

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 16th October 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	Present
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 (MGr) Richard Atkins Primary	Present
David Boyle (DB) Dunraven School	Present	Charles Asher (CA) GHF	Apologies
Mark Jordan (MJ) (PCA)	Apologies	Carena Hall (CH) Immanuel & St Andrews CE Primary	Present
Humaira Saleem (HS) Iqra	Present	Michael Holland (MH) Sunnyhill Primary	Present
Chris Toye (CT) Wyvern Federation			
Jayne Mitchell (JM) St. Andrew's Primary	Present		
Kate Atkins (KA) Great North Wood Education Trust	Apologies		
<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	Apologies

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 Kind	Present
Dominique Franklin-Johnson (DFJ) Finance Group Manager	Present	Cllr Jenny Brathwaite	Absent
Annie Hudson (AH) Strategic Director	Apologies		
Hamant Baharadia (HB) Assistant Director Strategic Finance	Present		
David Goldring (DG) Accountant - Finance	Present		
Adam Yarnold (AY) Lead, Special Educational Needs	Present		

MINUTES

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

CAJ welcomed everyone to the meeting. CAJ extended a warm welcome to Michael Holland, Carena Hall, Adam Yarnold and Dave Goldring.

Apologies were received and accepted from: Annie Hudson; Charles Asher; Kate Atikins, Christine Golding, Mark Jordan, Brian Hazzle.

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

CAJ reported that Maksud Gangat would be staying on the SF for another term of office, as would CAJ.

There is a vacancy for a Special School Governor and Sarah Keane (Co-Opted Governor) has applied to fill the vacancy. SF members voted and agreed for Sarah Keane to join the SF. Sarah will be notified and will attend the next SF meeting.

As this was the first SF meeting of the new academic year, SF members voted for a Chair and Vice-Chair. CAJ was nominated, seconded and elected as Chair. KA was nominated, seconded and elected as Vice-Chair.

AH was standing down after two terms of office (8yrs). CAJ thanked AH on behalf of the Local Authority for all her work on the SF. CTw added her thanks for all the work and support AH had provided.

CAJ informed that the Membership list in the pack reflected the membership fully, and generally reflected all the schools in the borough.

The following changes to the representation were recommended:

- Primary School Membership should change from 7 Community and 3 Voluntary Aided to 5 Community, 3 Voluntary Aided, 1 Academy and 1 Foundation.
- Non-Schools should be renamed Other Providers.

SF members voted on the above changes and they were **agreed** unanimously.

SF members completed the Declaration of Business Interests.

3. Minutes from the Schools Forum meeting held on 13th June 2018 and matters arising

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

4. Matters arising

- Page 8 Item 3 – This has gone out.
- Page 8 Item 4 – The structure has been addressed.
- Page 9 Item 6 – EY Service update: An email was sent out by RS, who highlighted that the funding to be passed on to EY, had been passed on appropriately. There is £30m capital funding for school based nursery provision for disadvantaged children. There is interest from schools across the borough and RS and teams are working with those. The deadline for the funding is 22/11/2018.
- Page 11/12 Item 10 – The Forward Plan is an item on the Agenda and the In Year budget will be covered by TG at the meeting on 4th December 2018.
- Page 12 Item 11 – KA passed on the information to CTw re: Childhood Obesity.

5. Information about schools funding NFF and DSG settlement for 2019/20

TG informed that:

- The DfE announced that there is HNB special free school funding. The Vanguard School is a special free school opening in Lambeth next year. Lambeth want to bring the school into the HN remit and transition arrangements will apply.
- We have been notified that there will be a government consultation on funding for Hospital Education, as they are looking to change the current arrangements, but this has not yet been started.

- Post-16 HN funding will be changed so that it is like the Pre-16 funding. There will be no more or no less funding, but it will be made simpler and it will come in at the start of the academic year.
- The Import/Export adjustment will continue, but this is notified later in the process.
- The school block local formula funding will continue for the next 3 years.
- There is a change in the National Funding formula, and it will look at the growth in the geographical groups, but there is a protection mechanism within it.
- The DfE used 2017/18 as their baseline for the allocated budgets, the risks of this need to be flagged up for Lambeth.

