

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

Held on Wednesday 4 October 2023 at 17:30 on Microsoft Teams

Governors:

*Ms Adelaide Amofo**
Mr Tim Hellings*
*Ms Caroline Davies**
Mr John Donnelly*

Headteachers

*Ms Tammy Day**
Ms Jennifer Gumbrell
*Ms Kate Baptiste**
Ms Celeste Fay
*Ms Nuala Husband**
Mr Dominic Smart
Ms Gillian Taylor

Academies:

Ms Helen Thomas (Chair)*
Ms Susan Ellingham
*Mr Aaron Livingston**
Ms Androulla Nicou
Ms Zoe Thompson
*Mr Stephen Way**
Vacancy

Schools' Members

Primary
Primary
Special
Secondary

Secondary
Secondary
Primary
Pupil Referral Unit
Primary
Primary
Special

Non-School Members

Mr Kurt Hintz
*Ms Angela Palmer**
*Mr Tony Cuffaro**
Mr Andy Johnson
*Mr Ian Hewison**
*Cllr Margaret Greer**

16-19 Partnership
Early Years Provider
Teachers' Committee
Education Professional
Head of Admissions
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Observers

Cllr Abdul Abdullahi
Mr Byron Russell

Cabinet Member
School Business Manager

Also, present:

Mr Peter Nathan, Director of Education
Mr Neil Best, Head of Strategic Resources & Partnership - Education
Ms Coral Miller, Finance Manager – Schools & Education
Mrs Sangeeta Brown, Education Resources Manager
Ms Claire Docherty, NEU
Ms Julia Hide, Early Years Social Inclusion Manager
Mr Mark Maiden, Head of SWERRL Team

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Apologies for absence were received from Ms Amofo, Ms Davis, Ms Baptiste. Ms Husband, Ms Taylor, Mr Livingston, Mr Way, Mr Hintz, Ms Palmer and Cllr Greer.

NOTED

- (i) the absence of Ms Davis.
(ii) There was a vacancy for an Academy Representative and a vacancy for a School Business Manager observer. Nominations will be sought for these vacancies.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members were invited to identify any personal or prejudicial interest relevant to items on the

agenda.

NOTED that no declarations were received.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

RECEIVED the minutes of the Schools Forum meeting held on 4 October 2023.

NOTED that:

- (a) Minutes were a correct record of the meeting.
- (b) There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. ITEMS FOR PRESENTATION

(a) SWERRL: Enfield Behaviour Support Service

This item was presented by Mr Maidens, Head of SWERRL

RECEIVED the annual report and a presentation from Mr Maidens key highlights from the annual report.

REPORTED the academic year 2022/23 had been particularly challenging because Mr Ellerby-Jones, the previous Head of SWERRL, became seriously ill and Mr Maidens was appointed as the acting Head of SWERRL. Following Mr Ellerby-Jones retirement at the end of October 2023, Mr Maidens was then appointed Head of SWERRL.

Mr Maidens advised the Forum that the service supported children with social, emotional, and mental health needs due to developmental trauma. The Service supported the children through a graduated response that was in line with the strategic vision of Enfield.

NOTED:

- (i) For the fifth year, there had been no permanent exclusions at primary level in Enfield. This was below the national average. In order to achieve this, SWERRL provided schools, pupils and parents with targeted support, training / coaching, and modelling. SWERRL also worked collaboratively with partner services, and this included delivering borough wide training.
- (ii) The number of pupils receiving targeted support during 2022/23 had seen a decrease from the previous year and was at similar level to 2020/21. However, there was significant increase in strategic involvement that required working closely with schools to consider and address the needs of pupils within the school environment. In total, there had been 70 requests for pupil support and 40 strategic involvements with schools.

The Forum noted the SWERRL annual report and thanked Mr Maidens for attending to present the annual report.

(b) London Councils: School Finances and School Places Report

RECEIVED outcomes from a survey carried out by London Councils on the year-end position in terms of school finances and school places across London.

NOTED:

- (i) The funding issues facing schools were due to cost pressures, falling pupil rolls and the impact of the national funding formula on individual schools.
- (ii) In Enfield, eighteen schools had reported a deficit and their capacity to manage the deficit was difficult because they did not have resources to facilitate a change.

The survey highlighted that this picture was similar to other London LAs and some of these LAs had or were considering closing schools. This had not yet happened in Enfield, however if the pupil numbers continue to decline then consideration would have

to be given to closing schools.

- (iii) The problem for schools were cost pressures and pay awards were not fully funded and there was no marginal funding left in the system.
- (iv) It was commented that fall in pupil roll was a particular challenge for schools and this was then exacerbated by the part funded pay award for teachers and the unfunded pay award for teaching assistants. This was resulting in most schools now either choosing to delay or not recruiting to a vacant post. This position was not tenable in the long term.

The Forum noted London Councils report and findings.

RESOLVED to circulate the report to all schools.

ACTION: MR NATHAN

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & DECISION

(a) Enfield Nurture Group Outreach and Support Model

This item was presented by Ms Hide, Head of Early Years Social Inclusion

RECEIVED a report that gave an update on the delivery of the part-time Nurture Groups and outlined proposals to extend the reach of Nurture Groups.

REPORTED Nurture Groups were evidenced-based intervention that aimed to support key stage 1 pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) and attachment difficulties over four school terms by building trust and filling gaps to aid development.

During the last academic year, the provision supported 220 pupils who presented at least four of the 26 possible needs. The support was provided over four school terms. Ms Hide explained these possible needs in further detail to the Forum. Upon leaving the Nurture Group, the evidence indicated that these pupils were either able to access mainstream education without recourse to an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) or the issuing of the EHCP was delayed.

