

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

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 Via TEAMS  
(8.00 – 8.33 am)**

**Present: Representative**

**Groups**

**LA Maintained School Representatives:**

**Primary:** Kirsten Cooper (Chair)  
Georgina Delmonte  
Hayley McClenaghan  
Chris Speller (also representing the Diocese of Chelmsford)  
David Unwin Bailey\*  
Mike Ross (also representing the Diocese of Brentwood)

**Academy Representatives:**

**Primary:** Chris Hobson (CH)

**Secondary** Neil Frost  
Paul Larnar (also representing post 16)  
David Turrell (Vice Chair)

**Special Schools** Emma Allen (maintained)\*  
Andy Smith (Academy)\*

**Non-School Representatives:**

**Early Years PVI Sector:** Becky McGowan (BM)

**Trade Unions:** George Blake (Teaching staff union representative)

**Non Members in attendance:**

Angela Adams (AA)	Clerk, HGS
Trevor Cook (TC)	Assistant Director of Education
Katherine Heffernan (KH)	Head of Finance (Business Partnering)
Lisa Jones (LJ)	Principal Education Finance Officer
Hany Moussa (HM)	Principal Education Finance Officer
Jacqueline Treacy	Senior Inspector (Schools Causing Concern)

\*for part of the meeting

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

All were welcomed to the meeting.

There were no apologies for absence received but Scott McGuinness, Tony Machin and Peter Liddle were not in attendance. It was noted that Becky McGowan was attending on behalf of Emma Reynolds.

## **2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were received and agreed.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING**

The following were matters arising from the previous minutes that were not included elsewhere on the agenda:

- 3.1. Union facility time (minute 3.1 refers): Forum members were advised that a meeting had taken place the previous day with the majority of unions in attendance. Positive discussions had taken place with regards to union facility time. The amount of facility time that could be attributed to each union was in the process of being recalculated and this would be taken back to the unions in June for agreement. The unions had raised with Havering that the rate proposed of £2.90 per hour was at the lower rate when benchmarked against other authorities.

Contributions from Academy schools was also in the process of being reviewed. Unions confirmed that they had spoken to all the Academy schools and any Academy not buying into the service would be invoiced directly for any union facility time.

Union membership and transparency was also raised, any information shared would be done so in line with GDPR.

An update would be received at the next meeting.

**ACTION: HM**

- 3.2. Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) (minute 3.5 refers): Forum members noted that this would be included under a wider restructure that was being launched with a 30 day consultation the following day. The new model would be in place after Easter.

- 3.3. Forum composition (minute 4 refers): Forum members agreed that the representation needed to be aligned with the cluster areas at Primary level. It also needed to be ensured that there was a balance between primary and secondary representation.

The following was agreed:

Primary representation

Cluster B would be represented by Mike Ross

Cluster E would be represented by Chris Speller

Mike Ross would also represent the Diocese of Brentwood and Chris Speller would also represent the Diocese of Chelmsford. When voting these 2 representatives would need to state which sector they were voting on behalf of.

#### Secondary Representation

Paul Larner would be a secondary Academy representative.

Paul Larner and David Turrell would also represent the post 16 sector.

**Forum members agreed the appointment of these forum members.**

**ACTION: AA / HM**

#### **4. EARLY YEARS**

**Forum members noted the report and were asked to agree the funding rates for Early Years for 2025 -26.**

Forum members noted that the consultation had been completed on the funding for 2025 -26 for Early Years, they would be required to vote on the hourly rates, centrally retained budget and deprivation rates.

There number of responses received to the consultation had increased to 87 in comparison to 60 responses received the previous year. All responses were in agreement. There had been 32 comments, which had been shared with Forum members, some of them related to questions over the early years payments but it was confirmed that each element of the early years funding had its own budget calculated on the per pupil amount. Examples were shared of the hourly payments for different age ranges. There had been an increase in all rates for next year, this had been replicated with deprivation and the quality supplement for schools would also continue to support additional costs due to the teachers' pay increments and pension contribution rises.

There had also been an increase in SEN Inclusion Funding (SENIF) to support children with complex needs and to support those with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). Providing this proactive support for the nursery children ensured that when they joined Reception their needs could be met.

TC thanked all for the good response to the consultation and noted that there had been some confusion around some of the information shared, it was felt that some of it had been presented in a technical way and the language used going forward would be reviewed. Feedback had also been received on the centrally retained funding and a response to this would be shared. TC thanked EYPG for their input.

BM noted that Emma Reynolds had advised that a lot of information had been shared at a meeting earlier in the week but the central retention continued to be raised.

*E Allen and A Smith joined the meeting at this point, 8:24 am*

A question was raised with regards to Quality Assurance for Early Years and it was

noted that they were not doing what nurseries needed. The transparency of this had been discussed at the meeting earlier in the week. It was also requested that the funding agreement and the language used be reviewed.

In response it was noted that quality assurance were providing targeted support to PVI, they were supporting those who needed it as a priority with provisions that were good or outstanding being visited less frequently. This would be reviewed as part of the agreement for next year. It was also noted that there were vacancies on the team.

TC advised that quality assurance had completed an exercise to ensure they aligned with the framework and the Ofsted cycle.

BM asked if a meeting could be held with quality assurance representatives so that expectations could be shared. TC advised that a working party could be set up to cover this. This would be followed up outside of the meeting.

**ACTION: TC**

*D Unwin –Bailey joined the meeting at this point, 8:27*

**Forum members then voted as follows on the Early Years funding rates for 2025 - 26**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
The base hourly rate for:			
a. 9 months to two year olds (under twos) entitlement, £12.45	All agreed	None	None
b. two year olds – working parents' entitlement, £9.17	All agreed	None	None
c. two year olds – disadvantaged families' entitlement, £9.17	All agreed	None	None
d. three/four year olds (universal and extended) entitlement. £6.40	All agreed	None	None
The continuation of the quality supplement to allocate funds to schools replacing the previous years' grants which supported schools with the additional costs due to the teachers' pay award and pension contribution increase.	All agreed	None	None
Whether deprivation rates of funding continue to be aligned with the rates that are used for schools in the National Funding Formula.	All agreed	None	None
The level of the SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF) to support providers.	All agreed	None	None
The level of the centrally retained budget for LA support and commissioning.	All agreed	None	None

## **5. NEXT MEETINGS**

Forum members noted the dates of the upcoming meetings for the remainder of the academic year.

Thursday 12th June 2025 (room 235)

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

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Forum members thanked the Local Authority for the additional work behind the scenes.

KH advised that before the next meeting in June the High Needs Task and Finish group would need to meet to review high needs and interventions. This could take place during April or May. Forum members asked KH to circulate some dates.

**ACTION: KH**

In response to a question from C Speller, HM advised that the budget packs for the schools were on track to be shared by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

TC also advised that the report presented to cabinet had been passed.

There were no further items of any other business raised.

Meeting closed at 8.33 am