

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 Wednesday 13th June 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	Roger Bowdery (RB) BTG	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	Apologies
Glenda King (GK) Ethelred	Apologies	Matthew Green (MG) Telferscot Primary	Apologies
David Boyle (DB) Dunraven School	Present	Charles Asher (CA) GHF	Apologies
Mark Jordan (MJ) (PCA)	Present		
Humaira Saleem (HS) Iqra	Present		
Chris Toye (CT) Wyvern Federation	Present		
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	Cllr Ben King	Present
Dominique Franklin-Johnson (DFJ) Finance Group Manager	Present	Cllr Jenny Brathwaite	Present
Annie Hudson (AH) Strategic Director	Apologies		
Hamant Baharadia (HB) Assistant Director Strategic Finance	Absent		

MINUTES

1. Welcome & Apologies

CA-J welcomed everyone to the meeting. CA-J extended a warm welcome to the new Councillors Ben Kind and Jenny Brathwaite and introductions were made.

Apologies were received and accepted from: Annie Hudson; Maksud Gangat, Matthew Green, Charles Asher; Roger Bowdery, Glenda King,

2. Draft minutes from the Schools Forum meeting held on 6th March 2018

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 2 – This item is outstanding on how the education money is spent. **ACTION: Finance Team.**
- The Growth Fund – this action is being addressed at the meeting.
- Page 2 Item 4 – Membership. Marcia Hosain no longer wants to be on the SF and Carol Hayes has offered to replace her. Monica Box is not in a position to join the SF and Dan Cundy will join in her place. This was accepted by all SF members. CAJ will review the membership to reflect the current makeup. This will be done at the next meeting in the new academic year. **ACTION: CAJ**
- Page 4 Item 7 – EY Funding – TG informed that there is no need to change the rate, therefore £6.03 remains.

4. Membership

The following vacancies were discussed:

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;

The names put forward were Carena King and Michael Holland, (Sunnyhill Primary School) who are both primary community governors. They were happy to accept.

Jeremy Baker (Chair of Governors – Rosendale Primary School) is a reserve, as there are no vacancies at the moment.

CAJ will keep trying to recruit members for the Special School and the Non-School PVI.

CAJ informed of membership expiring for JM – who agreed to stay on, NB – who agreed to stay on, RS – who agreed to stay on, AH – who did not agree to stay on as she is retiring, MG – CAJ to speak to him. **ACTION: CAJ.**

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 informed about the take up of 30hours free childcare for working parents. Data has been received and the take up is steadily improving with the number of children taking up the offer in the borough, in school settings, PVIs and with childminders.

Funding has been received from the DfE to build on the delivery of the 30hrs. The seconded post holder will be looking at supporting childminders. Work is being done with a film company to promote childminding as a whole and this will also assist with the 30hr take-up.

Parents are more aware and more parents are coming forward. Providers are also helping them with regard to eligibility. The challenges will remain the same with the huge admin task, work needed to get payments through, to get codes and eligibility.

AH thanked BI for the support she had provided for the school.

Q. Does EY have access to a list of childminders who do 30hrs?

A. It would be useful to have such a list, so that EY would know who they could refer parents to.

KS stated that GDPR will need to be looked at and the next step will be more partnership working and talking to childminders so that they can come back to RS. It identified that children's centres are the main hub for them to work with. Also 2yr olds have been targeted and parents are being made aware of the 30hr places of funded childcare.

KS clarified issues with codes and informed of the importance of being issued with a code rather than validating the code. The DfE could be contacted for further assistance.

Q. Is there data for the demographics of the people who have taken up the spaces, so that those that need the places are targeted?

A. This information is not available as parent apply directly with a code. The information can only be broken down into wards. EY will look at getting together case studies.

Q. How far away is Lambeth from meeting the anticipated DfE target?

A. The DfE were unaware that Lambeth have a downturn in 3 and 4 year olds.

Q. How does Lambeth compare with other boroughs eg. Croydon or Lewisham?

A. The data was taken from the statistical analysis done by the DfE and shows Lambeth is doing well.

KS informed that RS emailed her about available funding, which is LA led and bids have to go through the LA, however this was not discussed further. KS was asked to look into this for the next meeting. **ACTION: KS.**

CAJ thanked KS for her work.

7. DSG Outturn - Tim Gibson

TG presented a paper on the amount of income and spending from the DSG. After all the deductions, Lambeth received £214.491m for the academic year 2017/18. There was an overspend by the Council of £1.743m in 2017/18 and this meant that the unspent DSG c/f decreased from £6.638m to £4.895m.

TG pointed out that the pressure area is in the HN block where the spending is not sustainable as more was spent than received. The EY estimated amount of funding is still not the final amount and it will come through in June and this has delayed the time adjustments.

