



MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

Held as an online virtual meeting on Thursday 25 January 2024 at 6.00 pm

Membership

Governors

Headteachers

Pupil Referral Unit

Early Years PVI

Trade Unions

Councillors

Officers

Representing

Mike Heiser (Chair)
Martin Beard
Jo Jhally
Michael Odumosu
Ernest Toquie

Nick Cooper
Michelle Ginty
Nisha Lingam
Melissa Loosemore
Raphael Moss

Ranjna Shiyani

Wioletta Bura

John Roche

Councillor Grahl, Cabinet Member for
Children, Young People & Schools

Shirley Parks, Director, Education,
Partnerships and Strategy
Olufunke Adediran, Head of Finance
Folake Olufeko, Senior Finance Analyst
Sasi Srinivasan (Early Years Manager)
Abby Shinhmar & James Kinsella
(Governance Team)

1. **Apologies for Absence and Membership**

Apologies for absence were received from Cassie Lloyd Perrin, Gerard McKenna, Andy Prindiville and Paul Russell.

The Chair also advised with sadness he had to report that following the expiry of her role as a School Governor the membership of Geraldine Chadwick as a Governor representative and Vice-Chair on the Forum had now also now ended. On behalf of the Forum, the Chair took the opportunity to formally thank Geraldine for her contribution and support during the 10 years as a member and also as Vice Chair of the Forum.

Give the vacancy created as a result the Chair advised that the Forum would need to appoint a new Vice-Chair, with nominations sought at the meeting. As no nomination was received the Forum **RESOLVED** that the appointment of a Vice-Chair be included for further consideration and nomination at the next meeting in February 2024.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

3. **Deputations (if Any)**

None.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 16 November 2023 as a correct record.

5. **Actions arising**

The Forum was advised that –

- **Action Point 89 (Early Years Panel Funding Criteria)** was due to be addressed under Item 7 of the agenda.
- **Action Point 90 (Update on delivery of DVB Programme)** – was due to be addressed at the next meeting of the Schools Forum in February 2024.
- **Action Point 91 & 92 (Mayors Free School Meals scheme)** was due to be addressed advised under Item 6.
- **Action Point 93 (AWPU Funding for each key stage)** – addressed as Appendix A under item 6 of the agenda.
- **Action Point 94 (High Needs Block Deficit Management Plan)** - was due to be addressed at the next meeting of the Schools Forum in February 2024.

6. **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Budget 2024-25**

Olufunke Adediran (Head of Finance, Brent Council) introduced a report setting out the proposed DSG Schools Budget for 2024/25 for consultation and agreement by the Forum ahead of the Council budget to be considered and approved by Full Council in February 2024. The Forum noted the following key points as part of the update provided:

- The Forum was advised that the report focused primarily on the Schools Block, as a separate report had been provided for the Early Years Block, with the High Needs Block due to be a focal point at the February 2024 Schools Forum.
- The DSG funding announcements for 2024-25, as detailed within section 4 of the report, which had included additional funding for the teachers pay award (Teachers Pay Additional Grant TPAG), the provision of additional support for childcare and additional funding for mainstream schools through the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) that had now been rolled into

