

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS FORUM MINUTES OF THE MEETING Thursday 7th July 2016</b></p>
---

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. There were none.
3. The meeting was quorate.
4. **Minutes of the Meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016**  
These were agreed.
5. **Matters Arising from Minutes of the Meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016**  
All there were no other matters arising that were not already on the agenda.
6. **Dedicated Schools Grant – Projected Outturn 2015-16**
  - 6.1 A report prepared by Mustafa Salih had been circulated. This had been compiled as a result of a request by the Schools Forum to set out in more detail aspects of the Projected 2015-16 Outturn previously reported at their May 2016 meeting.
  - 6.2 The two key areas of increased demand are Independent, Day and Boarding places especially Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The other area was Post 16 especially as Local Authorities (LAs) now had responsibility for those students up to the age of 25.
  - 6.3 The LA reported that it was looking to expand the number of places being offered by Southwark schools which may be better for some of the young people and also reduce cost. The Chair said that as part of the BSF programme a number of secondary schools were to have SEN Units, including ASD, as part of the rebuild and this in fact had attracted additional funding for the projects from the DfE. This appeared not to have actually happened. The LA agreed to report back at the next meeting on what was originally part of the BSF plans and the reasons for any changes relating to SEN.
  - 6.4 The Director reported that the lack of places was a London wide issue and often required negotiation with academies. Sarah Alexander said that perhaps partnership working with adjoining boroughs may assist.
  - 6.5 The report back on Education Health and Care Plans was noted.
  - 6.6 Interim Support for Mainstream Schools – details of the allocations were noted. However, the Schools Forum wondered if all schools knew this support may be available to them – how is this communicated to Headteachers? It was also

suggested that when schools did make a request for additional financial support, the level of their balances was taken account of in the decision making process.

- 6.7 In response to a question it was confirmed that the new classrooms at Summerhouse will be available in the autumn term.
- 6.8 With regard to SILS3, Yomi Adewoye said that the reference to 70 young people permanently excluded in paragraph 2.15 should in fact be 100. The nurture group and wrap around approach was very successful and as a consequence the demand for places has increased. Betty Joseph commented that academies from outside the borough were excluding Southwark resident pupils which then became the responsibility of Southwark.
- 6.9 Paulette Bertram commented that the parents who were allocated 2 year old places often did not turn up and this then became a safeguarding issue for providers.
- 6.10 With regard to Free School Meals referred to in paragraph 3.9 of the report, the LA confirmed that free meals for infant aged children was funded by the government and those for Junior aged pupils were funded by the Council under their Free Healthy School Meals initiative.
- 6.11 Following discussion John Voytal confirmed that issues around SEN Top Up Bands are on the agenda of the SEND Review Group and there is an obvious cross over with the Early Years Review Group for those very young children who have special educational needs.

## **7. School Balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

- 7.1 A report by Mustafa Salih had been previously circulated. It was noted that the figures were inclusive of both capital and balances and that the remit of the Schools Forum did not cover capital expenditure.
- 7.2 It was noted by the Schools Forum that the Local Authority Balance Control Mechanism is approved by the Schools Forum and this, amongst other things, is where the LA asks schools for detail of revenue balances over the 5% threshold for secondary and 8% threshold for all other schools. This does not include academies.
- 7.3 Sarah Alexander said it would be more informative if there was a 5 year trend analysis. Rebecca Sherwood commented that Nursery Schools often received additional funding late in the financial year and had issues with the funding formula allocations and their Day Care Budgets.
- 7.4 It was confirmed that the thresholds used were the government recommended ones. The Chair also confirmed that much of the monies held by secondary schools is in fact capital related and also linked to BSF.

## **8. 2015-16 Specific Fund Allocations**

- 8.1 This report covered allocations made for: Schools in Financial Difficulty, Maternity Cover, Trade Union Facility Time, and Growth Funds.

- 8.2 This was noted, the LA also reported that issues regarding cash flow are treated differently revenue as the profile of a school's spend is sometimes different to the funding profile to the bank account.
- 8.3 In connection with Trade Union Facility time, the clerk reported that Keith Morrison has asked that the Schools Forum note Table 2 in paragraph 3.3 omitted one of Kingsdale's union representatives.
- 8.4 The Schools Forum asked that the LA carry out an evaluation of likely cost in order to expand the scheme to cover paternity leave.
- 8.5 The LA said that an update position regarding 2016-17 Growth Fund would be reported to the Schools Forum once the new classes had opened.

## **9. National Funding Formulae**

- 9.1 Both the LA and the Clerk reported that the DFE had yet to publish the outcome of its round one consultations for changes to the Schools, High Needs and Early Years Funding Formulae.

## **10. Early Years Funding Working Group**

- 10.1 John Voytal reported that the group now had its full membership and that were exploring options relating to social deprivation funding and benchmarking including looking at the funding of nursery schools. An update will be given to the next Schools Forum.

## **11. SEND Funding Formula Working Group**

- 11.1 John Voytal reported that the group had been meeting and was looking at the pressures on funding of SEND and EHCPs. This included the Top Up Bands and getting information from other boroughs. An update will be given to the next Schools Forum.

## **12. Schools Financial Handbook**

- 12.1 The Schools Forum asked that the LA produce a detailed Handbook on Schools Finances on similar lines to the one it produces for Human Resources. This would be especially helpful to new school senior management staff so they know what happens and who to go to in the LA.

## **10. Date of Next Meetings 2016/17**

These will be circulated at the start of the new academic year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

## Annex A

## SCHOOLS FORUM ATTENDANCE SHEET

7<sup>th</sup> July 2016

## VOTING MEMBERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PRESENT
Sarah Alexander	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Craig Voller	Primary School Headteacher	Apologies
Keith Fox	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Gregory Doey	Primary School Headteacher	Apologies
Elaine Garlick	Primary School Governor	Resigned
Omolayo Sokoya	Primary School Governor	Yes
Rebecca Sherwood	Nursery School Headteacher	Yes
Simon Eccles	Special School Headteacher	Apologies
Paulette Bertram	Early Years – Private/Voluntary and Independent Settings	Yes
Steve Morrison	Academy	Apologies
Mickey Kelly	Academy	Apologies
Mike Antoniou	Academy	Apologies
Yomi Adewoye	Pupil Referral Units	Yes
Sister Anne-Marie Niblock	Secondary School Headteacher	Yes
Vacant	FE SEN	
Catherine May	Diocese Board	Yes
Betty Joseph	Trade Unions	Yes

## Senior Officers in Attendance

Nina Dohel	Yes
Mustafa Salih	Yes
John Voytal	Yes
David Cross	Clerk