MINUTES OF THE OF THE SCHOOLS' FORUM HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2021 VIRTUAL TEAMS MEETING

(10:00am to 12:00pm)

Present:	Maintained Primary Representatives Scott Halliwell (SH) (Joint Chair) Julie Philips (JP) Martin Nicholson (MN) Gill Massar (GM) Richard November (RN) Vacant Vacant	HT, Southwood Primary School HT, Godwin Primary School HT, Grafton Primary School HT, William Bellamy Primary School HT, Valence Primary School
	Maintained Secondary Representatives Tony Roe (TR) Vacant	HT, Barking Abbey School
	Maintained All-through (A/T) Vacant	
	Governor Representatives (1 pri & 1 sec) David Dickson (DD) Vacant	HT, Eastbury Community School
	Academy & Free Primary Lisa Shepherd	HT, Eastbury Primary School
	Academy & Free Secondary Andy Roberts	HT, Riverside School
	Academy & Free Schools (A/T) Vacant	
	Academy Special School Representative Roger Leighton (RL) (Joint Chair)	Chief Executive, Partnership Learning
	Maintained Special Schools Representative Susan Ball (SB)	HT, Trinity School
	Maintained PRU Representative Cathy Stygal (CS)	HT, Mayesbrook Park School
	Governor Representative David Dickson	HT, Eastbury Community School
	Early Years Representative John Trow Smith (JTS)	Early Years, Local Authority
	Trade Union Representatives Dominic Byrne (DB) John McGill	NUT NASUWT

Also present: Jane Hargreaves (JH), Commissioning Director – Education

Councillor Evelyn Carpenter (CC) – Cabinet Member for Education and Schools Patricia Harvey (PH) – Senior Professional, High Needs Block Katherine Heffernan (KH) – Group Manager, Local Authority Finance and Investment Shaj Sivadasan (SS) – Principal Accountant, Schools - Local Authority Finance Kofi Adu (KA) – Group Accountant – Local Authority Finance Caroline Connolly (CC) – Finance Business Partner Simon Abeledo (SA) – HT, Rush Green Primary School Chris Harrison (CH) – HT, George Carey Primary School Erik Stein (ES) – Head of Participation, Opportunity and Wellbeing Nichola Young (NY) – Local Authority Minute Clerk

Mr Roger Leighton chaired the meeting, Mr Scott Halliwell to chair the December 2022 meeting.

1.0	APC		BSENCE								
	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Evelyn Carpenter (CC) – Cabinet Member for Education and Schools.										
2.0	DEC	LARATION OF	INTEREST								
	No declarations of interest were recorded.										
3.0	MIN	UTES AND MAT	TERS ARI	SING							
	3.1	The minutes o record.	f the meetir	ng held on 22 June 2021 were confirmed as an ac	curate						
	3.2	Update on act	ions from <u>pr</u>	<u>evious</u> meetings.							
	No.	Date of Meeting	Item No	Action	Owner						
	1	22 June 2021	ltem 1.4	Additional HNB Working Group meeting An additional HNB working group meeting to be arranged to address the issues surrounding the high level of children in mainstream settings with complex needs raised at this meeting. Complete	Pat Harvey/ Nichola Young						
	2	22 June 2021	Item 7.4	Bulge Class at Valence Primary FMG to consider funding the full loss of the bulge class at Valence Primary School. Covered in today's report - Complete	Kofi Adu/ Katherine Heffernan						
	3	22 June 2021	Item 6.0	Meeting preferences A survey to be sent to Schools' Forum members to collect their meeting preferences around whether meetings should remain virtual or return to in person. Complete - the results were very close: 5 votes for remaining virtual, 4 for a hybrid model and 3 wished to return to the Town Hall. It was agreed that the December meeting remains virtual where it can be determined what a hybrid model looks like. The way forward will be considered.	Kofi Adu/ Katherine Heffernan						

