

Schools Forum

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 7th November 2022

Members Present: Theresa Staunton Roger Capham
Patrick Shields Rob Veale
Cllr Ian Parker Jenny Adamson
Tyrone Myton Markie Hayden
Dave Harvey Clare Cranham
Vicky Mitchell Fiona Robinson
Soumick Dey

Observers Present: Shelley Davies Charles Quaye
Kerry Critchlow Cllr Margaret Bird
Roisin Maddon Julie Ralphs
Dave Phillips Jayne Dickinson
Khilat Khan (ESFA) Debbie Jones
Cllr Samir Dwesar Keran Currie

Apologies: Julie Evans, Cllr Maria Gatland, Nathan Walters, Dave Winters, Josephine Copeland, Chris Andrew, Leonorie Fernandes

Chair: Jolyon Roberts
Vice Chair: Theresa Staunton

Clerk: Darran Money, Natasha Scialpi

Item	Detail	Lead/Action
1.	<p>Declaration of interest – None.</p> <p>Minutes, actions, and matters arising from last meeting 3rd October 22.</p> <p><u>Membership</u></p> <p>Clare Cranham and Markie Hayden are now substantive academy members. No alternate academy representatives, currently four vacancies.</p> <p>Vacancies have been advertised in Schools' Bulletin, one nomination received for Maintained Primary vacancy, from Dan Bowden (Greenvale Primary).</p> <p>Maintained Nursery Schools, vacancy remains, SD to telephone each MNS headteacher (including those on maternity leave). ACTION</p>	<p>SD to phone MNS Heads.</p>

Southwark Diocesan representative – Vicky Mitchell tentatively named to fill vacancy, PS to confirm agreement with Diocese. **ACTION**

PS to contact Diocese.

Rob Veale and Soumick Dey, group agreed to extend their membership for a further four years.

Maintained School Governors – Keran Currie’s term of office has come to an end, Linda Alange currently recorded as alternate. Group agreed to hold an election.

Maintained Nursery Schools – briefing paper due to go to scrutiny and cabinet, once finalised SD will share with Schools Forum. **ACTION**

SD to share once finalised.

Out of borough funding: KR updated the group - in the Summer term an exercise was carried out to gather information re charges from other boroughs, KR can formulate this data if required, the aim is to achieve consistency cross-boroughs. Croydon is part of the South London partnership and manage this partnership effectively. Croydon has good provision of special school places and has received a high number of requests from other boroughs for places for 23/24, Croydon is not likely to hold any spare school spaces for other boroughs. Placement panel meets end of November and exact numbers will follow from this panel.

Potential conflict of interest – Chair of Schools’ Forum and Chair of High Needs Block, both Pegasus Trust. Article 12 in the terms of reference states there can be a maximum of two representatives from one MAT, therefore no conflict of interest currently.

Terms of reference of working groups – Julie Ralphs is working on revising these documents. To be reviewed at next meeting. **ACTION**

Safety Valve DfE – mechanism to reduce Croydon’s DSG High Needs deficit, information has been submitted to DfE, awaiting outcome. SD to update at next meeting. **ACTION**

2: Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24 & School Funding Formula Factors Review

The group discussed the paper and PS gave an update from the last Schools’ Block discussion.

Para No.	Formula factor	Approval type - 2022/23	Forum Vote
3.1	Minimum per pupil funding	To note (compulsory factor and rate) (Need to add a row for split site	Croydon pays above the NFF rate.
3.2	Age weighted pupil unit (Basic Entitlement)	To note (compulsory factor and local rate)	No decision to be made at this forum.

3.3	Deprivation - IDACI	To note (compulsory factor) NFF and Local rate used last year.	<p>Group voted on b) and c) combined:</p> <p>b) - Moving to the average national NFF rate. c) - Moving to the maximum rate above NFF.</p> <p>12 votes in favour.</p> <p>b) & c) combined in carried.</p>
3.4	Deprivation – FSM & FSM6	To note (compulsory factor and NFF rate adopted)	<p>Group voted on either b) or c):</p> <p>b) - Moving to the average national NFF rate. c) - Moving to the maximum rate above NFF</p> <p>12 votes for b) 1 vote for c)</p> <p>b) is carried.</p>
3.5	Low prior attainment	To agree (compulsory factor and NFF rate adopted)	<p><u>b)</u> Moving to the average national NFF rate.</p> <p>13 votes for b)</p> <p>b) is carried.</p>
3.6	English as an additional language	To agree (compulsory factor and NFF are adopted)	<p>a) Moving to the minimum national average rate set by in the NFF rate per pupil*</p> <p><u>b)</u> Moving to the average national NFF rate.</p> <p>c) Move above the average national NFF rate</p>

