



**7th October 2020, 4.00pm
Via Microsoft Teams**

Minutes

	<p>Attendees</p> <p>David Hampson (DH) (Chair), George Krawiec (GK) (Vice Chair), Lorna Pendred (LP), Kim Leach (KL), Mark Wood (MW), Allie Major (AM), Jane Aukett (JA), Jo North (JN), Cllr Lindley (Cllr L), Sally Jack (SJ) (NELC), Dave Kirven (DK) (NELC), Alex Allenby (NELC), Kim Stevens (clerk)</p>
<p>11/20</p>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Phil Hutchinson, Helen Hussey, Andy Zielinski, Carol Shaw</p>
<p>12/20</p>	<p>Minutes and matters arising from the meeting on 11th March 2020</p> <p>Minutes Agreed as a true record, GK moved, KL seconded</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <p>26-19 – still to be actioned, election process outstanding</p>
<p>13/20</p>	<p>2019-20 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) outturn position and Contingency Balance</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to advise Schools Forum on the 2019-20 DSG outturn position and overall contingency balance.</p> <p>Schools Block – slight underspend of £0.124m which equates to 0.1% of the entire block.</p> <p>High Needs Block – overspend of £1.88m which is all down to demand.</p> <p>Early Years – underspend of £0.031m</p> <p>Contingency Balance – the balance available in DSG contingency as at the 31st March 2020 is £0.057m.</p> <p>The surplus balance will highly likely turn into a deficit balance this time next year which will attract the attention of the DfE.</p> <p>Q: GK questioned how the deficit will be addressed</p> <p>A: SJ advised on the actions taken and to be taken to address this matter.</p>

	<p>Appendix A & B were discussed which provided further information on the High Needs Block outturn position and the demand needs driving the spend in respect of agency Placements.</p> <p>. DK / SJ reported that several projects are being undertaken around CLA children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement Panel discusses high cost placements, and this has led to some shaving back of costs • Together for All is looking at the deficit in local provision re Emotional Health • Valuing SEND – years 6 & 7 • Early Years – communication and language looking at universal services <p>Q: DH questioned if the deficit continues where is it being funded from? A: DK responded that the DSG is a ringfenced grant and cannot be topped up by Council funding. Top slicing will have to be considered if spend continues to exceed the funding allocation. If a deficit occurs, then the DfE will expect a Management Plan to be prepared. This would ideally need to be agreed with the Schools Forum.</p> <p>There is a lack of local SMEH provision, several settings are needed.</p> <p>Action: Working group to be set up to discuss lack of SMEH provision in the area, members to include GK, SJ, DK, KL, AM</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>It is recommended that Schools Forum note the 2019-20 DSG outturn position.</p> <p>It is also recommended that given the high probability that the DSG Account will fall into deficit in 2020-21 then early discussions begin now between Council Officers and the Schools Forum in respect of actions to address this deficit.</p>
<p>14/20</p>	<p>2021-22 Schools Funding Formula Arrangements</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to advise Schools Forum members on the main points arising from the Schools Revenue Funding Operational Guide (September 2020) 2021-22. This information was obtained through a webinar session in mid-September 2020</p> <p>Teachers pay award grant and Teachers pension grant will be allocated through the NFF</p> <p>Q: GK queried if there was a date when we progress to NFF and the projections for pupil numbers A: DK informed that guidance states a statement will be issued shortly</p>

	<p>Action: SJ to provide information re pupil numbers before the next meeting</p> <p>AWPU will increase by the minimum of £180 (Primary) and £265 (KS 3 & 4) in respect of the Teachers Pay / Pensions increase. These will be individually highlighted and protected.</p> <p>All other base values will increase at an average of 3%</p> <p>Central Services Schools Block – the historic commitments amount of £434k in respect of teachers’ pension costs has been reduced by 20%. This will cause a pressure if this reduction continues will and at some point will result in a discussion with the Schools Forum as to how the DSG can be balanced, ie, a top slice reduction from the schools block. .</p> <p>MW commented that the NFF provides a 3% per pupil increase in funding but there is no equivalent uplift for special schools, would the LA provide this uplift?</p> <p>Action: MW / SJ to discuss outside this meeting and bring back</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>It is recommended that Schools Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report and, • That a further report is brought back as further information becomes available <p>Consultation with Schools and Academies is expected, this may have to be carried out via Teams or Briefing Notes.</p>
15/20	<p>COVID 19 cost reclaims</p> <p>DK gave a verbal update regarding cost reclaims. Maintained schools who have put in claims and entered information in ‘other’ will not be paid until this is investigated by the DfE.</p>
16/20	<p>Other updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of HN Top up banding rates –table to be circulated following the meeting. • EY – Autumn Term Funding – there is an issue around the Autumn 2020 payments for EY providers, NELC will pay either the higher of the actual autumn 2020 headcount or 80% of the autumn 2019 head count. LP reported two issues: As there has been no confirmation from the DfE it is unclear what funding is coming through and not clear if the January 2020 Census fits in with 80% funding. DK updated that there may be information in the system and AA confirmed that the January 2020 Census figures were used for the Autumn Term as that is what we will be funded on

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RPA Note – DK raised the latest note which is applicable for maintained schools only. The main point is that the RPA will honour long term insurance arrangements and as a result maintained schools will be required to remain with NELC insurance arrangements until October 2022 KL confirmed she had received the note.
17/20	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Due to retirement this will be DH's last meeting as Chair of the Schools Forum. GK, on behalf of the Schools Forum, thanked him for his consistent hard work, not just for the pupils of Tollbar but for pupils throughout the Borough and wished him a happy and well-deserved retirement.</p> <p>DH thanked GK for his good wishes and for deputising as vice chair, DK and AA for providing their financial knowledge, he had really enjoyed his time as chair.</p>
18/20	<p>Constitutional Procedures – election of a new chair and election of a vice chair</p> <p>JA nominated GK as Chair, this was seconded by KL, GK was happy to take up the Chair</p> <p>Election of vice chair will take place at the next meeting.</p>
10/20	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 18th November, 4.00 – 6.00, via Microsoft Teams</p>