

# Minutes (*Draft*)

## Schools' Forum

Notes of meeting on 19 June 2024

### Members:

Adrian Laing (AL)	Secondary School rep (Wimbledon College) – <b>Acting Chair</b>
Fr Simon Peat (FSP)	Primary School Governor rep (St Mary's)
Martin Roughley (MR)	Primary School rep (Cranmer)
Emma Greer (EG)	Primary School rep (Pelham)
Kirsten Taylor (KT)	Secondary School rep (Raynes Park High School)
Carla Chander (CC)	PRU School rep (Melrose)
Alun Evans (AE)	Academies rep (Benedict Primary)

### In Attendance:

Tom Procter (TP)	LBM CLLF – AD (Interim) Strategy, Commissioning & Partnerships
Clare Dudman (CD)	LBM CLLF – Head of School Improvement
Andrew Good (AG)	LBM CLLF – Finance
Laura Byrnes (LB)	LBM CLLF – Strategic Lead
Collette Levingston (CL)	LBM CLLF – Finance
Jayne Ward (JW)	LBM CLLF – Finance

### Apologies:

Paul Lufkin (PL)	Primary School rep (Wimbledon Park) - <b>Chair</b>
Steve Donegan (SD)	Primary School rep (Malmesbury) – <b>Vice Chair</b>
Elizabeth Fitzpatrick (EF)	LBM CLLF – AD for Education and Early Help
Jacqueline Hyland (JH)	16-19 rep (Rutlish)
Rachel Shepheard-Walwyn (RSW)	PVI rep (Montessori Children's House)
Patricia Kearney (PK)	LBM CLLF – Note taker
Allison Jones (AJ)	LBM CLLF – Head of Service
Chris Roberts (CR)	Secondary School Governor rep (Ricards Lodge)

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions – Adrian Laing</b>
	AL welcomed everyone and noted apologies.
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes from previous meeting – Adrian Laing</b>
	Actions from last minutes were reviewed and the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed for accuracy.
<b>3</b>	<b>Early Years 8 Week Window – Laura Byrnes</b>
	LB provided a verbal update for information to Schools Forum members. As part of the Spring Budget last year around the childcare reforms the Government announced they would like to introduce an 8 week window for next financial year 2025/26 whereby LAs would be expected

	<p>to confirm the funding rates that they issue to providers within 8 weeks of the DfE issuing the LA rate. The DfE have been consulting, but this is on hold now in the pre election period.</p> <p>LB talked through some of the pressures and challenges this could create around timings and confirmed once there is more clarity around the process we will provide a further update.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>Merton's DSG Outturn 2023/24 – Andrew Good</b>
	<p>AG introduced the new format of the 2023/24 outturn report and explained it was for noting. The report presents the expenditure against the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2023/24.</p> <p>The overall position for 2023/24 is an overspend against allocation of £6.777m compared to £7.533m in 2022/23. The cumulative deficit at the end of 2023/24 is now £41.243m</p> <p>AG explained the debt does not sit on the balance sheet rather as a note.</p> <p>The group discussed the decrease in expenditure in Schools Improvement and Early Years which was explained by reduced income / funding and falling rolls in Early Years which has resulted in a decrease in expenditure.</p> <p>Schools' Forum members noted the 2023/24 Outturn report.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>DSG Deficit Recovery - verbal update –Tom Procter</b>
	<p>TP gave an update from the DSG sub group. The key message being we are improving in terms of the performance of the high needs block pressure but not quickly enough with the additional pressures of the uplift being only 2% for 2024/25.</p> <p>TP provided an update from an engagement meeting with the DfE. The DfE are pleased with all the work we are doing and acknowledged this is a national problem.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>AOB – All</b>
	<p>Scheme of Financing in Schools – verbal update – Andrew Good</p> <p>AG provided an updated that the Scheme of Financing in Schools is about 5-6 years old and is being reviewed and updated to ensure compliance before a consultation process with schools in the autumn.</p> <p><b>The next Schools Forum meeting is 18 September 2024</b></p>