

<p style="text-align: center;">THE SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS FORUM MINUTES OF THE MEETING Thursday 19th January 2017</p>
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1. Attendance and Apologies

See Annex A.

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. The meeting was quorate

4. Minutes of the Meeting of 8th December 2016

These were agreed as an accurate record.

5. Matters Arising from Minutes of the Meeting of 13th October 2016

5.1 Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund: The LA confirmed that details of the criteria for both for schools to access will be made available before the 11th February 2017.

5.2 Closed Refugee Camp at Calais: The Director reported that the borough had taken six young people.

5.3 Census Day: As the questions were optional, no advice was given by the LA to schools about certain questions that were considered inappropriate to ask parents/carers for.

5.5 Eligibility Checking of FSM for Maintained Secondary Schools: Glenn Garcia stated that the database used is owned by HMRC and they do not permit individual maintained schools to have access. However, secondary schools could do their own paper based evaluation using that would need to be provided by the parents/carers.

6. Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Monitor for 2016-17 and Provisional 2017-18

6.1 A report prepared by Russell Dyer had been circulated which sets out the financial update of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2016-17 and the provisional allocation for 2017-18.

6.2 The figures on the projected outturn for 2016-17 remained unchanged at an overspend of £3.4m, as reported to the January 2017 Schools Forum. This, as agreed at the January meeting, will be met by drawing on the DSG Reserves.

6.3 With regard to 2017-18, there has been no inflationary increases applied by the government and in monetary terms, the amount has risen by £2.9m due to an additional 734 pupils in schools. Once again, monies have been moved from the schools

block to the high needs block which equates to around £50 per pupil. The Schools Forum found this very worrying as monies meant for schools is not going to schools.

- 6.4 Mike Antoniou asked the LA if it was common for LAs to move monies across the various blocks of the DSG and was told by the LA that it was. The LA also confirmed that should at a later date the funds transferred to the High Needs block from the Schools Block not be needed they will be transferred into the contingency and the Schools Forum will be informed.

The report was noted

7. Education Services Grant and Funding for Retained and Central Duties 2017-18

- 7.1 A report had been circulated that updated the previous one in December setting out how the Local Authority's proposals for the Education Services Grant (ESG) was being absorbed into the Dedicated Schools Grant from 2017-18 onwards. This report also sets out the range of duties and responsibilities that were formerly funded by the ESG.
- 7.2 These included, statutory and regulatory duties and the grant is being split into two elements, one that was based on the retained duties that the LA has for both schools and academies based on a rate of £15 per pupil. The other is a general fund element of £77 per pupil that will be reduced in-year as schools convert to academy status and so they will then receive that funding in their direct grants from the EFA.
- 7.3 Details were given in the report on how this was spent in 2016-17. The LA will now likely be receiving £172k as part of the new School Improvement Grant. The Director confirmed that the spend by Southwark on school improvement services is predominantly for maintained primary schools.
- 7.4 Full details of the areas covered by the ESG were set out in the appendix. These included, appointing a Director of Children's Services, the finance and audit functions, health and safety, SACRE, Education Welfare, asset management, etc.
- 7.5 The Director confirmed that Southwark has a good relationship with many of its academies and that the maintained secondary schools often worked in a collegiate way. The amounts being proposed by the LA to be retained require the agreement of the Schools Forum.
- 7.4 The Schools Forum then voted on the proposals contained in the report.
- 7.5 To agree the amount to be retained centrally from the DSG for retained duties confirmed at £600k for 2017-18 noting that this funding is an additional allocation to the DSG:
- | | |
|-------------|---|
| In Favour | 9 |
| Against | 0 |
| Abstentions | 4 |
- 7.6 To agree the amount of £307k to be retained centrally for general statutory duties to sustain general duties (excluding school improvement which is considered below) for the full 2017-18 financial year, taking account of the transitional grant of £711k

for the April to September 2017 period. This will be from maintained schools budget shares only. The amount will be £16.33 per pupil (basic entitlement) at maintained primary and secondary schools and £16.33 per place. PRUs and Special Schools will be asked to make voluntary contributions to this as they are funded out of the High Needs Block. The Maintained schools voting was:

In Favour	4
Against	1
Abstentions	0

- 7.7 To agree to de-delegate £830k for school improvement to sustain the service at existing levels, taking account of the £163k school improvement grant expected to be received in 2017-18 from September 2017. The amount will be £33.82 per pupil (basic entitlement) at maintained primary and secondary schools and £33.82 per place. PRUs and Special Schools will be asked to make voluntary contributions to this as they are funded out of the High Needs Block.

