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# 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 15th January 2019 at 18:00pm – 20.00pm

### School Forum Members:

<u>Schools:</u>	<u>Present, Apologies, Absent</u>	<u>Governors:</u>	<u>Present, Apologies, Absent</u>
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	Present
Glenda King (GK) Ethelred	Present	Matthew Green (MGr) Richard Atkins Primary	Present
David Boyle (DB) Dunraven School	Absent	Charles Asher (CA) GHF	Absent
Mark Jordan (MJ) (PCA)	Present	Carena Hall (CH) Immanuel & St Andrews CE Primary	Present
Humaira Saleem (HS) Iqra	Apologies	Sarah Crisp (SC) The Michael Tippett School	Apologies
Chris Toye (CT) Wyvern Federation	Present		
Jayne Mitchell (JM) St. Andrew's Primary	Absent		
Kate Atkins (KA) Great North Wood Education Trust	Present		

**DRAFT**

Michael Holland (MH) Sunnyhill Primary	Present		
Coral Hayes Ruskin House School	Present		
<b><u>Officers:</u></b>	<b>Present, Apologies, Absent</b>	<b><u>Observers:</u></b>	<b>Present, Apologies, Absent</b>
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	Apologies	Vinay Gupta (VG) St. Gabriel's College	Absent
Tim Gibson (TG) Interim Assistant Director Childrens Finance	Present	Cllr Ben Kind	Absent
Dominique Franklin-Johnson (DFJ) Finance Group Manager	Absent	Cllr Jenny Brathwaite	Absent
Annie Hudson (AH) Strategic Director	Absent	Derek Roopnarine Group Manager, Finance	Present
Hamant Baharadia (HB) Assistant Director Strategic Finance	Apologies		
David Goldring (DG) Accountant - Finance	Absent		
Adam Yarnold (AY) Lead, Special Educational Needs	Present		

**DRAFT**

## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome & Apologies

CAJ welcomed everyone to the meeting. CAJ extended a warm welcome to Coral Hayes and Derek Roopnarine.

Apologies were received and accepted from: Humaira Saleem, Bunwi Idowu, Sarah Crisp and Hamant Baharadia.

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

CAJ reported that he would review the vacancy left, after Alexandra Hardy retired last term.

SF members completed the Declaration of Business Interests.

## 3. Minutes from the Schools Forum meeting held on 16th October 2018 and matters arising

The Minutes were checked for accuracy. It was agreed to remove the word “decision” from Pt 6. (p6) final paragraph.

It would read as follows: “*SF Members voted and it was **agreed** unanimously to delegate this to the Early Years’ Sub-Group to consider at their next meeting.*”

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

### Matters arising:

- Page 4/5 –pt 5. HNB spend - Details of the reduction of the number of out of borough placements by increasing capacity in the borough as well as information on the EHCP spend for 1-3 and 19-25 year olds was not available. TG offered to have the information by the next SF meeting. **ACTION: TG/AY.**
- Page 6 –pt 7 Cost pressure to schools – TG informed that the Government is starting a consultation on how to allocate funds. The LA will look to co-ordinate a response. TG will look in more detail at the consultation and send round an email update. **ACTION: TG.**
- Page 8 – pt 11 Forward Plan – This item will be picked up at the next meeting in March when the review has been done. **ACTION: TG.**

## 4. Early Years Deprivation – Feedback from EY Sub-Group

1.

- The EY funding is calculated on the January 2018 count.
- No decision was taken previously but a recommendation was made by the EY Sub-Group to opt for Model 2.

**Model 2 – Band A-D 57% deprivation scores:**

*Keeps the overall pot the same if there is an increased rate and targets 57% of the children in Lambeth.*

**Q.** Are there any risks with the decision to go for Model 2?

**A.** Schools were in catchment areas for Band D onwards. It is best from a stability point of view. It is most appropriate and puts it in line with the National Funding Formula for schools.