- the National Funding Formula and included in the baseline 2024-25 Schools Block Allocation and an increase in the pupil premium for children looked after by the local authority, adopted or left care.
- The detailed DSG Funding Block allocations for 2024-25 as set out within Table 1 of the report, with Brent to receive a total DSG funding allocation of £397m in 2024-25 compared to £379m in 2023-24 representing an overall increase of £18m.
 - The growth funding allocation for 2024-25 had remained the same (£1.2m) as in 2023-24 with the allocation based on the difference between the number of pupils on roll in each school between the October 2022 and October 2023 school censuses and the growth funding allocation included in the overall Schools Block funding for 2024-25.
 - The final High Needs Block (HNB) allocation had been announced as £85.0m, which had been £2.8m more than the allocation for 2023-24 and represented a funding increase of 3.5%. This increase had been less than that received in previous years and whilst not contributing towards the projected cumulative DSG deficit of £14.6m it would, however, be expected to contribute towards funding any further additional pressures due to continued increases in the number of ECHPs. It was noted that a more detailed breakdown of the HNB budget was due to be presented to Schools Forum in February 2024.
 - Given the current HNB expenditure budget forecast and increase in number of children with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs) it had been proposed, in addition to measures outlined in the DSG deficit recovery plan, to transfer 0.5% from the Schools Block to the HNB to mitigate the growing demand, which would equate to a transfer of £1.4m. Members were advised this would bring the total 2024-25 HNB budget to £86.4m and a net budget of £77.4m after deductions for allocations to other local authorities.
 - The changes made to the Early Years (EY) funding formula in order to reflect the changes to childcare entitlement which had been included within the Block Allocation and on which a separate report had been provided on the agenda.
 - The Central Schools Services Block funding split between two elements: funding for ongoing responsibilities (£55k increase) and funding for historic pension costs for centrally employed teachers (£66k reduction). The Central School Services Block income had been confirmed at £2.1m, representing a small decrease across both elements of £11k compared to 2023/24.
 - The Schools Block mainstream funding formula for 2024-25 as detailed within Table 2, which included £2.3m clawed back by the DfE to pay for Non-Domestic Business Rates directly to billing authorities on behalf of schools. The Allocation included £0.7m excluded for the growth fund with £1.4m proposed to be transferred to the HNB. Members were advised the allocation had been reduced by £0.790m for de-delegated funds with £0.519m retained by the council as a contribution towards fulfilling education services including school improvement services leaving a total of £268.77m to be transferred to schools.
 - Following previous approval by the Schools Forum, the DSG contribution to central services to fund education functions had been set at £0.6m (made up of a £0.250m contribution from all schools (included in the growth fund allocation) and £0.360m (from maintained schools only). DfE guidance had, however, clarified that the £0.250m contribution could only be charged to the Central Schools Services Block of the DSG and not be funded from the growth fund with this element having subsequently removed from the growth fund,

- thereby releasing funds back to school allocations. It was, however, pointed out that this additional cost could not be absorbed by the Central Schools Services Block and would therefore lead to a pressure to be managed against the Council's General Fund budget for 2024/25.
- In terms of the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant, members were reminded that the government had reduced the grant by 50% in 2022-23 before ending it in 2023-24 with local authorities permitted to de-delegate all improvement expenditure, including all core improvement activities. The Forum had been advised in 2022 that the Council would cover the cost of the 50% (£0.109m) reduction in grant funding which had continued into 2023-24. The Council had, however, now identified the need to make a £50k saving against that budget with members advised that, as a result, it was therefore proposed to increase the de-delegated amount from schools to £0.159m on the basis the local authority would continue to fund the balance of £59k for school improvement services to schools., This was in order to continue supporting the functions of the Setting and School Effectiveness Service, with proposals for 2025-26 to be presented to the January 2025 meeting of the Forum and the resulting budget having been detailed in the budget for education service within Table 2 of the report.
 - The proposed funding allocations relating to the de-delegated services and contingencies budget, as set out in Table 3 of the report, with the main changes relating to the funding allocated to support schools in financial difficulty given the increase in schools projecting an in-year deficit (£0.175m), the increase in allocation within the Schools Facing Financial Difficulties Fund (SFFDF) to £0.3m to support the cost of redundancies with further small increases in the funding allocation for licences and subscriptions and maternity and paternity supply cover and Trade Union services.
 - The update provided on Brent's current growth fund criteria, with it noted that local authorities would be required, from 2024-25, to provide growth funding where a school or academy had agreed with the local authority to provide an extra class to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or as an ongoing commitment). As a minimum members noted this would require the local authority to provide funding to a level which was compliant with the formula set out within section 8.5 of the report, which the Forum would be required to approve in order to match DfE requirements, given the change in the current basis of allocating growth funding to schools from allocating funds for popular growth to allocating funds for pupil growth to meet basic need, on the basis the former was no longer supported by the DfE.
 - Members were also advised there were currently no formal agreements between the local authority and any of the schools to support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need, however there were c65 pupils who were expected to be placed in secondary schools during the year. A budget of £0.116m had therefore been earmarked for arrangements with schools to place these children.
 - It was proposed to set aside a growth budget of £0.656m made up of £0.116m to provide extra classes to meet basic need for the pupils on the waiting list and £0.540m for the current Choice Advice and Fair Access Interview (CAFAl) arrangements with 3 schools to continue to meet the local authority's requirement to meet basic need for children who had newly arrived in the UK and required additional educational support.

