

## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

Wednesday 10 February 2021

**Microsoft Teams**

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

<b>Attendees:</b>	
<b>Day/Date/Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Wednesday 10 February, 5.30 pm	VIA TEAMS
<b>Contact:</b>	
<b>Clerk to Schools Forum</b>	<a href="mailto:schoolforum@walthamforest.gov.uk">schoolforum@walthamforest.gov.uk</a>
<b>Maintained Primary Headteacher Representatives (5)</b>	
Lindsey Lampard	Chingford C of E Primary
Tracey Griffiths	Barn Croft Primary School
Zakia Khatun	Whitehall Primary School
<b>Primary Academies and Primary Free Schools Representatives (4)</b>	
Amanda Daoud	Lime Trust (Larkwood, Hornbeam)
Maureen Okoye ( <b>Chair</b> )	Arbor Trust (Davies Lane, Selwyn, Woodford Green, Acacia Nursery)
<b>Maintained Primary Governor Representative (1)</b>	
<b>Nursery School Representative (1)</b>	
Helen Currie	Forest Alliance Nursery Schools (Church Hill, Low Hall)
<b>Maintained Secondary Headteacher Representatives (2)</b>	
Clive Rosewell	Willowfield School
Jenny Smith	Frederick Bremer School
<b>Secondary Academies and Secondary Free Schools Representatives (4)</b>	
John Hernandez ( <b>Vice Chair</b> )	Exceptional Education Trust (Norlington School and Sixth Form)
Rob Pittard	Exceptional Education Trust (Norlington School and Sixth Form)
<b>Maintained Secondary Governor Representative (1)</b>	
Gillian Barker	Walthamstow School for Girls
<b>Special School and Special Academies Representative (1)</b>	
<b>PRU (1)</b>	
Bridget Solecka	Hawkswood Group
<b>Non School Members (4)</b>	
Early Years Providers	Sarah Kendrick (Redwood Pre-School)
Diocesan	Andy Stone (Holy Family)
<b>LBWF Officers</b>	
David Kilgallon	Director of Learning and Systems Leadership
Duncan James-Pike	Strategic Finance Advisor, Children and Young People Services
Eve McLoughlin	Head of Early Years, Childcare and Business Development
Hiran Perera	Senior Accountant Education Finance
Harun Gulied	Education Finance

Lindsay Jackson	Head of Education Business Effectiveness
Omon Edgal	Senior Accountant Education Finance
Rianna Terry	Clerk to Schools Forum
Mohammad Akhtar	Early Years Finance and Business Manager
Raina Turner	Head of Education Finance
Sergio Dimesch	Principal Accountant Education Finance
Eva Gunkova	Assistant Director, SEND
<b>Observers</b>	
Graham Jackson	
Mike Thomas	
Gurpreet Kataora	
Stella Hawkins	
Rebecca Linden	
Shermaine Lewis	
Simon Craner	
Sadia Begum	Observing Minute Taker, LBWF

<b>Apologies</b>	
Tracey Penfold	Highams Park Trust
Jane Benton	Chingford Trust (North Chingford and South Chingford)
Claire Nairn	Handsworth

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies sent for Jane Benton, Tracey Penfold and Claire Nairn.
- 1.2 Tracey Penfold sent voting intentions in advance and these have been included in the decisions.

## 2. Declaration of Interests

- 2.1 No declaration of interests highlighted.

## 2a. Minutes and Decision Sheet from Meeting 9 December 2020

- 2a.1 No inaccuracies documented on the decision sheet or minutes from 9 December 2020

## 3. Schools Block Indicative Allocations 2021-22

- 3.1 Schools Forum was advised that these figures were no longer indicative and have been approved by the ESFA.
- 3.2 Budgets total £214.93 million, an increase of £13 million comprising an increase of £4.5 million (2%) on last year's base; and £9.03 million

from the Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grants (TPECG) rolled into the base.

- 3.3 There were £530,000 of unallocated resources once the initial formula had been run and these were allocated by adding 3.47% to Basic Entitlement (AWPU) rates raising the AWPU for Key Stage 1&2 by £177; Key Stage 3 by £166; and Key Stage 4 by £187
- 3.4 Tables demonstrate the changes between the October 2019 and October 2020 census, in relation to the various characteristics that get funded.
- 3.5 Appendix A shows the new Local Funding Formula for 2021-22, which closely follows the National Funding Formula.
- 3.6 Appendix B show the numbers on roll, along with the budgets per pupil for the current financial year, alongside the same data for the next financial year, including the roll-in of Teachers Pay and Pension funding.
- 3.7 Schools Forum to note, the contents of Local Funding Formula 2021-22 Indicative Budget Shares Report.

#### **4. High Needs Indicative Allocations 2021-22**

- 4.1 The report demonstrates the place led funding and the indicative top-up allocation for settings.

This is the follow-up report, to the report presented in December 2020, which was a high-level report demonstrating how the £46 million funding would be spent from ESFA for High Needs. Each of the appendices breaks down in far more detail how the funding will be applied in each setting.

- 4.2 Appendix A summarises the changes between the February 2021 report and the December 2020 report. It reflects the allocation and the type of the funding. The allocation brought forward in December was what ESFA had announced in the summer, this report shows that the final allocation has reduced by £81,000.
- 4.3 Two changes were made, an increase to the Hawkswood Secondary place funding for the academic year by 5 places (from 10 to 15), spot purchasing was also increased by the same amount.
- 4.4 A new section has also been added to the report for Regulations for Excluded Pupils which Schools Forum had been advised about in December, that the regulation would be reinstated, any receipts for that will be returned back to the High Needs Block.
- 4.5 Appendix B, sets out the actual commissioned numbers for place funding.

