

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

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (8.00 – 9.30am)**

**Present:**

**Representative Groups**

**LA Maintained School Representatives:**

**Primary:** Kirsten Cooper (Chair)  
Georgina Delmonte  
Hayley McClenaghan  
Chris Speller  
David Unwin-Bailey

**Special:** Emma Allen

**Academy Representatives:**

**Primary:** Chris Hobson

**Secondary:** Denise Broom  
Neil Frost

**Non-School Representatives:**

**Early Years PVI Sector:** Emma Reynolds

**Trade Unions:** John McGill (teaching staff)  
Peter Liddle (support staff)

**Non Members in attendance:** Trevor Cook – Assistant Director for Education  
Caroline Penfold – Head of CAD services  
Nick Carter- Strategic Finance Manager  
Angela Adams – Clerk, HGS

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

Apologies were received from Scott McGuinness, David Turell and, Kate Ridley-Moy (Chris Hobson was substituting for K Ridley – Moy)

It was also noted that Dave Waters, Governor Representative, had stepped down from the Forum.

## **2 TO AGREE THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were agreed as a correct record

## **3 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising that had not been included elsewhere on the agenda.

## **4 EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2023 -24**

Colleagues noted that following the last Funding Forum meeting a consultation was compiled and circulated with regards to the Early Years funding, the consultation ran until 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 89 settings responded.

The responses to the questions were noted as follows:

Q1: 97% agreed to 2 year old funding increasing by 49p an hour.

Q2: 89% were in favour of contingency being set that would enable a 4% increase in the number of hours funded.

Q3: 89% of respondents favoured option B, a rise in the base rate and the SEN inclusion rate to £5.34 with a transfer of £141,280 to a quality factor in place of the TPPG.

Q4: 87% agreed that deprivation remained the only other supplementary factor used in Havering's formula and that the IDACI deprivation rates of funding continued to be aligned with the rates used in the schools' national funding formula.

Q5: 74% were in favour of the central retained budget for LA support remaining unchanged at £790K.

It was noted that 25 written responses had been received and these comments had been shared with the Forum.

It was agreed that all Early Years settings were facing financial constraints and that the Early Years funding settlement from the DfE had not kept pace with rising costs.

DUB stated that a 3p an hour increase was not enough, especially with the cost of living rises at this time. Nurseries in maintained schools were required to have a qualified teacher in place which meant that their costs were higher. ER stated that PVI's were unable to afford qualified teachers.

It was agreed that both schools and the PVI sector were facing rising costs. Although the PVI settings and maintained school nurseries were different, they both met the needs of children in different ways. The sector was underfunded.

The base line increase was only 1.1%. NC stated that he had advised officials from the DfE that options for allocating the funding given in lieu of the Teachers Pay and Pension Grant would create a divide between schools with nurseries and PVI's.

NC stated that only 3 schools had responded to the consultation. There were 22 schools with nurseries in Havering. This needed to be raised at the cluster board meetings.

Panel members then voted on the recommendations as follows:

1 (i) The basic hourly rate for 2 year olds to increase from £5.97 to £6.46.

**All Agreed**

(ii) A contingency to be set that would enable a 4% increase in the number of hours to be funded, initially equalling £78,000.

**All Agreed**

2 (i) The basic hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds to increase from £5.19 to £5.34.

**All Agreed**

(ii) The hourly rate for inclusion funding to increase from £5.19 to £5.34.

**All Agreed**

(iii) £141,280 to be allocated to primary schools with nurseries in place of the teachers' pay and pension grants formerly received.

**8 panel members agreed, 2 were against**

3 Deprivation to remain the only other supplementary factor used in Havering's formula and that the rates of funding continued to be aligned with the rates used in the schools national funding formula.

**All Agreed**

4 The centrally retained budget for LA support to be set at the reduced level of £790k.

**All Agreed**

5 That the use of any underspend in the Early Years Block continued to be discussed with the Early Years Provider Reference Group before any proposals were brought to the Schools Funding Forum and before any decisions were made on its use.

**All Agreed**

## 5 HIGH NEEDS FUNDING 2023 -24

The funding forum noted the report and agreed to delegate the final decision on funding rates for 2023-24 to the Task and Finish group. £4.58m more in funding was available for High Needs than in 2022-23. With High Needs funding expected to exceed funding by £2.47m in 2022-23 the effective additional sum available for 2023-24 was £2.11m.

It was noted that special schools, PRUs and AP Academies had to receive an additional funding allocation equivalent to 3.4% of their total place and top up funding and that there had to be a minimum 3% uplift for 2023-24 in comparison to 2021-22. The DfE wanted to ensure that special schools had an increase this year where they had not had an uplift last year. This resulted in some discretion being removed from the Forum.

There would be additional costs in 2023-24 resulting from the opening of the new free special school in September 2023 and from the creation of additional ARP places. £850k was required for the new special school and new ARPs would require £350k in funding.

EHCP funding was increased in 2022-23 from £14.00 to £16.00 an hour and the number of hours the school had to fund was reduced to 9.6 hours from 11 hours. It was projected that £3.6m more would be spent in 2022-23 in support of EHCPs as a result of the increased funding rates and the increase in numbers of EHCPs. For 2023-24 it was estimated that a further £2m would be needed to support EHCPs at the current rate of £16.00 per hour.

Early Years complex needs funding was currently funded at £3.20 an hour and the task and finish group would be considering an increase. A rise to £4.00 an hour would add £53k to the cost.

Central support for high needs was currently being reviewed by CP to establish which additional posts could potential provide most benefit.at would help the most. An increase in funding of £243K had been included in the calculations.

**The Forum agreed to delegate the decision on high needs funding rates for 2023-24 to the Task and Finish group.**

## 6 FUNDING FOR UKRAINIAN PUPILS

Funding had been made available for children between the ages of 2 and 18 who had entered the country through the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Early years would be allocated £3,000 per pupil

Primary £ 6,580 per pupil  
Secondary £8,755 per pupil.

The LA had allocated all the funding to the schools these pupils were attending. It was noted that EY settings would be receiving funding via the census, once children were on roll, as well as from the Home for Ukraine funding.

The DfE released the funding in quarterly amounts, the same amount was received every quarter except for the first when a lower amount was received to reflect the fact that pupils were still arriving. The team responsible for settling people arriving in Havering from Ukraine submitted pupil numbers to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Confirmation of numbers from DLUHC was still awaited for the third quarter.

Funding was allocated on a termly basis to allow funding to follow the pupil if they had moved school. It was questioned whether a school would know by which scheme a pupil had entered the UK.

**The funding forum noted the report.**

## **7 NATIONAL TUTORING PROGRAMME GRANT 2022–23**

The funding rate for the National Tutoring Programme for the academic year 2022-23 was 60% of the assumed cost of tutoring, meaning that a school had to have spent the remaining 40%, on top of the funding received, in order to prevent funding being clawed back. The cost of tuition was calculated at £18 an hour based on groups of three pupils. £10.80 an hour was funded. For the 2021-22 academic year schools had been funded for 75% of costs whilst for 2023-24 funding would fall to 25% of costs.

## **8 NEXT MEETINGS**

Future meetings had been arranged as follows:

15<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Meetings to start at 8.00 a.m. at CEME, room 233.

## **9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Colleagues raised the issue of the introduction of the ULEZ charge in the Borough and the effect it would have on schools. It was noted that this was an ongoing concern that was being discussed with councillors.

Meeting closed at 9:14