

**MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING
THURSDAY 21 MAY 2015**

Schools Members:

Headteachers: **Special (1)** - Martin Doyle (Riverside),
Children's Centres (1) - *Julie Vaggers (Rowland Hill),
Primary (7) *Dawn Ferdinand, (The Willow), *Fran Hargrove (St Mary's CE), Will Wawn (Bounds Green) *Cal Shaw (Chestnuts), Julie D'Abreu (A)(Devonshire Hill), *Nic Hunt Weston Park) *James Lane (A)(St Francis de Sales)
Secondary (2) Helen Anthony (A) (Fortismere), *Tony Hartney (Gladesmore),
Primary Academy (1) *Sharon Easton (A) (St Paul's and All Hallows),
Secondary Academies (2) Elma McElligott (A)(Woodside), *Michael McKenzie (Alexandra Park)

Governors: **Special (1)** *Michael Connah (A)(Riverside)
Children's Centres (1) *Melian Mansfield (Pembury)
Primary (7) Miriam Ridge (Our Lady of Muswell), Asher Jacobsberg (A) (Welbourne), Louis Fisher (Earlsmead), *Laura Butterfield (Coldfall), Andreas Adamides(A)(Stamford Hill), *Zena Brabazon (Seven Sisters) and *Lorna Walker (Rokesly Infants)
Secondary (3) *Liz Singleton (Northumberland Park), * Imogen Pennell (Highgate Wood), Keith Embleton (A)(Hornsey)
Primary Academy (1) *Liza Sheikh Wali (A)
Secondary Academy (1) *Marianne McCarthy (Heartlands),

Non School Members:- **Non – Executive Councillor** - * Cllr Wright
Professional Association Representative - * Niall O'Connor
Trade Union Representative - *Pat Forward
14-19 Partnership - June Jarrett
Early Years Providers - Susan Tudor-Hart
Faith Schools - Mark Rowland (A)
Pupil Referral Unit – *Gordon McEwan

Observers:- **Cabinet Member for CYPs** (*Cllr Ann Waters)

Also attending: Steve Worth, Finance Manager (Schools and Learning)
Carolyn Banks, Clerk to Forum
Jon Abbey, Interim Director of Children Services
Anji Phillips, Interim Assistant Director, Schools and Learning
Vikki Monk- Meyer, Head of Integrated Services
Gill Gibson- Assistant Director - QA, Early Help and Early Years
Gareth Morgan, Head of Early Help and Prevention
Kirsten Carr, Families Initiative Co-ordinator

* Members present

A Apologies given

TONY HARTNEY IN THE CHAIR

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
1	CHAIR'S WELCOME The Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS	
2.1	Apologies for absence received from Helen Anthony, Mark Rowland, Andreas Adamides, Julie D'Abreu, Elma McElligott, and Keith Embleton.	
2.2	Florence Fineberg was substituting for Helen Anthony and Herbie Spence was observing on behalf of June Jarrett.	
3	DECLARATION OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 3) There were no declarations made.	
4	MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2015	
4.1	The minutes of the meetings held on 25 February 2015 were agreed as a correct record.	
5.	MATTERS ARISING	
	There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda.	
6.	HIGH NEEDS UPDATE	
6.1	VMM reminded the Forum of the key feature of the SEND reforms, together with an analysis of the number of children and young people with SEN and disabilities. In particular the Forum noted that the reforms extended support to young people up to the age of 25, putting greater pressure on the already stretched High Needs block budget. In response to a question it was noted that the total budget for voluntary and independent schools was around £7m. MM asked for details of the top up provided from main stream schools.	VMM
6.2	It was noted that although Haringey spends more on independent day placements across all categories of need compared to the average across the Local Authorities in the local benchmarking group for residential placements at independent schools, less was spent on average per place per week. The patterns of spend on placement, and the underlying reasons for this, required further analysis, however it was noted that it was an increasing rather than reducing pattern.	
6.3	In response to a question it was noted annual review of placements took place, but they had not always been undertaken by sufficiently experienced staff. With regard to the possibility of greater in borough provision VMM advised that whilst this was being explored many of the young people placed out of borough had complex needs. MMcC informed the Forum that Heartlands High School had recently obtained permission to open a new Free school for Autism, which would cater for pupils from 4	

