

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

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**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 held VIA Microsoft Teams  
(8.00 – 8.30am)**

**Present:**

**Representative Groups**

**LA Maintained School Representatives:**

**Primary:** Kirsten Cooper (KH) (Chair)  
Georgina Delmonte (GD)  
Hayley Durrant (HD)  
Hayley McClenaghan (HMcC)  
Chris Speller (CS)

**Special:** Emma Allen (EA)  
Andy Smith\* (AS)

**Academy Representatives:**

**Primary:** Chris Hobson (CH)

**Secondary** Denise Broom (DB)  
Neil Frost (NF)  
Scott McGuinness (SM)  
David Turrell (DT) (Vice Chair)

**Alternative Provision:** Tony Machin (TM)

**Non-School Representatives:**

**Early Years PVI Sector:** Emma Reynolds (ER)

**Trade Unions:** John Delaney (JD) (Teaching staff union representative)

**Non Members in attendance:**

Angela Adams	Clerk, HGS
Trevor Cook (TC)	Assistant Director of Education
Katherine Heffernan (KC)	Head of Finance (Business Partnering)
Caroline May (CM)	Assistant Director of Finance, People and Places
Hany Moussa (HM)	Principal Education Finance Officer
Jacqueline Tracey (JT)	Senior Inspector (Schools Causing Concern)

*\*for part of the meeting*

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

All were welcomed to the meeting.

Apologies was received from David Unwin-Bailey.

## **2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were received and agreed.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING**

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

## **4. EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2024 – 25**

**Forum members were asked to agree the funding rates for 2024-25 for the following:**

- 1. The base hourly rate for:**
  - a. 9 months to two year olds (under twos) entitlement**
  - b. two year olds – working parents' entitlement**
  - c. two year olds – disadvantaged families' entitlement**
  - d. Three/four year olds (universal and extended) entitlement**
- 2. The level of a quality supplement to allocate funds to schools replacing the teachers' pay and pension grants (TPPG).**
- 3. Whether deprivation rates of funding continue to be aligned with the rates that are used for schools in the National Funding Formula.**
- 4. The level of the SEN Inclusion Fund (SENI) to support providers.**
- 5. The level of the centrally retained budget for LA support and commissioning.**
- 6. That the use of any underspend in the Early Years Block continues to be discussed with the Early Years Provider Reference Group before any proposals are brought to the Schools Funding Forum and before any decisions are made on its use.**
- 7. Whether the LA to review the timetable for the budget cycle for setting Early Years funding rates for future years.**

The recommend rates were established following a consultation with Early Years Providers. 237 responses to the consultation were received. There was a clear response for the decision.

1) New entitlements were noted as follows:

- A) 15 hours for 9 months to 2 year olds from September 2024 £12.11 an hour.
- B) 15 hours for 2 year olds of working parents from April 2024 - £8.90 an hour.

Existing entitlement changes were noted as follows:

- C) 15 hours for 2 year olds from disadvantaged families- £8.90 an hour
- D) 15 hours for all 3/4 year olds (universal offer) - £6.16 an hour
- 15 hours for 3/ 4 year olds of working parents - £6.16 an hour

- 2) Forum members noted that the level of supplement to allocate funds to schools replacing the teachers' pay and pension grant would be £0.07p.
- 3) Forum members noted that the Local Authority had reviewed the feasibility and reliability of using other optional supplements but recommended that for 2024 -25 deprivation rates of funding continued to be aligned with the rates that were used for schools in the National Funding Formula.
- 4) The level of the SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF) to support providers was noted.
- 5) The level of the centrally retained budget for LA support and commissioning was noted.
- 6) Forum members noted that the use of any underspend in the Early Years Block would continue 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.
- 7) Forum members noted that the increase to the central support was st under 5%.

Funding forum members' notice was also drawn to the consideration of changing the timetable for the budget cycle for setting Early Years funding rates for future years. However it was noted that the information needed was not received until later even though arrangements needed to be made in April. HM advised that an early indication of Early Years funding was not shared with local authorities in advance and a consultation also needed to be completed which delayed the sharing of the final funding information. It was agreed that they would try to accelerate the consultation to aim for an earlier date going forward.

The consultation paper included in the pack showed the figures and it was noted that SENIF had increased.

Thanks was given for the work on this.

ER advised that there had been discussion with regards to the under 2 year old rate which had been sliced again for SENIF (SEND funding for early years). ER stated she had agreed for it to go through this year to see how it went but questioned if they would get the funding going forward if it went to the parents. It was also noted that 3 / 4 old funding was still inadequate.

Central retention was not value for money and admissions had not increased. Some area SENDCos had not been seen for 2 years, but now there was a big change and they had been seen twice in a term.

It was also felt that quality assurance was not value for money, this also needed to be reviewed as they were not adding value to settings, and maybe they should concentrate on those who were Requires Improvement. The service needed to be value for money. It was noted that the early year's settings needed a guarantee that funding would not be removed and support provided instead. They also wanted to make sure they were meeting the needs of the children. Both of these topics would be discussed further at EYRPG. It was also noted that the approach for supporting

settings that were Requires Improvement was different to the approach for those who were graded Inadequate.

It was further noted that the under two base rate was modelled and they tried to give value for money and improve services. It was noted that there was a new manager in place for the SENDCo team at the Local Authority and they were now more active.

Funding for settings would only be withdrawn depending on the reasons for the Ofsted grading such as safeguarding. The Local Authority would support where they could to improve the grading.

ER stated that the underspend should be ring fenced, but it was noted that there were pressures across the sector.

*A Smith joined the meeting at this point*

Voting then took place as follows:

- 1) The base hourly rate for:
  - a. 9 months to two year olds (under twos) entitlement: **Agreed**
  - b. two year olds – working parents’ entitlement: **Agreed**
  - c. two year olds – disadvantaged families’ entitlement: **Agreed**
  - d. Three/four year olds (universal and extended) entitlement: **Agreed**
- 2) The level of a quality supplement to allocate funds to schools replacing the teachers’ pay and pension grants (TPPG). : **Agreed**
- 3) Whether deprivation rates of funding continue to be aligned with the rates that are used for schools in the National Funding Formula. **Agreed**
- 4) The level of the SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF) to support providers **Agreed**
- 5) The level of the centrally retained budget for LA support and commissioning. **Agreed**
- 6) That the use of any underspend in the Early Years Block continues to be discussed with the Early Years Provider Reference Group before any proposals are brought to the Schools Funding Forum and before any decisions are made on its use. **Agreed**
- 7) The LA to review the timetable for the budget cycle for setting Early Years funding rates for future years. **Noted**

## **8. NEXT MEETINGS**

Forum members noted the dates of the upcoming meetings.

13 June 2024

Meetings to start at 8.00 a.m. at CEME room 233 or 235.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were items of any other business raised.

Meeting closed at 8:27 am