



## **SCHOOLS' FORUM**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2025** **at 1.00 pm via MS Teams**

**Members Present:**

Paul Gamble – Headteacher Harrow High School (CHAIR)  
Nick Waldron – Headteacher, Pinner Park Primary School (VICE CHAIR)  
Geraldine Higgins – CEO, Blessed Holy Family Academy Trust  
Chris Briggs - Headteacher St Joseph's Primary School  
Caroline Day-Lewis – Headteacher, Woodlands Special School  
David O'Farrell – Headteacher, St Bernadette's Primary School  
Fiona Hopkins- Headteacher, Heathlands School  
James Rebbitt - Headteacher – Whitmore High School  
Michael Baumring - Headteacher-Kenmore Park Junior School  
PK Maselino – Headteacher, The Helix  
Rashid Benserghin - (Headteacher- Roxbourne Primary School)  
Steven Deanus - Headteacher-Roxeth Primary School)

**Officers in Attendance:**

Andrew Osei– Interim Finance Business Partner  
Catherine Milmine – SEN Assessment and Review Service Manager  
Vibulen Balendran – Schools Finance Manager

<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ORDER OF AGENDA</u></b>  1.1 Apologies were received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parmjit Chahal – Strategic Director of Children's Services</li> <li>• Louise Browning – Headteacher, Norbury School</li> </ul>	
<b>2.0</b>	<b><u>MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</u></b>  Minutes of meeting on 10 December 2024 were agreed with corrections to attendance list noted.  <b>Noted</b>	
<b>3.0</b>	<b><u>DSG Budget Setting 2025-26</u></b>  AO presented the report setting out schools' draft budget allocation for the 2025-25 financial year.  The allocations are presented as draft subject to Cabinet approval and agreement with the ESFA as in line with the regulations  Forum chair requested an update and clarity on some tables in the report to enable easy	

	<p>comparison. These tables were updated and the revised report circulated to forum members.</p> <p>A further appendix with a detail school level comparison was also requested and has been provided to forum members.</p> <p>Schools funding is based NFF</p> <p>AWPU rates scaled down by 0.01% to ensure affordability. This is within the allowable range set by the ESFA. All other factors are at the NFF levels</p> <p>MFG is set to -0.5% and gains capped at 3%</p> <p>No transfers between blocks are proposed</p> <p><u>Actions:</u>  AO to provide additional comparative tables for overall funding allocations  AO to provide additional detail comparison of school level provisional allocations compares to last year.  AO to provide list of schools impacted by MFG</p>	Noted
4.0	<p><b><u>Early Years Funding Proposals</u></b></p> <p>AO introduced the report and the consultation document included in the appendix</p> <p>In 2025-26 the early years entitlements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of children from 9 months to 2 years old</li> <li>• the 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 2 year old children</li> <li>• the 15 hours entitlement for disadvantaged 2 year olds</li> <li>• the universal 15 hours entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds</li> <li>• the additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds</li> <li>• working parents of 9 months - 3 year olds can get up to 30 hours a week free education and childcare (from September 2025)</li> </ul> <p>The proposal is hold £0.33/hr of both the 2 year old and 3-4 year old funding (3.5% and 5% respectively) in the SEN Inclusion Fund.  A further £0.33/hr will be held back to be paid as supplements to be added to provider rates based on Deprivation (£0.07), Flexibility (£0.13) and Quality (£0.13)</p> <p>Consultation opens on 15-January-2025 and closes 31-January-2025</p> <p>In response to member questions, AO provided clarity on what the Flexibility and Quality factors related to and how they are assigned. A Link to the provider handbook on the council website (<a href="https://www.harrow.gov.uk/childcare/useful-documents-links">https://www.harrow.gov.uk/childcare/useful-documents-links</a>) was shared at the meeting to provide additional information</p>	Noted
5.0	<p><b><u>Hatch End High School Exclusions Project</u></b></p> <p>FH presented the report  Project focus is on preventative measures; Various options considered on ways to support schools to prevent suspensions and exclusions</p>	

	<p>Proposal is to use the THRIVE approach as a train the trainer package supporting children particularly with SEMH and behavioural needs.</p> <p>All voting members in favour of proposal</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Agreed</b></p>																					
6.0	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>Additional OT Pressures CM updated the Forum on availability of OT service and the need to increase provision to meet current demand. A separate paper will be presented to Forum at a later date.</p> <p>GH asked if she could continue as a member of the forum in her role as full time CEO. Chair agreed. No objections raised.</p> <p>MB asked when schools would be notified of budgets. AO confirmed these would be circulated by the 28-February-2025</p> <p>DO reminded members that the campaign for Inner London borough status is ongoing</p> <p><b>Meeting ended 2.36pm</b></p>																					
7.0	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting(s)</u></b></p> <p>Tuesday 11 March 2025 Tuesday 10 June 2025</p>																					
8.0	<p><b><u>Action Log</u></b></p> <table><tr><th>No.</th><th>Date of Meeting</th><th>Item No</th><th>Action</th><th>Owner</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>7 June 2024</td><td>Item 3.1</td><td><b><u>Membership</u></b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Academy Headteacher</li><li>PVI representative</li><li>2 Governor vacancies</li></ul></td><td>CM/PH</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>10 September 2024</td><td>Item 4.2.5</td><td><b><u>Band F payments.</u></b> Details of schools receiving the new band F funding and names of schools in 2024-25</td><td>PH/CM</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>10 September 2024</td><td>Item 4.2.5</td><td><b><u>Band F payments.</u></b> Chair and Vice-Chair of Schools' Forum to review data analysis prior to publication in Schools Forum report.</td><td>Chair (PG) and Vice-Chair (NW)</td></tr></table>	No.	Date of Meeting	Item No	Action	Owner	1	7 June 2024	Item 3.1	<b><u>Membership</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Academy Headteacher</li><li>PVI representative</li><li>2 Governor vacancies</li></ul>	CM/PH	4	10 September 2024	Item 4.2.5	<b><u>Band F payments.</u></b> Details of schools receiving the new band F funding and names of schools in 2024-25	PH/CM	5	10 September 2024	Item 4.2.5	<b><u>Band F payments.</u></b> Chair and Vice-Chair of Schools' Forum to review data analysis prior to publication in Schools Forum report.	Chair (PG) and Vice-Chair (NW)	
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