13 votes for b)

b) is carried

Hitherto this factor has funded part of the Virtual School (£167K). School block working Group recommend top-slice to support the service using the rates per pupil shown in table below (indicative figures).

School phase	22/23 Proposed Rate per pupil	Number of pupils
Primary school	£500	145
Secondary school	£500	192

The group discussed changing this from a per pupil arrangement, to a rounded annual figure (including inflation) to a top slice set at £210K for the next two years.

13 votes in favour.

Top-slice £210K for two years is carried.

3.7

Looked after children

(This must be removed by DfE rule)

3.8

Lump Sum

To agree (compulsory and local factor used last year)

a) Moving to the minimum national average rate set by in the NFF rate per pupil* or
b) Moving to the average national NFF.
c) Move above the average national NFF rate
d) Steering Group recommended £142,000.

13 votes in favour of option d)

Option d) carried.

				<p>b) - Moving to the average national NFF rate</p> <p>13 votes in favour of option b)</p> <p>Option b carried.</p>	
<p>3.9</p>	<p>Mobility</p>	<p>To agree (compulsory)</p>		<p>c) Reduce last year's rate by £100K d) defer</p> <p>Supporting PFI has risen sharply to current figure. Benchmarking information is publicly available. SFBS (schools financial benchmarking service) is a useful comparison website to see all of secondary schools in Croydon, focusing on occupation and premises costs, for example; Oasis Shirley Park is at top of the spend for all the secondary schools in Croydon, spending £851K on occupation, average £300K lowest £180K, premises, £1.75m premises, next nearest £824K, £756K, £500K, steep decrease. Agreed last year unfair market advantage, only one contributing factor towards PFI.</p> <p>12 votes in favour of option c) 1 vote in favour of option d)</p> <p>Option c) is carried.</p>	
	<p>3.10</p>	<p>Private Finance Initiative – base rate increase</p>	<p>To agree (optional but needs Schools Forum consideration on Amount and RPIX measure of inflation)</p>		

	3.11	Minimum Funding Guarantee	To agree (compulsory) and part of the DfE Model	Triggered by other factors. No decision to be made in this forum.
	3.12	Growth	Criteria for growth and no change expected on agreed rate for 2024/25	Criteria into APT what growth figures are triggered. Agenda item for December meeting. ACTION CQ
	3.13	Split Site	Optional Factor – Same criteria and approved rate as agreed last year	No further increases set for three years from 21/22.
	3.14	Sparsity and London Fringe	To agree (Sparsity is compulsory but none of Croydon schools falls within the eligibility criteria on distance and pupil numbers . Croydon is not London Fringe) but not applicable to Croydon)	Not discussed
3:	Schools Block DSG Options			
	Not required at this meeting. Paper to be updated.			
4:	High Needs Block - Q1 and Q2 High Needs forecast Outturn and Deficit Recovery Plan for forecast.			
	<p>Health warning on Q2 indicator. Early Support and Early Intervention is now borough-wide and is being monitored to see the impact of this going forward anticipate and the quality of those children’s information that will come through for assessment should be more comprehensive and detailed and this should mean the assessment process will be much more thorough.</p> <p>Growth is a key factor, increasing provision at sites such as ABA 30 places, with a potential of 25 at St. Nicks. Reviewing ELPs is ongoing – out of borough placements have seen increases of up to 15%. Also, all of those factors affecting funding for mainstream provisions re rising costs are the same in our special schools, not least due to the high numbers of support staffs because of needs of children.</p> <p>Safety Valve: CQ talked the group through the table. SD updated the group on the significant work that has gone into this piece of work.</p>			

