



Social Care and Learning

Minutes of the Schools Funding Forum Meeting Held on 13th September 2012 At CEME

In attendance:

Secondary Schools	
Head teachers	Governors
Julia Deery (JD)	
Special Schools	
Head Teachers	Governors
Emma Allen (EA)	

Academies	
Head Teachers	Governors
Alan Perry (AP)	John McKernan (JM)
Julian Dutnall (JD)	Daniel Gricks (DG)
Keith Williams (KW)	

Officers: Mary Pattinson (MP), Grahame Smith (GS), David Allen (DA), Nick Carter (NC), Hany Moussa (HM)

Primary Schools	
Head teachers	Governors
Nigel Emes (NE) (C) Christine Drew (CD) Margy Bushell (MB) Chris Hobson (CH) Glenn Lucas (GL)	Sheila Clarke (SC)
Non School	
14-19 Partnership	Maria Thompson (MT)
Early Years PVI Sector	Martin Shipp (MS)
Vulnerable Children	Trevor Sim (TS)
NUT	Ray Waxler (RW)
NASUWT	Keith Passingham (KP)
UNISON	
Diocesan Board	No Rep

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from David Mansfield, Ian Trafford, Geoff Wroe, John Parker (Emma Allen substituting), Tracy Walker and Angela Winch (Glen Lucas substituting).

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters arising

Item 7 Primary Expansion refers

MP reported that the bulge classes were now in place and extended her thanks to all head teachers involved for their co-operation.

Item 5 (iii) De-Delegation Refers

DA undertook to write to headteachers setting out LA's proposal for de-delegation of the budgets in relation to the Behaviour Support Service and EAL.

Item 5 (iii) Trade Union Facility Time

DA undertook to write to Academy Heads regarding trade union facility time.

There were no further matters arising.

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

With no other nominations, Nigel Emes was re-elected as Chair and Joe Webster as Vice Chair until the first meeting of academic year 2013/14.

5. Section 251 Outturn Statement 2011-12

DA presented the Section 251 outturn statement for 2011-12 which was a statutory statement of local authority (including schools) expenditure on Children's Services.

Table A showed total school expenditure and income during the year as recorded against CFR (Consistent Financial Reporting) headings. Table A also recorded expenditure on activities funded from centrally retained DSG on behalf of primary, secondary and special schools and of core spending such as central administration and youth & community.

Table A1 showed expenditure on Children and Young People (e.g. Looked After Children, child protection and family support services).

Table B showed the expenditure of individual schools against the total resources available to them and their carry forward balances. The Forum was reminded that school balances were £10.2m. Outturn information reflected the position of the schools at the point they converted to academy during 2011-12 and excluded the balances of academies that converted in previous years which were not recorded in LA financial statements.

DG asked if there was a comparison to last year and was advised that this would be covered by Nick Carter at the next meeting although because Academy balances were not included there would not be a full comparison.

The statements were noted.

6. Section 251 Budget Statement 2012-13 – Revised

The Section 251 Statement was represented following the DFE announcement of the final DSG settlement. Other than the correction of figures in line 1.01-Individual Schools Budget there were no changes to note. The Schools Budget Summary Table was also presented which gave the total DSG allocation, grants, the DSG carry forward and the amount recouped by the DFE for academies.

JD asked about the funding that would be available for behaviour support. MP advised that this was part of a larger piece of work around the future of behaviour and attendance support. Further information would be provided at a future meeting.

The section 251 Statement was agreed.

7. The School and Finance Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013

The draft regulations were presented which for the most part reflected decisions already made by the DFE on formula factors, maximum delegation, central expenditure and the minimum funding guarantee but there was a consultation on how funding for 2 year olds should be brought into the early years single funding formula (EYSFF).

MS reported that funding for free early education for two year olds will be part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) from 2013-14 along with three to four year olds. The free entitlement to early education was to be extended to 20% of two year olds from September 2013 and to 40% from September 2014.

