

SOUTHWARK CHILDREN'S SERVICES - SCHOOLS FORUM

**THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022**

**14.00 to 15.30**

Via Zoom

**MINUTES**

1. Attendance and Apologies: - See Annex A
2. **Quorum:** The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate - Note that the meeting was conducted via Zoom virtual technology.
3. **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 Schools Forum in any matter on the agenda for discussion. None were declared.
4. **Minutes of the Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021**
  - 4.1 These were agreed for accuracy and there were No Matters Arising not already on the agenda.
  - 4.2 The Chair said that, as at the previous meeting, because a lot of the decisions are dependent on each other, the reports would still be taken in order, however, the decisions required on each report would be taken together at the end of the agenda - this was agreed.
5. **Dedicated Schools Grant - 2022-23 allocation to Southwark**
  - 5.1 The Departmental Finance Manager gave an opening statement highlighting that the key principle the council was using was to delegate as much as possible directly to schools which reflects the difficult financial position many schools find themselves in due to falling rolls in the borough. At the same time the work done to reduce the spend in the High Needs Block will mean a reduced, and last, request to the Schools Forum for a block transfer. This was supported by the Director of Children Services.
  - 5.2 This report, circulated with the agenda, gave the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding allocation to Southwark for 2022-23 and provided details of the changes compared to the 2021-22 allocation. In addition, there was a financial update on the 2021-22 Dedicated Schools Grant forecast outturn.
  - 5.3 The report showed that the DSG was on track with a balanced in-year budget. However, the projected outturn is showing a net deficit of £20.595m which has accumulated from previous years.

This will need updating for any changes to pupil numbers from the various censuses.
  - 5.4 It was noted that the provisional 2022-23 DSG allocation was £358.0m (£352.7m in 2021-22), this is before the recoupment which is funding that goes direct to academies & free schools, including growth, per place funding for high needs and the adjustment for NNDR. Pupil numbers, which forms the basis for allocating funding to LAs showed primary pupils were down by 3.1% and up by 1.1% for secondary.

- 5.5 There will be a new additional schools supplementary grant for 2022 to 2023 to the schools block of £7.4m and it is intended that schools use the grant to prioritise their spending to best support the needs of their pupils and address cost pressures, including those associated with the Health and Social Care Levy. The base funding rates for 5-16 schools will be:  
basic per-pupil rate of £97 for primary pupils  
basic per-pupil rate of £137 for key stage 3 pupils  
basic per-pupil rate of £155 for key stage 4 pupils  
lump sum of £3,680  
FSM6 per-pupil rate of £85 per eligible primary pupil  
FSM6 per-pupil rate of £124 per eligible secondary pupil  
The base per-pupil funding rate for early year's provision in schools, and for maintained nursery schools, will be £24 per pupil.  
The area cost adjustment will be applied to the above base rates.
- 5.6 There will be also a new supplementary grant of £2.4m on top of the DSG high needs block allocations to recognise the additional costs that local authorities and schools will face in the coming year, which were not foreseen when the original high needs block allocations were calculated by the ESFA, including the Health and Social Care Levy, that will be applied initially through increased national insurance contributions from employers.
- 5.7 The additional funding also takes into account that colleges and other providers offering extra hours of study to students with high needs may require extra high needs top-up funding to support those students.
- 5.8 Finally, the Lan reported that the Pupil Premium rate will increase on average by 3%.  
The report was noted

## **6. Dedicated Schools Grant 2022-23 - Schools Funding Formula**

- 6.1 This report, previously circulated, gave the details of the mainstream school funding formula for 2022-23 and how the funds available are to be allocated to schools. The budgets will need to be submitted to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on 21st January 2022.
- 6.2 The LA explained that the key changes in 2022-23 was that the data on pupils who have been eligible for Free School Meals at any point in the last 6 years (FSM6) is now taken from the October 2021 school census instead of the January 2021 census, This was done to make the factor more up to date and bring it in line with arrangements for other National Funding Formula (NFF) factors as well as the pupil premium.
- 6.3 In calculating low prior attainment proportions, data from the 2019 early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) and key stage 2 (KS2) tests is used as a proxy for the 2020 tests, following the cancellation of these assessments due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