	<p>Croydon is doing well in reducing accumulative amounts and in-year variances.</p> <p>Caveats in papers noted by group.</p>	
5.	<p>Early Years Block - Q1 and Q2 Early Years forecast Outturn</p> <p>CQ talked the group through the highlights from the paper.</p>	
6.	<p>Update from Schools Forum Work Groups (for information)</p> <p>Early Years Working Group. The chair gave an update. There is a need to recruit more attendees.</p> <p>Schools Block Working Group. The chair gave an update.</p> <p>High Needs Working Group. The chair gave an update.</p>	<p>TS</p> <p>PS</p> <p>RV</p>
7.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Update on therapies Kerry Critchlow future agenda item. ACTION</p>	<p>ACTION</p>
	<p>Next meeting: 5 December 2022</p>	

Abbreviations used within the minutes

AWPU	Average weighted pupil unit
BWH	Bernard Weatherill House
CALAT	Croydon Adult Learning and Training
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Groups
CHTA	Croydon Headteachers Association
DfE	Department for Education
DSG	Dedicated Schools Grant
EAL	English as an additional language
ESOL	English as a second/or other language
ESFA	Education Skills Funding Agency
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
E-PEP	Electronic Personal Education Plan
ESG	Education Services Grant
EY	Early Years
EYFF	Early Years Funding Formula
FSM	Free School Meals
GPAC	General Purpose and Audit Committee
IDACI	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
INM	Independent/non-maintained
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LA	Local Authority
LAC	Looked After Children
LLW	London Living Wage
LPA	Low Prior Attainment
MAT	Multi-Academy Trust
MFG	Minimum Funding Guarantee
MNS	Maintained Nursery Schools
NEOST	National Employers Organisation for School Teachers
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NEU	National Education Union
NFF	National Funding Formula
PAN	Planned Admission Number
PEP	Personal Education Plan
PFI	Private Finance Initiative
PPG	Pupil Premium Grant
PPL	Private Public Limited, Consultancy Firm
PVI	Private, voluntary sector and independent providers
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SRMA	School Resource Management Adviser
STPCD	School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document
STRB	School Teachers Review Board
SVC	Saffron Valley Collegiate
ToR	Terms of Reference
TPA	Teacher Professional Association
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
UPN	Unique Pupil Number