6. High Needs Block spend update and request to transfer funding from Schools Block

The report circulated provided an update on the SEND Strategy and the SEND budget constraints.

- Due to The Children and Families Act 2014, changes have been brought in for SEND and increased numbers of pupils are eligible for assessment Funding for Education, Health and Care plans comes in from three areas – Education – HNB dedicated schools fund, Health budget and from Social Care – the Council's general fund. The SEND Strategic Board oversees all matters relating to SEND across the local area.
- In 2018/19 SF agreed to transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block funding in to the HNB. It was requested the SF do this again for the 2019/20 financial year. The SF voted on this matter and agreed unanimously to transfer 0.5% to the HNB.

The Finance Summary:

- DSG High needs block is anticipated to overspend by £4.5m in 2018/19 because of greater demands on the HNB.
- The local area inspection is expected within the next 12 months.
- Lambeth has identified a range of challenges. There has been a significant increase in the demand for EHCPs, due to the age increase from 0-25, whereas before it was from 3-19. This has caused huge pressures on the budget.
- Lambeth Council needs to find £55m savings from its general fund which will have an impact on a range of services.
- The SEND budget for High Needs has only seen an increase of 2% as opposed to the EHCPs going up by 25% since 2014.
- Lambeth has looked at ways to reduce the spend and has retendered the SEN Transport contract, which has brought in a saving of £1.2m. It has reviewed the commissioning of Outreach services and made savings of £400K. Freezing recruitment in the SEN team has made a saving of £300K.
- Lambeth is looking at further reducing Outreach services and align them within a new inclusion team. It is looking to reduce legal services and also to restructure the SEN management team. It is also looking to a repurposing of the SEN disproportionate EHCP budget.

- Lambeth will look to reduce the number of out of borough placements by increasing capacity in the borough. There will be an update on this at the next meeting. **ACTION: CTw/TG**

A discussion took place regarding EHCPs for 0-25.

Q. How much is the spending on 1-3 and 19-25?

A. The information is not to hand, but TG can come back to this with the relevant figures. **ACTION: TG/AY**

Q. If statutory education needs to be funded to 19, then why is Lambeth funding it to 25?

A. Students on EHCPs go up to 25 rather than 19, it is a statutory requirement.

Q. Are the EHCPs funded through the school or the education authority?

A. An EHCP is linked to the child so it will follow the child.

Q. How many EHCPs are there in Lambeth?

A. Approximately 2,500.

A discussion took place regarding reducing out of borough placements and the SEMH provision in secondary schools. The Vanguard school is opening in 2020, which is a free school sponsored and paid for by the EFSA. PLT is offering 32 places – 16 primary and 16 secondary places.

Questions were raised around various school expansions and building developments.

Q. Are the places at PLT in lieu of spaces not filled at the PRU or due to an expansion?

A. It is an expansion and has been identified as a different, separate SEMH provision. A site was created within the building and this area has been separated.

The Lambeth Schools Partnership is organising a seminar to address funding issues in schools. Information has been circulated to Heads about the funding cuts and other options that are being put in place.

ST informed that the School Cuts campaign has been re-launched. There will be a demonstration on Tuesday 20th November at 6pm and a march past the DfE.

7. Early Years Funding Formula

In 2016 the EY National Funding formula was changed. This has to now change again due to the banding that has changed nationally. The table on p21 shows the score impact on providers. It was suggested that the banding is followed and the most IDACI Score is targeted, so that the banding model is followed and the children in the most deprived settings are targeted.

A detailed analysis on the provider basis was done on the potential implications of moving towards the IDACI bands, which resulted in 3 Models. Model 1 – Removal of Band G – as per NFF; Model 2 – Band A-D 57% deprivation scores; Model 3 – Band A-C 43% deprivation scores.

The deprivation supplement will not be increased and therefore there is a need to change from the status quo, so either Model 2 of 57% deprivation scores or Model 3 of 43% deprivation scores. SF members were asked to choose the models or delegate this action to the EY group to research. There is £1.2m in the pot and it needs to be going to the right families and being aimed at the more deprived end of the scale, as previously deprivation funding was given to those pupils that were not deprived.

