

**THE SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS FORUM
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Thursday 30th January 2014**

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- 1. Attendance and Apologies**
See Annex A. Steve Morrison substituted for Richard Bannister attended as a representative for the Academy constituency.
 - 2. Declaration of Interests**
Members were asked to declare any pecuniary or other interests they might have that were greater than the interests of other members of the Forum in any matter on the agenda for discussion. There were none.
 - 3. Minutes of the Meeting of 7th December 2013**
These were agreed as a true record.
 - 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 7th December 2013**
 - 4.1 Melissa Williamson reported that as part of the Early Years Funding Review the LA was seeking the following representatives:
Early Years Headteacher
Primary Academy
PVI – 4 reps
Maintained Primary Schools – 4 reps
Primary Governor
Members were asked to contact the Clerk if they wished to be part of the review group
 - 4.2 Trade Union Facility Time – Funding 2014-15 – Melissa Williamson reported that the proportions were being re-calculated based on the new membership figures – the outcome will be reported back to the next meeting.
 - 5. Provisional Dedicated Schools Grant 2014-15**
 - 5.1 This report, previously circulated, provided details of the provisional allocations of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2014-15 in comparison to the 2013-14 allocation.
 - 5.2 Fay Hammond reported that once again the risk is that the numbers of early years pupils increases during the year so requiring higher payments in the summer and autumn than budgeted for. Also no inflation has been allowed for by the government to the DSG only an increase due to higher pupil numbers which will have to be used on funding the cost of this increase.
 - 5.3 The loss of DSG due to the ending of the 90% floor funding protection for nursery aged children will be managed within the existing early years resources because the funding of full time places has ceased.

The Report was noted.

6. Update on the Centrally Retained Budgets of the 2014-15 Dedicated Schools Grant

- 6.1 A report setting out a summary of the anticipated changes for the centrally retained budgets had been previously circulated. Fay Hammond explained that £300k of the increased funding for early Years will be used to resource the existing staff that are promoting the in the community the uptake of the 2 year old offer. There are no other anticipated changes.
- 6.2 The impact on the High Needs Block of the new funding arrangements is still being evaluated and it is anticipated that as the non maintained school placements have increased by 50% since 2010 the budget will need to be re-aligned i.e. increasing it by £500k.
- 6.3 The Schools Block includes the fees paid to independent schools for pupils without SEN (pupils in secure accommodation). There has been a 42% increase since 2012 and so an extra £150k will be needed to fund these placements.
- 6.4 The DfE, as previously reported, has negotiated a number of national licences for schools relating to copyright, music etc. These have increased by £33k in 2014-15 and will need to be funded on behalf of schools.
- 6.5 All centrally retained budgets will be reviewed once the calls upon the High Needs Block are determined and then reported back to the Schools Forum.

The Report was noted.

7. Mainstream Schools Budgets 2014-15

- 7.1 The report, previously circulated, provided an update to the Schools Forum of the School Funding Formula and the Schools Block allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant to Southwark in 2014-15.
- 7.2 Fay Hammond reported that the DfE in December 2013 had updated the DSG for 2014-15 to take account of the October 2013 pupil census data. This was not only the total volume of pupils but also the volumes on each of the pupil characteristics such as prior attainment.
- 7.3 The prior attainment factor for secondary age pupils is now based on low scores in English or Maths rather than English and Maths. This has therefore required a reduction in the rate applied to keep it within the control total for that factor.
- 7.4 The DfE does not permit in-year adjustments to formula funding, so the 2013-14 underspend will be distributed by, as approved by the July 2013 Schools Forum, adjusting the 2014-15 formula allocation. The new NNDR rates are now available and these will be used in the funding formula.
- 7.5 The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will cost £1,088,800 and will be resourced by applying a limit to the amount those schools can gain by – this limit is set at 1.92%. Following a question from Steve Morrison it was

confirmed that the MFG is based on a per pupil cash value to schools not a percentage.

- 7.6 The report also included an analysis of the impact these changes had on schools and an appendix showing a change comparison between 2014-15 and 2013-14 with comments.
- 7.7 The Schools Forum then voted on whether they supported how the changes were applied: In favour 7, Abstentions 2, none against.

8. Early Years Funding Rates 2014-15

- 8.1 The report, previously circulated, gave details of the funding rates of the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF). Melissa Williamson said that there were no proposed changes to the rates compared to 2013-14 other than the distribution of the 2012-13 underspend.

The Report was noted.

9. High Needs Funding 2014-15

- 9.1 This previously circulated report gave details of the proposed rates for providers funding through the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant in 2014-15.
- 9.2 The rates for special schools and SEN Units have been adjusted to reflect the changes in MFG and the new proposed ceiling rate. This is offset to some extent by the distribution in 2014-15 of the 2012-13 DSG underspend.
- 9.3 There are no changes to the rates for High Needs funding for individual pupils in mainstream schools. The top up rate for the Pupil Referral Unit will be £21k per place for the 100 available places. Funding for Hospital schools is determined nationally.

The Schools Forum Noted the Report

10. Universal Free School Meals for Infants

- 10.1 Letters from the DfE were noted.

11. A.O.B

Lynn Charlton reported that she was still to hear from Southwark concerning the funding for the Heads Exec Council – Kerry Crichlow said she would follow up with the Director.

12. Date for Next Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2014 at Notre Dame High School

There being no further business the meeting closed.

Annex A

**SCHOOLS FORUM ATTENDANCE SHEET
30th January 2014**

VOTING MEMBERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PRESENT
Lynn Charlton	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Craig Voller	Primary School Headteacher	Apologies
Keith Fox	Primary School Headteacher	Apologies
Jacqui Louis	Primary School Headteacher	Apologies
Elaine Garlick	Primary School Governor	Apologies
Vacancy	Primary School Governor	
Kay Beckwith	Nursery School Headteacher	Yes
Simon Eccles	Special School Headteacher	Yes
Gillian Reeve	Early Years – Private/Voluntary and Independent Settings	Apologies
Richard Bannister	Academy	Substitute
Mickey Kelly	Academy	Apologies
Mike Antoniou	Academy	Yes
Yomi Adewoye	Pupil Referral Units	Yes
Sister Anne-Marie Niblock	Secondary School Headteacher	Yes
Terri Williams	FE SEN	Yes
Vacancy	Diocese Board	
Betty Joseph substitute Michael Davern	Trade Unions	Michael Davern

Senior Officers in Attendance

Kerry Crichlow	Director Yes
Fay Hammond	Head of Children's Services Finance - Yes
Merril Haeusler	Apologies
Jim Eshelby	Apologies
David Cross	Clerk