- CAJ thanked the EY Sub Group for their work.

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**2. SF Members voted unanimously to opt for Model 2.**

## **5. 2019/20 DSG Overview**

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is the ring fenced grant used to fund individual school budgets.

# DRAFT

- There has been an update on the DfE information published in December 2018. It sets out how blocks are made up. Schools and EY are driven by pupil numbers and HNB, CSS by the National Funding Formula.
- The DfE have changed the funding for growing schools. They look at the geographical areas and how pupil numbers have changed. Lambeth had £5.2m funding and have now lost over £1m. A protection mechanism was put in, otherwise Lambeth would have dropped to a £1.5m loss. The consultation that was carried out was not a wide consultation.

**Q.** What is the impact?

**A.** They cancel each other out as it is a like for like basis and is using less funding for growth. Next year there is likely to be a cost pressure as the new secondary school on the Glenbrook opens

- TG was asked whether he could write to the DfE to explain the extraordinary growth, as it was a unique year for Lambeth. **ACTION: TG**

The DfE has changed the calculation of the funding for growth formula, which has resulted in Lambeth getting less funding. However, the DfE has allocated additional funding of £634K for the HN in both 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The SF members noted the allocations set out in the table and also noted that the HNB and EY will be subject to change later on in the year.

## 6. 2019/20 School Budget Allocations

TG gave the background to the paper and reiterated that the information on which the schools funding allocations are based comes from the DfE shortly before Christmas and is based largely on the October census and the documentation (APT) needs to be submitted back to the DfE by 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 and is brought to the SF for agreement. The funding allocations take into consideration previous decisions taken by the Schools Forum eg. the movement of funding into the HNB of 0.5%, the decision to keep the Lambeth funding formula largely unchanged and the minimum funding guarantee to be set at -1.5%.

The main changes that between 2018/19 and 2019/20 is about pupil numbers, with a small overall reduction on primary numbers and the increase in secondary numbers. There have however been some individual schools with fairly significant changes in pupil numbers.

**DRAFT**

It was noted that St. Gabriel's school was on two sites and will not receive split site funding, but now it is on one site and it was further noted that Wyvil Primary school was now operating across two sites. A few schools are growing In-Year and will expand in September 2019.

The main driver is pupil numbers. The funding formula is staying the same and is determined by the DfE. Progress measure will be between Reception and Yr6.

**Q.** Is mobility a factor?

**A.** Lambeth uses mobility in their funding formula, but it is based on the DfE definition. It has to be above the 10% threshold to qualify.

All schools receive the lump sum allocation of £170K.

There are checks and controls within APT and within the Lambeth funding formula there is a protection in it. Previously there were 26 schools that qualified for minimum funding guarantee funding and now there are 15 schools.

As had been mentioned at the previous meeting it was stated that a comparison between the National Funding Formula (NFF) and the Lambeth Formula would be carried as it was now envisaged that the Lambeth Formula would be used for longer than had originally been anticipated, this review would include the deprivation factors, the split site definition, the Primary to Secondary ratio, and the proportions put into deprivation. SF to review this item. **ACTION: TG**

Premises type factors in the formula are eg PFI. In the case of split sites, distance is looked at and considered.

SF members were asked to vote on the recommendations, which would be made to the LA.

*The Schools Forum is asked to recommend that the funding formula be set as indicated in Appendix 1, this includes:*

- *A minimum guarantee funding level of 1.5%.*
- *An adjustment to the Primary Low Prior Attainment (LPA) value such that the overall level of funding remains unchanged.*
- *The values used for all factors other than AWPU, Primary LPA and rates remains unchanged.*
- *The AWPU values to be adjusted in order to balance back to the calculated control total, currently this is an increase of 2% compared to 18/19 (but is subject to change).*

**3. The Schools Forum noted that there would be some further adjustments required to the allocations as the rates figures and other data in the formula were still subject to verification and checks by both the LA and DfE.**

SF Members voted unanimously to the above recommendations.

