

**THE SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS FORUM  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

- 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. None were declared.
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011**  
These were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising that were not already on the agenda.
- 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 19th May 2011**
  - 4.1 Replacement annex to Item 5 of the meeting of 19th May – Noted
  - 4.2 Section 251 Schools Budget statement 2011-12 – Fay Hammond reported that this was currently with the DfE undergoing checks for accuracy.
  - 4.3 Special Schools Funding review for 2012 – This was ongoing with discussions taking place with the relevant Headteachers.
  - 4.4 Early Years Single Funding Formula review – consultation is still taking place with only 7 responses so far, all Schools Forum members are asked that, if applicable, they respond.
  - 4.5 DfE Announcement on Dedicated Schools Grant for 2012-13 – still awaited. In addition Fay Hammond reported that there were still unresolved funding issues concerning Standards Funds and the Judicial Review of the DfE’s decision over top slicing Local Authority funds for academies.
- 5. School Improvement Strategy**
  - 5.1 Merril Haeusler, the Deputy Director Children’s Services, informed members that she had been consulting widely on the Local Authority’s (LA) approach to School Improvement. A recent meeting with the Heads Executive had led to some updating of certain aspects of the approach and a revised paper had been circulated to members. .
  - 5.2 It was explained that there was the need to not only to improve “priority schools” but also improving all schools to be Good or Outstanding and also ensure that these highest categories are maintained and that schools work in partnership with the LA and with themselves.

- 5.3 Nick Tildesley said that the Heads Executive had formed its own sub-committee to produce a paper on peer to peer support being delivered through a Trust, this will include a costed business case. It was agreed that this paper would be on the next agenda of the Schools Forum.
- 5.4 Merril Haeusler hoped that this would include how the schools and the LA can work together in partnership and will take account of the statutory role of the LA and complement her own paper. The Chair referred to the Director's recent letter to schools on the structure of the Children's Services management team. Canon Shaw said that this had not been seen by governors. It was agreed that the clerk would circulate to all members.
- 5.5 In response to a question the Deputy Director explained that the detail of the posts below the senior leadership team would be determined over the summer and circulated in September. This would include roles and responsibilities. Mark Parsons felt that as even the best schools can deteriorate, then good quality support from the LA is essential.

## **6. School Place Planning in Southwark**

- 6.1 Kerry Crichlow introduced the paper by Iain Johncock, previously circulated to members. This highlighted the interaction with the Primary School Capital Strategy.
- 6.2 It was explained that this strategy now needs revisiting and that paragraph 10 set out the main drivers that are requiring the current strategy to be refreshed including the government's response to the James Review.
- 6.3 Irene Bishop stated that the increase in pupil numbers impacts on revenue funding for schools for which there is a time lag to when this gets reflected in the Dedicated Schools Grant. Maddy Webb also pointed out that there was a link with admissions so it there needed to be "joined up thinking" in the approach especially as there was 500 late applications this year.
- 6.3 This report was noted.

## **7. Pupil Premium for Children looked After (CLA)**

- 7.1 A short report had been circulated with the agenda. This set out the proposed allocation methodology which is linked to the Personal Education Plan of the pupil and will be made at the end of the autumn term.
- 7.2 This report was noted.

## **8. School Balances 2010-11**

- 8.1 A paper by Melissa Williamson had been circulated with the agenda and gave details of the final position of school balances at the end of the 2010-11 financial year.
- 8.2 It was noted that 8 schools were still in excess of the threshold and these will be written to by 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2011. A further update will be given to the Schools Forum at its next meeting.

**9. DfE Consultation on Schools Funding Reform**

9.1 The Clerk explained that this was yet to be published by the DfE.

**10. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), Section 251 and LACSEG**

10.1 Fay Hamilton had circulated for Schools Forum members copies of a number of slides that showed the overview of how the DSG was impacted upon by schools becoming academies. This also showed the elements that made up the academies Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG).