- Members were advised that for the first time in 2024-25 the DfE had also allocated funding based on both growth and falling rolls. These funds would be distributed based on the reduction in pupil numbers that local authorities experience each year with the calculation for 2024-25 based on the observed differences between the primary and secondary number on roll between the October 2022 and October 2023 school censuses and the requirement on schools to be Ofsted rated “good” or “outstanding” to be eligible for funding also removed from 2024-25 onwards. It was, however, noted that where local authorities operated a fund, they would only be able to provide funding where school capacity data 2022 (SCAP) showed that school places would be required in the subsequent three to five years. Based on a review of Brent’s SCAP falling rolls had been projected for the next 3 to 5 years for those schools eligible meaning the funding would not apply for the next financial year.
- The update provided in relation to National Funding Formula (NFF) rates, with it noted that the government continued to take a gradual approach to transitioning the local formula progressively closer to the NFF with 2023-24 being the first year of that process. Whilst a fixed target date by which the direct NFF would be in place had not been set members noted the expectation that a move to the direct NFF would be completed by 2027-28.
- The DfE had provided the 2023-24 factor values including an Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) for Brent with minimum and maximum allowable rates also included with local authorities either moving towards the NFF within the allowable rates or using the actual NFF rates. In line with this requirement, members noted the information on the proposed funding factor rates used in setting the 2024/25 Schools budgets, as detailed within Appendix A of the report.
- The local funding formula factors used to set the budgets for 2024-25, which had been designed to maximise the allocation of the Schools Block funding to schools and make use of the increased funding available in 2024-25 to cushion the impact of the transition, as detailed within section 10.3 of the report.
- In considering the update on the Funding Formula, the Forum was advised that the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) threshold range for 2024-25 was between 0% and +0.5% and had been set at the maximum allowable rate of +0.5% enabling the per pupil funding rates to increase by the same proportion. 20 out of 76 schools required an MFG allocation which, under the proposals, had totalled £2.1m. Members noted the adjustment had been included in the overall post de-delegations and education functions budget detailed within Appendix B of the report. This contained an analysis of the funding formula by individual school, giving both the total formula funding and per pupil funding against the previous year, and also reflected changes to the pupil cohort data for individual schools. As a result, it was noted 10 schools would see a reduction in overall budget share allocations for 2024–25 mainly due to falling rolls ranging from a 4% to 22% drop in pupil numbers.
- In terms of an update on split site funding, the Forum was advised that following the government consultation on implementation of the direct national funding formula, the DfE had announced that from 2024-25 a standardised formula would be introduced to calculate the funding for schools with split sites with the aim of ensuring consistency across all local authorities. This had been based on a specific split sites factor involving a basic eligibility and

distance criteria with Brent's allocation for split site funding made up of a lump sum of £151,847, plus £113.70 per pupil along with an allocation for partial funding at a reduced lump sum of £50,000 where schools partially met some but not all of the relevant criteria. Table 4 in the report detailed the 2024–25 split sites funding allocations for schools that met the new criteria with the 2023-24 rates having been included in the baseline amounts used to calculate each school's 2024-25 minimum funding guarantee and therefore protect schools from losing out as a result of the change. Discussions had also been undertaken with the headteachers at each school to address concerns and respond to queries raised.

The Forum also received an update (in relation to Action Point 91 and 92 from previous meetings) from Shirley Parks, Director, Education, Partnerships and Strategy (Brent Council) on the Mayor's Free School Meals (FSM) pledge for 2024 - 25. The following key points were highlighted:

- Following on from introduction of the FSM scheme during the 2023-24 academic year the Mayor of London had informed local authorities at the start of January 2024 that funding would be continued for the 2024-25 academic year (up until July 2025).
- In announcing the schemes continuation, it had also been confirmed that the proposed price per meal would be increased from £2.65 to £3.00 per meal, which was higher than the government's 2024-25 increased rate of £2.53. Provision would also continue for Kosher meals, although this rate was still to be confirmed. It was confirmed that the enhanced rates provided under the scheme had been designed to enable schools to fund the associated costs such as administrative and staffing costs of delivering additional FSMs although it was recognised that concerns had been highlighted that the rates (especially in relation to Kosher meals) fell short of the actual costs associated with FSM provision which continued to be raised with the Mayor's office.
- Under the scheme FSM would continue to be funded on the basis of a 90% up-take rate with returns needing to be provided by each school to the Mayor's Office in January and March 2024 in order for final claims to be processed. The local authority continued to work with schools in order to provide support, advice and guidance on the submission of these returns.
- It was confirmed that the clawback of funding was not anticipated for any schools reporting take up of less than 90% and at this stage no further details were available on plans for the scheme beyond the 2024-25 academic year.

