



## HILLINGDON SCHOOLS FORUM

### MINUTES

Tuesday 7 July 2026 @ 1pm

Online – Via Teams

| ORGANISATION                                                          |                                                           | ROLE                               | Attendance | TERM ENDS  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Maintained Nursery (1)</b>                                         |                                                           |                                    |            |            |
| Shabana Aslam                                                         | McMillan Early Childhood Centre                           | Headteacher                        | Apologies  | Sep 2026   |
| <b>Maintained Primary (6)</b>                                         |                                                           |                                    |            |            |
| Becky Broadhurst                                                      | Hayes Park School                                         | Headteacher                        | Apologies  | Sep 2029   |
| Vicky Jarvis                                                          | Field End Infant School                                   | Headteacher                        | Attended   | Sep 2029   |
| Carly Rissen                                                          | Colham Manor                                              | Headteacher                        | Attended   | Sep 2028   |
| John Buckingham                                                       | Glebe Primary School                                      | Governor                           | Attended   | Sep 2028   |
| Tony Eginton                                                          | Minet Infant & Nursery Schools and Hillside Junior School | Governor                           | Attended   | Sep 2028   |
| Phil Haigh                                                            | Cherry Lane Primary School & Meadow High School           | Governor                           | Attended   | Sep 2028   |
| <b>Maintained Secondary (1)</b>                                       |                                                           |                                    |            |            |
| Cathy Mosdell                                                         | Harlington School                                         | Governor                           | Apologies  | Sep 2029   |
| <b>Maintained Special (1)</b>                                         |                                                           |                                    |            |            |
| Pearl Greenwald                                                       | Hedgewood School                                          | Headteacher                        | Attended   | Sep 2027   |
| <b>Academy Primary (4)</b>                                            |                                                           |                                    |            |            |
| Harshindar Buttar                                                     | The Park Federation                                       | Principal – Lake Farm Park Academy | Attended   | Sep 2027   |
| Nicola Edwards                                                        | William Byrd School                                       | Headteacher                        | Attended   | Sep 2028   |
| Nicola Kelly                                                          | Charville Academy                                         | Headteacher                        | Attended   | Sep 2029   |
| Roseline Wilkinson                                                    | Charville Academy                                         | Governor                           | Attended   | Sep 2029   |
| <b>Academy Secondary (8)</b>                                          |                                                           |                                    |            |            |
| Gareth Davies                                                         | Ruislip High School                                       | Headteacher                        | Attended   | Sep 2030   |
| John Garner                                                           | Ruislip High School                                       | Governor                           | Attended   | Sep 2026   |
| Roger Leighton                                                        | Partnership Learning Trust                                | CEO                                | Attended   | Sep 2029   |
| Liam McGillicuddy                                                     | Bishopshalt School                                        | Headteacher                        | Attended   | Sep 2027   |
| Jaskamal Sidhu                                                        | Guru Nanak                                                | Executive Principal                | Apologies  | March 2030 |
| Ben Spinks (Chair)                                                    | Middlesex Learning Partnership                            | CEO                                | Attended   | Sep 2028   |
| Vacancy x 2                                                           |                                                           |                                    |            |            |
| <b>Special Academies (1)</b>                                          |                                                           |                                    |            |            |
| Sudhi Pathak                                                          | Eden Academy Trust                                        | COO                                | Attended   | Sep 2026   |
| <b>Alternative Provision (1)</b>                                      |                                                           |                                    |            |            |
| Karen McCarthy                                                        | The Skills Hub                                            | Interim Principal                  | Attended   | Sep 2030   |
| <b>Private, Voluntary &amp; Independent Early Years Providers (2)</b> |                                                           |                                    |            |            |
| Elaine Caffary                                                        | 4 Street Nursery                                          | Nursery Manager                    | Apologies  | Sep 2028   |
| Naazish Haq                                                           | Little Companions                                         | Manager/Owner                      | Apologies  | Sep 2027   |
| <b>14-19 Partnership (1)</b>                                          |                                                           |                                    |            |            |
| Dylan McTaggart                                                       | HRUC Group                                                | Executive Principal                | Apologies  | Sep 2030   |
| <b>Diocesan Representative (1)</b>                                    |                                                           |                                    |            |            |
| Nicola Dallibar                                                       | St Andrews CofE Primary School                            | Headteacher                        | Attended   | Sep 2029   |

