts with Deloittes which enabled charges to be imposed on them should they fail to attend scheduled audit visits.	AW
7.	MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS (Agenda Item 7) report for information/note/decision	
7.1	The Clerk reported that the current three year term of office will come to an end in September 2012, and therefore in accordance with the constitution the Forum sought agreement to write to the nominating organisations inviting nominations for appointment to the Forum. Details of the method of election were noted.	
7.2	The Forum was informed of proposed changes to Schools Forum arrangements for which regulations were imminent, likely to be effective from September 2012. The changes expected were:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remove the requirement to have a minimum of 15 people on a Forum: • Limit the number of local authority attendees from participating in meetings unless they are a lead Member, Director of Children's Services (or their representative) or are providing specific financial or technical advice (including presenting a paper to the Forum) • Confine the voting arrangements to allow only school members and providers from the private, voluntary and independent sector to vote on the funding formula. At present all members of the Forum are entitled to a single vote with decisions carried by upon a majority vote. • Require Forums to hold public meetings- as is the case with other council meetings. 	
7.3	There was a discussion around the changes and whilst the rationale behind the reason to introduce the changes from September were explained and understood, it was agreed to await the expected regulations before implementation	
7.4	RESOLVED: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Clerk commence the re-election process with a view to the new membership being in place for September 2012. 2. That no other changes to membership be made until the Schools Forum regulations are in place. 	
8.	PROVISION OF SUPPORT FOR PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS	
8.1	PdL provided an update on the impact of establishing new provision for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities in Haringey. The Forum noted that the new provision was designed to increase the number of places in borough for children and young people with complex needs particularly autism and thereby reduce the reliance on out borough independent special schools. The details in respect of the affect on the budget was particularly pleasing.	

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8.2	The Forum noted the impact of the strategy of placing reception aged children in borough. In addition the number of secondary aged students transferring to special schools, both in and out of borough was noted.	
8.3	Further work needed to address the additional special provision that was required in the borough, and it was noted that work was underway to identify further provision for primary aged pupils with autism in the centre or west of the borough. It was noted that Academies and Free Schools were willing to provide SEN provision.	
8.4	As a member of the North London Strategic Alliance (NLSA) data on placements and work was being undertaken in collaboration with neighbouring LAs and the independent sector in order to have a wide range of provision.	
8.5	The report also addressed the reduction in the language resourced provision at Coleraine Park Primary School. This was as a result of a lower demand for language resource provision for pupils in KS2 and since September 2011 there had been only 8 on roll, although funding for 16 pupils had been in place. The Forum noted that the school had agreed to permanently reduce the number of places from 16 to 8 from April 2012 and to reduce the budget by £124,295. It was agreed that the surplus funding would be utilised to benefit children with speech, language and communication needs. The Forum noted that this would mean that although KS2 would be reduced KS1 provision would be retained and a more efficient service provided.	
8.6	Plans to address the proposals set out in the Support and Aspiration: A new Approach to special educational needs (DfE 2011) were provided. This included the setting up of a Steering Group to oversee the implementation of the Strategic Improvement Plan and to consider the implication of the reforms to SEN funding for mainstream and Special schools. It was noted that the Forum would be kept up to date with progress. In addition the Forum noted that a new assessment process would lead to a single plan to address education, health and social care needs. It was further acknowledged that there was a large amount of work involved in the changes to SEN funding arrangements.	
8.7	In response to a question around the mechanisms for the personal budgets for parents it was noted that there were already 126 families who currently had support from the Local Authority in managing their personal budget.	
9.	SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM (Agenda Item 9) <i>report for information/note/decision</i>	
9.1	SW provided the Forum with a detailed report on the proposed reform of school funding. It was noted that the Government were progressing towards the introduction of a national funding formula, which it was noted would make it easier to fund Academies. The proposed changes had significant implications both in the way resources were distributed between Local Authority's (LA's) and how resources were delegated to schools or retained centrally. The most recent consultation document issued at the end of March 2012 set out scaled down proposals for changes from April 2013 with further changes to follow in the next Comprehensive Spending Review period. MC stated that the funding formula appeared to contain a number of anomalies and it was of concern that the policy appeared to be moving away from being needs led.	