Q. What is the plan for the c/f? What is the money for?

A. Approx £1m is needed to address timing differences in the EY's Block and the remainder will be used to cover overspends and cost pressures in the HNB. By the end of the year there is expected to be little or no c/f. Actions are needed to bring the costs down for the HNB. In 2018/19 there will be at least £4m more spent on the HNB than is likely to be received, unless the costs can be reduced. The situation cannot be sustained.

8. SEND High Needs Block Budget – Cathy Twist & Tim Gibson

CTw gave a SEND update on Local Area Strategy, inspection preparation and funding.

- The Children and Families Action 2014 have increased the EHCP eligibility from 3-19 to 0-25.
- The local area inspection assess partnership working to commission and provide services for children and families.
- An inspection will be carried out by Ofsted and CQC.
- In terms of outcomes - Lambeth do well for outcomes for children. Lambeth is clear on its strengths and areas for development with an action plan in place. This is monitored by the SEND strategic board.

- Lambeth DSG for 2017/18 totalled £268m. It allocated £22.8m to EY, £206m to schools and £38.5m on HN. £41m (20%) is identified as the notional SEN budget and schools are notified of the amounts in their individual budgets.
- Lambeth need to find £55m savings over the 3yr period 2017/18 to 2019/20.
- There is no system in place to do a review of the EHCP.

Q. Are ECHP being granted for a certain amount of years with an end date?

A. No. They will be regularly reviewed. SEN have set targets and are slowing down or reducing their allocation of EHCPs, as the resource grant can be allocated for a set period of time. It was suggested that a pilot project be done as it has been in Medway.

- SEN is projected to overspend by £4.8m for 2017/18. The SF has agreed an additional £1.58m for schools with higher numbers of EHCPs.
- SEN Travel Assistance – the total spend is projected to be £4.5m. The bus contract has been retendered with the aim of reducing the budget to £3.5m for 2018/19.
- A savings proposals plan to reduce the overspend on the HN budget for 2018/19 by £3m was suggested.
- A national survey was done recently and 85 LA responded saying they had budget pressures with 68 LA reporting an overspend.

Q. What is the DfE's response to this?

A. That there is no more money available.

A discussion took place around the accurate diagnosis of EHCPs and the role of Health, especially SEMH as an increasing number of pupils were getting EHCPs for MH, due to the lack of MH support for schools and CAMHS taking a long time and are a variable provision. Health have provided initiatives and their willingness, however there isn't the financial support. There was a discussion on the exploration of the Inclusion Fund and the possibility of repurposing that.

9. Growth Fund 2017-18 and 2018-19 – Tim Gibson

TG gave an update on the Growth Fund, on what the money was spent on.

Due to the adjustment of pupil numbers, if a school is permanently expanding the APT method would be used, but if the school is taking bulge classes then the Growth Fund would be used.

Three main strands are considered in pupil funding, - a) those pupils not on the census; b) start-up costs – of a new class coming in; c) diseconomies of scale – where there are new schools with the same costs as established schools.

TG produced figures of what was set aside, what was spent and what was c/f. He informed that there was an issue with the diseconomies of scale both in primary and secondary schools.

Q. What is the APT?

A. It is the Authority Proforma Tool that needs to be filled in by a deadline and returned to the DfE in January.

A discussion arose on whether there should be a reduction in the PAN for expanding schools if the demand in school places is falling. The need for accurate pupil planning and the longer term risk if numbers are reduced. The expansion of some schools may lead to the possible closure of others. The reduction of PAN with primaries so they don't close.

Q. Is there a demand for places in the primary sector or should they be looking at reducing their PAN?

A. There is still a need in the south of the borough.

Q. Is there a risk register?

A. It is part of the Education Advisory Board.

10. Forward Plan

Disproportionate SEN funding and HNB will be viewed at the next meeting in October. **ACTION: CTw.**

£250K was agreed from the vulnerable schools fund and feedback from the LSP was requested on how it was spend and whether it was a success. **ACTION: TG.**

A review of the Growth Fund is needed. The growth criteria will be reviewed in the Forward Plan.

The paper on EY Funding Formula will be reviewed to see whether the formula should be kept as is or tweaked to reflect deprivation.

Also the In-Year forecast income and spend of the DSG will be reported at future meeting/s. **ACTION: TG.**

11. AOB


It was noted that the Council has been allocated £350K in the first year of the sugar tax. This is for reducing childhood obesity and improving health.

Rosendale Primary School have been running research into reducing childhood obesity and are working with a Finnish company, who make trackers to monitor the amount of exercise pupils are getting. KA to send CTw information and contact details. **ACTION: KA.**

12. **Future Meeting Dates**

16th October 2018 @ Hitherfield School 6-8pm

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.50pm

Signed: 

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

Date: 16 / 10 / 18