The feedback from schools hosting a Nurture Group was positive. Therefore, the Forum was being asked to consider expanding Nurture Group provision to support more pupils.

Following feedback from the Education Resources Group, the proposals being presented to the Forum were amended to enable up to 15-20 eligible schools to host a Nurture Group. Also, enable other schools to submit an expression of interest in hosting a Nurture Group.

The Service would also provide outreach support to all schools including secondary schools.

NOTED:

- (i) In response to a question, it was stated that some data had been collected on the long term impact of pupils attending a Nurture Group as they progressed in their education. The collection of this data was made challenging because not all pupils were on the SEN register. However, the Service were considering other options for collecting this data to assess longer term impact of Nurture Groups.
- (ii) It was commented the inclusion of outreach support for secondary schools was welcomed.

RESOLVED to support the changes proposed for the delivery of Nurture Groups.

ACTION: MS HIDE

(b) School Funding Arrangements – 2023/24 and Responses to Consultation

RECEIVED a report summarising the responses to the proposals to the transfer and use of 0.5% from the Schools to the High Needs block for 2024/25. It also outlined a proposal to review arrangements for funding special school.

REPORTED following the last Schools Forum meeting, a consultation document that sought

responses to the transfer and use of 0.5% from the Schools to the High Needs block for 2024/25 was published. By the deadline, no responses to the consultation had been received.

The lead representatives for the primary and secondary sector, who were members of this Forum, were contacted and advised that no responses had been received. They were asked to discuss and confirm with their sector as to whether they supported the 0.5% transfer from the Schools to the High Needs block for 2024/25. It was confirmed that the two sectors agreed to the continuation of the 0.5% transfer from the Schools to the High Needs block to support schools with above a calculated average number of pupils with ECHP.

Separately, the special school headteachers had requested that their place funding be reassessed to include additional financial support for pupils with needs above the upper descriptor level and also an audit and place funding review be carried out.

NOTED:

- (i) As part of the proposal to provide additional financial support for pupils with needs above the upper descriptor level for special schools, the proposal was for all requests be considered by a panel that included a special school headteacher, SEN officers and other lead professionals.

The Forum was advised when the current arrangements were agreed, there were mixed views whether to have predictability of funding through an average cost model or a banding model which assessed individual pupil needs.

The Forum noted that the additional financial support would require some funding set aside from the High Needs block and may impact on the overall deficit position.

- (ii) The Forum was informed, similar to last year, there may be a need when the early years funding arrangements were published to consult on the local arrangements during the early part of the Spring term.

RESOLVED the Forum confirmed its agreement to:

- 0.5% from the Schools to the High Needs block to support schools with above a calculated average number of pupils with ECHP;
- Creating a panel to consider requests for additional support above the upper descriptor level and earmarking some funding from the High Needs block;
- If required, consulting on the early years funding formula.

(c) Central Services School Block and De-delegation

RECEIVED a report detailing the allocation of the central services school block and the central services available for de-delegation to maintained schools.

REPORTED there were no changes to allocation of statutory services from the central services school block, however in line with DfE policy, funding for historic commitments had been reduced by 20%.

With regards to de-delegated central services, the Council had stopped providing long service awards, therefore this service was no longer available for de-delegation.

The per pupil rate for Licenses, GDPR and Trade Union Facilities Time had been uplifted to support costs pressures or impact of recent pay awards.

NOTED information had been shared with the lead representatives from both the primary and secondary sectors. Both representatives had discussed and sought the views of their sector as to which central services they would support for de-delegation.

RESOLVED the central services to be supported by maintained school representatives for de-delegation were as follows:

Areas of Funding	Sector	2024/25	2024/25
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		Primary	Secondary
Licenses & Subs - CLEAPPS	Prim & Sec	Yes	Yes
Free School Meals Eligibility	Prim & Sec	Yes	Yes
NQT Recruitment Support & Applicant Tracking System	Secondary	-	-
Union Duties	Prim & Sec	Yes	Yes
School Improvement Service - Non-Statutory	Secondary	No	No
School Improvement Service - Statutory	Secondary	No	Yes
Support for Schools in Difficulties	Secondary	No	No
General Data Protection Regulation	Prim & Sec	Yes	Yes
Long Service Awards	Prim & Sec	-	-

(d) Funding for local authorities to support their maintained schools in financial difficulty: allocations - 2023-24

RECEIVED information and proposals allocating a one-off grant to support the maintained schools in financial difficulty for 2023-24.

REPORTED a notification had been received confirming an allocation of £965.7k from £20m available nationally to support Enfield maintained schools in deficits / financial difficulties.

NOTED the proposal was to earmark 31% of the grant to secondary schools and the balance to primary schools. The grant would then be allocated to schools that either reported a deficit at year-end, the first year of three year plan or their quarter 1 return.

The Forum noted the information on the one-off grant and supported the proposed allocation of funds.

ACTION: MRS BROWN

6. WORKPLAN

RECEIVED and **RESOLVED** to update Workplan from this meeting.

ACTION: MRS BROWN

7. FUTURE MEETINGS

NOTED that:

(a) Date of next meeting is Wednesday 17 January 2024 at 5.30pm on MS Teams.

(b) Dates of future meetings are detailed below.

Date	Time
06 March 2024	5:30 - 7:30 PM – online
03 July 2024	5:30 - 7:30 PM – in person
02 October 2024	5:30 - 7:30 PM – online
04 December 2024	5:30 - 7:30 PM – online
05 March 2025	5:30 - 7:30 PM – TBC

8. CONFIDENTIALITY

No items discussed within the agenda were to be treated as confidential.