Appendix C includes indicative allocations for top-ups. Schools Forum was reminded that a monthly schedule is sent to all Schools asking

them to confirm they are correct, and no funding is being misallocated or duplicated.

Appendix D demonstrates the place funding for Special Schools

Appendix E, it was noted that although places are commissioned, the LA also holds back funds for spot purchases, in the instance of demand changing.

Appendix F is the place allocations for Hawkswood, the assessment units commissioned at Belmont Park, and the new accelerated learning places at Sir George Monoux.

Appendix G demonstrates the main places commissioned from the FE institutions.

- 4.6 Schools Forum to note, the contents of Dedicated Schools Grant: High Needs Indicative Budget Allocations 2021-22 Report (2.1-2.11)

## **5. Early Years Block Indicative Allocations 2021-22**

- 5.1 Few changes from the formula in comparison to last year, feedback from the Early Years Task & Finish Group and from the consultation were that people were happy with the formula as it was.
- 5.2 The DfE/ESFA Early Years Block budget control total for 2021-22 as set out in Appendix F. The Early Years Block is not a fixed budget and is adjusted in the summer term from the January 2021 census data.
- 5.3 For three- and four-year olds, there is an 8p per hour increase from the Department of Education against last year. There is a 6p increase per hour for two-year olds. The SEN inclusion block funding, we have asked to increase from a 3.25% top slice of the budget to 3.5%.
- 5.4 Deprivation bandings have been reviewed, to increase the base rate to £5 per hour. Higher base rate is what providers wanted.
- 5.5 Table 1 demonstrates the dates that were used to set the indicative budgets (April 2019 – Spring term 2020, to avoid impact from Covid)
- 5.6 3.5% of the overall budget for 3 to 4-year olds has been allocated to supplements as follows: a) £20,430 (0.1%) to a quality supplement for system Support and workforce development; and b) £629,865 (3.4%) to deprivation.
- 5.7 Consultation ran from 14 January - 22 January 2021, and despite the current difficult times, 59 of the 200 Providers who could have responded to that consultation did so. The responses to the consultation were all in favour of what the budgets have been based on.
- 5.8 Risks to be brought to Schools Forum's attention:

- January 2021 census will drive the Early Years budget (7/12) and we are waiting for the DFE to decide as to whether they will fund on January 2020 data, however this is yet to be confirmed.
  - Maintained Nursery Schools - there is a large disparity between what Maintained Schools in Waltham Forest have access to and what Local Authorities have in other Boroughs, i.e. Haringey.
- 5.9 Schools Forum to note, the contents of Early Years Funding Formula for the Provision of Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) Places for 2,3- and 4-Year Olds for 2021-22 Report (2.1.1-2.1.9)
- 6. PRU and AP Funding Arrangements 2021-22 to 2023-24**
- 6.1 At Schools Forum in September 2020, it was agreed in principle to an increase in Schools top-up funding contribution to the commissioned PRU places, to bring the overall funding to £23,000 per place, which is closer to the London average.
- 6.2 Waltham Forest has commissioned a total of 111 places for 2020-21, within Tier 5 of the AP Strategy. The places are made up of 20 within the Primary sector and 91 in the Secondary sector. Waltham Forest pays £10,000 for each of the commissioned places which is set nationally from the ESFA.
- 6.3 Table 4.1.2 outlines the charging system since 2013-14
- 6.4 Appendix A and B outlines the contributions from Primary and Secondary Schools, based on the numbers on role from the October 2020 census.
- 6.5 Primary School top-up of £10.90 per pupil, which will increase in line with inflation over the two next financial years.
- 6.6 It is proposed that the funding clawback for excluded pupils is used to subsidise the Secondary contribution by a reduced amount over the next three years. By 2021-22 it will be the aim to bring the per pupil charge down to £48.57. By 2022-23 it will make the charge £62.80 per pupil and in 2023-24 making the charge £69.91.
- 6.7 Schools Forum to Agree:
- a) That schools' top-up funding contributions are agreed for three years periods starting in April 2021, with reviews undertaken via Schools Forum at the beginning of the third year.

**Yes – 14**

No – 1

Abstain – 1

- b) School top-up funding contributions for PRU and AP Assessment places are based on per pupil calculations to rise annually in line with inflation.

Yes – 13

No – 1

Abstain – 1

- c) Use of clawbacks from excluded pupils, and those who leave school for any other reason who are receiving education funded by the LA by another (non-school) provider, are used to subsidize the secondary contributions by a reducing amount over the oncoming three year period.

Yes – 14

No – 0

Abstain – 0

- d) Remaining clawback to be ringfenced for use within the AP strategy and provision during the three-year period, with recommendations on spend provided annually by the AP Headteacher Advisory Group.

Yes – 18

No – 0

Abstain – 0

- 6.8 Schools Forum to note, the contents of Funding of PRU and AP Assessment Places 2021-22 to 2023-24 Report (2.2.1-2.2.3)

### Dates of Next Meetings

- **Wednesday 15 September 2021, 5:30pm**
- **Wednesday 13 October 2021, 5:30pm**
- **Wednesday 10 November 2021, 5:30pm**
- **Wednesday 8 December 2021, 5:30pm**
- **Wednesday 12 January 2022, 5:30pm**
- **Wednesday 9 February 2022, 5:30pm**