Maintained Primary Schools

In Favour	4
Against	0
Abstentions	0

Maintained Secondary Schools

In Favour	0
Against	1
Abstentions	0

8. The School Budget 2017-18 – Local Authority Formula Submission

- 8.1 This previously circulated report sets the details of the mainstream school funding formula for 2017-18 and its associated school budgets. This will be formally submitted to the Education Funding Agency using their template Authority Pro forma Tool (APT) on 20th January 2017.
- 8.2 In 2016-17, £1.9m of one-off funding was added to the 2016-17 ISB from Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserves. As this was one-off funding it is not available on a yearly on-going basis.
- 8.3 In addition, the available growth of £1.8m should have been set aside as an allowance for the cost of growing free schools and not deployed with the ISB. The report on the DSG 2017-18 set out the cost pressures, most significantly funding new free schools, where the funding is lagged and also increasing business rates.
- 8.4 In 2016-17, the EFA updated the Index of Child Poverty (IDACI) data which led to a large degree of funding turbulence. To counter this, the rates used for the IDACI bands and the FSM bands were amended to smooth the impact of the EFA changes. For 2017-18, the EFA has confirmed that it has reverted back to the data used previously and therefore we have reverted back to the previous IDACI and FSM funding rates. There will be £1.5m less deprivation funding than in the previous two years,

however this is to be expected as the demographic profile of Southwark is changing and, for example, fewer children are eligible for FSM.

- 8.5 All other rates are held at the 2016-17 unit values.
- 8.6 After allowing for the adjustments above there is an estimated gap of about £3.7m for 2017-18. The impact of the above is that the current formula unit values are not affordable given the level of available DSG and the current commitments. However, the Authority does have certain options available to address this situation:
- i) Further deployment of any remaining uncommitted DSG reserve to support ISB, leaving only a small contingency to manage in year adjustment
 - ii) Block transfers from the High Needs and/ or Early Years blocks to support the Schools Budget (this could in practice be achieved by varying the apportionment of central retentions between blocks)
 - iii) Reductions in set unit values, up to a value of 1.5%.
 - iv) A reduction in the lump sum for schools from the current £150k level
- 8.7 The Local Authority preference was options i) and ii) and although it was a LA decision to make, as before, they welcome the views of the Schools Forum.
- 8.8 Following general discussion, the Schools Forum were not supportive of options iii) and iv) and agreed that a combination of i) and ii) was the most affordable option.
- 8.9 With regard to SEND top up rates, these remained at the same value, except for the adjustment required with the new four band rates for mainstream schools that the Schools Forum, following the report from the working group, supported at the previous meeting.
- 8.10 The Schools Forum then agreed to note the report and voted on supporting the submission of the Authority Formula Factors and their values to the EFA:
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|-------------|----|
| In Favour | 12 |
| Against | 0 |
| Abstentions | 1 |
- 8.11 The LA confirmed that it was in discussion with the Pupil referral Unit over top up funding.

9. SEND Travel Assistance Fund

- 9.1 This report, previously circulated, follows on from previous reports to Schools Forum on the funding for the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) travel assistance service.
- 9.2 The service is currently funded from the Council's core budget and a contribution of £0.8m from the High Needs block of the DSG. The Council's budget is under extreme pressure as government funding to local authorities has reduced.
- 9.3 For this service to continue to meet the increased demand due to the rise in incidences of SEND, additional funding of up to £0.5m is required. The increase in

demand for the various methods of travel was set out in the table in paragraph 2.2. Following a question, the reference to “Direct Payments” relates to bus passes and local taxis arranged by the parents/carers rather than the LA.

