



## LEWISHAM SCHOOLS FORUM

### *Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010*

At the LLDC, Road

Membership (Quorum = 40% i.e. 8)

✓ = present    ✗ = absent

		Attendance
<b>Primary School Headteachers</b>		
Irene Cleaver	Athelney	✓
Steve Davies	Coopers Lane	Apologies
Liz Booth	Dalmain	✓
Paul Moriarty	Good Shepherd	✓
Juliet Cooper	Kilmorie	✓
<b>Nursery School Headteacher</b>		
Nikki Oldhams	Chelwood	✓
<b>Secondary School Headteachers</b>		
Anne Potter	Addey & Stanhope	Apologies
Bob Ellis	Conisborough College	✓
Erica Pienaar (Chair)	Prendergast	✓
Barbara Williams	Sydenham	✓
<b>Special School Headteacher</b>		
John Sharpe	Brent Knoll	✗
<b>Primary &amp; Primary Special School Governors</b>		
Keith D'Wan	Athelney	Apologies
Brian Lymbery (Vice-Chair)	Lucas Vale	✓
<b>Secondary &amp; Secondary Special School Governors</b>		
Declan Jones		Apologies
Michael Wheeler	Forest Hill	Apologies
Nick Day	Sydenham	Apologies
<b>Parent Governors</b>		
Vacant	Vacant	✗
<b>14-19 Consortium Rep</b>		
Dympna Lennon	Addey & Stanhope	✓
<b>Early Years Rep</b>		
Val Pope	Pre School Alliance	✗
<b>Diocesan Authorities</b>		
Rev Richard Peers	Southward of Diocesan Board of Education	Apologies
Michael Cullinane	Archdiocese of Southwark Schools Commission	✓

<b>Observers</b>	
Alan Docksey	Head of Resources
<b>Also Present</b>	
Dave Richards	CYP Group Finance Manager
Denise Castle	Clerk
Chris Threfall	Head of Education Development
Sue Tipler	Head of Standards & Achievement
Martin Powell-Davies	Teaching Union
Hayden Judd	Funding & New Developments

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Frankie Sulkie, Keith D'wan, Steve Davies, Michael Wheeler, Declan Jones, Anne Potter, Nick Day and Richard Peers.

### **1. Minutes of Meeting held on 15th July 2010**

The minutes were agreed and signed by Chair.

### **2. Matters Arising**

Chris Threfall reported that schools are to be sent a letter informing them of proposals for Harnessing Technology and the appropriate cost implication for continuing service from London Grid for Learning. The LA considers the proposal to be a good deal.

Special School Heads to be asked to nominate a replacement for J Sharpe.

### **3. DSG Formula Consultation**

Dave Richards presented the report on the Consultation on School Funding 2011-12 – Introducing a Pupil Premium. The purpose of the report was for the Forum to agree the draft response to the Department for Education (DFE). The consultation mainly considers how a pupil premium could be introduced for disadvantage pupils.

The consultation document provided four options that the DFE may use to calculate the pupil premium.

- Free School Meal entitlements at the census date
- A so called “ever” Free school Meals eligibility, which means a pupil would be counted if they received a free meal entitlement over the last three or six years
- Pupils in families in receipt of out of work tax credit
- ACORN or MOSAIC data

It was noted that the population of Lewisham has a high level of public sector workers and the reductions expected in the public sector would mean proportionately more people would become redundant in Lewisham. The level of people receiving out of work tax credit would rise but this would not be reflected as the data held relates to 2005 and is not planned to be updated annually. Whereas the number of pupils with free meal entitlements is planned to be updated annually. Forum discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

Forum agreed to endorse the recommendation to adopt the FSM entitlement option and agreed the Consultation Response Form Item 3 Appendix B as presented.

The chair highlighted that this was a Forum response and individual schools may also respond to the consultation document.

**Decision : The draft response to consultation was agreed**

#### 4. **Current budget pressures including bulge classes**

Dave Richards presented report to ask Forum to consider the latest forecast position for 2010/11 and to consider the action to address the overspends on bulge classes.