- 6.4 The local funding formula will still operate in 2022-23, although in July 2021, the DfE published a consultation on proposals whereby individual schools budgets would be set directly through one single national formula, rather than local funding formulae. The consultation proposed that, from 2023-24 onwards, LAs will be required to bring their own formulae closer to the schools NFF, to smooth the transition. These requirements do not apply in 2022-23, but it is advisable that consideration is given to move the local formulae closer to the NFF in advance of these requirements so as to further minimise future turbulence.
- 6.5 The NFF includes two factors not used by Southwark in its local formula, namely, Mobility which is a factor that supports schools in which a significant proportion of their pupils join the school part way through the year. Pupils are classed as mobile if they joined the school at a 'non typical' date within the last three years. We do not use this factor at the moment and it is suggested funding is applied to it.
- 6.6 The other factor is Free Meals which is funding that is broadly intended to cover the catering cost of providing free meals for each eligible pupil. As this funding is currently distributed through the FSM6 allocation, which is higher than the NFF rate, a redistribution of funding from the FSM6 is proposed.
- 6.7 The remaining additional funding, as discussed at the previous meeting, was allocated to the factors furthest away from the rate used in the NFF so easing the transition to the NFF when that happens in the future.
- 6.8 The LA recommended that the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) which can be set between 0.5% and 2% be set at 2% in line with the DfE proposals for the NFF.
- 6.9 The LA had distributed earlier in the day spreadsheets that modelled the proposed factor funding school by school and these were noted.
- 6.10 The Chair then asked the representatives of the Primary and Secondary Maintained schools and the Primary and Secondary Academies to decide on whether they agree to the following LA proposals:
- i) Agree to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) at 2% - **AGREED**
  - ii) Agree to use the Mobility factor - **AGREED**
  - iii) Agree to use the Free Meals factor - **AGREED**
  - iv) Agree to set the rates of funding for each factor based on allocating the additional funding to those factors whose quantum is furthest away from the National Funding Formula level – **AGREED**

## **7. Dedicated Schools Grant - 2022-23 - De-delegated and Centrally Retained Budgets**

- 7.1 This report, circulated with the agenda, sought the Schools Forum approval to Southwark's proposals for top-slicing the Schools Block, the funding for the de-delegated budgets and the centrally retained elements for the 2022-23 financial year. This had been discussed in detail at the December 2021 meeting of the Schools Forum where the LA was asked to draw up funding options for the central Learning & Achievement Team.

- 7.2 The LA said that the proposals followed the principle that the LA will not seek to increase the level of de-delegation for 2022-23. However, with the potential loss of the government grant supporting the central Learning and Achievement team, reductions in services will need to be made, therefore, the main decision is the level of the budgets for Learning and Achievement service and the Behaviour Support Services that is used to fund Family Early Help.
- 7.3 This decision was being asked to be made pending the outcome of the DfE consultation on the phased reduction of the schools monitoring and brokerage grant that supports the Learning and Achievement team. All LAs were concerned that the DfE consultation was so late in the day. Three options had been drawn up and the LA's preferred option was number 3, i.e. - Reduce both the School Improvement team budget and Family Early Help budget by an equal share of the grant.
- 7.4 Overall the proposed funding for the De-delegated and centrally retained budgets as set out in the report were broadly in line with the amounts agreed for 2021-22.

Budget	Report Section Ref:	Basis	Proposed 2022-23 Estimated Budget £000	Proposed 2022-23 Primary School Rate £	Proposed 2022-23 Secondary School Rate £
Contingency (now excluding the intervention Fund)	6.1	AWPU	667	38 Per pupil	38 Per pupil
School Improvement	6.3	Lump Sum and AWPUU	274 246	4,800 14 Per pupil	0 14 Per pupil
Behaviour support services – contribution to early help	6.4	FSM Ever 6	275	46 Per pupil	N/A
Behaviour support services – Summerhouse	6.5	FSM Ever 6	1,114	187 Per pupil	N/A
Free school meals eligibility (primary schools only)	6.6	FSM Ever 6	58	9.81 Per pupil	N/A
Staff costs supply cover (maternity scheme)	6.7	AWPU	526	30 Per pupil	30 Per pupil
Staff costs supply cover (trade union)	6.8	AWPU	70	4 Per pupil	4 Per pupil
<b>Total Proposed de-delegated budget</b>			<b>3,230</b>		