- 9.4 Betty Joseph asked about the rigour used by the LA in determining the most appropriate and cost effective means of transport. The LA said that all possibilities are explored but they do require the co-operation of the parents/carers especially when it comes to escorts and quality standards.
- 9.5 The LA confirmed that, if agreed, the extra amount needed, i.e. up to £0.5m, would only be charged to the High Needs block as and when required and this would be reported to the Schools Forum.
- 9.6 The Schools Forum then voted on supporting the proposal for additional support from the High Needs Block for the service:

In Favour	11
Against	1
Abstentions	1

10. DSG – Early Years Block and the 2017-18 Formula

- 10.1 This previously circulated report set out the proposals for funding early years providers through the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) that comes about in April 2017.
- 10.2 The DFE, following consultation, issued details of the EYNFF that was to be applied from 2017-18 onwards. It had remained unchanged other than providing supplementary funding for Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS).
- 10.3 A further constraint of the DFE allocation was that 93% had to be passed to providers so that only 7% could be held back to meet the cost of LA services. There were also issues around accuracy of data for the numbers of 3 and 4 year olds for the 30hour entitlement so has to be based on estimates.
- 10.4 The introduction of the EYNFF is to support the 30 hours of free childcare and to equalise the funding rates for all providers. This along with reducing the amount the LA can hold back is intended to increase funding levels for providers.
- 10.5 The Base Rate for MNS would remain at £6.43 per pupil hour and the rate for primary school nursery classes and the PVI sector would increase to £5.95 per hour. Funding for social deprivation characteristics of the pupils, based on the IDACI Child Poverty methodology would be extended to the PVI providers.
- 10.6 Southwark will retain the permitted level of funding to meet the duties placed upon them by the Childcare Act 2006. Southwark is all concerned about the impact of the formula on the Council run day nurseries which casts doubt on their viability. A further report will be brought to the Schools Forum for a decision on what is to be retained centrally.

- 10.7 Further changes to ensure a transition to a universal basic funding rate will take place in 2018. Southwark will be presenting proposals to the Early Years Working Group on the introduction of the SEN “Local Inclusion Fund” (SENLIF) which is aimed at targeting funds at early years’ children with the lower level of, or emerging, SEN.
- 10.8 Two year old funding is already considered by the DFE to be allocated fairly. A new Disability Access Fund (DAF) for 3 and 4 year olds will be introduced.
- 10.9 John Voytal reported to the meeting that the Early Years Working Group will continue to meet to go through the issues including the transitional arrangements for 2018-19, centrally provided early years services and SEN in early years settings .
- 10.10 Rebecca Sherwood was concerned at the impact changes will have on vulnerable children, meeting the need of providing 30 hours per week of free childcare and the impact on the maintained nursery schools who often have a high proportion of vulnerable children.
- 10.11 In response to a question about the recent government’s grant of £50m for capital works in early years, the LA said that there was a very short window of opportunity to apply and that it required schemes to have already been worked up and costed – leaving no time for anything not already planned.
- 10.12 The Schools Forum then voted on accepting the proposed funding rates set out in the report for Early Years in 2017-18:

In Favour	12
Against	0
Abstentions	1

11. National Schools Funding Formula – DfE Consultation

- 11.1 It was noted that this was in progress and the LA will be responding – a copy of which will be circulated to Schools Forum members by the Clerk. Schools were actively encouraged to make individual responses.

12. Schools Forum Powers and Responsibilities – November 2016

- 12.1 The Clerk reported that this had been updated to reflect the need for a Schools Forum to approve the retention of funding by the LA under the previous Education Services Grant. The full powers and responsibilities had been circulated with the agenda.

13. Date of Next Meetings 2016/17

23rd March 2017, 18th May 2017 and 6th July 2017

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Annex A

SCHOOLS FORUM ATTENDANCE SHEET

19th January 2017

VOTING MEMBERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PRESENT
Janice Babb	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Craig Voller	Primary School Headteacher	Apologies
Keith Fox	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Gregory Doey	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Vacant	Primary School Governor	
Omolayo Sokoya	Primary School Governor	Yes
Rebecca Sherwood	Nursery School Headteacher	Yes
Simon Eccles	Special School Headteacher	Yes
Paulette Bertram	Early Years – Private/Voluntary and Independent Settings	Yes
Steve Morrison	Academy	Yes
Mickey Kelly	Academy	Apologies
Mike Antoniou	Academy	Yes
Yomi Adewoye	Pupil Referral Units	Yes
Sister Anne-Marie Niblock	Secondary School Headteacher	Yes
Vacant	FE SEN	
Catherine May	Diocese Board	Yes
Betty Joseph	Trade Unions	Yes

Senior Officers in Attendance

Glenn Garcia	Yes
Nina Dohel	Yes
John Voytal	Yes
Russell Dyer	Yes
Sue Emmons	Yes
David Cross	Clerk