	-19 and would serve the local community. MMcC asked about progress being made by the NLSA in respect of work being undertaken to reduce the costs of independent placements across North London as a whole. In response to a question VMM advised that most of the special schools were full.	VMM
7.	ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ALLOCATION OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS PAID TO SCHOOLS VIA THE LOCAL AUTHORITY	
7.1	In accordance with statutory requirements the Forum noted the administration of Government grants paid to schools via the Local Authority. With regard to the DSG the Forum was reminded that budgets centrally retained by the LA in the Schools and Early Years Block can not be higher than in 2012/13. Following decisions on centrally retained budgets, de-delegation and on the Growth Fund the remaining budgets were delegated through the three funding formulae; Schools, Early Year and High needs blocks. Any unspent DSG must be carried forward and is reported to the Forum at its July meeting.	
7.2	The arrangements in respect of the allocation of pupil premium, EFA post 16 students, universal free school meals, devolved formula capital, summer schools, Year 7 catch up, PE and sports and schools direct were all noted.	
7.3	ZB asked about the timescale for the allocation of the Early Years Pupil Premium and advised that Islington had already made the payment. SW confirmed that the money was about to be despatched. SW agreed to speak to colleagues in Islington to see if there were any lessons that could be learnt.	SW
8.	EARLY HELP	
8.1	As requested at previous meetings JA provided the Forum with an introduction to the work currently taking place to ensure that children and young people in Haringey were being kept safe, which was set against a background of increasing need and reduced resources.	
8.2	GG outlined the vision for a multi agency Early Help offer of a continuum of support. . The Forum noted that there were a number of challenges around delivery and ensuring a safe seamless service. GM provided further information in respect of the direction of travel to date and the proposed delivery model.	
8.3	The detailed report and presentation set out proposals for the delivery of Early Help in Haringey, including the expectations on local authorities and agencies as set out in recent national guidance. Work was currently underway in Haringey to further develop the partnership operating model for Early Help which would enable a more co-ordinated and integrated approach to the delivery of Early Help. The aim was to provide a continuum of help and support to respond to different levels of need of children through universal, targeted and specialist services based on a model of locality based multi agency working. It was noted that a range of agencies were currently considering how they might align and/or commission delivery and resources. The reconfiguring of Early Help and Prevention Service, which would be in place by October 2015 would include a new single front door for access to all children and young people's services, the establishment of integrated multi agency locality	

	teams linked to the 6 NLC areas, and a multi agency targeted response service. Discussions would be continuing with partners including children's centres and schools over the next few months to further develop and shape the model and to clarify the processes which would best support schools in identifying families who would benefit from early help and enabling swift allocation of cases where needed.	
8.4	Details of the current Early Help and prevention service together with an analysis of outcomes was noted. By March 2016 it was envisaged that a demonstrable impact from the wider Early Help Partnership ip would be able to be provided. The meeting noted that there would be staff consultation on the proposals.	
8.5	Although there was an appreciation of the difficulty of the task facing the service the Forum wished to be provided with confidence that these proposals would work effectively. GM assured the meeting that there would be a multi agency working and information sharing agreements providing front line staff with the confidence to undertake their role effectively. The Forum expressed some concern over the shrinking resources across all agencies available to ensure an effective service. In particular MM sought further information on the costs and evidence of effectiveness, especially as £1.3m was funded from the Forum. A breakdown of the costs and clarification on this expenditure was requested as soon as possible. MM was also of the view that there was a lack of information being provided to schools GG also agreed to provide a further report setting out detailed budgetary information. LB also sought further information around targets and outcomes and links to education settings. JA advised that although prevention and intervention was not new, it had never been put together as effectively as the current Early Help offer. He also stated that, as the system was still in the early stages it was difficult at present to demonstrate impact.	GG
8.6	JV advised that children's centres and schools were already undertaking early help on a regular basis and it was suggested that those working on the new offer should assess this provision. DF supported this and was of the view that it would be good value for money if some of the money for Early Help was directed to schools. GG agreed that it would be useful to be informed of the needs that were being addressed by children's centres and schools. The Chair thought that the production of a grid setting out the details would be helpful. NH expressed some concern over possible increase in costs as some schools engaged their own family support workers. JA confirmed that there were some financial challenges and the money available needed to be used wisely. FH asked for information about the implications for not having the service to be provided at the next meeting.	
8.7	The Forum requested an updated report to the next meeting covering all of the issues and concerns raised. In addition GG requested that she be informed if there was any further information Forum members sought for inclusion in the report.	GG
9.	MEMBERSHIP AND FEEDBACK FROM WORKING PARTIES;-	
9.1	<u>Early Years</u> MM advised that the Working Party had looked at the distribution of full time nursery places which had all been allocated. Discussions had also been held around the early Years Pupil Premium and the Early Years	

	Single Funding formula.	
9.2	<u>High Needs</u> VMM advised that the Working Party would be reconvened shortly. In addition it was noted that a working party had been set to consider how to distribute the Early years top up to the qualifying families.	
9.3	<u>Traded Services</u> AP reported that Traded Services was progressing well with over 200 users to date and 90% of in borough schools fully engaged. AP thanked governors and Headteachers for their involvement and support. It was noted that there were plans to extend the service for September. MMK hoped that facilities time would be on offer via the portal.	
10.	WORKPLAN 2014/15	
	The workplan was noted.	
11.	ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS There was none.	
12.	DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 July 2015 	

The meeting closed at 5.55 pm

TONY HARTNEY

CHAIR