	DRT FROM THE GROUP ACCOUNTANT – FINANCE	
1. <u>L</u>	Jpdate on Schools, Central and EY DSG Blocks	
1.1	The 2021/22 DSG allocations, first published in December 2020, are largely unchanged.	
1.2	The underspend on the schools' block is largely driven by growth and falling rolls.	
1.3	There is forecasted overspend on the HNB. The level of need emerging which may result in further overspend.	
1.4	There are sufficient reserves to absorb the HNB overspend. Some of this will be clawed back for Early Years. The amount of reserves available to meet pressures is £5m.	
1.5	As the centrally held growth fund will have an underspend, there is a proposal that half of the growth fund be released back into the Schools' Block. This will be discussed later in the agenda.	
1.6	MN advised SF that schools are grateful for the one off funding for those that have 1% or more of F, G or H banded children. It was requested that the one-off payment also be extended to reception children that are banded as F, G or H. Colleagues agreed that this needs further discussion and consideration at the HN Working Group and will be addressed later in the agenda.	
1.7	A question was asked around whether recovery premium funding had been factored into the report. Colleagues were advised that an update on Covid recovery funding will feature later in the report but in terms of Early Years underspend from the previous year, we've assumed that the £2.3m will be clawed back until notified otherwise by the DfE. Once confirmed, some of this will be earmarked to address Early Years SEN issues.	
Reco	mmendation (i): Schools' Forum are requested to:	
) To note the updated 2021-22 DSG funding	
0.00	Noted	
2. 20	021/22 Projected DSG Out-turn	
2.1	Schools' Block is reporting an underspend of £323k.	
2.2	The Central Block and Early Years are reporting breakeven positions.	
2.3	The High Needs Block is reporting an overspend of £1,351k	
2.4 Reco	The projected DSG outturn position for 2021/22 is £5,093 mmendation (ii): Schools' Forum are requested to:	
a.	note the projected DSG out-turn position for 2021/22. Noted	
	Noted	
<u>2021</u>	22 Projected Growth Funding Out-turn	
2.5	There is a projected underspend on the Growth Fund of £364k. This is related to growth fund provisions set aside for Eastbrook and Gascoigne not being required due to lower than expected pupil numbers. This balance will be rolled forward to the next financial year.	

- **2.6** The 2021/22 brought forward Growth Fund balance is £641k. 2022/23 will have an opening balance of £1,005m which has been accumulated by top slicing the Schools' Block in current and previous years.
- **2.7** There is a proposal to reduce the Growth Fund reserve to £500k in 2022/23 and release £505k for other purposes due to the fact that growth in pupil numbers is beginning to ease. This will be discussed further down in section 5.

Recommendation (ii): Schools' Forum are requested to:

- b. note the projected growth fund out-turn position for 2021/22.
- c. Approve the release of growth fund reserves over the £500k balance

Noted and approved

2021/22 Projected Falling Rolls Out-turn

- 2.8 Pupil numbers at Valence fell by 58 between October 2019 and the 2020 census. 29 of these were related to the loss of a bulge class. Falling Rolls funding had only been approved for the 29 unrelated to the bulge class. The school requested funding for the drop in bulge class in view of the financial impact on the school. FMG approved £52k falling rolls fund as an exception. SF are asked to ratify the bulge class funding. Falling Rolls allocations for Valence will now be £105k.
- **2.9** There is an overspend of £20k on Falling Rolls, it is proposed that this be funded from centrally retained DSG reserves.

Recommendation (ii): Schools' Forum are requested to:

- d. note the projected falling rolls position for 2021/22.
- e. Ratify the additional £52k falling rolls fund for Valence.

Noted and ratified

Amalgamating School – Rose Lane Primary

Recommendation (ii): Schools' Forum are requested to:

f. Approve £53k of funding to in respect of amalgamation costs for Rose Lane Primary School from de-delegated contingency.

Approved

Ripple – Falling Rolls and Growth Fund

2.10 Ripple did have sufficient enough falling rolls to qualify for Falling Rolls provision. They have now had a growth of one additional class. Schools cannot have growth and falling rolls at the same time. It is proposed that the school receive £90k in funding, falling rolls for April to August 2021 and growth fund for September 2021 to March 2022.

Recommendation (ii): Schools' Forum are requested to:

g. Approve the proposed falling rolls and growth fund for Ripple Primary School.

