

LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

SCHOOLS FORUM

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held at Hitherfield Primary School, Leigham Vale, Streatham, London SW16 2JQ on Tuesday 10th September 2019 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	Roger Bowdery (RB) BTG	Present
Nick Butler (NB) St. Gabriel’s College	Present	Ray Smith (RS) Pre-School Alliance	Present
Primary School - Vacant		Maksud Gangat (MG) Orchard Primary	Apologies
Glenda King (GK) Ethelred	Retired – Post Vacant	Matthew Green (MGr) Richard Atkins Primary	Present
David Boyle (DB) Dunraven School	Present	Charles Asher (CA) GHF	Absent
Mark Jordan (MJ) (PCA)	Present	Michael Holland (MH) Sunnyhill Primary	Present
Humaira Saleem (HS) Iqra	Present	Carena Hall (CH) Immanuel & St Andrews CE Primary	Apologies
Chris Toye (CT) Wyvern Federation	Present	Sarah Crisp (SC) The Michael Tippett School	Apologies – Resigning Post Vacant
Jayne Mitchell (JM) St. Andrew’s Primary	Apologies		
Kate Atkins (KA) Great North Wood Education Trust	Present		

Coral Hayes Ruskin House School	Absent		
<u>Officers:</u>	Present, Apologies, Absent	<u>Observers:</u>	Present, Apologies, Absent
Cathy Twist (CTw) Director - ELS	Present	Sarah Tomlinson (ST) NUT/NEU	Absent
Kathryn Shaw (KS) School Quality Improvement Lead	Present	Christine Golding (CG) GMB Union	Absent
Bunmi Idowu (BI) Early Years	Present	Vinay Gupta (VG) St. Gabriel's College	Present
Tim Gibson (TG) Interim Assistant Director Childrens Finance	Present	Cllr Jenny Brathwaite	Absent
Annie Hudson (AH) Strategic Director	Apologies		

MINUTES

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

CAJ welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received and accepted from: Annie Hudson; Sarah Crisp, Carena Hall, Jayne Mitchell and Maksud Gangat.

2. **Membership and Register of Interests and Declaration of Business Interests**

CAJ informed SF members that the Membership List would be updated due to a number of vacancies.

- Primary HT Vacancy. Alison Moller from Julian's Primary School put herself forward for the post. SF members voted unanimously to appoint Alison.
- Nursery HT Vacancy - Glenda King retired and Rachel Hedley from the Lambeth Nursery Schools' Federation put herself forward for the post. SF members voted unanimously to appoint Rachel.
- Roger Bowdery's second term of office comes to an end in September 2019. CAJ thanked Roger for his time, his work and support on the SF.

- David Boyle's first term of office comes to an end in September 2019. David was happy to stand for another term of office. SF members voted unanimously to appoint David for a second term of office.
- Matthew Green's second term of office will be coming to an end in December 2019, so there will be a vacancy.
- Sarah Crisp has tendered her resignation due to work commitments, so there is a special school vacancy.
- Paul Cox's term of office comes to an end in September 2019, so there is a vacancy.

CAJ will approach the Lambeth Schools Partnership (LSP) for the SF vacancies to be filled. **ACTION: CAJ**

The Declaration of Interest forms will be completed at the next SF meeting.
ACTION: MG

3. **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Chair – CAJ was nominated by KS and seconded by DB.

Vice-Chair – KA was nominated by DB and seconded by CAJ.

Both CAJ and KA accepted the nominations and were unanimously appointed by SF members.

4. **Minutes from the Schools Forum meeting held on 26th March 2019 and matters arising**

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

Matters arising

- Page 3 Item 3 – TG has written a letter to the DfE. A copy of the letter is in the papers.
- Page 4 Point 6.1 - Clarity was requested around the annual review. It was stated that it would be reviewed each year in March as part of the EY allocations for the following year. I.e. in Jan/Feb 2020 it will be reviewed and reported in March 2020.
- Page 6 Item 7 – Information on commissioning arrangements will be covered at the next SF meeting.

5. **Working Group update on the Schools Funding Formula**

CAJ thanked TG for his comprehensive paper on the Schools Funding Formula.

TG informed the meeting that an email had been received from the DfE earlier in the day setting out more details of the funding allocations for next year and setting out

some mandated changes to the formula, which will need to be considered. A paper was tabled that contained the email and the statement from the DfE.

TG gave a brief background to the National Funding Formula (NFF), which the government stated two years ago it would be rolling out in two phases. The first phase was the soft NFF, which was aggregated and distributed to schools via the local Lambeth funding formula. The government had originally announced that this would be in place for two years and would then move to the hard NFF. The government is now postponing the introduction of a hard formula.

At the last SF meeting, models were viewed. It was agreed to set up a Working Group to look at details of formula options and how these would affect schools.

The Working Group met and the Terms of Reference were adopted as set out on Page 4 Item 3.1.

The Working Group has looked at approximately 12 different formula models and how they affected schools. The models were then narrowed down and reviewed.

Funding allocations were reviewed for the formula on deprivation and how it would differ in the NFF. It was agreed it would be better to use a wider measure and to adopt all the deprivation data sets in the Lambeth formula. A model had been considered that changes the lump sum, which protects smaller schools. The recommendation was to keep the lump sum the same.

At the second meeting, the Working Group considered a range of models of different degrees of movement towards the NFF and differing levels of Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) protection. Further models had been requested and these were presented to the Schools Forum, these included MFG of -0.75% and -1% and movements of 20%, 30% and 40% towards the NFF – making it a total of 6 permutations. The impacts of the modelled changes were also analysed in groups (i.e. primary, secondary and all-through) as well as individually.