The Chair thanked officers for the report and asked the Forum if they had any questions in relation to the information provided. As no further questions or comments were raised the Forum **RESOLVED**

- (1) To approve the transfer of (0.5%) £1.4m from the Schools Block to support the High Needs Block. Department for Education (DfE) regulations permit up to 0.5% of the Schools Block funding can be transferred with Forum approval.
- (2) To note the additional funding allocations to Brent, as mentioned in the Government's Autumn Statement 2023.
- (3) To endorse the 2024/25 budget for the DSG Blocks, including the mainstream funding formula, to Full Council for approval.

- (4) To approve 2024/25 growth fund and the change in the current process of allocating growth fund to schools, in line with DfE's mandatory requirements for the treatment of the growth fund allocation

The Chair then invited the Maintained School members represented on the Forum to consider the proposed de-delegation arrangements and as a result they **RESOLVED** (with one abstention) to approve the proposed de-delegation arrangements, as set out within the report, including the proposal to increase the allocation to fund redundancy costs for school-based staff from the de-delegated contingencies budget and the proposal to increase the de-delegated funds from schools to make provisions for the local authority to continue to support school improvement activities.

7. Early Years National Funding Formula 2024-25

Folake Olufeko, Senior Finance Analyst introduced the report, which following the confirmation of the provisional DSG Early Years' (EY) Block funding for Brent, sought Schools Forum endorsement of the local EY Funding Formula for 2024 - 25.

The Forum noted the following key points as part of the update provided:

- The changes introduced by the government in relation to the increase in hourly funding rate for existing childcare entitlements, further investment to enable schools and local providers to set up wraparound childcare provision so that parents of school age children can access childcare in their local area and changes to the Early Years Foundation stage (EYFS) requirements to improve flexibility for providers and workforce support. Having consulted on the EY Funding Formula the key changes identified (as detailed in section 4 of the report) for 2024-25 had been to introduce a new national funding formula for both the existing 2-year-old entitlement for disadvantaged children and the new working parent entitlements for 2-year-olds and under; to introduce three separate hourly funding rates: 2-year-olds, which would be the same for both the disadvantaged and the working parent entitlements; 9-month-old up to 2-year-olds for the new working parent entitlement; and 3 and 4-year-olds for the universal and additional hours entitlements; and to extend the Early year Pupil Premium (EYPP) and the Disability Access Fund (DAF) to eligible children aged 2 and under in receipt of a free entitlement place from 2024/25.
- In terms of the implications for Brent arising from these changes, the 2024-25 Brent EY Block funding had increased by £10.6m to £35.2m compared to 2023-24. Of the £10.6m increase, £6.8m had been allocated for free childcare entitlements for working parents with children under the age of 3. There had also been increases to the funding rates allocated to Brent for the existing 2-year-old, and 3 and 4-year-old provisions.
- The details of the changes in the EY National Funding Formula (EYNFF) funding rates, as detailed within Table 1 of the report.
- The following elements it was proposed to apply to the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) and allocations for 2024–25 within Brent in recognition of the wider changes being made to childcare entitlements:
 - Funding for 3 – 4 year olds being distributed to providers as a universal base rate plus additional allocations for deprivation and quality supplement, after the 5% reduction for central spend, with the base rate

