

**Minutes of the Schools Forum Meeting**  
**11<sup>th</sup> October 2016**  
**(4.00 pm, Training Room 4, BEST hub, Colindale)**

<b>Attended</b>	<b>Type of Member</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Member until end</b>
<b>Members</b>	Primary Community Gov	Elizabeth Pearson	Livingstone	Sep 2019
	Special School Governor	Gilbert Knight	Oakleigh	Sep 2019
	Academy School Principal	Jo Djora	The Hyde Academy	Jul 2017
	Secondary HT	Simon Horne	Friern Barnet	Oct 2017
	Primary Community Gov	Nigel Taylor	Child's Hill	May 2018
	Private Early Years Provider	Sarah Vipond	Middlesex Uni. Nursery	Sep 2019
<b>LA Officers</b>	LBB Officer	Ian Harrison	Education & Skills Director (Cambridge Education)	
	LBB Officer	Val White	Lead Commissioner	
	LBB Officer	Debra Davies	Early Years Lead	
	LBB Officer	Nick Adams	CSG – Finance Manager	
	LBB Officer	Carol Beckman	CSG – School Funding	
	LBB Officer	Catherine Peters	CSG – Head of Finance	
	LBB Officer	Cinzana Khan	CSG – School Funding	
	LBB Officer	Jenny Keable	CSG – School Funding	

**Did not attend**

<b>Members</b>	Academy School Principal	Andrew McClusky	Hasmonean High School	Oct 2018
	Pupil Referral Unit	Joanne Kelly	Pavilion PRU	Sep 2019
	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 2018
	Academy School Representative	Robin Archibald	Broadfields Primary Academy	July 2019
	Special School Headteacher	Lesley Burgess	Northway	Sep 2019

	Academy School Principal	Michael Whitworth	Wren Academy	Nov 2019
	Academy Representative	Angela Trigg	London Academy	Sep 2019
	Nursery School HT	Perina Holness	Moss Hall Nursery	May 2017
	Primary Community HT	Jeanette Adak	Monkfrith Primary	Sep 2019
	Primary Community Governor	Lesley Ludlow	Moss Hall Infants	Apr 2017
	Primary VA/Foundation HT	Matthew Glenn	St Mary's & St John's	Apr 2018
	Primary VA/Foundation HT	Maureen Kelly	St Theresa's	Jul 2017
	Primary VA/Found. Governor	Anthony Vourou	St John's N11	Sep 2019
	Stakeholders - Unions	Keith Nason	NUT	Sep 19
	Primary Community HT	2 VACANCIES		
	Primary Foundation/VA Gov	VACANT		
	Primary Foundation/VA HT	VACANT		
	Secondary Governor	VACANT		
	Secondary VA Headteacher	VACANT		
	Academy Representative	VACANT		
<b>Non Members</b>	Elected Member	Cllr R Thompstone	Lead member for Children's Services	
	LBB Officer	Chris Munday	Commissioning Director for Children and Young People	

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Val White opened the meeting. With only 5 members present the Forum was not quorate but it was agreed to continue on the understanding that no decisions could be made until enough members arrived.

## 1. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

VW welcomed Jenny Keable from the LBB School Funding team who was attending the Forum for the first time.

## 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Tony Vourou, Matthew Glenn, Lesley Ludlow, Keith Nason, Jo Kelly and Chris Munday  
Post-meeting apologies were received from Perina Holness

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

### **5. MATTERS ARISING**

JD asked how the Apprenticeship Levy will affect schools. IH replied that most individual schools and academies would not be charged as they are too small. Academy chains are likely to have to pay the levy. The area of uncertainty is the community schools which may be counted as part of the council for the purposes of the levy. Hopefully more information will be received by the December Schools Forum meeting.

VW said that Wave 11 of new free schools has been announced with three new schools in Barnet. These will be the Saracens High School, Compton Cricklewood and the Windmill all-through special school for pupils with autism. Applications for the next wave have just closed. On current projections, Barnet's basic need for places has now been met and any further free schools would be responding to parental choice rather than lack of places, and Barnet would be likely to oppose surplus places being created.

### **6. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

This item was deferred as the meeting was not quorate.

### **7. MEMBERSHIP REVIEW AND VACANCIES**

The Schools Forum now has 7 vacancies and a recruitment drive is needed to replace members who have left. EP pointed out that there are also a number of members whose term of office has come to an end. EP and SV are happy to stand for another term.

NT is no longer a governor at Wessex Gardens but is on the Childs Hill governing body and so will remain a member representing community primary schools.

### **8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

#### **8a 2015/16 Schools Budget Final Outturn – Catherine Peters**

CP introduced the item and drew attention to the financial report circulated.

SH asked about NOAM – VW said that this independent school would like to become voluntary aided. While the school has purchased land, they are still fund raising to start building the new school without which they cannot join the LA. VW will contact them to find out their current plans.

EP asked what is happening with 2 year old provision. DD admitted that Barnet is not moving towards the target take-up as fast as expected or as fast as some other LAs. Take-up varies from 55-60% of target. JD asked whether this was due to the funding being too low, and SV added that at her setting they found that the families often needed as much support as the child. She suggested that underspends on two year olds could be used for family support programmes. DD said funding might be an issue, but also the areas of highest demands are where there are least places. VW added that schools are struggling to provide places for Reception children and

so are not able to make space for two year olds as well. Many London authorities have the same problem.

GK arrived during this item and took over the meeting.

