

Schools Forum

Minutes

Monday 8 February 2016

| Representing | Name | Organisation | Attendance |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Primary Schools | 5 Members | | |
| Primary Head | Claire Fletcher (CF) | St Paul's CE Primary School | Apologies |
| Primary Head | Wayne Leeming (WL) | Melcombe Primary School | Present |
| Primary Head | Kathleen Williams (KW) | Holy Cross RC Primary School | |
| Primary Governor | Daisy Donovan (DD) | Avonmore Primary School | Present |
| Primary Governor | Sharon Robinson (SR) | John Betts Primary School | Present |
| Secondary schools | 1 Member | | |
| Secondary Head | Alan Streeter (AS) | Phoenix High School | Present |
| Academies | 5 members | | |
| Secondary Non Recoupment Academy Principal | Gary Kynaston (GK) | Hammersmith Academy | Apologies |
| Secondary Recoupment Academy Head | David McFadden (DMcf) | The London Oratory School | Apologies |
| Secondary Recoupment Academy | Vacancy | | |
| Secondary Recoupment Academy (Observer) | Peter Haylock (PH) | Fulham College Trust | Present |
| Primary Academy | Vacancy | | |
| Maintained Nursery Schools | 1 member | | |
| Nursery Head | Michelle Barratt (MB) | Vanessa/Randolph Beresford Early Years Centre School | Present |
| Special Schools | 1 member | | |
| Special Schools Head | Cathy Welsh (CW) | Jack Tizard | Apologies |
| Alternative Provision | 1 member | | |
| Alternative Provision Rep | Nathan Crawley-Lyons (NCL) | TBAP | Absent |
| Early Years (PVI) | 1 member | | |
| | Jane Gleasure | Little People | Present |
| 14-19 Representative | 1 member | | |
| | Vacant | | |
| School Business Manager | 2 observers | | |
| Primary (Maintained) | Caroline Collins (CC) | Miles Coverdale Primary School | Apologies |
| Secondary (Academy) | Tim Scott (TS) | Fulham College Trust | Present |
| Trade Union | 1 observer | | |
| | Dennis Charman (DC) | NUT | Present |
| | | | |
| Officers in Attendance | | | |
| Tri Borough Director of Finance & Resources | Dave McNamara (DM) | Tri Borough Children's Services | Present |
| Tri Borough Director of Schools Commissioning | Ian Heggs (IH) | Tri Borough Children's Services | Present |
| Tri Borough Assistant Director Special Educational Needs & Vulnerable Children | Alison Farmer (AF) | Tri Borough Children's Services | Present |
| Clerking Service Manager | Owen Rees (OR) | Tri Borough Children's Services | Present |

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

As set out above

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

13. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a true and correct record, subject to the deletion of resolution 6 (iii).

14. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Recruitment and Retention

DM confirmed that an analysis of parking arrangements in London had been commissioned to look at what was in place in other boroughs. He noted that there were other boroughs offering a number of permits to schools through a discreet category. However, introducing this to the borough would lead to a loss of income, and Headteachers were asked to support the decision

15. DIRECT SCHOOLS GRANT 2016-17

DM introduced the report, and gave his apologies for the change in date to the meeting. He reported that the reason for the change was the pressure on the High Needs Block within the Dedicated Schools Grant; it had been necessary to identify the source of these pressures and to begin to address them prior to reporting to Forum.

He noted that it was open to the Forum and the local authority to move funds between blocks within the DSG, but with the spending pressures on schools, and with the imminent introduction of a National Funding Formula, it was felt that cuts to the Schools Block were not sustainable. He reported that officers were looking at the sources of the pressure in terms of the funding from the EFA, whilst looking at

In response to a question on the employer varying contributions to the Teachers Pensions and LGPS scheme, DM noted that this was not usually the case, and that there was a current deficit in the Hammersmith and Fulham scheme.

DM noted the potential impact on funding of the falling levels of IDACCI in the borough. Officers were seeking to clarify whether the assessments made were correct could mean a move in resources within the National Funding Formula.

In response to a question regarding whether there was potential to increase allocations in light of cost pressures, DM reported that the overall pot was not increasing, meaning that this would not be possible.

In response to a question regarding the MFG after 2016-17, DM confirmed that the local authority did not know whether this would apply.

In response to a question on the de-delegation and central services spend, DM agreed that detail on this would come to the next meeting of the Forum. IH noted that the local authority had undertaken a number of reductions in this area over previous years.

In response to a question on PVI distributions, DM noted that the Early Years Block breakdown would be reported to the next meeting.

In terms of the High Needs Block, DM noted that the overspend had been £1.5 million in the previous year, and £2.5 million projected for the current year. He noted that this would have a highly negative impact on the reserves, and that detailed proposals would be brought forward to contain this. DM noted that meetings with Special Schools were taking place. AF noted the work being undertaken with Special Schools and Schools with Resource Provisions to ensure that maximum value for money was achieved. She noted that cost pressures from increasing numbers of post-16 young people eligible for support.

IH reported that consultation on post-19 eligibility was underway. He noted that the overspends reflected real cost pressures due to rising numbers of pupils with complex needs, and that significant amounts of funding was committed to pupils with moderate needs.

DM confirmed that decisions on the Early Years Block would be deferred to the March meeting.

RESOLVED

- (I) That the submission of the APT tool be agreed, and
- (II) That the individual rates set out in the report be agreed,
- (III) That the Forum note that decisions on the Early Years Block be deferred until the following meeting,
- (IV) That the Forum note that further information on the High Needs Block would be received at the next meeting, and that
- (V) Information on the breakdown of de-delegation and central spend be brought to the next meeting.

16. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Children Services Inspection

DM reported that the outcome was consistent with the self-evaluation. IH thanked schools for their assistance.

School Meals Contract

DM reported that the tenders were currently being evaluated. He noted that he would be writing to schools in relation to adult meals, which were currently subsidised from the General Fund; this arrangement would cease at the introduction of the new contract.

National Funding Formula

DM reported that the impact of the changes proposed were not clear. He noted that the Council was clear in its view that the borough's schools should be protected from a disproportionate impact, and had passed a motion to this effect. He reported that officers had contacted f40 for data and noted that work done by London Councils predicted a higher impact.

In response to a question about the ideal length of the transition period, DM noted that it might be beneficial to keep this to a 3-5 year period, to allow substantial restructuring of school budgets, particularly given the

In response to a question regarding the position of the other boroughs in the Tri-Borough arrangements, DM noted that officers briefed members and schools based on circumstances in each borough. He reported that the policy was to respond with other London boroughs.

In response to a question about possible insolvencies, DM noted that the MFG was designed to protect against this.

IH noted that the school roll and census were overall positive, with GLA projections forecasting a growth in secondary numbers.

RESOLVED

That the Director's Report be noted.

Meeting started: 2pm
Meeting ended: 2.55pm

Chairman