#### Other attendees (non-voting)

| NAME              | REPRESENTING            | ROLE                                   |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Nicky Bulpett     | Ruislip Gardens         | Headteacher                            |
| Louise Crook      | Coteford Infant School  | Headteacher                            |
| Graham Cunningham | Meadow High School      | Headteacher                            |
| Nicola Forster    | Pinkwell Primary School | Principal                              |
| LA Officers       |                         |                                        |
| Kathryn Angelini  |                         | Assistant Director of Education & SEND |

|                   |           |                                              |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------|
| Gary Binstead     |           | Head of Commissioning Education & SEND       |
| Helen Boundy      |           | LA Clerk to Schools Forum                    |
| Luisa Hansen      |           | Head of Finance – Children & SEND            |
| Michael Hawkins   |           | Head of Education                            |
| Janine Jimmy      | Observing | Parenting Programmes Coordinator             |
| Kamaljit Kaur     |           | Lead Finance Business Partner                |
| Tim Martin        |           | Senior Programme Manager – Contracts Service |
| Dominika Michalik |           | LA Assistant Director of SEND & Inclusion    |
| Abi Preston       |           | LA Director of Education & SEND              |
| Philip Ryan       |           | LA Families Information Service Manager      |

| Item |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| 1.   | <p><b>Welcome, apologies &amp; opening comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BS welcomed everyone to the meeting, with formal introductions to the group.</li> <li>New members of the forum were noted, Gareth Davies, Nicola Forster and Karen McCarthy and Dylan McTaggart</li> </ul> <p>Apologies were received from Cathy Mosdell, Shabana Aslam, Becky Broadhurst, Nicola Edwards, Nicky Bulpett, Jaskamal Sidhu, Elaine Caffray, Naazish Haq</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2.   | <p>Minutes and actions from previous meeting 25.03.26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.</li> <li>Actions are listed below with an update of the status, all completed.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3.   | <p>Membership Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dylan McTaggart, Executive Principal HRUC as 14-19 sector member.</li> <li>Gareth Davies, Ruislip High School has joined as a member to represent secondary academies</li> <li>Two secondary academy vacancies remain. Members were once again asked to encourage academy colleagues to join. Membership representation has improved significantly and is now close to the required proportional balance.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 4    | Items for Information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 4a   | <p><b>Schools Balances on 31 March 2026 inc. progress with deficit policy impact – Presented by Kamaljit Kaur. (Detailed paper shared ahead of the meeting)</b></p> <p><b>Maintained Schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total maintained school balances reduced by £1.3m (16.9%) compared with the previous year.</li> <li>Deficits on primary school budgets are currently over £2m</li> <li>Number of maintained schools now in deficit has increased from 12 to 17. Of these, we are applying for licensed deficit for nine schools. Schools that are academising or amalgamating have been excluded. This request will go to Cabinet on 23 July. These schools will have termly meetings with Finance and the School Improvement team so that we can review the actions that the schools have put in these license deficit applications and whether they're meeting those actions. Two schools have SRMA services currently undertaking a review with a further five planned.</li> <li>Falling rolls remain the primary factor affecting school finances, with pupil numbers having reduced by over a thousand.</li> </ul> <p><b>Academy Balances</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academy balances reported as increasing by approximately <b>£3m to £34m</b>.</li> <li>It was noted that academy and maintained school financial years differ, limiting direct comparison.</li> <li>SF Members from Academies raised concerns regarding the accuracy and interpretation of the academy balances which have been taken from the DfE's benchmarking data and finance positions for each of the schools. RL noted the accounts that are published shows a full financial position of the Trust, but not of the individual schools or the reserves of the trust. As such, he was unclear how individual school balances had been calculated by the DfE and noted that at least some of those for his schools were inaccurate.</li> </ul> |

