

SOUTHWARK EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date:	Thursday 11 th June 2026
Location:	Southwark Council, Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH
Time:	14:00
Clerked by:	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
Scott Peasey – Vice Principal, Southwark College representing Jane Button	SP	Attended
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	Apologies Sent
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
Anna Morrell - Stakeholder Relationships Manager	AM	Attended

ITEM NO.		ACTION FOR
1	CONNECTIONS BEFORE CONTENT All were welcomed to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves in a group icebreaker exercise.	
2	PREVIOUS MINUTES AND ACTIONS RS requested page 3 of previous minutes, bullet point ‘attendance systems not responding quickly enough’; attendance to change to family early help. Board ACCEPTED these changes.	

	Board ADOPTED the terms of reference.	
3	FEEDBACK FROM EARLY YEARS/SPECIAL SCHOOLS <i>Special Schools</i> GS fed back on the difficulties that special school settings have in sourcing appropriate work experience for students with complex SEND and how there is an opportunity for the Southwark Education Partnership (SEP) to help in this area. GS reported that special schools are also willing to support best practice with mainstream colleagues in light of the national SEND reforms. <i>Early Years</i> NA passed on feedback from ReS - Early Years providers feel that developing resource/inclusion/gathered provisions for nursery aged children would be a really positive way forward in line with the SEND reforms and Best Start in Life Strategy. Additionally, NA reported that the Grove were working with early years consultant and PVI settings to share best practice across the sector. <i>RS - Could it be an opportunity for schools with nurseries getting involved with best practice nursery schools as many schools are opening provisions from 2 years?</i> NT shared the strengthening transitions funding deadline for 17th July. TT raised the work of the Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs which deliver an offer around early years transition. ACTION: Explore Early Years best practice sharing with schools who have nurseries and feedback ACTION: Share childcare sufficiency plan through the SEP	NT AC
4	FAMILY LEADS FEEDBACK RS updated on Family 1 discussions with key speakers around exploration of AI Champions across schools, pupil and staff wellbeing, and an intro to the SEND Consultant service. RS raised Family 1's concerns about the impact Summerhouse closure was having on schools and pupils. VS updated on Family 2 discussions around the variations in EHCP distributions and the significant feedback of overwhelm caused by multiple SEND advice sources with a need for more streamlined and accessible communication for teaching staff. ACTION: AC to engage with the EP service to explore supervision offer for different staff groups. ACTION: NT to share EHCP distributions at the next Headteachers' briefing in June. GD updated on Family 3 discussions around headteacher isolation and wellbeing and education inclusion which remains an emotive topic for	AC NT

	headteachers. There is recognition from the family that in-person forums (family meetings and headteacher briefings) are valued as safe spaces for networking and peer support. CF updated on Family 4 discussions around ongoing challenges relating to managing behaviour alongside SEND needs, and continued concerns about fairness in EHCP distribution. CF – Is engagement in family meetings recorded and shared? NA answered that this information was able to be collated and shared individually with each family lead. MD proposed establishing confirmed dates for the full academic year to support engagement of headteachers. ACTION: Send each family lead engagement data following their family session. TT updated on Family 5 discussions around scepticism of the added value of hubs and task forces especially where schools are already parts of trusts or clusters. This was also echoed by AH, representing family 6, SASH. TT emphasised that needs and challenges vary significantly across schools, including funding differences and that the current groupings of families may not always reflect the complex realities in some settings. ACTION: The Partnership team to review the structure and purpose of Family 5, ensuring alignment with existing collaboration and ongoing needs. AH shared that the current name 'Southwark Schools Learning Partnership' was already in use by a network of secondary schools in Southwark. The board AGREED to rename the partnership 'Southwark Education Partnership' (SEP).	NA NT,NA, JB
5	STRATEGIC PLAN The Board discussed and refined key aims and values for the partnership. Following changes were AGREED: • Strengthen links and learning between settings to be replaced with 'strengthen links with partners in the borough' • Encourage collective responsibility to be changed to 'ensuring collective responsibility'. • Add respectful challenge and moral integrity to values Members proposed broadening success measures within partnership activities to include reduction in NEET (Not in Education, Employment or	

