

Minutes of the Schools Forum Meeting
12th May 2016
(4.00 pm, Training Room 3, BEST hub, Colindale)

Attended	Type of Member	Name	Representing	Member until end
Members	Primary Community Gov	Elizabeth Pearson	Holly Park	Sep 2016
	Special School Governor	Gilbert Knight	Oakleigh	Sep 2016
	Primary Community HT	Jeanette Adak	Monkfrith Primary	Sep 2016
	Academy School Principal	Jo Djora	The Hyde Academy	Jul 2017
	Primary Foundation/ VA Gov	Anthony Vourou	St Johns CE N11	Sep 2016
	Unions	Keith Nason	National Union of Teachers	Sep 2016
	Primary Community Gov	Lesley Ludlow	Moss Hall Infants	Apr 2017
	Primary Foundation/VA HT	Matthew Glenn	St Mary's & St John's	Apr 2018
	Nursery School Headteacher	Perina Holness	Moss Hall Nursery	May 2017
	Secondary HT	Simon Horne	Friern Barnet	Oct 2017
	Primary Community Gov	Nigel Taylor	Wessex Gardens	May 2018
	Primary Foundation/VA HT	Maureen Kelly	St Theresa's Catholic	Jul 2017
	Private Early Years Provider	Sarah Vipond	Middlesex Uni. Nursery	Sep 2016
	Substitute Academy Head of Finance	Ian Stewart	Hasmonean High School (Boys' Site)	
	EFA Observer			
LA Officers	LBB Officer	Ian Harrison	Education & Skills Director	
	LBB Officer	Val White	Lead Commissioner	
	LBB Officer	Claire Gray	CSG – School Funding	
	LBB Officer	Catherine Peters	CSG – Head of Finance	
	LBB Officer	Cinzana Khan	CSG – School Funding (Clerk)	

Did not attend				
Members	Academy School Principal	Andrew McClusky	Hasmonean High School	Oct 2018
	Pupil Referral Unit	Joanne Kelly	Pavilion PRU	Sep 2016
	Primary Community HT	Clare Rees	Sunnyfields Primary	Feb 2017
	Primary Community Gov	Cllr Brian Salinger (substitute for Elizabeth Pearson)	Holly Park/Livingstone	Sep 2016
	Primary Community HT	Jude Stone	Cromer Road	Mar 2018
	14-19 Provider Representative	David Byrne	Barnet & Southgate Col	
	Academy School Principal	Jack Newton	Grasvenor Infants	Nov 2015
	Academy School Principal	Jane Beaumont	Copthall	Jan 2016
	Academy School Representative	Robin Archibald	Broadfields Primary Academy	
	Special School Headteacher	Lesley Burgess	Northway	Sep 2016
	Primary Community HT (4)	Sally Lajalati	Colindale Primary	Sep 2014
	Academy School Principal	Marc Lewis (substitute for Michael Whitworth)	Wren Academy	Nov 2016
	Academy Representative	Tom Brighton (substitute for Angela Trigg)	London Academy	Sep 2016
	Secondary HT	Seamus McKenna	Finchley Catholic	Nov 2016
	Academy Principal	Angela Trigg	London Academy	Sep 2016
	Primary Foundation/VA Gov	VACANT		
	Primary Foundation/VA HT	VACANT		
	Secondary Community/VA Governor	VACANT		
Non Members				
	LBB Officer	Carol Beckman	CSG – School Funding	
	Elected Member	Cllr R Thompstone	Lead member for Children’s Services	
	LBB Officer	Nick Adams	CSG – Financial Services	

	LBB Officer	Chris Munday	Commissioning Director for Children and Young People	
	LBB Officer	David Monger	LBB - Children's Service Consultant	
	LBB Officer	Farhana Begum	CSG – Children & Adults Finance	

1. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Gilbert Knight welcomed Ian Stewart who was attending as a substitute for Andrew McClusky.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Andrew McClusky and Carol Beckman. Post-meeting apologies were received from Jack Newton and Robin Archibald.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed as a true and accurate record of the last meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING

None.

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6a 2016/17 Budget – Catherine Peters

CP stated that the 2016/17 budget had been submitted to the DfE with no changes since presented at February. In year changes however, will take place for things like school expansions etc.

An update to the DSG is expected in June 2016 and will be reported to the Schools Forum in July 2016.

6b Growth funding for new school places in Barnet – Val White

VW introduced the paper on school places and growth funding. The report summarises expenditure in 15/16 and 16/17 and projects growth costs going forward. This includes bulge classes planned from September 2016.

In relation to the current provision of places for September 2016, VW explained that at the time of the meeting, it was anticipated that sufficient places would be available, with

Ashmole Academy's new free school opening and bulge classes being offered at a number of schools. Late applications will continue to be received and if necessary, additional bulge classes would be arranged. She updated the meeting on the plans for the opening of the new Ark Pioneer school at the Underhill Stadium site in 2018 and a new 3 form entry school being planned at the Peel Centre. Feasibility studies were being carried out to progress potential expansions at St Agnes and Childs Hill.