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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BS noted that, as a snapshot, the data can also be misleading. For example, Barnhill looks as though it has significant reserves, which sadly is not the case - it is due to the timings of a 25-year PFI contract closing, which saw some finances returned to the school for essential capital works that weren't completed during the PFI . Reiteration of caution when reading finance data from DfE.</li> <li>• GD noted that Trusts with primary schools are also impacted by the falling rolls, it's not just an issue in the maintained sector.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: KK/LH to review accuracy of academy financial data provided from DfE and discuss further with academy members.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant financial pressures facing maintained schools. The LA continues to work with schools through finance and school improvement colleagues.</li> <li>• Increasing risks of further deficits if current trends continue.</li> <li>• Pressures created by falling pupil rolls, temporary admissions caps are implemented where necessary.</li> <li>• GB reiterated that the LA takes a very strategic approach. Strategic pupil place planning is undertaken the School Organisation Plan (SOP) contains projections for pupil numbers and is updated and published annually. It is organised by planning area. Noted that there is an indication that pupil numbers will start to rise again in coming years.</li> <li>• Understand that the financial position of many schools remains challenging, with guidance and support being provided from LA's Finance team to schools experiencing deficits.</li> </ul> |
| 4b | <p><b>2025/26 DSG Outturn Presented by Luisa Hansen</b> (Detailed paper shared ahead of the meeting) LH outlined headline figures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall DSG overspend: £9.9m</li> <li>• High Needs Block overspend: £10.2m</li> <li>• Early Years Block underspend: £0.2m</li> <li>• Schools Block underspend: £0.1m</li> <li>• Cumulative DSG deficit increased from £65.9m to £75.8m</li> </ul> <p><b>SEN Reform Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government proposals indicate funding of up to 90% of historic deficits.</li> <li>• Current estimates suggest approximately £71.8m may be funded, leaving around £4m unfunded.</li> <li>• Final confirmation awaited from DfE, expect outcome in September 2026 subject to ministerial approval of the SEND Reform Plan with funding to be received in October. If the plan is not approved in the first round and additional information is required, the next date for a decision would be February 2027. Once funds are received there will be a considerable reduction to the interest payments the LA currently makes on this deficit.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Schools Forum to be informed of SEND reform plan funding outcome once DfE confirmation is received.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 4c | <p><b>Update on exceptional funding for mainstream schools – AP</b> (Detailed report shared ahead of the meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP outlined that the annual exceptional funding payments continue to support schools with disproportionately high numbers of EHCPs.</li> <li>• Demand for EHCPs is increasing significant rise in parental requests and requests from schools have been noted since SEN Reform proposals were announced. DfE are aware of this situation within LAs. This has caused a small backlog in applications, something which we previously did not have.</li> <li>• The funding remains non-statutory and cannot be guaranteed annually.</li> <li>• Schools were advised not to budget against future receipt of this funding as the decision is reviewed annually.</li> <li>• Funding remains valued and appreciated by schools, AP is determined to keep giving this to those schools with the higher % of EHCPs where possible but reiterated it's not a guarantee.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted that the disproportionality of schools with increasing high numbers of EHCPs and this will be a key part of the reforms for the local area partnership to address.</li> <li>Demand pressures are growing across all local authorities.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 4d | <p><b>2026/27 Schools Maintenance Programme – presentation by Tim Martin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme funded through DfE School Condition Allocation.</li> <li>Focus remains on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire safety works.</li> <li>Roof replacements.</li> <li>Mechanical and electrical systems.</li> <li>Building condition improvements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Summer projects for schools were listed these include roofing works, adaptation works, fire door replacement programmes, building refurbishment works.</li> <li>SF members raised concern regarding the financial contributions that the LA are requesting from some schools and lack of clarity in communication as to how these contributions are calculated.</li> <li>The Local Authority confirmed a policy is in place setting out contribution arrangements.</li> <li>The policy will be reviewed and refreshed to improve clarity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Capital team to review and update the capital contributions policy and improve communications to schools regarding the process and required contributions.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 4e | <p><b>Update on SEND Reform Plan – AP shared presentation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SEND Reform Programme aligns strongly with Hillingdon's existing SEND and AP Strategy.</li> <li>Whole SEND reforms concept is around moving away from reactive responses and being more consistent across the board.</li> <li>Focus is on early intervention and create a fully inclusive, fair and sustainable SEND system where every child is supported early and able to thrive with education, health and care working as one partnership.</li> <li>The Experts at Hand, funding and support are a key part of this. Move towards a system where less children need to be supported through an EHCP process and instead can have their needs met earlier without the need for statutory intervention.