

SOUTHWARK CHILDREN'S SERVICES - SCHOOLS FORUM

THURSDAY 12th JANUARY 2023

14.00 to 15.30

Via Teams

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Attendance and Apologies: - See Annex A

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate. Nick Tildesley gave his apologies.

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 Schools Forum in any matter on the agenda for discussion. None were declared.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 8th December 2022

3.1 These were agreed for accuracy.

4. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising from the meeting of the 8th December 2022

5. Dedicated Schools Grant 2023-24 Allocation

5.1 The report sets out the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) income allocation for 2023-24 and provides details of the changes in comparison to the 2022-23 allocation. The provisional 2022-23 DSG allocation of £375.7m (£358.0m in 2022/23). The DSG is set out in four blocks; schools block, central block, early years block and the high needs block. The schools block is £276 million. The funding for the schools blocks is made up of 4 elements, an amount per pupil for primary pupils of £6301, and an amount per pupil for secondary pupils of £8792 a premises amount and a growth fund. There are 20,691 pupils in primary, the rolls in primary schools have declined by 674 pupils since the October 2021 census. Secondary school rolls are rising in Southwark, there are an additional 268 pupils. The primary sector funding has dipped by £3.3 million, the secondary funding has increased by £2.8 million.

5.2 A new grant for 2023-24 and is known as the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant, the total has been confirmed as £9 million, this grant is Southwark's share for schools of the extra of the additional £2bn of funds announced by the Chancellor in his autumn 2022 Statement. This new grant is the 2023/24 equivalent of the Schools Supplementary Grant from 2022/23, which existed for just one year and has been amalgamated into Schools Budget Shares for 2023/24. Similarly, the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant will only exist for one year and will be amalgamated into Schools Budget Share for 2024/25. The grant only covers provision in the 5 to 16 year old age range. The funding rates for Pupil Premium has increased by around 5%.

6. Dedicated Schools Grant - 2023-24 Schools Funding Formula

6.1 The report provides the Schools Forum with the details of the mainstream school funding formula for 2023-24. The budgets need to be formally submitted to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on 20th January 2023. The details of the settlement have been provided in an earlier paper. The table in the report shows the differences between Southwark formula rates and the national funding formula rates. Under the national regulations the MFG rate for 2023/24 can be set between 0.0% and +0.5%. The DfE's expectation is that the MFG rate matches the 0.5% that has been added to schools' NFF funding levels nationally.

The Schools Forum is asked to:

- I. Agree to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) at 0% - **AGREED**
- II. To adjust the formula funding rates as necessary to balance the schools block, with reference to the maximum and minimum rates stipulated by the DfE. **AGREED**

7. Dedicated Schools Grant - 2023-24 de-delegations and centrally retained items

7.1 The report starts to consider the 2023/24 budget for the schools block centrally retained and de-delegated budgets. Since the meeting of the Forum in December the rate of de-delegation for School Improvement has increased. The overall principle adopted in terms of setting the rates is that the rates remain the same as 2022/23 which the services will need to manage. Family Early Help was also discussed, the de-delegation was reduced. It was identified that there were different practices on charging between maintained schools and academies. Following Schools Forum discussion in the 2021/22 school year a letter was sent to all academies and voluntary aided schools in October 2022 requesting a contribution to the Family Early Help service based on the LA maintained schools de-delegation calculation, a further letter has been sent to the academies. Four schools acknowledged the request. At their request a meeting has been held with finance colleagues from Harris Academy Trust and the LA has agreed to provide more detailed information.

In terms of the calculation for the service the current charge is around £64.00 per FSM pupil, the charges to academies were calculated on the same basis. The de-delegation from the primary sector will be reduced in line with any additional funding received from academies for Early Help.

The Schools Forum is asked to agree:

- i) Growth Fund
£50k to be set aside (a reduction of £50k from 2022-23) - **AGREED**
- ii) Falling Rolls Fund
£300k to be set aside (the same as 2022-23) – **AGREED**
- iii) The de-delegated services individually detailed in Table 3 in section 4.5 by phase (mainstream representatives only). The proposed total budget is £3.167m which compares with £3.339m for the current year (2022-23)
 - a) Contingency **AGREED**
 - b) School Improvement: - Primary schools **AGREED**
- Secondary schools – **NOT AGREED** (CM was representing maintained secondary schools and voted against this)
 - c) Behaviour support services – Contribution to early help **AGREED**
 - d) Behaviour support services – Summerhouse **AGREED**
 - e) Free school meals eligibility (primary schools only) **AGREED**
 - f) Staff costs supply cover (maternity scheme) **AGREED**

g) Staff costs supply cover (trade union) **AGREED**

iv) The funding for the Central Education functions of Southwark (to be agreed individually by maintained schools only), as outlined in **section 5**. The proposed budget is **£16.43 per pupil** which is no change from 2022/23. **AGREED**