SF members voted and it was **agreed** unanimously to delegate this decision to the Early Years' Sub-Group to consider at their next meeting.

8. **Cost pressure to schools**

The government announced that it had made an investment of £508m to fully fund the pay deal. The information set out in this paper is for information only and raises issues on how certain schools will be affected eg. those that have lower role numbers and higher staffing bills. There is also additional information on teachers' pensions.

ST informed the SF members that the government announcement is misleading as the money the government have given will not cover it all.

The teachers' pension contribution will have a massive impact on budgets and a finance meeting for HTs is being arranged by the Lambeth Schools Partnership.

To provide further information to the Schools Forum on the funding that will be made available by the Government for the increased teacher's pension costs. **ACTION:**
TG

9. **Falling Rolls Fund**

The key aim of this fund is to protect schools in short term financial difficulties caused by external factors. There is £585K from the DSG fund to be distributed to support schools that meet the criteria – they need to be judged Good or Outstanding for the access pot.

Q. Does each school have documented evidence why it has a falling roll? Is it written down and kept?

A. There was a baby boom and a lot of money was spent on building and expanding schools and now we are going through a dip in rolls. Certain areas have a lesser roll than others. The LA are asking schools to reduce an entry form, but there are no

plans to close any schools. The GLA prediction is that numbers will increase again, but the LA will keep reviewing the situation to make sure that schools remain stable.

The list of schools on the list will be reprofiled after the October census.

It was reported that there are 400 primary school places vacant in the borough. Therefore, it is necessary to make sure that each school is viable, whilst also considering parental choice. A 5yr plan will be looked at with a School Organisation Advisory Board in place, as the decisions made were historic ones and need reviewing and updating.

SF members voted and **agreed** unanimously to keep the current falling rolls criteria for 2019/2020.

SF members voted and **agreed** unanimously to provisionally allocate an amount of £585K in 2019/2020 – this can be revised once final census figures are known and any funding that is not allocated will be carried forward to future years.

10. **Growth Fund update**

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

The Growth Fund is used for one-off bulge classes or schools that are part expanding. Currently the team are looking at how much funding will be needed for next year.

The table on p33 shows the planned Growth Fund for 2019/2010

Q. Do academies also get money?

A. There is no distinction between academy or mainstream.

Q. Why is this?

A. The overall funding allocation is for all schools and local decisions are made for all schools.

SF members voted and **agreed** unanimously the current Growth Fund criteria for 2019/20.

SF members voted and **agreed** unanimously to review the allocation of Growth Fund of £680K and agree the amount for 2019/2010.

11. **Vulnerable Schools Fund**

The Vulnerable Schools Fund (VSF) is like an insurance policy for schools that may find themselves in difficulty eg. pupil roll issues or staffing etc. Part of the package that is on offer for schools is through the Lambeth Schools Partnership offer eg. School Improvement Advisors etc.

A School Improvement Monitoring Group was set up and has monitored the spend over the year, eg. what consultancy support money was spent on etc. There is still a reasonable amount left in the pot.

SF members voted and **agreed** unanimously to:

- a) Keep the money in the fund and continue to use it as planned, meaning that the SF would probably not need to de-delegate again for the next two (or more) years.

12. **Forward Plan**

This was discussed very briefly and it was agreed to bring a more detailed DSG breakdown, in year monitoring of the spend, EY funding from sub-groups, SEN – to the next meeting.

An update will be given at the next meeting on the Lambeth vs the National Funding Formula **ACTION: TG/CTw**

13. **Future Meeting Dates**

The next meeting will be on:

Tuesday 4th December 2018 6-8pm @ Hitherfield

Tuesday 15th January 2019 6-8pm @ Hitherfield

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

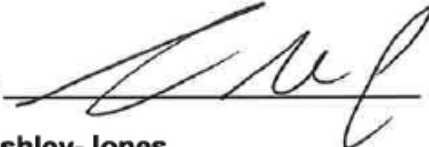
14. **AOB**

Q. Why are the next two SF meetings so close together?

A. The final funding needs to be agreed and the DfE deadline is the 19th January 2019.

There was further thanks to AH for all her work on the SF and she will be missed.

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: 15 / 11 / 19