

LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

SCHOOLS FORUM

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held at Hitherfield Primary School, Leigham Vale, Streatham, London SE5 9RF on Tuesday 6th March 2018 at 18:00pm – 20.00pm

School Forum Members:

<u>Schools:</u>	Present, Apologies, Absent	<u>Governors:</u>	Present, Apologies, Absent
Chris Ashley–Jones (CAJ) Hitherfield	Present	Tony Andrews (TA) Wyvern Federation	Apologies
Nick Butler (NB) St. Gabriel's College	Present	Ray Smith (RS) Pre-School Alliance	Present
Alexandra Hardy (AH) Henry Cavendish	Present	Maksud Gangat (MG) Orchard Primary	Present
Glenda King (GK) Ethelred	Present	Matthew Green (MG) Telferscot Primary	Present
David Boyle (DB) Dunraven School	Present	Charles Asher (CA) GHF	Present
Joe Blacker (PCA)	Apologies	Roger Bowdery (RB) BTG	Present
Humaira Saleem (HS) Iqra	Present		
Chris Toye (CT) Wyvern Federation	Apologies		
Jayne Mitchell (JM) St. Andrew's Primary	Present		
Kate Atkins (KA) Great North Wood Education Trust	Present		
<u>Officers:</u>	Present, Apologies, Absent	<u>Observers:</u>	Present, Apologies, Absent
Cathy Twist (CTw) Director - ELS	Present	Sarah Tomlinson (ST) NUT/NEU	Present
Kathryn Shaw (KS) School Quality Improvement Lead	Present	Christine Golding (CG) GMB Union	Present
Bunmi Idowu (BI) Early Years	Present	Vinay Gupta (VG) St. Gabriel's College	Present
Tim Gibson (TG) Interim Assistant Director Childrens Finance	Present		
Dominique Franklin-Johnson (DFJ) Finance Group Manager	Present		
Hamant Bharadia (HB) Assistant Director Strategic Finance	Apologies		
Annie Hudson (AH) Strategic Director	Present		

MINUTES

1. Welcome & Apologies

CA-J welcomed everyone to the meeting. CA-J extended a warm welcome to the new Observer Mark Jordan.

Apologies were received and accepted from: Chris Toye, Tony Andrews, Hamant Bharadia, Joe Blacker, Cllr Walker.

2. Draft minutes from the Schools Forum meeting held on 10th January 2018

- Amendment to the date to read Tuesday 6th March.
- Page 1 - Attendance list to include those not present.
- Page 5 – Schools will be informed by the Lambeth Finance Team how the education money is spent. **ACTION: Finance Team.**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed off by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

- Page 2 Item 4 It was agreed that where two members represented the same organisation they would only have one vote. Chris Toye will represent The Wyvern Federation.
- The Growth Fund – this action will be addressed on the 13th June 2018. **ACTION: Finance Team.**
- Falling Rolls Fund – Lark Hall Primary School – this is a fund that is only accessible for 3 years. Lark Hall are in the 2nd year of accessing the fund. A discussion will take place with schools regarding reducing forms of entry for mainstream schools. It is foreseen that the numbers will grow so no schools will be closing.
- Item 8 – Education Functions 2018-2019 will be carried over.
- Item 9 – EYFF Final Budgets is on the Agenda for the meeting.

4. Membership

The Schools Forum were informed of resignations from:

Tony Andrews – Wyvern Federation

Marilyn Ross – The Michael Tippett School

Joe Blacker – Parallel Learning Trust

Kate Mason – Stockwell Primary

There has been no communication from Marcia Hosain – Horizons Day Nursery. KS offered to follow this up. **ACTION: KS.**

There are the following vacancies:

1 x Primary Community Governor/Representative;

1 x Secondary Community Governor/Representative;

1 x Special School Governor/Representative (Lambeth Forum);

1 x Non-School PVI Governor/Representative;

Paul Cox is no longer at Lambeth College so there is a 16-19 vacancy. It was suggested to approach Dan Cundy and Monica Cox. **ACTION: CTw/CAJ.**

1 x PRU vacancy – Mark Jordan (CEO of Parallel Learning Trust) put his name forward for this post. The SF members voted on this matter and there was a majority vote for MJ to take the PRU post.

Schools Forum Constitution

CAJ suggested the following changes to the Lambeth Schools Forum Constitution:

- Pt 4 Disqualification – changing absence from 6 meetings to 3 meetings.
- Pt 4.3 Voting – one vote per representing member.
- Pt 1.3 School Structure – the board does represent a variety of schools and membership will be checked on an annual basis to make sure that the board represents a variety of schools.
- Pt 1.5 There is no change to the makeup of the forum membership for non-school members.

Q. In pt 1.1 “*Lambeth Schools Forum will comprise 18 school members and 4 non-school members*” is the ratio up to date and accurate?

A. Some schools are becoming Academies so this may change. This item will be reviewed at the next SF meeting on 13th June 2018. **ACTION: CAJ.**

Note: It is proposed that the ratio of pupils in maintained schools vs academies will be reviewed at the start of each new academic year to check that the membership reflects the current make-up.

AGREED: All SF members voted and unanimously agreed on the changes to the Constitution.

5. Register of Interests and Declaration of New Interests

Members were asked to complete and sign Declarations of Interests. These will be kept with the SF Clerk.