- 7.5 The Schools Forum members noted that from the information provided on the Family Early Help (FEH) Service that not all schools paid for the service they received, especially academies both primary and secondary as well as maintained secondary schools. Maintained primary schools were charged on a per pupil basis using the numbers on Ever6 FSM at the time of the census.

- 7.6 A number of members were very supportive of the work done by the FEH Service and also primary advisers from School Improvement but at the same time not wish to add to the financial deficits of a number of schools by increasing the cost. The Director said that if all schools were charged for the services they receive, then there would not be an issue.
- 7.7 The LA confirmed that although there was a VFM review underway to see also if the amount scored against the DSG is right, the de-delegation details have to be submitted to the DfE by the 22<sup>nd</sup> January so a decision needs to be made at the meeting.
- 7.8 Following discussion it was felt that if the system of charging for this service was fair and transparent then those currently not paying would in fact pay ,so long as it is felt beneficial to their school and VFM they will keep the service going. The primary academy representative felt that if they are to be charged then it should be in line with whatever maintained primary schools are being charged. The LA will work out a scheme for schools and academies to pay for the FEH services and bring it back to the Schools Forum.
- 7.9 Regarding School Improvement, the LA maintained secondary schools felt that they did not know what is being provided and the Director said she would pick that up outside of the meeting.
- 7.10 The Primary Lead on SI explained the work that her team do and have a good record of improving schools, assisting schools to manage OFSTED inspections, supporting new headteachers and dealing with the challenges of Covid-19 and falling rolls. It was clarified that this related to primary schools. A primary school member supported what was said regarding her named advisor who also assisted with liaison with other Southwark Services.
- 7.11 The LA set out the detail of the funding that is top sliced from the DSG to cover the Growth and Falling Rolls Funds. The Director pointed out that there was in fact no new growth in Southwark but this was a DfE term and covers those schools that previously expanded, with the LA permission, and this is that expansion working its way through the system as using school census data is time lagged for funding purposes.
- 7.12 Detail is set out in the table below and the increase of £100k is funded by a transfer of £100k from the De-delegated Maternity Fund.

Budget	Approved 2021-22 Budget £000	Proposed 2022-23 Budget £000	Comments
Growth fund	100	100	The funding has been left at the same level for 2021-22 and provides for two bulge classes in case of emergencies.
Falling rolls fund	200	300	The purpose of the fund is to provide support to those schools whose rolls are falling only for them to rise in the following years. With a number of potential re-organisations the funding has been increased to £300k, which means 6 teachers can be potentially funded rather than 4 teachers.
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>400</b>	

7.13 In addition to funds that have to be top sliced from the DSG a number of activities have to be funded centrally and these have to be approved - they are set out in the table below and

Service Area	2021-22 Budget £'000	2022-23 Budget £'000	Comments
LA retained duties for all schools	600	600	This relates to statutory and regulatory duties for all schools in the borough regardless of whether they are maintained, free or academies.
Admissions (restated)	486	486	LA proposes to continue to top-slice the schools budget to contribute towards the educational costs of looked after children that Southwark is responsible for
Places in independent schools for non- SEN pupils	294	294	Admissions is a statutory LA responsibility and therefore funding cannot be delegated to schools to carry out this function.
Servicing of Schools Forum	15	15	LA proposes to continue to retain funding of £15,000 in 2022-23 to cover the costs of servicing the Schools Forum operation including clerking and working groups.
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,395</b>	<b>1,395</b>	

7.14 It was pointed out that once again they are at the same level as in 2021-22.

7.15 The LA explained that there are a number of functions for maintained schools it has to carry out and they are funded from maintained school budgets shares with the agreement of maintained school members of the Schools Forum. As explained previously, there is a cross over with the central support services block expenditure.

