

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
SCHOOLS FUNDING FORUM**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (8.00 – 10.15am)**

**Present:**

**Representative Groups**

**LA Maintained School Representatives:**

**Primary:** Kirsten Cooper  
Georgina Delmonte  
Hayley McClenaghan  
Chris Speller  
Garth Tucker  
David Unwin-Bailey

**Special:** Terry Hudson

**Academy Representatives:**

**Secondary:** Neil Frost  
Scott McGuinness  
David Turrell

**Non-School Representatives:**

**Early Years PVI Sector:** Beverley Nicholls

**Trade Unions:** Peter Liddle

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

Apologies were received from Emma Allen (Terry Hudson substituting), Denise Broom, Kate Ridley-Moy and Emma Reynolds (Beverley Nicholls substituting).

**2 TO AGREE THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

**3 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4 HIGH NEEDS FUNDING YEAR END FORECAST 2022-23**

The Schools Funding Forum noted that the forecast in-year overspend for financial year 2022-23 had fallen from £3.0m to £2.5m. The forecast cumulative deficit, including the brought forward sum, was now £7.2m.

The Forum agreed to the re-establishment of a High Needs task and finish group to examine funding for Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs), Additional Resourced Provision (ARPs) and Alternative Provision (AP). Special school funding would also be included this year

The LA will continue to keep all areas of DSG spending under review and to identify potential savings to minimise the overspend in the High Needs Block.

It was noted that Havering had a high rate of applications for EHCPs compared with other LAs and that there had been a rise in the number of EHCPs in school nursery and PVI provision.

The Forum:

- (i) **noted** the forecast of expenditure for financial year 2022-23
- (ii) **agreed** to the re-establishment of a High Needs task and finish group

#### **5 EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2022-23 REVIEW OF RATES**

At the end of the 2021-22 financial year there were unspent sums on the Early Years Block of the DSG totalling £218k. The DfE had also made an adjustment increasing funding for 2021-22 by £340k. The Forum noted that the LA intended to consult with the Early Years Provider Reference Group (EYPRG) on how the £558k available should be allocated. The outcome would be reported to the meeting of the Forum on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

The Forum were advised that the funding rates for 2023-24 shown in Appendix A had been taken from the Early Years Funding Formula Consultation considered in Item 6.

The Forum **agreed**:

that options on the use of funding should be referred to EYPRG.

#### **6 EARLY YEARS FUNDING FORMULA CONSULTATION**

The Forum was advised that a Government consultation on Early Year formulae funding had been held between 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

The LA had submitted a response to the consultation shown at Appendix A. This was a response on behalf of the LA, rather than on behalf of the Forum or Early Years providers in Havering. Providers had been reminded that the consultation was still open at the Early Years Term Preparation Session on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

The Forum **noted** the report.

## **7 DE-DELEGATION OF FUNDING FOR CENTRAL SERVICES 2023-24**

The primary LA maintained school representatives on the Forum reported back on the discussions held at cluster meetings on the de-delegation of services for the 2023-24 financial year.

Representatives reported that further information was required for the EAL Service, Behaviour Support Service and core school improvement activities before clusters could reach a decision. A decision on de-delegation for these service areas was deferred.

Following a discussion on trade union facility time, representatives agreed to the de-delegation of funding at the increased rate of £2.63 per pupil. They also agreed that the cost of maternity leave should continue to be reimbursed in full, which necessitated an increase in the sum de-delegated to £34.87 per pupil.

Forum members representing LA maintained schools **agreed** to de-delegation of the following services:

- (i) Contingency to support schools in financial difficulty
- (ii) Insurance
- (iii) Free school meals eligibility checking
- (iv) Maternity leave insurance
- (v) Trade Union Facility Time
- (vi) Statutory and regulatory duties

## **8 SCHOOLS' FUNDING 2023-24**

Forum members noted that the indicative figure for the DSG Schools Block for 2023-24 represented an increase of 2.24% from 2022-23. The Forum had agreed at the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 that Havering should continue to use the National Funding Formula (NFF) factors and values. This meant that the changes to funding arrangements for 2023-24, implemented by the DfE as part of the move to a 'direct' NFF, would not have any impact on Havering schools.

Decisions needed to be made on whether to transfer funding from the Schools Block of the DSG to the High Needs Block, whether to supplement the funding received from the DfE for growth and falling rolls, at what level to set the

Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) and at what level to set a gains cap if required.

The LA proposed that two funding options should be included in the annual consultation on school and high needs funding. Both these options included a transfer of £700k to the fund for growth and falling rolls, required if current funding arrangements were to be maintained, and in both options the MFG was set at 0.5%.

The Forum noted that in both Option A and B one school was still receiving funding from the MFG because historically they had received funding as part of the Excellence in Cities and Behaviour Improvement programmes.

Option A allowed for the transfer of 0.5% of the Schools Block to High Needs (£1.075m using the indicative allocation), as had occurred last year. In Option B, there was no transfer. The impact of the two options on individual schools, shown anonymously, was presented. The LA sought the view of the Forum on whether these two options should be those included in the funding consultation.

The Forum **agreed** that:

- (i) an additional £700k should be allocated to the funding of growth and falling rolls
- (ii) the options as proposed should form the basis of the 2023-24 funding consultation

## **9 ITEM 9**

This item was exempt from the public.

## **10 NEXT MEETINGS**

Future meetings have been arranged as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> December 2022  
12<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
9<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
15<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## **11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.