- being increased from £4.84 in 2023-24 to £5.39 in 2024-25 on the basis set out in section 6.1 of the report.
- Following the government's decision to mainstream the teachers' pay and pensions grant into the 2023-24 EYNFF and additional flexibility in terms of planned funding supplements it was proposed to continue using the quality supplement to apply the additional flexibility to replace the previous teachers' pay and pensions grant that was paid by the DfE. The quality supplement of 2% would apply to Brent school-based nurseries and PVI's that met the criteria but not maintained nurseries.
 - Continuation of the maximum 10% allowable rate for supplements applied to deprivation for 2024-25.
 - The provisional allocation for disadvantaged 2-year-olds in 2024–25 being £4.9m, representing an increase of 44% from the previous financial year based on the base rates detailed within section 7.5 of the report and EYNFF rate for 2-year-old funding being increased from £6.84 per hour in 2023-24 to £9.59 per hour.
 - As a result of a review of the existing arrangements for access to 2 year old free entitlement provision, which had been operating in Brent since 2013 and wider changes proposed by the government in terms of working families from April 2024 it was proposed to change the current approach whereby all 2-year-olds, whether applying for the disadvantaged 2-year entitlement or the 2-year entitlement for working families, were able to access their entitlement the term after their 2nd birthday. Following consideration of feedback from the EY sub-group the Forum noted it was proposed that this change should take effect from 1 September 2024.
 - A base rate of £9.41 for providers of the 2-year-old working parent entitlement. This included a deduction of 0.5% retained for central services as well as £0.13 that was proposed to go towards the Specialist Nursery Panel budget.
 - Given the change (from September 2024) in entitlement for working parents of children aged 9 months up to 2-year-olds in terms of childcare entitlement it was proposed to set the base rate for providers as £13.07 per hour with a 0.5% deduction retained for central services as well as £0.13 for the Specialist Nursery Panel budget.
- In terms of the retention of funding for central spend the DfE had mandated that local authorities pass through 95% of the EY funding to 3-4 year old entitlements as well as extending this pass-through requirement to the disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement and the new working parent entitlements with the central spend supporting the services detailed within section 10 of the report. Members attention was drawn to Table 2 of the report, which detailed the breakdown of the local funding allocation for central expenditure in comparison to the last financial year, with the percentages set in acknowledgment of both the increase in administration of the expanded entitlements as well as the DfE's plans to increase the pass-through rate to 97% once the new entitlements had been successfully implemented. The proposed central retention for 2024-25 equated to £1.168m, which was an increase of £0.167m from 2023-24. The budget requirement for delivery of the current level of central services and the training offer (as detailed within section 10.2 of the report) was £1.058m which the Forum noted had been acknowledged by the Early Years Funding Subgroup as a valued and required service. The Forum noted the proposed use of the surplus of £0.109m to fund

- additional resources to facilitate implementation of the expanded entitlements both in terms of administration and working with providers and parents to ensure smooth implementation of services.
- The continuation of the funding allocation arrangements for the Special Nursery Panel which would include a contribution from the new free entitlements for children of working parents aged 9 months to 3-years-old, at the same rate of £0.13p which equated to £83k.

The Forum was then updated on the following Action points from previous meetings:

Action Point 89: In relation to the previous request to receive details of Early Years Panel Funding decision making criteria, the Forum noted that this had been set out within Appendix 1 of the report.

Continuing with presentation of the report, the Forum also noted:

- The total value of the Early Years Inclusion fund from the EY Block for 2024 – 25 as £0.521m along with the details provided within Table 3 of the report relating to the planned spend for the Specialist Nursery Panel budget, which included a £1.09m contribution from the High Needs Block of the DSG. There was currently an ongoing review of the SENIF panel funding in relation to the contribution from the High Needs Block addressing the need for early intervention to ensure that funding was targeted appropriately and to assess the needs of children at an early stage, on which it was noted a further update would be provided for the Forum at their February 2024 meeting.
- The Early Years' budget based on draft allocations from the DfE and the proposals identified for consideration by the Forum, as detailed within Table 4 of the report.
- In terms of additional funding for Brent maintained nursery schools (MNS) it was confirmed that supplementary funding would continue to be received for 2024-25 with the provisional allocation for Brent being £0.915m which represented an increase of 17.6% from the previous last financial year. Following changes introduced by the government in 2023–24 the proposal relating to the four MNS in Brent was to distribute this funding based on an hourly rate for 2024-25, in line with the DfE's requirements, rather than the previous agreed local formula. As a result, the MNS supplementary hourly rate, inclusive of Teachers' Pay Additional Grant had increased from £5.47 to £6.27 per hour equating to an increase of 15%.
- The consultation undertaken with the Early Years Funding Subgroup (as detailed within section 14 of the report) which had included the hourly rates and the central retention from the EY funding allocation, with the Subgroup having agreed with the proposals to retain 5% from the 3 - 4 year allocation and 0.5% from the under-two and two-year allocations for central support services. The Subgroup had also considered initial findings and draft proposals following the review of Early Years SEND Inclusion funding and had acknowledged the value and quality of specialist nurseries and the important part they played in providing high quality inclusive provision in the borough, with it noted that a further update was due to be provided for the Forum at the February 2024 meeting. Whilst recognising the rationale of the proposed change in access for two-year-olds eligible for the disadvantaged two-year

