

**THE SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS FORUM
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Thursday 10th July 2014**

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- 1. Attendance and Apologies**
See Annex A. Rebecca Sherwood substituted for Kay Beckwith as the Nursery School representative.
 - 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 30th January 2014**
These were agreed as a true record.
 - 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 7th December 2013**
 - 4.1 None
 - 5. Dedicated Schools Grant 2013-14 Outturn**
 - 5.1 This report, previously circulated, provided details of the Outturn position for the 2013-14 financial year.
 - 5.2 Fay Hammond reported that the provisional position was a £8.2m underspend. There were a number of additional monies received since the original budget was set. These related to Early Years, High Needs and the London Childcare funding for expanding nursery provision.
 - 5.3 There were also some areas of underspend in the centrally held budgets detailed in Appendix. However, some areas such as Maternity Cover and the cost of Alternative Provision did overspend. These outturn figures will be taken into account for the 2015-16 budget setting.
 - 5.4 Finally, a breakdown of which schools received monies for Schools Intervention along with those for Maternity Cover and Trade Union Facility Time was provided in the report.

The Report was noted.
 - 6. Dedicated Schools Grant 2014-15 - Update**
 - 6.1 A report setting out the updated position on the Dedicated Schools Grant allocations to Southwark along with the proposed changes to the expenditure budgets had been circulated. In addition it set out proposals on the use of the £8.2m underspend from 2013-14 previously discussed by the Schools Forum that afternoon.

- 6.2 Fay Hammond highlighted said that in addition to the original Budget set in December 2013 it is expected that there will be further in year adjustments especially in the area of Early Years due to the time lag in data used for estimate purposes compared to the actual in-year data used by the DfE for funding, i.e. January 2014 numbers. There we also a further charge by the DfE for the cost of the national licence arrangements expected to be £80k.
- 6.3 The proposed adjustments for 2014-15 related to increase spend on Early Years to reflect higher nursery age pupil numbers and the increase in the High Needs block. The latter, is due to higher costs of independent day boarding places and statements in academies. These two required a further £1.446m. This was noted and agreed.
- 6.4 The Schools Forum then discussed how best to distribute £4.165m of the underspend from the previous year to schools and Early Years Providers. There were a number of options using the Lump Sum, the AWPU and other specific formula factors. However, what agreed needs to be outside of the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) because it is one off funds that must not be built into the base budget as they are unlikely to be repeated in future years.
- 6.5 Discussion took place around the options above and the modelling carried out by the LA. The AWPU is clear and transparent, using the lump sum is clear but does not differentiate – it has to be the same value for every school. Targeting using a formula factor such as EAL will in fact distort the funding for other criteria such as social deprivation.
- 6.6 The Schools Forum then voted on the proposal to distribute the £4.165m predominantly through AWPU with perhaps a small amount going through the lump sum to ensure everyone got a minimum amount.

In Favour 5, Against 0, Abstentions 2

- 6.7 The next proposal to be examined was the allocation of £1.935m to support the transition FROM THE Statements of Special Educational Needs to Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP). The additional costs associated with this change were detailed in the report and included £830k over two years to reassess all 1600 pupils with statements. In addition there was the need for training school SENCOs and a further £500k to support and pilot “personal budgets”.
- 6.8 The Schools Forum was concerned that the extra Educational Psychologists needed for this were not available. Kerry Crichlow said that there was the need for schools systems to dovetail with those of the LA. Keith Fox was concerned at the level of pay needed to attract the right calibre of worker.

The Schools Forum then voted on the proposal:

In Favour 6, Against 0, Abstentions 2

- 6.9 The LA then explained the proposal to use £700k to target support for specific pupils. This included improving the overall education chances at SILS for 14-16 year old excluded pupils by ensuring the available education options meet pupils needs. This will mean building changes to Porlocjk Hall.

6.10 Additionally using £500k to support a Families Matter joint fund for a targeted offer for children and young people and their families where problems are more complex and longer term support is needed. This multi-service offer is still being developed and the LA has pledged to match the funding in its development phase.

6.11 Merrill Haeusler referred to the need to work up the model to expand early help in a purposeful way for young people, not just teenagers with one point of call for referral. Keith Fox as concerned about who would meet the need – external providers or by Southwark. Merrill said that Headteachers would be involved in its development and the model would come back to the Schools Forum for discussion and input.

The Schools Forum then voted on the proposal:

In Favour 7, Against 0, Abstentions 0

6.11 The LA then proposes to use £600k to seed fund meeting the increased capacity needed for two year olds across the borough. This was especially appropriate as the funding to Southwark for early years was underspent.

The Schools Forum then voted on the proposal:

In Favour 6, Against 0, Abstentions 1

6.12 Finally the Schools Forum looked at increasing the DSG Contingency of £3m by £800k. Fay Hammond explained that there were new risks and/or some existing ones had increased. Examples quoted included schools expanding rolls, having to fund expansion for free schools from the DSG, the reviews for Early Years and SEN.

The Schools Forum then voted on the proposal:

In Favour 7, Against 0, Abstentions 0

7. Early Years Single Funding Formula – Progress Report

7.1 The Schools Forum received a report setting out the terms of reference and progress to date of the Early Years Working Group.

This was noted.

8. Review of Funding for Teachers Trade Union Facility Time

8.1 The update that included being informed that the LA had written to the relevant schools that employ trade union representatives to inform them of the new arrangements previously agreed by the Schools Forum.

This update was noted.

9. Update on Pupil Premium Funding

9.1 The report previously circulated informed the Schools Forum of the government's rates for 2014-15 with illustrative allocations for schools,

arrangements for Looked After Children (LAC) and adopted children. In addition a summary of how schools spent their 2012-13 and 2013-14 funds was provided.

- 9.2 The Schools Forum was concerned that the LA was proposing to hold back £400 per pupil of the funding for LAC as a centrally retained element. The LA explained that 60% of LAC do not go to a Southwark school. Merril Haeusler said the LA will rethink the strategies with perhaps there being two, one for pupils in Southwark and one for pupils going out of the borough.

This update was noted.

10. SEN Mainstream Funding 2014-15

- 10.1 The report gave an overview of the funding arrangements in 2014-15 relating to Special Educational Needs provision in mainstream schools. It also asked the Schools Forum to approve the setting up of a working group to review and recommend proposals to revise funding.
- 10.2 The Schools Forum agreed to the setting up of the working group with nominations coming from Elaine Garlick, Rebecca Sherwood and the Chair nominated her SENCO.

11. School Balances 2013-14

This information report was noted.

12. Universal Infant Free School Meals

- 12.1 The Schools Forum noted the government's proposals and asked that did this now free up the monies Southwark had allocated from its own funding to be used elsewhere in education? The LA stated that regretfully the funds released were being used by the Council to address the cut backs in its overall government funding.

This information report was noted.

13. Review of the Schools Block Funding Formulae for 2014-15

- 13.1 The previously circulated report gave information on the government's overview of Local Authorities values used for the formula factors in 2014-15. There were no significant changes to the position reported for 2013-14.

This information report was noted.

14. Future School Funding Arrangements

- 14.1 The Schools Forum shared the LA's concerns of the government's proposals to transfer free school and non-recoupment academy budgets into the DSG. This is especially concerning as Southwark has some of the highest levels of such academies (57%) compared with nationally each LA having an average of 10%.

This information report was noted.

11. Date for Next Meeting

Thursday 16th October 2014 at Notre Dame High School

There being no further business the meeting closed.

Annex A

**SCHOOLS FORUM ATTENDANCE SHEET
10th July 2014**

VOTING MEMBERS

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

Senior Officers in Attendance

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