

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SCHOOLS FUNDING FORUM
Zoom
3 November 2020 (9.30 am - 12.05 pm)**

Present:

Representative Groups

**LA Maintained School
Representatives**

Head Teachers

Margy Bushell
Steve Bowers
Kirsten Cooper (Vice-chair)
Georgina Delmonte
Hayley Durrant
David Unwin-Bailey

Primary Governor

Dave Walters

Academy Representatives

Primary Governor

Kate Ridley-Moy

Secondary Academies

Denise Broom (Chair)
David Turrell
Keith Williams

Special Academies

Vicky Fackler

Early Years PVI Sector

Emma Reynolds

Trade Unions

John McGill, Teachers
Peter Liddle, Support Staff

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS OR OBSERVERS

Apologies were received for the absence of John Delaney, Emma Allen and Ray Lawrence.

There was one member of the press present and one other observer.

2. TO AGREE THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH SEPTEMBER 2020

The notes of the meeting of the Forum held on 17 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 18 – The meeting between Mark Halls and the Director of Children’s Services had still not yet taken place.

Minute 19 – An amendment to the value from £4.80 to £4.90

Minute 23 – There had been no notification of early years funding.

The Chair asked that LA officers be referred to by name in future minutes.

4. IDACI DEPRIVATION DATA - EARLY YEARS PROVIDERS

The report presented to the members of the Forum gave an account of the impact on Early Years Providers of changes to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) data and methodology when calculating the associated funding.

The Forum noted the data had been updated in September 2019, four years after the previous update, and, given the significant changes, noted that the EFSA had changed the methodology for determining which of the seven IDACI bands pupils fell in to.

The Forum noted that more pupils had been placed in Band A, fewer pupils in Bands B – E and more pupils in Bands F and G. Funding for each band would increase in line with the increase used in the schools’ National Funding Formula. The result would still be that around £60,000 less would be distributed to providers through the IDACI deprivation factor.

The Department for Education had not yet announced details of Early Years funding rates for 2021/22. Additional funding of £700k received in July would be held as a contingency in case funding for 2021/22 was impacted by lower than usual pupil numbers in January 2021, because of Coronavirus.

The Forum **noted** the report.

5. THE FINANCIAL IMPACT FOR SCHOOLS OF COVID-19

The report presented to the Forum summarised the DfE arrangements for funding and the responses given by schools in a survey of additional COVID-19 related costs.

The Forum noted that there were three criteria for claims for exceptional costs incurred due to COVID-19 for which the DfE had pledged to make payment. These were very tightly drawn and there was an additional requirement that schools should not have increasing balances. It was noted that 15 LA Maintained schools had received payment in August 2020, totalling £118,638, with 23 schools receiving payment in October 2020 totalling £182,067.

Members noted that arrangement for the Catch up Premium had been announced. Primary and secondary schools would receive £80 per pupil split over the autumn, spring and summer terms. Special schools would receive £240 per pupil in three instalments, £60 in autumn 2020, £80 in spring 2021 and £100 in summer 2021.

Members of the Forum noted the results of the survey of schools on additional costs incurred. There had been an overall response rate of 46%. Primary schools had incurred additional costs averaging £44k. With savings during the summer term this reduced to a net cost of £32,000. For secondary schools the figures were £71,000 gross and £60,000 net. For special schools the figures were £46,000 gross and £34,000 net. Lost income from lettings, breakfast and after school clubs was cited as the greatest expense followed by additional staffing costs. Schools had not been able to claim these as exceptional costs.

Arrangements for the charging of free school meals during the summer term by the School Catering Service were discussed. Schools were unhappy with the charges and expressed a desire for greater transparency on how they had been calculated. The despatch of invoices at the end of term was also felt to be unsatisfactory.

The Forum **noted** the report.

6. DSG MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-21

The report presented to the Forum outlined the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Management Plan 2020-21 that had been released by the DfE.

All Local Authorities that had a deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) at the end of 2019/20 were required to complete a DSG Management Plan. Havering had a deficit of £1.13million. This was projected to increase to £2.7m by the end of the financial year.

The DSG Management Plan template, provided by the DfE, included comparative data comparing pupil data and expenditure in Havering with Outer London, England and 'Statistical Neighbours'. Havering has a lower proportion of children and young people with EHCPs than all three comparator groups although this was rising year on year. Havering has a higher proportion of pupils with high needs in mainstream schools and Post 16, and a lower proportion in ARPs, special schools, Non Maintained Special Schools and independent schools, and hospital schools and AP.

The format of the DSG Management Plan was outlined to the Forum. It was intended to be a 'live document and would be brought to the Forum at least termly.

The Forum **noted** the report.

7. NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Forum would be held on Thursday 14 January 2021 at 9.30 am via Zoom. This is a change from the earlier proposed date of Thursday 21 January 2021.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.