It was noted that the budgets for Special Educational Needs are within the budget that was set.

The final notification of the Dedicated School Grant was received from the Department of Education (DFE) on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010. This was a sum of £187,433k, £51k lower than originally expected. This shortfall can be accommodated from the contingency.

Dave Richards reported that the cost of bulge reception classes has created a budget pressure. At the time of setting the budget, negotiations were ongoing with schools and a budget was provided for 15 classes, half of them to open in September and the remainder in January. To date 17 classes are needed and 12 have already opened in September. This has created a budget pressure of £332k.

An alternative view is that it was assumed admissions would be split 50:50 (Sept to Jan) but in fact it was to be 70:30.

Under The Balance Control Mechanism the Forum had agreed to cap two schools (£178k) agreed at the July meeting and to apply this sum to meet the shortfall of funding for the bulge classes. The net current budget pressure is £154k.

Alan Docksey stated that there would be no recoupment in 2010/11 of any of the 2010/11 amounts already paid.

Alan Docksey proposed that a review should be undertaken to analyse how schools have used the resources allocated for the bulge classes. This is essential to see if any savings can be identified for future years through better procurement of items purchased by schools or a reduced need to address the issue. A report will be presented at the next Forum.

Forum requested that the analysis should include schools plans for the use of resources purchased as pupils move on through school and the potential recycling of them.

Forum to debate further year on year budgets as pupils move up through school.

**Decision:- The Forum agree for officers to survey schools as to how they have used the funding provided in order to determine appropriate levels in the future.**

## **5. Academies update**

Dave Richards presented a report on how funding would operate for Academies mainly from a local authority perspective.

Forum were asked to note the report.

Further details about Academy status will be available following the White Paper on Education and the announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Forum asked for a copy of the report to be sent to Chair of Governors for each school for information only and to notify Chairs that this is a collection of information available at the moment.

The DFE is to set up a review group to look at funds that would be recouped from Local Authorities and passed to academies. Recoupment is mostly based on number of pupils in Academy schools.

**Action Point : Academy report to be sent to all Chairs of Governors for information**

## **6. Update on Fraudulent Standing Orders**

Alan Docksey presented a report to update members on the fraudulent standing orders that were set up on teachers bank accounts.

Forum asked to note current position and Alan Docksey will provide a further update when the investigation is complete.

**Action Point : Further update required**

## **7. Report on Innovation Grant**

Dave Richards presented report to provide Forum with an update about the operation of the Innovation Fund and seeks ways to publicise the benefits of the fund.

**It was agreed that :**

- Forum members promote the use of the fund at their collaborative meetings
- An all schools letter is sent out by officers promoting the fund
- An article appears in the next governors newsletter

## **8. Any other business.**

Chair reported that the election for chair and vice-chair will be conducted at next meeting. Please send nominations to Alan Docksey Alan.docksey@lewisham.gov.uk

Date of next meeting Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

### SCHOOL FORUM ACTION SUMMARY – from School Forum held on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 10

ITEM	ACTION TO BE TAKEN	OFFICER(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION	OUTCOME / CURRENT POSITION
4	Analyse schools expenditure for bulge classes Review and present report to Forum	Dave Richards	
5	Send Academies report to all Chairs of Governors	Dave Richards	
6	Update on fraudulent standing orders	Alan Docksey	
7	Innovation Fund : item to be included in next Governors newsletter. Letter to be sent to all schools advertising this fund.	Dave Richards	

### SCHOOL FORUM ACTION SUMMARY – from School Forum held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 10

ITEM	ACTION TO BE TAKEN	OFFICER(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION	OUTCOME / CURRENT POSITION
4	Take to next Secondary Strategic and return to future Schools Forum	John Russell / Sue Tipler	
6	The sub group will review the early year changes next year.		
7	CRC update to be given in Autumn term	Alan Docksey	