Academies and their Trusts

Type	School	Trust	Single Trust or MAT
Primary			
Academy	Aerodrome Primary Academy	REACH2	MAT
Academy	Applegarth Academy	STEP Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Ark Oval Primary Academy	ARK	MAT
Academy	Atwood Primary Academy	Pegasus Academy Trust	Single
Academy	Beulah Infant School	Pegasus Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Broadmead Primary Academy	The Pioneer Academy	MAT
Academy	Castle Hill Academy	The Platonos Trust	MAT
Academy	Chestnut Park Primary School	GLF Schools	MAT
Academy	Chipstead Valley Primary School	PACE Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Courtwood Primary School	The Collegiate Trust	MAT
Academy	Cypress Primary School	Pegasus Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	David Livingstone Academy	STEP Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Davidson Primary Academy	Chancery Education Trust	MAT
Academy	Ecclesbourne Primary School	Pegasus Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Fairchildes Primary School	Fairchildes Academy Community Trust	MAT
Academy	Forest Academy	Synaptic Trust	MAT
Academy	Gilbert Scott Primary School	The Collegiate Trust	MAT
Academy	Gonville Academy	STEP Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School	Good Shepherd Catholic Primary and Nursery School	Single
Academy	Harris Primary Academy Benson	Harris Federation	MAT
Academy	Harris Primary Academy Haling Park	Harris Federation	MAT
Academy	Harris Primary Academy Kenley	Harris Federation	MAT
Academy	Harris Primary Academy Purley Way	Harris Federation	MAT
Academy	Heathfield Academy	STEP Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Kensington Avenue Primary School	The Manor Trust	MAT
Academy	Keston Primary School	PACE Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Kingsley Primary Academy	Cirrus Primary Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Monks Orchard Primary and Nursery School	Fairchildes Academy Community Trust	MAT
Academy	New Valley Primary School	PACE Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Oasis Academy Byron	Oasis Community Learning	MAT
Academy	Oasis Academy Ryelands School	Oasis Community Learning	MAT
Academy	Oasis Academy Shirley Park	Oasis Community Learning	MAT
Academy	Park Hill Junior School	The Folio Trust	MAT
Academy	Robert Fitzroy Academy	REACH2	MAT
Academy	Rowdown Primary School	Fairchildes Academy Community Trust	MAT
Academy	St Aidan's Catholic Primary School	St. Aidan's Catholic Primary School	Single
Academy	St Chad's Catholic Primary School	St Chad's Catholic Primary School	Single
Academy	St Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Primary Academy	St Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Primary Academy	Single
Academy	St James the Great RC Primary and Nursery School	St James the Great R.C. Primary and Nursery School	Single
Academy	St Mary's Catholic Infant School	St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools Trust	MAT
Academy	St Mary's Catholic Junior School	St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools Trust	MAT
Academy	St Peter's Primary School	The Folio Trust	MAT
Academy	St Thomas Becket Catholic Primary School	St Thomas Becket Catholic Primary School	Single
Academy	The Crescent Primary School	The Pioneer Academy	MAT
Academy	The South Norwood Academy	The Pioneer Academy	MAT
Academy	The Woodside Academy	Synaptic Trust	MAT
Academy	Tudor Primary Academy	STEP Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	West Thornton Primary Academy	Synaptic Trust (due to change on 31/12/19)	MAT
Academy	Whitehorse Manor Infant School	Pegasus Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Whitehorse Manor Junior School	Pegasus Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Winterbourne Boys' Academy	The Platonos Trust	MAT
Secondary			
Academy	Harris Academy Purley	Harris Federation	MAT
Academy	Harris Academy South Norwood	Harris Federation	MAT
Academy	Harris City Academy Crystal Palace	Harris Federation	MAT
Academy	Meridian High School	GLF Schools	MAT
Academy	Norbury High School for Girls	The Manor Trust	MAT
Academy	Oasis Academy Arena	Oasis Community Learning	MAT
Academy	Oasis Academy Coulsdon	Oasis Community Learning	MAT
Academy	Oasis Academy Shirley Park	Oasis Community Learning	MAT
Academy	Orchard Park High School	Greenshaw Learning Trust	MAT
Academy	Riddlesdown Collegiate	The Collegiate Trust	MAT
Academy	Shirley High School Performing Arts College	Shirley High School	Single
Academy	St Joseph's College	St Joseph's College Delasalle	Single
Academy	The Archbishop Lanfranc Academy	The BEC Trust	Single
Academy	The Quest Academy - Coloma Trust	The Collegiate Trust	MAT
Academy	Woodcote High School	Woodcote High School	Single
SEN			
Academy	Beckmead family of schools	The Beckmead Trust	MAT

ARK - Absolute Return for Kids

GLF - Grown, Learn, Flourish

PACE - Partnership Achievement Community Excellence

STEP - Striving Together for Excellence in Partnership

CROYDON SCHOOLS FORUM - MEMBERS VOTING RIGHTS												
Version 3 - 2019												
Ref 6.10	Casting a vote	Academies and Free Schools	Maintained Nursery Schools	Maintained Primary School Governors	Maintained Secondary School Governors	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Maintained Special Schools	Maintained Pupil Referral	Early Years Provider	Non Schools	Overall Total
	Members voting card colours	YELLOW	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	PINK	PINK	
	Member voting totals by category group	8	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	22
a	Only maintained primary school members can vote on primary school de-delegation			2		2						4
b	Only maintained secondary school members can vote on secondary school de-delegation				1		1					2
c	Combined voting on de-delegation for primary and secondary schools may be taken where the requirement is common for both schools. Optional - may vote depending on paper			2	1	2	1	optional	optional			6
d	Retained funds for statutory duties relating to maintained schools only is limited to maintained primary, secondary special schools and PRU members			2	1	2	1	1	1			8
e	All school members can vote on the scheme for financing schools but not academies, free school members and PVI		1	2	1	2	1	1	1			9
f	All school members including academies, free schools and PVI members can vote on any other school forum business including consultation of the funding formula	8	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1		18
g	Non school members cannot vote on de-delegation matters relating to the formula concerning schools and early years providers or the scheme for financing schools	8	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1		18
h	Non school members can vote on any other school forum business	8	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	22
i	Local Authority officers and all observers have no voting rights. They have PURPLE cards and do not vote											