

**THE SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS FORUM  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013**

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- 1. Attendance and Apologies**  
See Annex A. Georgie McCall substituted for Sharon Donno 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. Betty Joseph, as the Trade Union rep, declared her interest in 3a on the agenda.
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012**  
These were agreed as a true record.
- 4. School Funding Reform: De-delegation of Funding for Reimbursement of Trade Union facility Time**
  - 4.1 A report had been previously circulated that detailed the Local Authority's request to de-delegate the funding to maintained schools for the reimbursement of school Trade Union activities. This had been previously discussed at the Schools Forum at each meeting since September 2012.
  - 4.2 Melissa Williamson explained that this was an "exception" under the new Funding reforms and the request by the LA was as a result of the Schools Forum at its December meeting suggesting that it would support a proposal by the LA based on the options discussed at that meeting. This had led the LA having a preferred option that meant funding would be provided by schools that would be held centrally by the LA. The process would differ depending on whether the school was a maintained primary and/or secondary school or an academy. The principles would be the same for each but an academy can only be asked to take part in the subscription/traded service that the LA was still working on.
  - 4.3 Following a question from Betty Joseph, the LA confirmed that the "service" would be organised by the LA.
  - 4.4 As this was an "exception" the Clerk reminded the Schools Forum that only the maintained primary school representatives and the secondary school representative could vote and this would be for their own constituency.  
  
Primary School Representatives –In favour 4, Against 0, Abstentions 0.  
Secondary School Representative – Was in favour
- 5. Dedicated Schools grant 2013-14**

- 5.1 A report prepared by Fay Hammond had been previously circulated to the Schools Forum and updated members with the latest position on the government funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2013-14. In addition it highlighted the key budget risk areas for the year.
- 5.2 At the end of December 2012 the DfE announced the values of the various blocks that make up the DSG. It also stated that the Early Year block is still based on January 2012 data and will be updated once the January 2013 data is known and that the High Needs Block contains funding for areas not previously the responsibility of the LA (19 to 25 year olds) and did not in fact allow for any inflation.
- 5.3 Overall the DSG, prior to the DfE recouping the funding for academies, was to be £227.590m. This now included funding for 2 year olds, which would start in September 2013. There would not be, in general in-year adjustments to schools budgets, other than early years and top –up s for high needs pupils so any adjustment could only be done the following financial year.
- 5.4 This as noted and the Schools Forum agreed unanimously the LA’s proposal to hold the funding of the Schools Forum (£15,000) as an exception.

## **6. Special Schools Funding 2013-14**

- 6.1 A detailed report had been previously circulated by Melissa Williamson to the Schools Forum members. This provided a summary of the consultation responses to the required funding changes for maintained special schools and set out the proposed funding for 2013-14 for each school.
- 6.2 The consultation showed that no school was content with all the options and proposals. Simon Eccles commented that the current proposals were a good step forward to getting rid of historical anomalies and will eventually lead to a fairer budget for all schools. There were individual concerns, especially amongst those schools with significant vacancies that impacted upon funding and so could lead to redundancies. The government’s Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) is based on a per-pupil amount not total funding year on year. This benefited some schools but not those with significant vacancies.
- 6.3 Following a question, Merrill Haeusler stated that there might be vacancies because of parental choice and often their preference for a mainstream school. Simon Eccles said that national policies were putting inner London special schools under pressure.
- 6.4 Fay Hammond said that during 2013 the funding matrix used will be refined and other school’s concerns such as use of average bandings and in-year adjustments will be reviewed along with the differential between primary and secondary EBD rates.
- 6.5 The recommendation to the Schools Forum, as set out in paragraph 4.9, to apply the funding matrix was unanimously agreed by the schools and PVI representatives of the Schools Forum.
- 6.6 The Schools Forum then reviewed the LA proposal, set out in paragraph 5, to distribute the non-place led funding “the top up” by a the use of a fixed lump sum of £150k and the balance on a fixed rate per pupil. The recommendation

by the LA as set out in paragraph 5.6 was unanimously agreed by the schools and PVI representatives of the Schools Forum.

