

Date: 7 October 2021	Item 13	Type of report: For Discussion and Decision
Report title:	Schools Forum New Sub-Group	
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Executive Summary

This report sets out the latest in-year budget monitoring for the 2020-21 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and provides an update to members on the latest school finance events.

Schools Forum Actions

That the Schools Forum agree to setting up a

- a) School Organisation Group

Background

- 1.1 At the last meeting we discussed the shape of Schools Forum going forward and the possibility of an extended Schools Forum whereby more head teachers could be involved. The work of the Schools Forum is becoming increasingly more complex especially with the difficulties schools are face with falling rolls.
- 1.2 Since the last meeting the Department of Education have issued the consultation documentation on the implementation of national funding formula (NFF), not surprisingly when the formula is introduced a number of the current duties of the schools forum will no long be necessary. However in the intervening period there will probably more discussion about how the Southwark formula merges into the NFF. Further we have seen elsewhere the financial difficulties that schools are facing that will need considering.
- 1.3 It is proposed to set up a new sub group of the School Forum called the School Organisation Group (SOG), this would be in addition to the High Needs Sub Group although the latter will change in the nature of its business to monitoring the implementation of the High Needs Management Plan
2. School Organisation Group (SOG)
 - 2.1 SOG will provide an opportunity for school and other representatives with a professional interest in school admissions and place planning and provision to gain an understanding of, and influence policy and thinking in this area of the Local Authority's work. The group's intention is to consider these issues from a parental point of view to ensure school places are made available and processes to obtain them, accessible, equitable and transparent.
 - 2.2 Objectives of SOG
 - Promoting choice and diversity in school places
 - Promoting high standards
 - Championing the rights of parents and families and ensuring every child matters

- Respecting parental preferences
- Achieving sustainable patterns of provision
- Supporting schools to effectively discharge their duties around admissions
- Review the Local Authority annual admissions report.
- Understand the financial impact and implications of place planning
- Consider the detail, flag concerns and gain the view of schools to advise and make recommendations to the Schools Forum on the financial impact of the LA's approach to School Organisation and Pupil Place Planning.

2.3 Membership would need to be drawn from all sectors, fairly representing community and Voluntary Aided schools, and at least one member of the group needs to be a member of the Schools Forum. It is proposed the group is made up of:

- Nursery Head 1
- Primary Head 5
- Secondary Head 2
- Special Head 1

2.4 All meetings will be chaired by the Assistant Director, Education Access and will be minuted by the Local Authority. These will be presented to the Schools Forum at each meeting.

2.5 If the Schools Forum are in agreement than volunteers will be requested.