entitlement from the day after their second birthday (a Brent local decision) to the term after their second birthday, as per the requirements of statutory guidance, the Subgroup had not been supportive of the proposal. In considering the feedback from the Subgroup and additional modelling undertaken on the potential impact for providers the Forum noted that it had been proposed the change for the next financial year should not commence until 1 September 2024, in order to allow settings a transitional term to prepare.

The Chair thanked officers for the presentation of the proposals and asked the Forum if they had any questions in relation to the information provided, with the following points discussed:

- Given the pressures being experienced by EY providers, details were sought on whether consideration had been given to the retention of a 3% rather than 5% amount for central services. Whilst recognising the issues raised, Sasi Srinivasan (Early Years Manager, Brent Council) felt it important to also recognise the extent of the support and training provided through the funding which had also been acknowledged and valued by the EY Subgroup. Shirley Parks (Director, Education, Partnerships and Strategy, Brent Council) also assured the Forum of the ongoing review of support being provided which would continue as the change in entitlement arrangements were introduced and with the level of funding retained also having been assessed as minimal when compared to those levels within other local authorities. In recognising the value of the support being provided through the central service support was also expressed, given the extent of the changes proposed, for the use of the surplus identified to assist during the transitional period in terms of implementation of the new entitlement arrangements.

As there were no further issues or comments raised for consideration the Forum **RESOLVED** to:

- (1) Endorse Brent's EY Funding Formula for 2024/25, as supported by the EY Funding Subgroup with the following updates applied to the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF):
 - (a) a universal base rate for Brent providers for 3 and 4-year-old funding of £5.39 per hour. This represents an 11.4% increase of £0.55p from £4.84 in 2023/24.
 - (b) an allocation for deprivation supplement of 10% and quality supplement of 2% for 3 and 4-year-old funding.
 - (c) a base rate of £9.54 to pay Brent providers for the disadvantaged 2-year old entitlement. This represents a 40% increase of £2.70 from £6.84 in 2023/24.
 - (d) a base rate of £9.41 to pay Brent providers for the 2-year-old working parent entitlement.
 - (e) a base rate of £12.87 to pay Brent providers for children aged 9 months up to 2 years.

- (f) a 5% centrally retained funding by the local authority from the 3 and 4 year-old funding.
 - (g) Following the DfE's extension of the 95% pass-through requirement to the disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement and the new working parent entitlement from 2024/25, a 0.5% centrally retained funding by the local authority from this cohort.
 - (h) Additional funding for some 3 and 4-year-olds, extended to 9 months to 3-year-olds and based on local eligibility, to be allocated to the Under 5s Nursery Panel, and both PVI and maintained providers can apply for this to ensure the funding continues to be targeted at vulnerable children. This follows the DfE's expectation that local authorities have special educational needs inclusion funds (SENIFs) for all children with special educational needs (SEN) eligible for or taking up the new and existing entitlements, regardless of the number of hours taken.
 - (i) In line with the DfE's proposal to roll the teachers' pay and pension grant into the EYNFF from 2023/24 and with the increase in the planned value of supplements to no more than 12% (from 10% previously), it is proposed that the additional 2% continues to be used as a quality supplement to the 3 and 4-year-old funding allocated to providers.
- (2) Note the requirement for local authorities to have a disadvantaged 2-year-old rate that is at least equal to the rate for 2-year-old children of working parents.
 - (3) To agree a change to the current approach whereby all 2-year-olds, whether applying for the disadvantaged two-year entitlement or the two-year entitlement for working families, access their entitlement the term after their 2nd birthday, in line with the timing of the government's funding.

8. **Any Other Urgent Business**

No items of urgent business were raised at the meeting.

9. **Dates of Future meetings**

To note the schedule of dates for the remaining meetings during 2023 - 24 as follows:

Tuesday 20 February 2024 at 6pm via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 6.51pm

MIKE HEISER
Chair