- 7.16 The 2022-23 budget amounts to £327k, which is an amount per pupil of £16.43 and is the same as in 2021-22.
- 7.17 The Chair then asked the Schools Forum to decide on whether they agreed with the LA proposals to top-slice the Schools Block as follows
- a) Growth Fund** - £100k to be set aside (no change from 2021-22) **ALL AGREED**
- b) Falling Rolls Fund** - £300k to be set aside (an increase of £100k from 2021-22) **ALL AGREED**
- 7.18 Then the representatives of the **Maintained primary and secondary schools** were asked to decide on:
- ii) the de-delegated services** individually detailed in **Table 3** in **section 5.5** of the report by phase The proposed total budget is **£3.230m**, broadly the same as 2021-22:
- |   |                |               |                         |               |
|---|----------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Contingency   | <b>Primary</b> | <b>AGREED</b> | <b>Secondary</b>        | <b>AGREED</b> |
| School Improvement                                      | <b>Primary</b> | <b>AGREED</b> | <b>Secondary</b>        | <b>AGREED</b> |
| Behaviour support services – Contribution to early help | <b>Primary</b> | <b>AGREED</b> | <b>at 2021-22 level</b> |               |
| Behaviour support services – Summerhouse                | <b>Primary</b> | <b>AGREED</b> |                         |               |
| Free school meals eligibility                           | <b>Primary</b> | <b>AGREED</b> |                         |               |
| Staff costs supply cover (maternity scheme)             | <b>Primary</b> | <b>AGREED</b> | <b>Secondary</b>        | <b>AGREED</b> |
| Staff costs supply cover (trade union)                  | <b>Primary</b> | <b>AGREED</b> | <b>Secondary</b>        | <b>AGREED</b> |
- 7.19 With regard to the changes required to the de-delegated element of the Family Early Help (FEH) services, this had been previously extensively discussed with the LA asked to draw up proposals regarding how those who currently get the services free are to be charged, taking account of the charges already made to LA maintained primary schools.
- 7.20 All members then **AGREED** to the LA proposals relating to
- iv) The centrally retained budgets of £1.395m**
- LA retained duties for all schools
  - Admissions (restated)
  - Places in independent schools for non- SEN pupils
  - Servicing of Schools Forum
- 8. Dedicated Schools Grant 2022-23 - High Needs Block - Block transfer and Funding Rates**
- 8.1 This report, previously circulated with the agenda is requesting, following consultation, that the Schools Forum agrees to transfer £1.2m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant and to note the proposals for funding special schools. In addition, the Local Authority is consulting the Schools Forum on its proposals for funding special schools, hospital schools and resource bases in 2022-23.
- 8.2 The Schools Forum had noted when discussing earlier reports, and in particular the level of DSG and supplementary grants the LA is receiving in 2022-23 and as a consequence although the LA had consulted all schools, as set out in the report, the lower amount of £1.2m was now only required which is a reduction on previous years and is within the power of the Schools Forum to agree.

- 8.3 This was noted as was the proposal to increase funding rates in special schools and resource bases by 2.9%. The LA explained that, for Spa Camberwell, the Spa school's current funding band reflects that the school had only secondary age children in the past. Camberwell also includes Primary age children. Primary autism funding rates are generally higher than secondary rates. In addition, the school is taking pupils of more complex needs.
- 8.4 With regard to Haymerle, it is proposed to continue for a further two years with the funding arrangements adopted last year. The school has opened two classes at the request of the LA, whereby instead of having 7 pupils the classes now have 5 pupils, and as a consequence there is a funding shortfall due to fewer pupils while the existing top-up rates are used. This provision will be reviewed as part of the ASD review work stream.
- 8.5 All members then **AGREED** the Schools Block transfer of 0.44%, a sum of £1.2m, to the High Needs Block
- 8.6 The Schools Forum then **AGREED** to support the further LA proposals in the report:
- i) To support the Local Authority's proposal that the special schools' special schools funding rate should increase by the estimated level of inflation of 2.9%
  - ii) To support the Local Authority's proposal that the top-up rate for SILS should be increased by the estimated level of inflation of 2.9%
  - iii) To support the Local Authority's proposal that the funding for hospital schools for 2022-23 should continue to be aligned to the funding level included in the High Needs block.
  - iv) To support the Local Authority's proposal that the funding for Resources Bases should increase by the estimated level of inflation 2.9%
  - v) To support the Local Authority's proposal that the top-up rate of funding for Spa Camberwell for 2022-23 should be £24,086
  - vi) To support the Local Authority's proposal to continue high needs classes at the Haymerle School in 2022-23 and 2023-24