EP queried how many Barnet parents had been offered places out of borough and stated she had been approached by upset parents. VW confirmed that some had received offers from Enfield, adding that local authorities work together to ensure all children are offered a place, working across borough boundaries.

JD asked what the spread of Fair Access places was between schools. VW said records were kept on this and informed decision making.

VW said that although there had been some spare capacity in secondary schools in the last few years, it is decreasing year-on-year. VW referred to Table 1 that shows the forecast for the number of new secondary school places required and said that Barnet are planning to meet the lower forecast. The aim is to have at least an extra 20 forms of entry by 2020/21. She added that an annual update to the GLA projections for future secondary demand arrived in the council on the day of the meeting and so had not yet been analysed.

VW explained that the buildings of new free schools are funded by the central government. The alternative route would be for Barnet to offer land and school proposers can compete to open a school there and in these circumstances Barnet would fund the construction.

VW said that SMSJ is expanding to provide an additional 2 forms of secondary entry; St James is also expanding as part of a project for Blessed Dominic to move onto St James' site. A number of other secondary schools had recently contacted the council to explore the potential of expanding, driven by budgetary pressure. However, Barnet would not be commissioning any more expansions until seeing the outcome of free school applications. The council has been notified of four free school applications to open mainstream secondary provision in Barnet in the latest wave of free school applications. Three of the proposals are in the public domain – Saracens, Compton and Avanti. Overall the need in Barnet to the end of the decade could be met through the planned expansions and two of the free school applications being successful. If there are likely to be too many secondary school places, Barnet will make representations to the DfE.

GK asked what the timescale for the new school openings would be. VW said the earliest would open in September 2018 but that there would be different times for each school and some will open later.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7a National Funding Formula Consultation

IH said this item was closely linked with the White Paper proposals regarding academies and written before the announcement was made that all schools would no longer be forced to convert.

IH referred members to the Appendix which showed Barnet's submission in response to Stage 1 of the NFF consultation for both mainstream and High Needs. This stage is based mainly around principles, methodology and the use of objective factors of need. As it is the early stages of the consultation, there are no figures yet. The DfE plans to have the NFF in place by 2019-20 but will allow time for schools to ease into it.

Stage 2 of the consultation will provide more detail and should give an indication of the impact on funding levels to Barnet LA and Barnet schools. The release of Stage 2 of the consultation is expected before the end of the summer term as schools will need to respond to the consultation in early autumn. The first Schools Forum date next term has been moved to 29th September 2016 to enable early discussions on this.

IH said there would be big winners and losers but that Barnet is not likely to be the hardest hit borough. He said there will be some form of Minimum Funding Guarantee but the level hasn't been announced. Local authorities will be given some discretion to allow schools to lose faster but they may be reluctant to use these powers. LAs will no longer have control over the proportion of funding spent on each of the school funding blocks. He stated that the consultation document indicated growth funding will be based on actual need, not historic spend.

IH said that another consultation document was recently issued by the DfE and circulated to private providers by the Early Years team. The Early Years team were leading the response, seeking views from providers. SV commented that most providers were not aware the consultation had been released. PH asked if the document had been made available to schools. IH said schools could find a link to the consultation document in the School Circular.

EP noted it was important to remember the free entitlement was about early education and not just childcare, with various members of the Schools Forum expressing their agreement.

IH talked about the proposal that funding for school improvement would end in April 2017 and also discussed the issue regarding the proposal for free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds to rise from 15 to 30 hours. Although the rate of funding is increasing, most providers in the Early Years sectors say that it is still not viable.

PH said that increasing to a 30 hour offer in many settings halves the places available and removes the capacity for flexibility and, for Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers, additional chargeable provision (which subsidises 15 hours). She added that there was already a waiting list at some nurseries and, because of siblings, children that live locally aren't getting places. She also pointed out that children that do need the free entitlement the most, who were from poorer backgrounds, wouldn't be entitled to the free 30 hours because their parents most probably wouldn't be working.

JD asked if schools or Barnet are affected by the newly announced government apprentice levy. Where academies are part of a MAT, secondary schools and large primary schools may be affected if their wage bill exceeds the threshold of £3m. VW said this was not her area of expertise but officers would investigate the position and advise.

JD asked about the Hyde Children's Centre which is open for 2.5 days a week and asked whether this DSG money was supposed to go to schools. IH replied that the DSG funds not only schools but also the whole of Early Years, which includes PVI's.

8. DRAFT AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING - 7TH JULY 2016

1. Welcome to new members
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations of interest
4. Minutes of previous meeting
5. Matters arising
6. Items for information
 - 2015/16 Budget Monitoring – Final Outturn
 - 2016/17 Budget
7. Items for decision/ discussion
 - National Funding Formula consultation – Stage 2
8. Draft agenda for next meeting – 29th September 2016
9. Any other business

GK closed the meeting by saying that these were interesting times with many unknowns and thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 5.00pm

Dates of future meetings:

7 th July 2016, 4pm	Training Room 3, BEST hub, Colindale
29 th September 2016	BEST hub, Colindale
8 th December 2016	BEST hub, Colindale