



**Meeting held at 2pm on Wednesday 12th January 2022
via virtual TEAMS Meeting**

Minutes

	<p>Attendees</p> <p>George Krawiec (GK) (Chair), Lorna Pendred (LP), Kim Leach (KL) (Vice Chair), Mark Wood (MW), Carol Shaw (CS), Sally Jack (SJ) (NELC), Dave Kirven (DK) (NELC), Alex Allenby (AA) (NELC), Carrienne Robson (CR), Andy Zielinski (AZ), Cllr Lindley (Cllr L), Phil Hutchinson (PH), Jane Aukett (JA), Jayne Perry (JP)</p>
<p>01/22</p>	<p>Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>GK welcomed all to the Forum.</p> <p>Apologies received from: Allie Major, Peter Kennedy, Nicole Comfort-Sikora, Gill Alton</p> <p>DK reported that Helen Hussey’s departure from her post has created a vacancy for an Early Years Maintained rep</p>
<p>02/22</p>	<p>Minutes and matters arising of the meeting held on 18th November 2021</p> <p>Minutes agreed as an accurate record</p> <p>Update on action</p> <p><i>23/21 Working party to be set up once outcomes are known, and information brought back for further discussion around the any potential free school window for SEND – SJ – SJ updated that a meeting with RSC is taking place next week, and feedback will be given at the next meeting</i></p> <p><i>25/21 Schools Funding Formula – 2022- 23 – presentation to be sent out to schools – action completed</i></p> <p><i>26/21 Schools Funding Formula – Centrally Retained & De-Delegated Expenditure decisions for 2022-23 – Email to be sent out with information to all Board members to seek their agreement – action completed</i></p> <p><i>26/21 Schools Funding Formula – Centrally Retained & De-Delegated Expenditure decisions for 2022-23 – EY centrally retained will be discussed at the next face to face meeting and voting will take place</i></p>

03/22	<p>DSG Financial Settlement 2022-23</p> <p>The purpose of this paper is to provide school forum members with an update on the 2022-23 financial settlement in respect of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was published by central government on the 16th December 2021.</p> <p>The following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School supplementary grant is not included • Additional payment to schools is £4m, Council will receive £970k in respect of the High Needs Block • Central Services Block - The LA is currently in discussion in respect of the previous year's historic commitments reduction being restored. A decision will be made in February <p>MW queried at what point would we understand how the HNB will be used and how much will be available for AP / special schools?</p> <p>DK updated that a meeting is taking place with the Service next week to look at what money is available, and an update will be given at the next Forum meeting in March.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the difficulties special schools and APs have in planning ahead due to there being no certainty of the funding for future years they will receive. MW /AZ believe this leaves them at a disadvantage from mainstream schools.</p> <p>Mainstream schools will receive a 2% increase per pupil whereas special schools do not know their increase yet – GK queried how much would it cost if special schools were to have a 2% increase?</p> <p>Action: MW/AZ/PH to work together to produce a paper outlining how the process could be made more equitable and how it would be funded for discussion at the next meeting</p> <p>Action: DK to look at the figure if special schools were to have a 2% increase</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>It is recommended that members note the contents of this report</p>
4/22	<p>Funding Formula for Schools 2022-23 Update</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to update Schools Forum members on the effect of the updated data, the re-modelling undertaken and the final</p>

	<p>proposed funding formula for 2022-23 prior to submission of the proforma to the DfE</p> <p>Pupil numbers in primary settings have decreased by 13, secondary pupil numbers have increased by 156.</p> <p>GK queried whether the decrease in primary pupils will continue over the next 2-3 years and are these schools in a cluster or spread across the borough?</p> <p>GK declared an interest re Beacon so did not take part in the discussion around the increase in PANs</p> <p>The rates position for 2022-23 will be dealt with differently as to previous years in that the total rates liability for all schools in the borough will be paid by the ESFA to the billing authority. Schools will be advised of this to ensure that they are not paying twice.</p> <p>MW commented that this is really positive and welcomed from a maintained school's perspective.</p> <p>Action: SJ to present an overview of how housing is impacting on pupil numbers at the next meeting, this will assist in forward planning</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>It is requested that Schools Forum ratify the report and the decisions taken by officers in respect of the final schools funding formula proposed for 2022-23.</p>
<p>05/22</p>	<p>Schools Growth Fund Procedure</p> <p>The purpose of this note is to recommend, subject to any comments Schools Forum may have, an updated procedure to be adopted in accessing additional funding where the Local Authority requests a maintained or academy primary or secondary school to increase its PAN and this results in additional pupil numbers over and above those funded at the previous count. This procedure is being revised following the discussion on this item at the last school's forum in respect of the re-introduction of this fund and the need to ensure that the limited resources are used where needed most.</p> <p>GK declared an interest re Beacon so did not take part in the discussion around the increase in PANs</p>

	<p>Recommendation</p> <p>We would request Schools Forum to approve the revised procedure in respect of the eligibility criteria to access this new growth fund.</p> <p>We would also recommend that this procedure is reviewed in 12 months at the latest.</p> <p>KL in her capacity as vice-chair recommended the procedure should go ahead</p>
	<p>Any other business</p> <p>SJ had to leave the meeting at this point to meet with the Commissioner</p> <p>School Improvement Grant – DK</p> <p>Confirmation has been received from the DfE that the School Improvement Grant for 2022/23 is being cut by 50% and will cease in 2023/24. LAs will be able to deduct school improvement core function costs from maintained schools' budgets. As this news had come in late yesterday afternoon DK had spoken to KL before today's Forum to seek her agreement for a de-delegation of £25k. KL responded that although she did not necessarily agree with the politics behind this and feels conscious of the fact that the decision rests on her shoulder for other maintained schools she feels she has no choice but to agree with DK's proposal.</p> <p>DK reported that next year this will be a normal de-delegation decision, there is some work to do to look at service configuration.</p> <p>Schools Supplementary Grant – MW</p> <p>Special and AP schools will have to go to LAs to request this funding. This grant is for mainstream schools to meet the costs of the NI increase and teacher starting salaries of £30k. MW added that special and AP settings will face higher pressures than mainstream schools in this area due to higher staffing numbers and lower pupil ratios, and it is imperative monies are passported accordingly.</p> <p>DK commented that we need to bear in mind that the guidance refers to Post 16 costs so will look to see if this includes anything for independent settings. The grant of £970k is for one year only so work needs to be done to see how this can be equally distributed. DK asked MW if there was anything which could be shared around the impact of the NI increase as a starting point.</p> <p>LP requested that if the next meeting is held virtually then the Early Years issues are not deferred – this was agreed.</p>

	Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 15th March 2022, 1.00 – 2.30, venue to be confirmed.
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