**8b School Balances at 31 March 2016 – Nick Adams**

NA introduced the paper and associated table. Balances have fallen a little overall but there is wide variation and no obvious pattern. While some schools have large balances others have needed support with redundancy costs and licensed deficits. St Michaels has now cleared their deficit.

A discussion followed about how schools might be encouraged to use balances perhaps through a clawback mechanism. GK said schools were naturally being cautious in these uncertain times and EP echoed this. NA and IH also admitted that when investigations had been done in the past, schools have said they were saving for projects which did not always materialise. However without any kind of sanction there was little the LA could do. IH felt the best approach was for Learning Network Inspectors to link balances to school achievement, and for schools to be expected to use available resources to rectify low achievement. NA said energies had been put into preventing schools falling into deficit rather than challenging schools with surpluses. VW said that a recent review of London authorities showed that in the main, there are perhaps surprisingly few schools in deficit.

**8c 2016/17 Schools Budget – Q1 budget monitoring**

CP presented the paper and associated table. The projected underspend at Quarter 1 (Apr-Jun 2016) has now become a projected overspend due to a reduction in early years income and the rising cost of high needs placements for Post 16 students.

JD queried where the £2.8m carried forward from 2015/16 was shown in the 2016/17 budget. CP explained that underspends are put in a reserve and only the amount needed to balance the 2016/17 budget is drawn down. There is still about £3.7m from previous years in reserve which will be needed for balancing the 16/17 budget and for future years' growth. JD asked for details of the reserve to be presented to the Schools Forum.

## **9. TOWARDS A NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA**

This section replaces the items for decision, in order to give members a broad overview of the progress of government funding reforms which have been disrupted and delayed by the change of ministers following the European Referendum.

**9a Consultations and announcements**

IH introduced the table tracking the various government announcements and consultations since the beginning of 2016. Government plans have been put back a year with the National Funding Formula now scheduled for April 2018.

NT asked about the Central Block originally proposed by the DfE. CB said that LAs were required to submit a 'baseline' statement showing their expenditure budget for 2016/17 on the four blocks. The expectation was that these would become ringfenced when the national funding formula was introduced. The central block will not now be introduced in 2017 and blocks will not be ringfenced – although the

Schools Forum must be told if there is a plan to use one block for another purpose so they can challenge the proposal if necessary.

CB added that none of the funding announcements made so far have been negative for Barnet and indeed there will be a large increase in the early years block which will be passed on to providers.

9b **2017/18 DSG Projections and Pressures**

IH introduced the item. SH asked for clarification about EHCPs for Post 16 students. IH said the changes were that a) high needs students in college must now have an EHCP and b) Post 19 students continue to have an EHCP until they are 25.

SH also asked about the consultation on the LA funding free schools in the first year of opening. CB explained that LA funding is based on lagged numbers and funding for additional pupils is therefore not received until the following year. VW added that where new free schools are set up to meet basic need, it is fair that Barnet should pay from the start, but it could be a drain on the whole school community if new free schools were opened to meet parental preference only.

DJ asked what calls there have been on contingencies so far. CP said more information would be provided at the next meeting.

9c **APT modelling**

CP introduced the paper which described the technical changes the EFA are making in the wake of the problems caused by the updated IDACI index. In December, the Schools Forum will be presented with options for adjusting the funding formula using the EFA's new IDACI bands, with the overall aim of avoiding turbulence for schools.

9d **Early years Consultations**

IH introduced the paper explaining that LAs must consult on amendments to their local early years formulae before the outcome of the government consultation is known. Barnet's consultation with all providers will be launched shortly so that results will be known in time to set the budget for 2017/18. DD added that the consultation has been kept as simple as possible to ensure as many providers as possible respond. She also clarified the figure of 6956 pupils on page 31 which includes eligible 4 year olds in Reception classes.

JD felt that the centrally provided support visits should be clarified and quantified. DD said that visits were allocated on need, typically after change of management at a setting, so it is difficult to quantify the service to individual settings.

DD reported that Barnet has applied for capital funding for 4 projects to help meet the increase to 30 hours for children of working parents.

There was a discussion on the practicalities for delivering the 30 hour entitlement, which can be taken across more than one provider. DD said that it is not yet clear which settings will be offering the extended hours and confirmed that some may offer fewer 30 hour places than available for 15 hours. The 6 pilot LAs only started operating from September so there is little feedback as yet. Similarly the national eligibility checking system is not yet clear, although DD said it would be for the LA to cover any cost.

Members felt that the 25p per hour which could be delegated to providers for central

services seems low.

DD outlined a plan to incentivise the 30 hour provision with a lump sum paid to settings - 50% in advance and the remainder once the extended offer is in place. This would be intended to cover the cost of marketing and recruitment.

The consultation would begin in the next few days and run for 5 weeks so results will be known by the time of the next Schools Forum meeting.

## **10. DRAFT AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

1. Welcome to new members
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations of interest
4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
5. Minutes of previous meeting
6. Matters arising
7. Items for information
  - 2016/17 Budget budget monitoring
8. Towards a National Funding Formula- including
  - Results of Consultations
  - 2017/18 Schools budget
  - Reserve for previous year underspends
  - De-delegation by maintained schools
  - School funding formula for 2017/18
  - Changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools
9. Draft agenda for next meeting – February 2016
10. Any other business

## **11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

8<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
February 2017 (tba)  
11<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (provisional)  
6<sup>th</sup> July 2017 (provisional)

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no other business, GK closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 5.30pm