10.2 It was noted that a further report will come to members explaining the central budgets around EOTAS, PRUs and Behaviour Support Services.

10.3 This was noted.

**11. Overview of Special Educational Needs Funding**

11.1 This paper by Yvonne Ely, previously circulated, gave an overview of the various Special Educational Needs (SEN) budgets funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant. Elaine Garlick commented on the government's recent Green Paper and the interaction with other services such as medical.

11.2 Virginia Bridge asked about the level of recoupment and whether Southwark was trying to reduce the number of instances of Southwark pupils having to go outside the borough – it was noted that Cherry Gardens was due to increase its intake in 2014.

11.3 Nick Tildesley asked as to whether Southwark was getting value for money (VFM) for what it has to pay others for the provision and what exactly was the quality assurance process. Fay Hammond said she would ask the SEN section to provide the Schools Forum with detail of the VFM process in the form of a report for the Schools Forum.

11.4 The report was noted.

**12. Schools Audit Report 2010-11**

12.1 This report had been circulated previously and summarised the findings of the audit of schools in the 2010-11 financial year.

12.2 Both Canon Shaw and Mark Parsons were concerned at the number of high risk weaknesses found. Fay Hammond explained that these are followed up with the schools by the auditors.

12.3 The report was noted.

**13. Schools Funding Formula – Premises Data Review for 2012-13**

13.1 Melissa Williamson introduced this paper, previously circulated, and explained that the premises data currently held would appear to be out of date for some schools and needed reviewing in time for 2012-13.

13.2 This review would cost approximately £50k and the Local Authority proposed that it would provide half if the Schools Forum agreed to the other half being funded from the DSG.

13.3 The Schools Forum then voted on this proposal with:

Those in Favour	11
Those Against	3
Abstaining	1

#### **14. Any Other Business**

14.1 Irene Bishop raised the issue of the City Learning Centre, which used to be based at the Sacred Heart High School before moving to Cator Street, this was now making staff redundant. She felt that if it was to receive a subsidy of £100k then it could be kept going.

14.2 Following discussion Fay Hammond confirmed that there was still £50k to be allocated from within the Excellence in Southwark programme and could be used for this. All agreed that it does need a structured paper to be brought to the Schools Forum in order to make a more considered decision about the future.

#### **15. Dates of Next Meeting**

October 12 2011  
December 8th 2011  
January 26th 2012  
March 15th 2012  
May 17th 2012  
July 5th 2012

Likely Venue Rye Oak School

**Annex A****SCHOOLS FORUM ATTENDANCE SHEET**13<sup>th</sup> July 2011**VOTING MEMBERS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
Nick Tildesley	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Mickey Kelly	Primary School Headteacher	Apologies
Teresa Nouri	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Virginia Bridge	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Liz Robinson	Primary School Headteacher	Apologies
Maddy Webb	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Mark Parsons	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Grainne Grabowski	14-19 Representative	Apologies
Pauline Sacre	Vulnerable Children	Apologies
Pat Tyler	Diocese Board	Yes
Gillian Reeve	Early Years – Private/Voluntary and Independent Settings	Yes
Sharon Donno	Nursery School Headteacher	Yes
Michael Davern/Betty Joseph	Teachers Unions	Apologies BJ MD Yes
To be nominated	Support Staff Unions	
David Sheppard	Academy	Yes
Cathy Loxton	Academy	Apologies
Elaine Garlick	Primary School Governor	Yes
Canon Grahame Shaw	Primary School Governor	Yes
Teresa Neary	Special School Headteacher	Yes
Dr Irene Bishop	Secondary School Headteacher	Yes
Sister Anne-Marie Niblock	Secondary School Headteacher	Yes

## Senior Officers in Attendance

Kerry Crichlow	Assistant Director
Fay Hammond	Head of Children's Services Finance
Pauline Armour	Assistant Director - Apologies
Mike Smith	Assistant Director - Apologies
Merril Haeusler	Deputy Director
David Cross	Clerk