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9.2	With regard to the securing of the higher Area Cost Adjustment the Leader of the Council had written to the DfE to clarify the details and it was noted that around 4% of the DSG was expected.	
9.3	<p>From April 2013 the DSG would be allocated through three, non ring fenced blocks as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools Block, including centrally retained education services • A High Needs block, including budgets for special schools and the former Young People’s Learning Agency (YPLA) funding for Further Education Special Education Needs (SEN) to age 25 • An Early Years Block 	
9.4	<p>It was noted that the proposals including timing differences will need to be incorporated in the Forum and the Council’s budget setting processes. AA suggested that it would be useful for a modelling exercise to be carried out to assess the impact on individual schools. It was however acknowledged that there is very little time to do so, although a model would have to be produced for the Education Funding Agency by the end of October. NM assured the Forum that with the Minimum Funding Guarantee in place there would be little affect on schools until 2015/16. MM was of the view that all schools should be informed of the implications of the changes and provided with guidance on the implications. Although SW advised that there would be winners and losers under the new arrangements the Forum felt that it would be useful to know implications for individual schools. The Forum considered submitting their concerns to the DfE, but without any evidence of the impact, as identified from a modelling exercise it was agreed that it would have little if any impact and the priority was to press forward with the work necessary for its successful implementation.</p>	
9.5	<p>The Forum noted that concerns had been raised with the DfE over the decision to move the pupil count for 2013/14 forward from January 2013 to October 2012. The Forum wished to be reassured that the LA had sufficiently robust Admission arrangements in place to be able to manage this change of date. SW advised that the amount of funding per pupil would increase, but he thought that there could be issues around distribution and how quickly LA’s were able to confirm the number of pupils. In response to a question it was noted that pupils only had to be on roll to count, not necessarily present at school on the day.</p>	
9.6	<p>Regulations would require much of the former centrally retained elements of the Schools block to be delegated to schools. As this included funding for contingences, which at present fund expanding schools and bulge classes, the Forum noted with concern that funding for this would initially be delegated and then subject to a de-delegation decision for each school phase on the Forum. It could therefore impact on the LA’s statutory duty to provide school places. De-delegation does not apply to Academies and they would therefore get additional resources which in some cases they would not ordinarily be entitled to. SW advised that the DfE were giving further consideration to this matter and he hoped to be able to report back following the outcomes from consultation being known. It was noted that under this model there would no longer be any School Budget LACSEG and everything that had previously been in the LACSEG budget would again be delegated to schools and subject to a de-delegation process. Representatives of each</p>	SW

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	<p>phase of maintained schools could vote to centrally retain the funding by giving back (de-delegation) so as to continue central services for that phase.</p> <p>The Individual Schools Budget (ISB) funding would be delegated to schools through a greatly simplified formula, which for Haringey would allow a maximum of eight factors. It was noted that there was no longer a Premises allocation unless a school was on a split site, nor was there any factor to recognise in year growth in forms of entry or to guarantee minimum funding levels, this was expected to be provided for through contingencies. This could however be handed back by maintained schools if agreed by the phase's representatives as described above. It was clear that the restriction on the number of factors and the limit on the size of lump sums will tend to disadvantage smaller schools. Schools would continue to receive protection through a simplified Minimum Funding Guarantee set at minus 1.5%.</p>	
9.7	<p>The LA would act as commissioner in securing high needs provision for pupils and students up to the age of 25. Details of what the block would cover were provided. It was noted that the definition and threshold of high needs was still to be determined. With regard to high cost pupils in mainstream settings the proposal was that the assessed needs cost of the pupil determined through the single plan would be met from a combination of Element 1, (the AWPU from the Schools block, or from EFA if student was over 16), Element 2, the Additional Needs (for pre16 pupils) or Additional Learning Support (for 16+ pupils), and where necessary from a top up from the High Needs Block.</p>	
9.8	<p>Details of the major changes to the funding arrangements for special schools and specially resourced provision, for the Pupil Support Centre and recoupment and provision at independent settings was outlined.</p>	
9.9	<p>The Early Years block would include centrally retained services for under 5s plus funding through the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF). It was noted that there would be implications for Nursery schools. The current arrangements of providing funding for a minimum of 90% of the LA's three year old population would also be phased out by 2014/15., with 2013/14 being a transitional year with funding at 85%. The following year there would only be funding for take up of places. In response to a question it was noted that Nursery Schools were in the Early years block with the exception of those that had a reception class, they then fell in the Schools block. In response to ZB asking about the funding arrangements for the statutory entitlement for two year olds NM advised that at present they were funding through the Early Intervention Grant but it was unclear as to what would happen after March 2013, although it was likely that this would be included in the Early Years block.</p>	
	<p>Changes to the arrangements for the operation of the Forum were noted, together with the LA's response which had been sent to the consultation.</p>	
9.10	<p>There was a very tight timescale to implement the changes. A report on the initial modelling would be presented to the next meeting and consultation documents would be sent to schools before the end of term. The outcome of this being reported to the Forum at its September meeting. The need for a possible extra Forum meeting at the end of October was noted. In addition it was agreed that a working party be set</p>	SW/NM

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	<p>up to consider the various options for the funding formula. In response to a proposal from MM it was agreed that a further working party be set up to look at the implications for nursery schools. It was accepted that this working group would be scheduled after the completion of the work of the Working Party examining the funding formula. Additionally it was agreed that there should be a separate group to examine the implications for high needs. PdL was commissioned to set up such a group, with Headteachers from Primary, Secondary and Special schools invited to participate. All Forum members to be notified of the working groups and invited to join.</p> <p>RESOLVED:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the proposed School Funding reform be noted. 2. That the LA's response to the consultation be noted. 3. That the Forum appoint working parties as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding Formula – WW, AA,ZB,MM,MC,MR,LB, TH • Early Years – MM, ZB,VB, ST-H • High Needs – PdL to commission. 4. That the Council be requested to ascertain the views of the LGA and other LA's Schools Forums on the proposals and to consider the submission of a joint response to the DfE. 5. That the local MP's be informed of the details of the Funding reforms and possible implications. 6. That the LA be requested to modify and strengthen their admission arrangements to ensure that they are prepared for the change of date for the pupil count from January to October. A report was requested for the next meeting. 	<p>PdL/SW</p> <p>SW/PdL</p> <p>SW/NM</p> <p>SW</p> <p>JD</p>
10.	ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS	
	There was none.	
11.	DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 12 July 2012	
	The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.	

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm

TONY HARTNEY

Chair