

Schools' Block Working Group – 13/01/2025

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

1:00pm to 2:30pm

Attendees	Initials	Organisation	Present
Tyrone Myton (Chair)	TM	Shirley Performing Arts College	✓
Markie Hayden	MH	Norbury High Schools for Girls	✓
Mark Humphreys	MHu	St Thomas Becket, Catholic Primary	X
Dan Bowden	DB	Greenvale Primary School	✓
Chris Andrew	CA	St James the Great Primary School	X
Clare Cranham	CC	Kensington Avenue Primary School	✓
Abioye Asimolowo	AA	Finance Manager	✓
Shelley Davies	SD	Director of Education	✓
Mori Bates	MB	Clerk	✓

Item	Agenda	Lead
1	Welcome and apologies	TM
	1.1 No apologies	
2	Previous Minutes	TM
	2.1 Previous minutes read and reviewed – agreed to be a true record.	
3	Schools Support Paper	SD
	<p>3.1 SD presented an updated version of the paper previously presented to Schools Block in November. It was noted that the School Improvement grant was reduced to 50% last year and has been reduced again which accounts for the change in the cost of maintaining the current plan. The information that was requested to be added in November has been added to the paper</p> <p>3.2 TM asked the primary schools if they were getting support from School Improvement, of which CC said they have probably received more support than ordinarily they would have had. It would depend on the primary school itself, and they know that the support is there if they need it.</p> <p>3.3 SD added that support is predominantly there for schools that require additional support. However, schools will all have access to the forums, training and a named link advisor. The link advisor will be able to support the school whereby a complaint arises and prompts a complaint.</p> <p>3.4 DB indicated that the packages have their benefits, though it would be interesting to know the attendance of the forums and training. As some schools may use LGFL for factors support by School Improvement, thus opting to use LGFL to access resources that way.</p> <p>3.5 MH noted that support has been received in connection to complaints and Ofsted, but they have tended to use their own connections with other schools rather than the LA with School Support.</p> <p>3.6 There was a discrepancy noted for the final total figure to maintain what was previously offered as there appeared to be a 30% increase between what was paid last year and what it would cost to maintain the service for this year. SD explained that the increase is due to a number of reasons such as no funding was received for School Improvement/Support from the DfE, increased salaries and inflation etc.</p> <p>3.7 The working group agreed that it was more suitable and appropriate to refer to this system as School Support rather than School Improvement as it is already supporting the schools rather than solely improving them. Furthermore, it is universal and thus everyone will have access to a link advisor and support they require.</p> <p>3.8 It was stated that it can be isolating if you do not have access to certain systems, meaning that the maintain option would be beneficial to so many by being able to access the services available to them.</p>	

	3.9 There was an agreement across the working group to recommend maintaining the service currently being offered whilst taking into consideration that the 30% inflation will need to be explained in further detail at Schools Forum.	
4	Any Other Business	ALL
	N/A	

Date of next meeting: 19th May 2025 @ 1pm