3.1 The DfE will tighten its rules around the hard NFF in 2023/24, local authorities will continue to have local flexibility until 2022/23. This will see a funding shift from primary to secondary as the ratio begins to move from 1:1.35 towards 1:1.42.

Approved

	AWPU which is weighted slightly towards primary phase in order to maintain the ratio of 1:1.35.								
3.3	Schools with a split site may need to prepare for the removal of split site funding.								
3.4	Over a period of time, LAs that have different formulas to the national funding formula will be required to move formula factors at least 10% towards national factors.								
3.5	Growth funding could be formularised and go directly towards schools.								
3.6	Overall the direction of the formula is moving funding away from London boroughs (and other places), who will only receive the minimum level of increase. London as a whole will receive a lower increase in DSG, Schools' Block and High Needs Block funding. Schools were urged to plan for very tight budget situations over the next few years. Increases will be minimal, below inflation. It is believed that there may be additional funding for the increase in National Insurance.								
3.7	A note about the funding formula to be added into the spring edition of the Director's report to governors.								
	Action	KH KA							
3.8	It is unclear at present whether facility time and delegated issues will be retained by the local authority. Presently, facility time comes after the calculation of the formula. There is nothing in the consultation to suggest that the ability for LA schools to delegate or pool money will disappear.								
3.9	The consultation document states that the only discretionary powers Schools' Forum will retain after the NFF kicks in is around Central Block and Early Years only. Schools' Forum will not have responsibility for the Schools Block. Further clarity is required around de-delegation matters.								
	Sabaala' Plaak funding formula for 2022/22								
4.	Schools' Block funding formula for 2022/23								
4. 4.1	The provisional DSG allocations, based on last year's census data, were published in July 2021.								
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•	Option A	- replicate	s the natio	onal fund	ing formul	a using the f	ull rates for	all factors.
		•			0	will be gear		
•	Option B local and I	NFF rates	for AWPU		C C	C C		
•		naintained				sting primar buted, with f		
4.4		n B is not	affordable			t will be rece es all money		
See	Appendix 2 a	nd Append	dix 3.					
4.5	decision for modelled or	the LA bunn the assu	t SF input	and feed at pupil n	dback is re umbers wi	vill be consu equired. The Il remain the nd will there	options hav same. In re	ality, some
4.6	There are n	o proposa	ls to apply	/ any cap	ping and s	scaling.		
Reco	ommendatio	n (iii): Sch	iools' Foru	ım are re	quested to	D:		
	2022/2	ve Model C 3	C (primary	and seco	ondary rati	o of 1:1.35) to claw bac		s for
	u. Approv	e not to a	opiy any c	apping a	nu scaiing	IU CIAW DAC	k yains,	
<u> </u>	Orouth Fun	d for 2022					Noted an	d approved
5.	Growth Fun	<u>a for 2022</u>	-23					
	Schools wo	ould receiv				moving towa ner than fron		larisation. ncerns have
5.1 5.2			LAs fund	classes r	ather than	numbers. elow are pla	nned expan	sions:
5.1			LAs fund	classes r	ather than	numbers. elow are pla	nned expan	sions:
5.1			LAs fund	classes r	ather than	numbers.	nned expan	sions:
5.1		nd for 2022	LAs fund	Primary (at NFF	ather than before. B Key Stage 3 (at NFF	numbers. elow are pla 40% Uplift for significant growth (more	Total Growth	sions:
5.1	Growth Fur		LAs fund	classes rating as Primary	ather than before. B Key Stage	numbers. elow are pla 40% Uplift for significant		sions:
5.1 5.2	Growth Fur	nd for 2022 Primary	LAs fund	Primary (at NFF AWPU	Ather than before. B Key Stage 3 (at NFF AWPU	numbers. elow are pla 40% Uplift for significant growth (more than 4	Total Growth Fund	sions:
5.1 5.2 School Dage Gores	Growth Fur	nd for 2022 Primary	LAs fund 2/23 is ope Secondary Expansion 30	Primary (at NFF AWPU	Key Stage 3 (at NFF AWPU £5,135) 89,863	numbers. elow are pla 40% Uplift for significant growth (more than 4	Total Growth Fund Requirement 89,863 63,735	sions:
5.1 5.2 School Dage Gorest Great	Growth Fur	Primary Expansion 30	LAs fund 2/23 is ope Secondary Expansion	Primary (at NFF AWPU £3,642)	Key Stage 3 (at NFF AWPU £5,135)	numbers. elow are pla 40% Uplift for significant growth (more than 4	Total Growth Fund Requirement 89,863 63,735 179,725	sions:
5.1 5.2 Scho Dage Gore Great River	Growth Fur	Primary Expansion	LAs fund 2/23 is ope Secondary Expansion 30 60	Primary (at NFF AWPU £3,642)	ather than before. B Key Stage 3 (at NFF AWPU £5,135) 89,863 179,725	numbers. elow are pla 40% Uplift for significant growth (more than 4 classes)	Total Growth Fund Requirement 89,863 63,735 179,725 63,735	sions:
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5.1 5.2 Schoo Dage Gorea River River Robe Conti	ol enham Park esbrook tfields rside Primary rside Sec. ert Clack ingency	Primary Expansion 30 30	LAs fund 2/23 is ope Secondary Expansion 30 60 150 180	Primary (at NFF AWPU £3,642) 63,735 63,735	Key Stage 3 (at NFF AWPU <u>£5,135)</u> 89,863 179,725 449,313 539,175 130,194	numbers. elow are pla 40% Uplift for significant growth (more than 4 classes) 179,725 241,164	Total Growth Fund Requirement 89,863 63,735 63,735 63,735 629,038 844,074 130,194	sions:
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5.4	known.									
	SA queried the projection of pupil numbers across the borough and questioned whether, in terms of the Robert Clack increase, had consideration been given to other local schools.									
5.5	DDI raised an issue with Andy Carr (AC) about the drop in numbers and questioned whether work will be done on lower secondary schools.									
5.6	AC to attend a business meeting and speak with HTs about the issues raised in 5.4 and 5.5									
							Action	A		
5.7	There is a bala reduce the Gro purposes due t two options on	wth Fund re o the fact th	serve to £50 at growth in	0k in 2022/2 pupil numbei	3 and releas	e £505k for c	other			
2 th	p tion 1 – Add ir .5%. Although, p herefore not gua p tion 2 – To cre	ermission wranteed.	vill need to be	e requested f	rom the DfE	This option	is			
	argeted way.			0						
See /	Appendix 3 whi	ch demons	trates Optic	on 1 (columr	ns L and M).					
	SF are in supp ommendation (i . Growth Fund	v): Schools		requested to	note the pro	visional:				
b	. Growth Fund	requirement					Noted			
b		requirement Rolls iness rates o iced and pai but will be o	for 2022/23 come through d directly to offset as the	h the LA. The the LA. Effec rates will hav	tively, schoo /e been take	is will see lean n care of cen	his ss money			
6.1	. Growth Fund 2022-23 Falling Currently, bus become top-sl in their budget	Rolls ness rates of iced and pai but will be of schools with reductions in NOR	for 2022/23 come through d directly to offset as the Reductions in NOR	h the LA. The	tively, schoo /e been take	n care of cen Net Movement in NOR	his ss money			
6.1	. Growth Fund 2022-23 Falling Currently, bus become top-sl in their budget nary - Phase hough – Primary	Rolls ness rates of iced and pai but will be of Number of schools with reductions	for 2022/23 come through d directly to offset as the Reductions	h the LA. The the LA. Effec rates will hav Number of schools with increases in	tively, schoo ve been take Increases	n care of cen Net Movement	his ss money			
6.1	. Growth Fund 2022-23 Falling Currently, bus become top-sl in their budget hough – Primary ise	Rolls iness rates of iced and pai but will be of Number of schools with reductions in NOR 29 0	for 2022/23 come through d directly to offset as the Reductions in NOR (612) 0	h the LA. The the LA. Effect rates will hav Number of schools with increases in NOR 13 5	tively, schoo ve been take Increases in NOR 206 202	Net Movement in NOR (406) 202	his ss money			
6.1 Prir All-t Pha Sec All-t	Growth Fund 2022-23 Falling Currently, bus become top-sl in their budget hough – Primary se condary - Phase hrough –	Rolls ness rates of iced and pai but will be of schools with reductions in NOR	for 2022/23 come through d directly to offset as the Reductions in NOR	h the LA. The the LA. Effect rates will hav Number of schools with increases in NOR	tively, schoo ve been take Increases in NOR 206	Net Novement in NOR (406)	his ss money			
6.1 Prir All-t Pha Sec All-t	. Growth Fund 2022-23 Falling Currently, bus become top-sl in their budget hough – Primary se condary - Phase hrough – ondary Phase	Rolls iness rates of iced and pai but will be of schools with reductions in NOR 29 0	for 2022/23 come through d directly to offset as the Reductions in NOR (612) 0	h the LA. The the LA. Effect rates will hav Number of schools with increases in NOR 13 5	tively, schoo ve been take Increases in NOR 206 202 377	Net Movement in NOR (406) 202 377	his ss money			