## 9. **2022-23 Dedicated Schools Grant - Early Years Block**

- 9.1 The report, circulated with the agenda, proposed that In the light of the minimal change to the funding to the LA, it was proposed that the funding rates will stay virtually the same in 2022-23. The forecasts for this year showed a slight underspend on 3 and 4 year olds and a corresponding overspend on 2 year olds.
- 9.2 It was proposed to reduce this cross subsidy next year and bring the funding streams back into balance. The proposed rates were £6 up from £5.96 in the previous year. There were no changes to the social deprivation rates.
- 9.3 The Maintained Nursery School Supplementary Grant was again payable to Southwark and is a grant given by the DfE to maintained nursery schools. For 2022-23 this is £1,354,987 and again the nursery schools will be invited to agree how this will be distributed.



- 9.4 The LA retains a proportion of the Early Years Block in order to meet its statutory duties in respect of early education and childcare as set out in the Childcare Act of 2016 and related guidance. For 2022-23 the limit for central retentions on the Early Years Block continues to be 5%. Based upon the December allocations the limit in cash terms is now £0.9m. The following central retention is proposed, which is at the same cash level as 2021-22.

2022-23 Proposed Central Retention on Early Years Block for approval	£000
Early Years Teams Staffing	539
Early Help Service (See below)	392
Total	921

- 9.5 School Forum members then supported the following LA proposals
- A) The funding rates for Early Year Providers of:  
3 and 4 year olds base rate of £6.00 per hour (Para 4.2)  
3 and 4 year olds deprivation funding rates (Para 4.3)  
2 year old funding of £6.25 per hour (Para 4.4)  
2 year old deprivation funding rates (Para 4.5)
- B) That LA maintained nursery schools decide the distribution of the government's supplementary funding of £1,354,987 (para 4.6)
- 9.6 The Schools Forum **AGREED** the Local Authority's proposals for the central retentions budget of the Early Years Block as set at £921k.
- 10. Dates of Further Meetings for 2021/22 -**  
10 March 2022, 16 June 2022 agreed - media yet to be determined

**Annex A****SCHOOLS FORUM ATTENDANCE SHEET****13<sup>th</sup> January 2022****VOTING MEMBERS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
Janice Babb	Primary School Headteacher (RC)	Yes
Susannah Bellingham	Primary School Headteacher (Com)	Yes part
Pia Longman	Primary School Headteacher CofE	Yes
Sarah Bowmer	Primary School Headteacher (Com)	Yes
Trevor Cunningham	Primary School Governor (Com)	Yes
James Black	Primary School Governor (VA)	Apologies
Rebecca Sherwood	Nursery School Headteacher	Apologies
Kelly Hawker	Special School Headteacher	Yes
Nicola Howard	Early Years – Private/Voluntary and Independent Settings	Apologies
Steve Morrison	Academy	Yes
Nick Tildesley	Academy (Primary)	Yes
Declan Jones	Academy	Yes
James Wilson	Academy	Yes
Steph Lea	Special School Academy	Yes
Yomi Adewoye	Pupil Referral Units	Yes
Sister Anne-Marie Niblock	Secondary School Headteacher	Yes
Vacant nomination From LA	FE SEN	Awaiting
Catherine May	Diocesan Boards	Yes
Betty Joseph	Trade Unions	Yes

**Senior Officers in Attendance**

Nina Dohel	Yes with colleagues
E Nolan	Yes
Dave Richards	Yes with colleagues
Kate Bingham	Yes and added to circulation list
Nikki Tilson	LA SI Primary Lead
David Cross	Clerk