6. Early Years Service Update - Kathryn Shaw (KS)

KS informed about the take up of 30hours free childcare for working parents. This is an extension of the funded places for 3-4yr olds from 15hrs to 30 hrs. The scheme started as of 1/9/2017 and only childcare providers who are registered with Ofsted can access the funding. Parents register via a portal to check eligibility, which is then verified by the Local Authority (LA).

To date 1463 children are receiving the 30hrs free childcare across the Borough. The numbers are expected to increase at the next take up on 1st April 2018. 32 of the 50 primary schools are taking up the offer. 61 of the 114 PVI childcare providers have taken up the offer and only 14 out of the 240 childminders.

Providers are not obliged to take on pupils for the 30hrs. It is for the LA to enable providers to take it up. There were 624 children receiving 30hrs free childcare in December 2017 and since the 1st January 2018 this figure has risen to 1463. This initiative will take time to establish.

There has been a low uptake of shared hours ie. shared across two different sites eg. school and childminder. There is scope for more work to be done so that more places can be offered. If parents fall out of work then there is a grace period of 3 months to find work then the parents are eligible again.

In the new financial year the data will be identified. It is a huge administrative task and challenge as every parent needs to be checked individually to check if they are eligible.

Each LA is asked to put in a bid to help support the 30hrs. Lambeth have received £44K. This will be used to provide an additional member of staff to co-ordinate the 30 hrs. There will be communication to parents and providers as there is no national advertising about this matter. There is a small capital amount for small providers to enable them to provide food for lunchtimes enabling them to offer the 30hrs.

Q. The LA is working to offer a total of 2100 children 30hr places. Is there a penalty if this figure is not reached?

A. No. The Cabinet Office are aware of this as it has been fed back.

7. Early Years Funding 2018-19 - Tim Gibson

TG noted that in 2018-2019 the amount of EY Funding that can be used for central spend will go down to 5%. Last year Lambeth was able to use 7% for central spend.

Q. How are you looking to spend that? What is in the Inclusion Fund?

A. £5.75p/h now and an increase to £6.03p/h with a caveat put in. The funding will be based on the January EY census and there is a small chance that the £6.03 may be unaffordable. Should any information come to light that suggests that the

proposed hourly rate will not be affordable then officers will communicate that to SF members before any changes are made.

EY is not funded for the same amount as funded out, it is funded out for more hours than it has funding for.

The Inclusion Fund was funded at £139k in 2017/18 and has been running since April 2017. The take up has been slow, but it has started. The purpose of the fund is to do more for families to access the offer of free early years' provision.

The Early Years' funding formula is looking to keep the hourly rate for nursery schools unchanged. The funding will reduce after that. Nurseries get supplementary funding through the Funding Formula.

Q. Is the DfE doing anything about the Nursery Funding Formula?

A. A supplementary amount has been given pending consultation. There is a 2yr differential in funding (last year and this year). The original plan was to have one flat rate. Continuing additional funding will be needed and a decision will be made by 2019/2020.

Looking at the recommendations, TG informed that funding for 2yr old pupils with complex needs provision needs to be included, i.e. 18 weeks or an assessment. The EHCP process needs to be assisted as it is more expensive to take on 2yr olds due to the ratio that is required, yet EY need to be met.

A high proportion of funding will go for SEN, enhancing the PVI settings. There will be additional money for HNB to address staff who look after children with complex needs. The EY sub group will meet with the High Needs group. A paper will be prepared for the sub group. **ACTION: TG/CTw to prepare paper.**

Within the funding formula the business rate of properties in the area was used by the DfE and it is one of the reasons why Lambeth got a higher amount. This is a London wide issue with the demographics linked to the formula e.g. postcode based with the measure including relative income of households. Ideally the deprivation definitions in the EY funding formula will ideally be brought in line with the current schools funding formula. A review of the formula will be carried out in advance of the 2019/20 financial year.

It was requested that should the proposed hourly rate not be affordable then officers will communicate that to SF members before any changes are made and will also bring information on the expenditure for the EY and whether £6.03 is sustainable. The same rate as GK has requested will be considered i.e. £6.03. As well as informing members about the money not spent and carried over for EY Inclusion Fund. **ACTION: TG.**

The SF Members voted and agreed on the following points:

- 6.1 Schools Forum to note the indicative funding levels for Early Years provision and the basis on which this is calculated. **AGREED.**
- 6.2 To agree to central retention of funding of £1.285m for 2018-19. **AGREED.**
- 6.3 It is recommended that £350,000 be allocated to the EY's Inclusion Fund for 2018/19. **AGREED.**
- 6.4 It is proposed that the recommended hourly rates for 3 and 4 year old funding for 2018/19 as reflected in paragraph 4.1 and 4.3 be agreed. **AGREED.**
- 6.5 It is recommended that the hourly rate for two year olds be increased to £6.50 per hour. **AGREED.**

8. Forward Plan

- It was agreed that the EY will be a standing item.
- The DSG will take place in June and there will be an update on the Growth Fund.
- There will be a general paper on the DSG, HNB and an update on EY.

9. AOB


- It was requested that Bronia Grehan be removed from the circulation list.
- Making sure there is proportional representation on the SF.

10. FUTURE MEETING DATES

13th June 2018 @ Hitherfield School 6-8pm

16th October 2018 @ Hitherfield School 6-8pm

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.25pm

Signed:  Date: 13/6/18

**Chris Ashley-Jones
Chair of the School Forum**