LAs will be required to fund free early education for two year olds through the EYSFF with effect from 1st April 2013. This would have a number of advantages and to further enhance this, three proposals had been put forward to adjust the EYSFF for two year olds:

- (i) To relax the requirement to have a mandatory deprivation supplement, although this could still be used if a LA wished to continue to do so. MS suggested we support this as the target groups were those from deprived areas anyway.
- (ii) To relax the rules on place based funding to support capacity building. This will be extended for two years to support LAs working with providers to increase capacity in advance of delivery of the 20% and 40% entitlements. . MS suggested we support this.

DFE targets for Havering were 700 places for next year and 1,100 for the following two years.

- (iii) To delay the introduction of a quality supplement in the EYSFF that gives the LA a simple means to target funding at incentivising increases in quality in provision for two year olds. It was felt that this should be reviewed further and therefore should not go ahead at this time. MS suggested we support this.

The Forum agreed all proposals and the LA would submit the consultation response.

8. School Forum Regulations 2012

The School Forum Regulations had been received from the DFE the previous day and DA presented the main points.

There was no longer a requirement to have a minimum of 15 people on the Forum; school and academy representation needed to reflect the number of pupils attending each type of provision; pupil referral units would need to be represented; Local Authority members would be restricted; voting would be restricted to school members (including academies and PRUs) and the PVI representative, and meetings would become public meetings with agendas and minutes published on the council's website.

9. Exceptional Factors and MFG Exclusions for 2013-14

A letter from the EFA was considered which allowed an opportunity to apply for exceptional factors and MFG exclusions. The paper listed exceptional factor and MFG exclusion requests from other LAs that had already been agreed or refused. Any applications needed to be with the EFA by 30th September.

Exceptional factors would only be considered if they affected less than 5% of schools in an LA (4 for Havering) and accounted for more than 1% of a school's budget. DA advised that the only possible exceptional factor would be in relation to the additional cost to Royal Liberty of maintaining its listed building. It was agreed that DA and JD would discuss this outside of the Forum Meeting and seek the approval of the Chair on behalf of the Forum prior to submission to the EFA.

DA tabled recommendations for MFG exclusions in relation to Excellence Cluster and Behaviour Improvement Plan and School Improvement Deprivation Funding; and Transition funding for bulge classes (one school). In 2012-13 schools had received funding through these factors but were not intended to continue in 2013-14. The excellence and BIP funding was already subject to an agreement to taper it down. If these exclusions were not agreed by the EFA schools would continue to receive these amounts in their 2013-14 budgets.

All recommendations were agreed

10. Funding Blocks – progress to date

A paper (Appendix F) was considered which set out the calculation of the high needs block, early years block and schools block. Figures had been drawn from Section 251 by the EFA to place funding in each block. This included a proposed transfer of £3.3 million by the LA from the schools block to the high needs block. DA explained that £1.9 million of this was in relation to statements funding that had been delegated to school budgets several years ago which would now need to be held by the LA for targeted allocation for pupils with high needs. The remaining £1.4 million was to ensure that all schools had at least £6,000 per pupil with SEN support to meet their responsibilities. Funding above this £6,000 would also be met from the high needs block.

TS advised there will be a complete change in culture for Havering which would be affected more than other Authorities. The current system of delegating funding up front with additional allocations for validated hours would no longer be used. Under the new directives, funding would be issued to the child rather than the school, eventually providing parents with the budget and the decisions on where the child will go. Once the new permitted factors come into force some schools could lose out significantly but to compensate for this, it would be beneficial if the LA could retain the funding and distribute it to those schools that need it the most. No objections were raised on the LAs proposal to hold funding in High Needs budget for targeting to schools.

11. School Budgets 2013-14 – progress to date

DA advised that progress was being made in removing the large variances in some schools funding based on 2013-14 modeling. The work was being finalised and would be presented at the next meeting.

12. Next Meetings

The dates of the next meetings were noted as follows:

2012	
October	Thursday 18 th
December	Thursday 6 th

2013

January	Thursday 24th
February	Thursday 14th
March	Thursday 21st
April	Thursday 25 th
May	Thursday 23 rd
July	Thursday 11 th

All meetings to be held at CEME commencing at 8.30 am **with the exception of 18th October that will be held at My Place at 9.00 am.**

13. Any Other Business

There was no other business.