



Thursday 16th September 2021
1.00 – 2.00

via virtual TEAMS Meeting
Minutes

	<p>Attendees</p> <p>George Krawiec (GK) (Chair), Kim Leach (KL), Mark Wood (MW), Allie Major (AM), Sally Jack (SJ) (NELC), Dave Kirven (DK) (NELC), Alex Allenby (NELC), Helen Hussey (HH), Cllr Lindley (Cllr L), C Robson (CR), Kim Stevens (Clerk)</p>
<p>15/21</p>	<p>Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>Apologies from Lorna Pendred, Jo North, Carol Shaw, Andy Zielinski, Lisa Arthey, Phil Hutchinson, Jayne Perry, Nicola Comfort-Sikora, Peter Kennedy, Gill Alton, Jane Aukett</p> <p>GK welcomed all to the Forum.</p>
<p>16/21</p>	<p>Constitutional Procedures – election of a new chair and election of a vice chair</p> <p>No nominations for chair have been received, George Krawiec is happy to serve for a further year – Members happy to support</p> <p>Kim Leach is happy to remain as vice chair – Members happy to support</p>
<p>17/21</p>	<p>Minutes and matters arising of the meeting held on 17th March 2021</p> <p>Minutes agreed as an accurate record</p> <p>13/21 – NJC Pay Award, DK updated that the final offer was 1.75% for all staff and 2.75% for those staff earning less than £24k per annum. This offer had been rejected by Unions, so a Ballot is expected to take place.</p> <p>MW queried whether there is a national pay freeze for teachers, apart from those earning below £24k per annum? DK responded that he was not aware of anything. MW went on to say that the unions had expressed deep concerns that nothing has gone any further and they had written to Academy Trusts separately to seek what actions they were taking. GK has the view that there will be nothing nationally.</p>

18/21	2022-23 Schools Funding Formula Arrangements
	<p>The purpose of this report is to advise School Forum members on the main points arising from the Schools Revenue Funding 2022-23 Operational Guide (July 2021).</p> <p>DK / AA working on modelling, budget allocations will be confirmed in December after the October 2021 census. High Needs guidance is yet to come out, there will be a minimum of 8% increase.</p> <p>MW commented that there is no guarantee that any increases find their way into special or alternative provision schools, and this creates an inequality for our most vulnerable children across the borough. This needs to be fair and equitable to funding provided to mainstream schools. NELC provided a funding up lift last year but felt it was important that members understand that this is the second year that these schools get a second-rate deal.</p> <p>GK responded that the High Needs Block is overspent hence the Working Party looking at this and if the budget can be controlled then this issue could be looked at.</p> <p>DK advised that a debate would take place at the next meeting in November around reintroducing the Growth Fund which had previously been £50k, the Growth Fund would be top sliced from the schools share of DSG.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>It is recommended that Schools Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note this report, and • That a further report is brought back to the Forum Meetings in November 2021 and January 2022 when modelling of the formula has taken place and the final allocations are announced in December 2021 <p>Action: DK to prepare a report around the Growth Fund with issues clearly set out for the meeting in November</p>
19/21	2020-21 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) outturn position and Contingency Balance <p>The purpose of this report is to advise School Forum members of the 2020-21 DSG outturn position and overall contingency balance.</p> <p>All blocks other than the High Needs Block broadly outturned in line with their DSG allocations. The High Needs Block was £853k overspent in 2020-21. This is mainly down to Agency Placements as there has been an increase of 26% in children being placed out of area. SJ reported that a</p>

	<p>range of initiatives are in place to create places in the Borough with include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Party to look at issues • Meeting with DfE around the Free School Window to maximise capacity • Work to be done with local providers and Secondary's to try to enable students to stay within schools • Work to be done with Early Help to stem the flow re EHCPs • A Commissioning Service is in the process of being set up to look at OOA Placements with a view to taking a more systematic approach <p>Action: SJ to prepare a report re Agency Placements for discussion at the next meeting in November</p> <p>Contingency Balance</p> <p>At the start of the financial year the DSG contingency balance brought forward was £0.057m. The unaudited DSG over / under spend for each of the blocks for the financial year totals a net over spend carry forward of £0.762m.</p> <p>MW questioned whether there is an indication of what the figure may be by the end of the year, DK responded that based on current projections the figure is expected to have increased by £100k bringing the total to a £862k deficit.</p> <p>GK requested an action plan on this situation.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that Schools Forum note the 2020-21 DSG outturn position • It is also recommended that the Working Party continue to meet to develop further options and progress these as quickly as possible to reverse this deficit position over the short term.
20/21	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no further business
21/21	<p>Date and time of next meeting - Wednesday 10th November 2021 at 1pm</p>