Fund.							Noted
7. Central Schools Serv	vices Block	(
7.1 The Central School	Services Bl	lock is n	nade up of t	wo compor	nents, s	statutory a	nd
historic components	5.			-		-	
7.2 The DfE are looking	to phase o	ut histo	ric compone	ents on the	School	s Block. Y	ear on
year budget reduction	ons will be s	seen un	til funding s	tops. The s	ervices	below are)
affected:			-				
		2020/21			23/24	2024/25	
Sebeel improvement	a	b	C	d	e	1 25 0	
School improvement Schools estates	108b	86	69	55 77	44 61.6	35.2	
School games organiser	150 50	120 40	96 32	26	61.6 20.8	49.28 16.64	
Trewern outdoor education	209	167	133	106	84.8	67.84	
Community music service	310	248	198	158	126.4	101.12	
Advisory teachers	330	264	212	170	136	108.8	
Total (historic)	1,157	925	740	592	474	379	
a. The 2022/23 C b. The reduction f schools.	SSB allocat	tions for	on-going a	nd historic			
b. The reduction f	SSB allocat for historic r Is £65K unde	tions for esponsi	on-going a bilities and in the High	nd historic impact on s Needs Bloo	services	s provided	Noted
 a. The 2022/23 C b. The reduction f schools. 3. Update on High Need 3.1 There is a projected	SSB allocat or historic r <u>Is</u> £65K unde 1.2M, there	tions for esponsi erspend e is a tot n Post 1 21	on-going a bilities and in the High tal budget o	nd historic impact on s Needs Blog f £1.3m.	ck. With	s provided	Noted
 a. The 2022/23 C b. The reduction for schools. 3. Update on High Need contingency fund of the school of the sc	SSB allocat or historic re <u>Is</u> £65K unde 1.2M, there pressures in 2020/2	tions for esponsi erspend e is a tot n Post 1 21	in the High al budget o 6 Top-Ups,	nd historic impact on s Needs Blog f £1.3m. SEN Top L 2021/22	ck. With Jps and	s provided In the gate d special s Variance	Noted
 a. The 2022/23 C b. The reduction for schools. 3. Update on High Need contingency fund of the schools. 3.1 There is a projected contingency fund of the schools. 3.2 There are reported provide funding.	SSB allocat or historic re £65K unde 1.2M, there pressures in 2020/2 Outtu	erspend e is a tot n Post 1	in the High al budget o 6 Top-Ups,	nd historic impact on s Needs Blog f £1.3m. SEN Top L 2021/22 Outturn Forecast	ck. With Jps and	the gatel special s Variance Deficit / Surplus)	Noted
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8	3.3	Schools that have 1% or more of F, G or H banded children on roll will receive a one- off payment of £5k per child.	
٤	3.4	Schools requested that reception children banded as F, G or H be considered in payments to schools as this is a high need area. Payments could be made for the proportion of time the children will be in schools this academic year (7/12).	
8	3.5	RN & KA to have a conversation about payments received outside of this meeting.	
		Action	RN
8	3.6	Need to ensure that there is fairness to all schools. In undertaking an annual summer term assessment, if affordable, there is an element of fairness as payments for reception children will be received retrospectively.	
٤	3.7	Top-up payments would not meet the needs of these high level children. Retrospective payments will not help with the unmanageable level of children that are in schools now.	
ŧ	3.8	It was agreed that work needs to be undertaken around the transition from nursery to reception, ensuring that support is available early on, with adequate Early Years ARP places. There also needs to be more joint thinking with Admissions and the allocation of places.	
8	3.9	SF members questioned whether the £500k falling rolls fund could be set aside and diverted to support Early Years?	
٤	3.10	If reception are included in payments, schools could potentially be pushed over the 1% threshold. The proposal needs to be modelled so that the way forward is fair and affordable.	
8	3.11	SH recommended that the HN Working Party visit some of the schools being discussed to get an idea of the picture and the severity of the issue.	
8	3.12	PH to clarify whether it is feasible for Jacqui Twitchell to visit all Reception classes	
		with the SEN team. Action	РН
٤	3.13	It was acknowledged that data from schools is needed before an additional HN working group can take place. Modelling could be undertaken using invalidated data. Schools could be asked to send their own data to give an idea of the picture.	
٤	3.14	SF members questioned whether things are worse this year due to Covid19 or whether this needs to be built into future projections. The cohort will go through the school; therefore the issue will be ongoing.	
٤	3.15	SF members suggested input be requested from JB around data and numbers emerging from non-school settings.	
٤	8.16	The DfE are looking at the SEND consultation from 2019 about the statutory responsibility around SEN due to demands on HNBs.	
٤	3.17	SF members agreed to hold a virtual meeting in December with a HN working group beforehand.	
F	Reco	mmendation (vii): Schools' Forum are requested to:	
		a. Note and comment on the 2021/22 High Needs Outturn Forecast	