The notification from the DfE that had been received earlier in the day was tabled and members were given some time to read it through and the main points were highlighted as follows:

- Details of the additional allocations will be given in October 2019, which may affect the timetable for the Consultation.
- The DfE are consulting on the introduction of minimum levels of pupil funding. TG will write a response and share this with the Working Group. **ACTION: TG**
- The increase is not expected to be as much of an increase for Lambeth schools as for schools outside London and those that get low funding.
- 2017/2018 was used as a baseline, whereas Lambeth has given out more to schools in 2019/2020.
- The change that affects the recommendations in the paper is the change in the minimum funding guarantee levels that will be required in the formula.

Further information will come out in October 2019. Hypothetical models will need to be done, as the models that have been considered to date have been based on 2019/2020 control total. These additional models will make assumptions about likely levels of additional funding.

- Final funding allocations will be published in December which will be based on the pupil numbers in the October census.
- The growth funding part of the NFF affects Lambeth's funding allocation, as it is likely to be on the -0.5% level and at the same time will have to fund the new secondary school on the Glenbrook site due to the lagged nature of this part of the NFF.
- The MFG will be set at 0.5% and any funding over and above that will be allocated to schools as per models that will be presented to the Working Group.
- A revised timetable was considered and provisionally agreed by the meeting.

Recommendations:

- SF members voted and it was unanimously **agreed** that the lump sum in the formula should remain unchanged for 2020/21.
- SF members voted and it was unanimously **agreed** to use the full range of deprivation indices in the Lambeth Funding Formula.
- SF members voted and it was unanimously **agreed** to set the MFG at +0.5% subject to confirmation by the DfE and reviewed by the Working Party in preparation for the Consultation.
- The SF considered whether to move part way toward the NFF (20%, 30% or 40%), but did not want to further destabilise schools that may already be vulnerable due to fluctuating pupil numbers. The Working Group will review this and consult on the principle of moving towards the NFF. Clarity is also needed for the school budgets.
- SF members voted and **agreed** to consult in principle that the secondary schools collectively should not lose funding as a result ie. That the primary to secondary funding ratio only be reduced to the extent that additional funding being available in the overall schools budget allows this to be achieved.
- SF member voted and **agreed** that the recommendations should go out for consultation after being reviewed by the working group.

The Working Group informed that it will review the models and a staggered approach will need to be taken. It will adopt the principle and only change the prim:sec ratio if there is extra funding available. The Working Group will meet again to view the different funding scenarios and impacts and then report back at the next SF meeting. **Action: Working Group**

CAJ thanked TG and the Working Party for the work that has been done to date.

6. Support Staff Holiday Pay

CTw informed that there are ongoing negotiations with other LA on the issue whether retired staff can get back pay for holidays. Lambeth has not formulated a Lambeth proposal as yet and will also need to consult with the unions. Once Lambeth has the details CTw will inform the SF and the decision will go out formally by HR (Claire Cobbold). **Action: CTw**

7. DSG Outturn

TG formally reported the outturn. The amount of DSG related expenditure that was incurred in 2018/19 across all headings was £217,915m, i.e. an in-year deficit of £3.246m. The reserves that were carried forward at the end of the financial year were thus £1.649m. The paper provided is for information.

8. Special Schools Banding arrangements

An organisation called SEND4Change is working on a review. The banding system was introduced for Special Schools last year. As part of that process the Special Schools got together and moderated their existing pupils onto the new bands.

There is an increase of circa 60 pupils across the Special Schools. The cost of placing a child in a Lambeth Special School is generally lower than an independent or out of borough provision. A question was asked about the numbers of pupils that are going out of borough or into independent settings and the point was made that some of these placements are driven by a social services requirement.

This item will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Q. What is the percentage of pupils out of borough, on EHCPs?

A. The point was made that these pupils are not likely to an out of borough placement. These are generally new EHCPs, as the number of EHCPs continues to rise this also adds to the funding pressures.

Q. Is there a strategy to reduce out of borough placements and bring them back into borough?

A. Lambeth have been trying to do this for the last few years. There will be the new Vanguard school opening next year.

TG offered to bring information to the SF on the amount and proportions spent on independent and non-maintained provisions and those in Lambeth for the last 3-5 years. **Action: TG/CT/AY**

9. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be on:

Wednesday 13th November 2019 6-8pm

Tuesday 10th December 2019 6-8pm

Tuesday 14th January 2020 6-8pm

Tuesday 24th March 2020 6-8pm

CAJ kindly offered his school for the SF venue for the above dates.

10. AOB

- KA informed that she would host the Working Party meeting at Rosendale Primary School.
- EY – KS informed that it was the third year of 30hrs. Provider numbers continue to increase as expected. There are now 6,041 children taking up the funding. Taking up the 30hrs is now stable and on the rise.

BI stated that there is a significant decline in the number of 2year olds taking up the offer. The Government has given the rationale for two further groups that will be eligible. The information of children taking up the places feeds into the national statistics, the GLA etc.

- Maintained Nursery schools, in order to cope with less funding, have federated to ensure they can keep going in a cost effective way. They have one Executive Headteacher and heads of schools.

11. Revision of the Lambeth Scheme for Financing Schools

This item was for discussion by Maintained Schools Representatives only.

The paper was deferred and will be an Agenda item for the next meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

Signed: _____



Date: _____

18/11/19

Chris Ashley-Jones

Chair of the School Forum