- 6.7 Then, following the discussion on the transitional arrangements which set down that the government's MFG of minus 1.5% and that any gains by a school be capped at 2.02% the recommendation by the LA as set out in paragraph 6.11 was unanimously agreed by the schools and PVI representatives of the Schools Forum.
- 6.8 Under the national "place-plus" funding regime special schools will not receive top-up funding for vacant places. Southwark proposed a transitional arrangement that meant schools would receive 50% of the top up for the current vacant places that Southwark is expecting to commission throughout the year. If these places are not filled, the school retains this funding, if they are then the school will receive the remaining 50% of the top up value.
- 6.9. The Schools Forum schools and PVI representatives unanimously agreed the recommendation to this transitional arrangement as set out in paragraph 7.7.

## **7. Funding of SEN Units in Mainstream Schools 2013-14**

- 7.1 A report had been circulated by Alex Goddard, which set out the funding proposals under the government's funding reforms for these units in 2013-14.
- 7.2 The Chair commented that under Building Schools for the Future many mainstream schools, as part of the rebuild, were to have SEN units and this did not appear to be happening. Mickey Kelly asked if funding had been received by the LA for building these units. The Local Authority will review and report back to the Schools Forum.
- 7.3 Alex Goddard stated that the ASC Units were already funded using a "Place Plus" approach and it was proposed by the LA that a "matrix" approach similar to that in maintained special schools would be explored for use in 2014-15.
- 7.4 Those members of the Schools Forum eligible to vote (all except the Trade Union Representative) then voted on the LA proposal for the per pupil top up rates for SEN Units: In favour 10, Against 0, Abstention 1.

## **8. Nursery Classes and Nursery Schools Funding 2013-14**

- 8.1 A report had been previously circulated by Alex Goddard that set out the LA proposals for formula funding 3 and 4 year olds in 2013-14.
- 8.2 As, previously reported, as there were no responses regarding nursery classes to the LA's consultation, as a consequence then there were no proposals to change the funding rates for nursery classes. These will be applied to the census data for May and October 2013, and January 2014 as schools are funded on a termly basis.
- 8.3 With regard to Nursery Schools, Merrill Haeusler said that this was still very much work in progress on the requirement to simplify the funding formula and the size of the lump sum had been causing concerns as was the move to part time place funding. A number of meetings had been held with Nursery School Headteachers and it was decided to go with the majority view of a lump sum

of £200k. The LA agreed to review the outcomes of the new formula and, using the new 2 year old funding, provide additional transition if needed.

8.4 The new lump sum rate meant that the basic entitlement rate moved from £6,764 per pupil to £6,107 per pupil as more was being delivered by the lump sum. The other rates for EAL and IDACI would remain the same as for 2012-13. Mickey Kelly commented that academies were to be funded at the PVI rate rather than the previous maintained school rate, Melissa Williamson said that this was in line with the DfE guidance,

8.5 The Schools Forum then voted on whether to agree the LA proposals for the formula funding rates for Early Years, nursery classes and nursery schools. In Favour 9, Against 0, Abstentions 2.

## **9. Mainstream School Budgets 2013-14 – Unit Values**

9.1 A report setting out the revised values for 2013-14 of the funding formula for mainstream schools was circulated and this updated the values previously submitted to the Schools Forum in October 2012.

9.2 The new dataset issued by the DfE for the October 2012 school census showed that for English as an Additional Language (EAL) the data was showing a significant increase. Also, because funding through the other funding factors had reduced, it meant that the funding to be distributed by AWPU could be increased.

9.3 Keith Fox commented that he had been informed that the data on the annual census relating to EAL was no longer reflective of fluency now just whether a foreign language was the home language. Fay Hammond confirmed that the maternity budget applied to just primary and secondary schools, and following a question from David Sheppard, confirmed that there would be a reconciliation of the DSG forthcoming and it will be presented to the Schools Forum.