## **7. High Needs Block Cost Pressures**

The funding in the HNB is now extremely stretched because of the changes to the legislation in the Children and Families Act 2014 and lack of additional funding being made available by DfE to meet the requirements. There are challenges on spend for HNBs around the country. The reasons for the overspend are that there is an

increase in the number of children and young people eligible for EHCs, which are now from birth until the age of 25.

The HN's Budget is projected to overspend by circa £4.5m. The DfE has allocated some additional funding as has been mentioned which has meant that there is a slight reduction on the overspend but further reductions in expenditure are still required in order to keep within the funding that is available. Proposals for savings include:

- 1. A reshaping of the Behaviour Outreach team will take place
- 2 The SEN team will be restructured to achieve greater efficiencies

3. Lambeth agreed a disproportionate SEN fund several years ago and £1.58m from the HNB has been allocated to the fund. This is a local agreement to give schools that have historically had higher numbers of children with EHCPs than the average extra assistance

In order to support schools to intervene early where children have additional needs a proposal is being made to reduce the disproportionate fund to £500k payable to those with more than 3.5% EHCPs and create an 'Inclusion Fund' of £500k which schools can apply to support pupils pre-EHCPs, £500k will be set against savings.

**DRAFT**

The Appendix shows a comparison of how the money would be allocated compared to the amount that each school received in 2018/19

**Q.** Does the £1.58m come from the HNB?

**A.** Yes.

**Q.** Can the money be left in the HNB and other savings made?

**A.** We are running out of areas to make savings and are doing all we can to avoid the need to reduce funds available for EHCPs

**Q.** How much is spent on out of borough for SEN students?

**A.** £4.5m and over £6m for independent schools.

**Q.** How many pupils come in from out of borough?

**A.** Adam to send out the information, but it is not costing Lambeth anything as these pupils are funded by their own boroughs **ACTION: AY**

There is an ongoing programme of reducing out of borough placements. Additional SEMH places are being created including in the new Vanguard secondary school which will open in January 2020.

Post 16 and Post 19 EHCPs will be reviewed due to costs and whether pupils may or may not benefit further from EHCPs. If not, then alternative pathways need to be looked at.



Lambeth are looking at reducing EY EHCPs as Nurseries in EY settings can apply for money for early intervention for High Needs from the EY Inclusion Fund

**Q.** The Vanguard school is a free school, will Lambeth pupils with EHCPs be given priority in admissions?

**A.** Yes.

**Q.** Is the application process the same?

**A.** Yes.

Governors were asked to vote on the recommendation that a consultation on reducing the Disproportionate Fund goes out to consultation to headteachers.

SF members voted unanimously for the recommendation that it goes out to consultation.

## **8. 2019/20 Education Functions and De-delegation**

TG recommended that the SF want to keep the decisions as previously, not to deduct for the Vulnerable Schools Fund in 2019/20. The decision was shared with all schools in a letter that was sent out in the Autumn Term.

SF members voted unanimously on the recommendation:

*3.1 The Schools Forum (Maintained School Representatives only) is asked to agree to de-delegate £4.50 per pupil to cover the cost of trade union representatives.*

*SF members voted unanimously on the recommendation:*

*3.2 The Schools Forum (Maintained School Representatives only) is asked to agree to continue to de-delegate £20.50 per pupil for Education Functions for maintained schools that were previously covered by the Education Services Grant.*

## **9. Future Meeting Dates**

The next meeting will be on:

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 6-8pm @ Hitherfield**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019 6-8pm @ Hitherfield**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 6-8pm @ Hitherfield**

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

**10. AOB**

The Lambeth School Forum Briefing Seminar will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> March

Schools Finance Meeting (EY sub group) – Volunteers to meet with CTw are CAJ, KA and NB.

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There being no further business to discuss, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.40pm.

Signed: 

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Chris Ashley-Jones**

**Chair of the School Forum**