		ote the High ctober 2021.	Needs working group discussions from the meeting	held on 7
	00			Noted
9. <u>l</u>	Jpdate o	n Trewern o	lelivery and financial modelling	
9.1	A sepa	rate accessi	ble accommodation block has been completed.	
9.2	have be	een received	ates and a significant proportion of an income loss re I to offset some loss of income during the pandemic one will not subsidise Trewern.	
9.3	and se to expa	et out plans t and both sch	cipation, Opportunity and Wellbeing spoke to the rep o manage the reducing DSG subsidy. This includes nool visits and private hire . Regular updates on the Schools' Forum.	opportunities
Rec	ommend	lation (viii):	Schools' Forum are requested to note:	
	a. Th	ne update on	Trewern Outdoor Education Centre	NI ()
10.	Ratifv S	chools Fina	Incial Regulations	Noted
10.1	The co	nsultation is	complete and has been sent to all schools.	
Rec	ommend	lation (ix):	Schools' Forum are requested to:	
	a. Ra	atify the Sch	ools' Financial Regulations for maintained schools.	
11.	Covid-1	9 Funding f	or Schools	Ratified
		-		
Rec		• • •	schools' Forum are requested to note:	
	a. Th	ie update on	Covid19 funding for schools	Noted
AOE	3			
5.1	0		a virtual meeting in December. Schools' Forum wil ber 2021 with the papers to be circulated by 30 Nov	
5.2	The HN	N Working G	roup will take place on Thursday 25 November.	
DAT	E OF NE	XT MEETIN	<u>G</u>	
	•	ecember 202 r meeting.	21, virtual Teams meeting from 10:00am to 12:00pm	. SH to chair
Heat	d teachar	s' nre-mooti	ng will commence at <u>9.15am.</u>	
	ION LOC			
		_		
me	ate of eeting	Item No	Action	Owner
19/1	0/2021	3.1	National Funding Formula	КН/КА
			A note about the National Funding Formula to be added into the spring edition of the Director's report	
			to governors.	
	0/2021	5.4 & 5.5	Falling Rolls issues	КН/КА

		Andy Carr to attend a business meeting and speak with HTs about the impact on schools of reducing numbers at Reception and Lower Secondary with particular regard to where new sites have opened	
19/10/2021	8.5	Payments Query RN & KA to have a conversation about payments received by Valence outside of this meeting.	KA/RN
19/10/2021	8.12	Visits to Reception Classes PH to speak with the SEN team about the feasibility of Jacqui Twitchell visiting all Reception classes.	РН