



MINUTES OF TOWER HAMLETS ADMISSION FORUM

Wednesday 7th March 2018 10.00am

Venue: Stepney Green, Maths Computing & Science College
Ben Jonson Road, E1 4SD

Members:

1. Dee Bleach (DB)	Primary Community Schools
2. Terry Bryan (TB)	Head of Pupil Services and School Sufficiency*
3. Sue Ward (SW)	Free/Academy Primary Schools*
4. Penny Harvey (PH)	The London Diocesan Board for Schools*
5. Jenny Miller (JMi)	Parents Advice Centre
6. Vacancy	Early Years Voluntary Non-Statutory
7. Lynn Cottle (LC)	Nursery Schools*
8. Shahanur Khan (SK)	Collective of Bangladeshi Governors
9. Salma Mahbub (SM)	Parent Governor Representative*
10. Dennis Jenner (DJ)	LA Education Appeal Panel Member
11. Shahana Begum (SB)	Parent Carer Council Representative
12. Neherun Nessa Ali (NA)	Parent Carer Council Representative
13. Mary Ryan (MR)	Archdiocese of Westminster
14. Sarah Counter (SC)	Free/Academy Secondary Schools*
15. Patrice Canavan (PC)	Secondary Community Schools
16. Mafijur Rab (MRa)	Council of Mosques
17. John Bradshaw (JB)	Head of Pupil Referral Unit
18. Elizabeth Dickson (ED)	Primary Voluntary Aided Schools*
19. Robert Hullet (RH)	Secondary Voluntary Aided Schools

**indicates present at meeting*

Observer:

Paramjit Bhutta (PB) Secondary Free/Academy School*

Officers present:

Lisa Stidle (LS) School Organisation & Place Planning Manager
 Mohammad Ahmed (MA) Primary Admissions Operations Manager
 Kelly Mack (KM) - Clerk Secondary Admissions Operations Manager

Actions by

1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Neherun Ali (NA), Dee Bleach (DB), Dennis Jenner (DJ), Robert Hullett (RH), John Bradshaw (JB), Jenny Miller (JM)	Clerk
2.	Declaration of Interest This item gives opportunity for forum members to declare an interest in any agenda item which directly affects the school at which they are a governor, member of staff or which their children attend, or in which they might have a direct pecuniary interest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SW/PB declared that as their schools, Clara Grant and Stepney Green had become a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) on 1st March, The Tower Trust, they had an interest in possible sites to be discussed under Item 5 SC declared that as the Head of Canary Wharf MAT there was an interest in a particular site that might be discussed under Item 5 	Clerk

6.	<p>Coordinated Admissions 2018 Intake</p> <p>Secondary Transfer 2018: Report tabled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forum noted that the first preference outcomes for Tower Hamlets residents were amongst the highest in inner London for the second consecutive year. • It was noted that the application numbers for faith schools had generally fallen in recent years, as a result of changes in the borough's demographic, Schools in the West of the borough had been receiving fewer applications, mainly as a result of the new housing being concentrated in other parts of the borough. • Concern was raised about the falling numbers of applicants to two of the borough's free schools. TB advised that applications were very low because, in part, parents didn't feel that the accommodation was suitable and there was a lack of recreational space. TB advised that it would be the Regional Schools Commissioner's responsibility to determine the future of these schools. However, the LA would continue to voice its concerns over pupil numbers. <p>Primary Admissions 2018: Report tabled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on the 416 surplus places across the borough and the significant increase when compared to the previous two years • Discussion on the schools, within each catchment area, who had received fewer applications than places available <p>Nursery 2018 – update from Nursery Working Group (NWG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA shared proposed coordinated nursery scheme (including timetable) • NWG wanted clarity around funding and place allocation for 2019 • ED to confirm if VA schools will take part in the scheme • NWG have started working on the content for the nursery brochure. Expected to have a full draft by end of May • TB noted that charging model must not impact on PVI sector • ED shared concern that 6 outstanding nurseries were under the threat of closure • TB asked that admissions forum members refer back to their representative group for confirmation of their commitment to the coordinated nursery admission arrangements, including Heads Consultative. 	
7.	<p>Free Schools and Academies – report tabled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The latest roll position across the borough was noted by the AF. TB advised that the proposed new all through Livingstone Academy School had been deferred for the foreseeable future. DfE beginning to acknowledge that there was no need for extra places in that part of the borough. 	TB
8.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
9.	<p>Date, time and venue of next meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 13th June 2018 – 10am Canary Wharf College</p>	Clerk