8. Dedicated Schools Grant - 2023-24 High Needs Block

8.1 The report provides the Schools Forum with the details of schools block transfer and the funding of special schools, hospital schools and resource bases and EHCP's for next year. The settlement details were in line with projections, Central Government have provided an additional grant of £2.9 million. There are conditions set for the grant, 3.4% of the grant should be allocated to special schools, alternative providers and hospital schools. The remainder of the grant was left with the Local Authority to decide. As part of this the Local Authority have been asked to resubmit the Safety Valve Funding Application by the 31st January 2023, a revised draft has been circulated with the papers. The revision details how the Local Authority will allocate the additional funding received which will be shared with the Forum and special headteachers before submission. There was no requirement to increase the funding rates of EHCPs, it was felt that the funding rates should increase in line with the increases to special schools, hospital schools and alternative providers. An Independent Consultant has reviewed the funding rates for special schools. There was a proposal to freeze top up rates for special schools. The report has been circulated for information, the report states that it would not be unreasonable to freeze the funding rates.

The Schools Forum is asked to:

- i) Agree the Schools block transfer of 0.44%, a sum of £1.2m. **AGREED**
- ii) Confirm that the special schools' funding rate should increase by 0.1% to the nationally set minimum funding guarantee. **AGREED**
- iii) To note that the independent consultant has recommended the special schools funding rates should be frozen after the 0.1% minimum funding guarantee increase **AGREED**
- iv) To note the new central government additional grant to special schools, alternative providers and hospital schools of 3.4%. **AGREED**
- v) Agree that the top-up rate for SILS should increase by 0.1% to the national set minimum funding guarantee only. **AGREED**
- vi) Agree that the funding rate for hospital schools for 2022/23 should continue to be aligned to the funding level included in the High Needs block. **AGREED**
- vii) Agree that the funding rates for Resources Bases should increase by 3.4% which is equivalent to the new additional grant for special schools. **AGREED**
- viii) Agree that the funding rates for EHCP's increase by 3.4% which is equivalent to the new additional grant for special schools. **AGREED**

ix) Agree that rather than undertake a full consultation the Local Authority write to all Special Schools saying that the regulations will be followed with indicative amounts that they will receive and invite comments from them. **AGREED**

9. Dedicated Schools Grant - 2023-24 Early Years Block

9.1 The report sets out the provisional Early Years Block, Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for 2023-24 and provides details of the changes in comparison to 2022-23. The funding rates have been increased in line with the increase in the funding rates. It asks for Forum members to confirm the funding rates for early year's providers.

The Schools Forum is asked to agree:

i) That a quality factor is added to the early years funding formula based on whether an early years provider has on its payroll an employee with qualified teacher status who is paid in line with the teachers' pay and conditions document.

AGREED

ii) The funding rates for Early Year providers of

- 3 and 4 year olds base rate of £6.15 per hour
- 3 and 4 year olds quality factor of £0.34 per hour
- 3 and 4 year olds Disability Access Fund of £2,000 per year
- 3 and 4 year olds deprivation funding rates
- 2 year old funding of £6.80 per hour (Section 4.3)

AGREED

iii) That the central retentions budget should be set at £875k as per Section 5.2.

AGREED

10. A.O.B. Any items must be with the Clerk by Noon 10th January 2023

It was agreed that Catherine May would be appointed as a secondary maintained school representative on the Forum.

Dave Richards will be retiring he was thanked for his work on the Schools Forum and at the Local Authority.

11. Dates of Further Meetings for 2022/23

16 March 2023

15 June 2023

Annex A

SCHOOLS FORUM ATTENDANCE SHEET

12TH January 2023

VOTING MEMBERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PRESENT
Janice Babb	Primary School Headteacher (RC)	Yes
Susannah Bellingham	Primary School Headteacher (Com)	Yes
Pia Longman	Primary School Headteacher CofE	Yes
Vacant	Primary School Headteacher (Com)	
Vacant	Primary School Governor (Com)	
Vacant	Primary School Governor (VA)	
Rebecca Sherwood	Nursery School Headteacher	No
Heidy Tully	Special School Headteacher	No
Nicola Howard	Early Years – Private/Voluntary and Independent Settings	Yes
Steve Morrison	Academy	Yes
Nick Tildesley	Academy (Primary)	Apologies
Declan Jones	Academy	Yes
James Wilson	Academy	No
Steph Lea	Special School Academy	Yes
Yomi Adewoye	Pupil Referral Units	
Vacant	Secondary School Headteacher	
Vacant	FE SEN	Awaiting nomination from LA
Catherine May	Diocesan Boards / Secondary	Yes
Betty Joseph	Trade Unions	Yes

Senior Officers in Attendance

Nina Dohel	Yes
Yvonne Ely	No
Dave Richards	Yes
Kate Bingham	Yes
Nikki Tilson	Yes
Richard Hunter	Yes
Neil Gordon-Orr	Yes
Hayden Judd	Yes
Andrea Dennis	No
Jenny Brennan	Yes
Eniko Nolan	Yes
Sarah Cooper	Clerk