</li> <li>Increased high quality mainstream inclusion, further the work on OAP and adaptive teaching. Provide screening tools, advice and early help. Inclusion framework is being published, and the special school outreach programme will start from September 2026.</li> <li>A SENCO outreach model is also to be developed to ensure consistency across the borough. Some strong SENCOs will be identified to lead on this. Also part of CAAS and PINS project. A dyslexia screening programme will be available to every primary school, hopefully from early autumn term of 2026.</li> <li>AP outlined the cluster model that is being proposed – schools work in 6 geographical clusters intention to align education, health and social care services, strengthen local partnerships and improve locality-based support. Transition support will be delivered in the cluster as well as therapy support which is a significant part of “Experts at Hand”.</li> <li>In partnership with CNWL, SALT and OT support has been commissioned using an external company to speed up recruitment and be able to start this next academic year. Funding will also be put aside from HN budget for the parent champion.</li> <li>SF Members particularly from Trusts questioned how the geographical clusters will impact the MAT structures e.g. SENCO leads that work across all schools in the MAT across the borough.</li> <li>Concern regarding the risk of existing "magnet" schools will continue to attract disproportionate numbers of pupils with SEND.</li> <li>Support will be introduced in phases from September 2026 onwards.</li> <li>Expansion of specialist provision within mainstream schools, initially in secondaries.</li> </ul> |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of sensory rooms with some capital funding available for this and for creating more specialist bases in schools.</li> <li>• Expansion of secondary SEND provision.</li> <li>• Looking to develop an Early Years specialist provision models.</li> <li>• As part of the leadership and governance of this plan, further developing Power BI dashboards, to monitor outcomes of these activities and able to evidence that our plan is effective and having the impact needed.</li> <li>• SF members warmly welcomed the increased support for mainstream schools as well as the focus for early years provision. Provides an opportunity for schools to shape future provision.</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Share SEND Reform presentation slides with Forum members.</b></li> <li>- <b>Arrange borough-wide SEND Reform briefing session in September.</b></li> <li>- <b>Establish co-design working groups with schools.</b></li> <li>- <b>Develop engagement process for support bases, sensory rooms and specialist provision bids.</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 5 | <p><b>AOB: Trade Union Facility Time Fund</b></p> <p><b>Clerk note: Ben Spinks declared an interest due to Barnhill School being part of his trust.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic issue of the trade union invoice submitted by Barnhill School for £39,844 relating to NEU facility time arrangements 2024-2025.</li> <li>• Schools Forum had requested further detail on the service delivered, a robust email was received 07.07.26 from Simon Warne, Regional Officer outlining that they will not be providing any further detail of the work provided. Highlighted that Hillingdon is an outlier in its arrangements leaving the NEU branch and other unions in a position where there will be no branch level facility capacity for the coming year.</li> <li>• Discussion was had regarding this, but all acknowledged the fact that Barnhill had incurred costs in good faith and the need to bring the longstanding issue to a conclusion.</li> </ul> <p><i>Proposal (all maintained schools eligible to vote) Does Schools Forum agree to settle the TUFT invoice submitted</i></p> <p><i>Outcome: Unanimous vote by maintained school representatives to approve the payment of this invoice</i></p> <p><b>Action: LH to arrange payment of the Barnhill invoice of £39,844 will be paid from the remaining facility time fund balance and formally close the historic issue. The matter is considered concluded.</b></p> |
| 6 | <p><b>Meeting Dates for 2026/2027 confirmed and calendar invites sent.</b></p> <p>Tuesday 15 September 2026 @ 1pm – Online<br/> Tuesday 13 October 2026 @ 1pm – In Person<br/> Tuesday 19 January 2027 @ 1pm - Online<br/> Tuesday 23 March 2027 @ 1pm – In Person<br/> Tuesday 6 July 2027 @ 1pm - Online</p> <p>Confirmation of schools hosting in-person meeting (October 26 and March 27 TBC)</p> <p><b>Action: Any school who wishes to host either the January or March meeting to contact HB.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

#### Schools Forum Agreed Actions 07.07.26.

| Item | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Responsibility  |
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| 3    | Members were once again asked to encourage academy colleagues to join                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Academy Members |
| 4a   | KK/LH to review accuracy of academy financial data provided from DfE and discuss further with academy members.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | LH/KK           |
| 4b   | Schools Forum to be informed of SEND reform plan funding outcome once DfE confirmation is received.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | AP              |
| 4d   | Capital team to review and update the capital contributions policy and improve communications to schools regarding the process and required contributions.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Capital Team    |
| 4e   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share SEND Reform presentation slides with Forum members.</li> <li>- Arrange borough-wide SEND Reform briefing session in September.</li> <li>- Establish co-design working groups with schools.</li> <li>- Develop engagement process for support bases, sensory rooms and specialist provision bids.</li> </ul> | AP/DM           |

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| 5 | LH to arrange payment of the Barnhill invoice of £39,844 for TUFT                |    |
| 6 | Any school who wishes to host either the January or March meeting to contact HB. | PR |