	Training) figures and monitoring of Elective Home Education (EHE) numbers. AC - Should school sufficiency and place planning form part of the Board's remit? AH confirmed that place planning is a priority identified by SASH and should be considered further. ACTION: Update partnership strategic aims and values across documentation ACTION: Add place planning to next agenda item and consider information needed from AC	NA NA
6	TASKFORCES AND NEXT STEPS <i>Fair Access Panel (FAP)</i> The Board AGREED the implementation of the FAP taskforce, with nominations from headteacher representatives due 13th July and start date September 2026. Post Meeting Note: Suzanne Wright is leading the FAP Taskforce. <i>Complaints</i> The Board AGREED the implementation of the Complaints taskforce, with nominations from headteacher representatives due 13th July and start date September 2026. Post Meeting Note: Donna Muir is leading the Complaints Taskforce. TT raised concerns that written guidance alone may not sufficiently address the complexity of complaints handling and the need for access to legal support alongside opportunities for sharing best practice. MD proposed that complaints guidance produced through the taskforce could be supported through digital tools (e.g. a chatbot), alongside other resources to improve accessibility and consistency. <i>Family 6 Requests</i> AH reported that family 6 had slightly different request for task forces which included SEND Reform Structures, and Family Help Parental Engagement <i>Representation on Taskforces</i> The board AGREED maintained and academy representation be included across all taskforces. ACTION: NA to explore idea of parental engagement with Family Help and update AH ACTION: Family Leads to send in nominations from their family leads for each taskforce by 13th July 2026	NA ACr/TT, AH,CF,

		GD,RS, VS
7	HUBS AND NEXT STEPS The Board noted that the SEND and Inclusion Hub has already been agreed. <i>Post Meeting Note: Application to bid for Hub Lead/s will go out end of summer term.</i> Members discussed the development of a pedagogy-focused hub, with VS, TT and CF proposing a model that incorporates teaching assistants. The Board AGREED that the hub should support the development of pedagogy to meet diverse needs across the system and a decision on expressions of interest will be made by mid-September 2026. TT emphasised that the hub should take a more strategic approach, focusing on the professional development of staff, supporting schools to upskill their workforce, and strengthening the quality of teaching and pedagogy. RS advised that the hub should focus on overcoming barriers to learning and sharing best practice for different pupil subgroups, while avoiding duplication of the existing training offers. JB highlighted that though funding is limited, there is potential to broker additional support from external training partners. ACTION: NA to prepare operating models for hubs and application packs.	NA
8	COMMUNICATIONS NA presented approaches to communications across the partnership. RS and TT expressed preference for Governor Hub for board papers. MC raised potential access limitations and the need to ensure inclusivity. MD proposed the Southwark Education website be used as a platform to highlight partnership activity and celebrate achievements in the short term. The Board acknowledged the longer-term need for a dedicated platform to support this function. ACTION: NA to develop a business case for a Southwark Education Partnership website for review at next board. ACTION: NA to explore access for board members with Governor Hub	NA NA
9	SEND REFORM LOCAL PLAN AC notified the board on the upcoming headteachers briefing where the SEND reform proposed delivery model will be looked at, including expert at hands model and funding. The proposed model will group education settings within their neighbourhoods, which is separate from current family groupings.	

10	ANY OTHER BUSINESS <i>RISE Funding</i> NT feedback on the Rise Grant, with board agreeing to use the opportunity to apply to extend funding for one of the partnership hubs. <i>Annual Headteacher Conference</i> The Board AGREED on setting up a headteachers conference for all education settings in Southwark, which will take place in the Spring Term 2027. ACTION: NA to set up working group for annual headteacher conference	NA
Next Meeting: Thursday 24th September 2026, 2 pm – 4 pm Room GO1a, Ground Floor, Tooley Street		