9.4 The Schools Forum then noted the report and voted on whether to agree the revised Funding Formula rates for 2013-14. In Favour 10, Against 0, Abstentions 1.

## **10. Alternative Provision Funding 2013-14**

10.1 A report by Darren Coghlan had been previously circulated to the Schools Forum. This set out the funding models for the Southwark Inclusive learning Service (Secondary) and Summerhouse (Primary) as required by the government's funding reforms for 2013-14.

10.2 Fay Hammond introduced this report and said that the Schools Forum views were being sought. The Chair asked who was using the facilities of the Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) did it include the non-recoupment academies as well as the maintained schools? Currently the funding for the PRUs is top sliced from the DSG. The primary sector academies are all "recoupment academies", however, Harris, Bacons, COLA and Walworth, as non-recoupment academies were outside of these funding arrangements and were using the services of the PRU. It is therefore very important that this anomaly is addressed and that in the future all those that use the services of SILS contribute fairly to the costs of its provision.

- 10.3 Yomi Adewoye commented that a lot of preventative work is done with the non-recoupment academies and that assists with minimising permanent exclusions in Southwark. The national changes required to the funding of PRUs (Alternative Provision) is proving challenging when one is trying to preserve the preventative work and an interim approach is needed for this coming year. Merrill Haeusler commented that the record of low primary exclusions was encouraging and that the secondary provision needed time to develop its proposals for schools and academies.
- 10.4 David Sheppard said there was a distinction between the statutory and non-statutory functions of the PRUs and the use by good schools and academies. There are other providers in competition with SILS. He was concerned at the time delay being suggested and that holding off the changes will not necessarily save the provision. Merrill Haeusler said that the time period being suggested was in fact months and needed involvement of secondary Headteachers to work through the options.
- 10.5 The Local Authority was requesting views from the Schools Forum so that it can review provision and funding arrangements in 2013-14. With regard to Summerhouse the majority view of the Schools Forum was that the LA should retain the funding in 2013-14 for the provision rather than delegate to all schools for them to buy-back services.
- 10.6 With regard to secondary SILS that the statutory exclusions placements rates were noted and that the Local Authority should commission a good quality defined cost effective preventative service for schools to purchase directly from SILS. Yomi Adewoye said that the LA needs to make a prompt decision to limit the uncertainties of staff in the PRUs and what is available for schools and academies.
- 10.7 Merrill Haeusler thanked the Schools Forum for its comments and said that the Local Authority will bring back its proposals.

## **11. Budget Monitoring Report – DSG December 2012**

- 11.1 The previously circulated report was noted.

## **12. Dates of Next Meetings**

- 12.1 These were noted.

The meeting closed at 6 pm.

## Annex A

### SCHOOLS FORUM ATTENDANCE SHEET

31<sup>st</sup> January 2013

#### VOTING MEMBERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PRESENT
Lynn Charlton	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Craig Voller	Primary School Headteacher	Apologies
Keith Fox	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Jacqui Louis	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Elaine Garlick	Primary School Governor	Apologies
Canon Grahame Shaw	Primary School Governor	Yes
Sharon Donno	Nursery School Headteacher	Apologies - substitute Georgie McCall
Simon Eccles	Special School Headteacher	Yes
Gillian Reeve	Early Years – Private/Voluntary and Independent Settings	Yes
David Sheppard	Academy	Yes
Mickey Kelly	Academy	Yes
Mike Antoniou	Academy	Apologies
Yomi Adewoye	Pupil Referral Units	Yes
Sister Anne-Marie Niblock	Secondary School Headteacher	Yes
Dr Irene Bishop	Diocese Board	Apologies
Betty Joseph	Trade Unions	Yes

#### Senior Officers in Attendance

Kerry Crichlow	Assistant Director - Yes
Fay Hammond	Head of Children's Services Finance - Yes
Merril Haeusler	Deputy Director - Yes
David Cross	Clerk