

## SOUTHWARL SCHOOLS LEARNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2026
<b>Location:</b>	Rye Oak Primary School, Whorlton Rd, London SE15 3PD
<b>Time:</b>	14:00
<b>Clerked by:</b>	Natalia Antoniou, Partnership Manager

BOARD MEMBERS		ATTENDANCE
Maria Dawes – Independent Chair	MD	Attended
Alison Harbottle – Principle, Charter East Dulwich Secondary	AH	Attended
Alli Crank – Headteacher, St Johns and St Clements Primary	ACr	Attended
Anna Chiva – Deputy Director, Children and Families	AC	Attended
Catherine Fulton - Headteacher, St Johns and St Clements Primary	CF	Attended
Georgina Quigley – Headteacher, Spa Bermondsey Secondary	GQ	Attended
Gregory Doey – Executive Headteacher, River Peck Federation	GD	Attended
Jane Button – Principle, Southwark College	JB	Apologies Sent
Michael Crowe – Assistant Director of Transformation, Business Intelligence and Strategy	MC	Attended
Nikki Tilson – Assistant Director of Partnerships, Sustainability and School Standards	NT	Attended
Rebecca Sherwood – Headteacher, Grove & Kintore Way Nursery Schools	ReS	Attended
Ruth Sharp – Headteacher, Rye Oak Primary	RS	Attended
Tom Turnham - Headteacher, Lyndhurst Primary	TT	Attended
Vicky Shires - Headteacher, Crawford Primary	VS	Attended

IN ATTENDANCE		ATTENDANCE
Natalia Antoniou – Partnership Manager	NA	Attended
Janice Babb - Partnership Advisor	JBa	Attended
Alasdair Smith – Director of Children’s Services	AD	Attended

ITEM NO.		ACTION FOR
1	<b>INTRODUCTIONS AND ICEBREAKER</b> All were welcomed to the meeting and attendees went around introducing themselves and giving a core value important to working in a partnership.	
2	<b>PARTNERSHIP VISION</b> The board agreed on majority of the vision statement and aims.  <i>TT asked who the vision pertained to when talking about children and young people?</i>	

	<p>It was confirmed that vision was for all children and young people (CYP) that resided in the London borough of Southwark.</p> <p>The board <b>AGREED</b> that greater emphasis is needed on preparing CYP for adulthood through partnership working as the vision states 'improved life chances for CYP's'.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Add objective to aims which clearly sets out how the Southwark School Learning Partnership (SSLP) will prepare CYP for adulthood.</b></p>	<p>NA, JB, NT</p>
3	<p><b>SSLP STRUCTURE</b></p> <p>NT gave an overview of the structure of the partnership and board membership. The board noted role of family leads including co-leads, and how the board oversees hubs and task forces.</p> <p><i>AC asked what is the ask from task forces and who will be leading them?</i></p> <p>The board <b>AGREED</b> that the terms of reference for the task forces need to clarify purpose, expectations and leadership.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Review terms of reference for taskforces and clarify expectations and processes.</b></p>	<p>NA</p>
4	<p><b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b></p> <p>The draft Southwark Schools Learning Partnership (SSLP) Board Terms of Reference was shared prior.</p> <p>The Board <b>AGREED</b> for the following revisions before adopting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vision and aims should be explicitly included.</li> <li>• Language should be changed where it says 'education decision making' and should reflect wider system decision-making instead.</li> <li>• Partnership structure diagram to be included in appendices.</li> <li>• Hub, Task Forces and Family Groups descriptions to be included in appendices.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: Update board terms of reference based on agreed edits and return to the next meeting for formal adoption.</b></p>	<p>NA</p>
5	<p><b>FAMILIES FEEDBACK</b></p> <p>RS,VS,GD,CF and ACr fed back following their first family meetings. Priority areas across the family groups 1 – 5 included:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for clarity on organisational structure of Education Inclusion and Family Early Help Teams, and more consistency in support from these services.</li> <li>• Increasing SEND complexity, capacity pressures, and concerns about fair distribution of pupils with EHCPs.</li> <li>• Attendance systems not responding quickly enough.</li> <li>• Significant rise in complaints, including more litigious and AI-generated correspondence.</li> <li>• Clearer, more manageable communication from the local authority (LA), particularly around SEND reform and transformation activity.</li> </ul> <p>The board noted that AH, Family 6 Lead was unable on this occasion to voice feedback on behalf of the Southwark Association of Secondary Headteachers (SASH) due to late appointment into the board.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Share feedback with SASH and agree a priority issue for family 6 for the next meeting.</b></p>	AH
6	<p><b>STRATEGIC CONTEXT – SOUTHWARK LA</b></p> <p>AC shared main strategic areas largely driven by national policy which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best Start in Life</li> <li>• Families First Reform</li> <li>• Every Child Achieving and Thriving</li> </ul> <p>In addition, AC shared the LA’s local priority, Good Start in Life. AC emphasised that funding changes continue to negatively impact the LA, requiring greater efficiency with reduced resources.</p> <p>Discussion took place about many areas of reform, both national and locally which are impacting on education settings’ ability to keep up with change. The board noted a need for communication on transformation of LA services to be more rapid.</p>	
7	<p><b>PARTNERSHIP HUBS AND TASKFORCES</b></p> <p><i>Task Forces</i></p> <p>The board <b>AGREED</b> to focus on two task forces initially, adopting a test and learn approach. There was consensus to avoid SEND and attendance as initial task forces as scope too wide.</p> <p>Suggested Taskforce themes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective response to complaints</li> <li>• Developing Fair Access Protocol (FAP) for primary, reviewing FAP for secondary</li> </ul> <p><i>Hubs</i></p>	

	<p>The board noted the already existing SEND hub and acknowledged there was budget for a further hub to be created.</p> <p>Suggested Hub themes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pedagogy focused hub aiming to closing the gap for disadvantaged CYP</li> <li>• Teaching Assistant development</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: Family Leads will consult their family groups ahead of the board next meeting so the board can agree the theme and aim of 1 hub, and two task forces.</b></p>	Acr,TT, AH,RS, VS,GD, CF
8	<p><b>THREE YEAR ALIGNMENT TO SEND WHITE PAPER</b></p> <p>AC challenged that “white working-class disadvantage” is not reflective of the London context. The item was adjourned due to lack of time to discuss.</p>	
9	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p><i>SEND and Inclusion</i>  <b>AC asked if the board was appropriate forum to discuss SEND and inclusion strategies?</b></p> <p>The board <b>AGREED</b> that these themes were appropriate to work on via the SSLP.</p> <p><i>Ongoing meeting time extended</i>  Request that the following meetings would be extended so that the length is 2 hours instead of 1.5 hours.</p> <p><b>RS asked whether a list of all Southwark LA working groups and representation existed?</b></p> <p>A request was made to have all a list of the working groups in Children’s Services available for the next meeting in order to have a clear picture of alignment.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Gather information about different working groups Southwark LA so that SLLP board can align with other forums.</b></p>	NA
<p><b>Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 2 pm – 4 pm</p> <p>Room GO1a, Ground Floor, Tooley Street</p>		