

**THE SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS FORUM  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

See Annex A. Matt Jones substituted for Richard Bannister attended as a representative for the Academy constituency and Catherine May substituted for Sister Anne-Marie Niblock as the Maintained Secondary Schools representative. Keith Fox, the Vice Chair took the chair for the meeting.

**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 3rd October 2013**

These were agreed as a true record.

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013**

- 4.1 Kerry Crichlow reported that the number of local authority staff carrying out the eligibility checks as part of the Pupil Benefits Function was 2.

**5. Funding Review of Teachers Trade Union facility Time in Schools**

- 5.1 This report, previously circulated, provided details of the final arrangements for the funding of trade union facility time in 2013-14 by Southwark schools.

- 5.2 Fay Hammond reported that following the Local Authority (LA) contacting each academy it had received 7 responses – 2 stating that they would contribute to the cost of funding the trade union facility time, 5 had said they would not and 10 did not respond. The government had carried out its own review (paying teachers to teach) and were considering bringing in regulations.

- 5.3 Betty Joseph highlighted that the funding allocated from the de-delegated budget for maintained schools and the funds paid by the academies that participate, ensures that well trained union officers are available to assist with local disputes and advice. It was confirmed that those academies that do not make a contribution to the “fund” will have to pay for any advice and support.

- 5.4 The LA said that following these responses a further report setting out the proposals for 2014-15 will be presented to the March 2015 Schools Forum.

The Report was noted.

**6. Early Years Funding 2014-15**

- 6.1 A report setting out the current funding using the statutory Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) with comparisons both national and local had been previously circulated to members.
- 6.2 Melissa Williamson said that the funding formula for 3 and 4 year olds had been in place since April 2010 and since then a number of changes had taken place including moving to payment for participation rather than places and expansion to including two year olds. It would therefore be right to carry out a review of Southwark's EYSFF especially as there are significant differences in base rates between Southwark and other neighbouring boroughs.
- 6.3 Mickey Kelly asked as to why academies with nursery classes were being treated, for funding purposes, as a PVI provider rather than as a maintained school with a nursery class especially as the DfE has stated that this should not be the case. Fay Hammond stated that she was aware of what the DfE had stated, however, the statutory Early Years Funding regulations clearly state that there are only two categories of provider, namely the PVI and maintained nursery classes.
- 6.4 Fay Hammond continued to say that the EYSFF could have a distinctive rate for academies as part of the PVI group and that rate can be the same as a maintained primary school with a nursery class. However, to do so the statutory regulations require that any change to the funding formula requires to be consulted upon with all stakeholders – the LA cannot arbitrarily change or apply new rates.
- 6.5 Mickey Kelly was concerned that this will all take time and in the meantime there is the issue of parity and academies are losing out on funding and this needs to be rectified as soon as possible. Fay Hammond agreed but said the due process must be followed. The timetable in paragraph 5.6 of the report was proposing that the Working Group that is being set up in January 2014, report back to the LA in April 2014 so that the LA can discuss with the Schools Forum in April 2014 and subject to outcomes of consultation and affordability implement in April 2015. Should it be the case, the LA undertook, if affordable, to apply any proposed increase retrospectively to the 2014-15 academic year.
- 6.6 It was agreed that the minutes of the Early Years Working Group be circulated to all members of the Schools Forum.
- 6.7 Following a question, Fay Hammond said that the current projected underspend in Early Years was partly due to the generous funding to LAs in the first year of extending the free entitlement to certain 2 year olds. It is unclear what might happen when the DfE integrates this funding into the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and applies a new distribution method for LAs. This will become clearer over the coming months.
- 6.8 The Schools Forum noted the report and looked forward to see the outcome of the Working Group's review.

**7. Provisional 2014-15 Mainstream School Funding Formula**

- 7.1 The report confirmed that the submission to the DfE of the provisional 2014-15 School Funding Formula in October 2013 was in line with the report submitted to the Schools Forum at its October 2013 meeting.

The Schools Forum Noted the Report

**8. DSG 2013-14 Quarter 3 Monitoring Report**

- 8.1 This previously circulated report summarised the projected variances for the 2013-14 Dedicated Schools Grant.

The Schools Forum Noted the Report

**9. Excellence in Southwark – Final Outturn**

- 9.1 This previously circulated report showed that there was a an unspent balance of £5,448 at the completion of the Excellence in Southwark programme. This would be returned to the DSG.

The Schools Forum Noted the Report

**10. Growth Fund for Temporary/Permanent Expansion**

- 10.1 This previously circulated report gave details of the payments made to schools in 2013-14 and the current proposals for 2014-15. It also informed members that there may be the need to revise the criterion for the use of the Growth fund to take account of the potential expansion in secondary school places.

The Schools Forum Noted the Report

**11. Update on the 2013 Children and Families Bill**

The Schools Forum Noted the Report

**12. Date for Next Meetings**

Noted including change of venue to Notre Dame High School

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6pm.

**Annex A**

**SCHOOLS FORUM ATTENDANCE SHEET**

**12<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

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

Senior Officers in Attendance

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