



City of Westminster

# Children's, Environment and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Report of:** Cllr Richard Holloway

**Portfolio:** Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Young People

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## 1 Children Services

### Safeguarding actions by Children's Services

- 1.1 In tandem with the Police, Children Services are improving their safeguarding approach to cases of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Currently, 12 cases remain open in Westminster and all cases have had joint investigations from Council officers and the Police.
- 1.2 In regards to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), 47 cases have been referred for an early intervention, statutory assessment or child protection intervention. Clinics continue to run and discussions continue with our partner agencies in order to raise the profile of FGM in their services.
- 1.3 15 Westminster young people have been identified as victims and/or witnesses of crime and subsequently, all have engaged in one-to-one and group sessions. Nine of these young people have reported an increase in self-esteem confidence and generally feeling safer after engaging with professionals.
- 1.4 Contact has been made with the Head of Tri-Borough Facilities Management, who has identified staff who may come into contact with vulnerable young people presenting themselves at Council buildings after hours. While these officers have already received general safeguarding training, briefings are being scheduled at their team meetings so they are more informed about responding to children who may be at risk and who can be contacted to provide specialist support out of hours.

## **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child Refugee's**

- 1.5 Currently, Westminster City Council has not had any children placed in "reception centres" within the borough. 15 young people have arrived and are currently under the Council's care, but will later be moved to other local authorities under the National Dispersal Scheme.
- 1.6 At the moment, organising transfers under the National Dispersal Scheme is proving slow. Because of this, Children Services have contacted the Home Office to highlight the issues we have encountered and escalate our cases. Through escalation, the young people currently in care can settle quicker and receive full social care plans.

## **Children's Social Services**

- 1.7 From the beginning of February last year, all newly identified Young Carers have been referred to the Westminster Access team for an assessment. As of April 2016, a total of 22 Young Carers have been identified and referred to the Access Team. In addition to those referred, Children Services are also currently working with approximately 200 young people who have care responsibilities in their family life, for example, the siblings of young people with disabilities.
- 1.8 Good progress is being made on our Parental Employability Programme, in which we have been encouraging parents to complete the course. From early July 2016, 57 parents completed the first 10 weeks of the programme and the majority continued through to the end of the year.
- 1.9 A number of actions are currently underway to support our care leavers in employment and apprenticeships. The Tri-Borough work experience programme is making sustained progress in breaking down the barriers between care leavers and education, employment and training. As it stands:
- 76% of 16 to 17 year olds are in Education, Employment and Training
  - 69% of 18 to 25 year olds are in Education, Employment and Training
  - 26 are attending university
  - 19 are in employment
  - 6 have completed apprenticeships
  - 74% are also in suitable accommodation.

## **Early Years**

- 1.10 To ensure we provide the best possible options to vulnerable children in their early years, we have continued to push in delivering developmental reviews for children aged 2 ½ years old. In total, 86% of children in Westminster, aged 2½ years, have received a

developmental review. Thus, Westminster continues to perform above the CLCH target rate of 75%, the national rate of 76.3% and well above the London rate of 49.4%.

1.11 Efforts are well underway to increase the availability of childcare places, in order to meet rising demand. Around 400 two year old places have been created and combined with a marketing campaign to target new parents. Our most recent data indicates that approximately three quarters of vulnerable 2 year olds have now taken up a free child care place; this is above our target set for 2016-17.

1.12 Additional strength is also being given to our universal offer, through increasing access to our preventive services for new mothers during the antenatal period. As part of this, antenatal classes have been piloted throughout the year with good attendance. Discussions are now underway to consider if these classes will be rolled out further.

### **Troubled Families Programme**

1.13 Westminster is making good progress against its challenging targets for Troubled Families Phase Two. Westminster submitted its first payment by results claim in September 2016 for 144 families. The claim showed significant and sustained improvement against the DCLG qualifying criteria, as 79% have met their mid-year target. Our aim is to claim payment by results for a further 220 families in this financial year.

1.14 More recently, in January, a Payment by Results (PbR) claim was submitted for 115 families. Within these 115 claims, 86 were for continuous employment claims. This can be attributed to the excellent work on-going with partners to develop tailored employment pathways for families.

	5 year claim target	2016/17 target	Sept PbR claim submission	January PbR claim submission	Total achieved to date	% achieved against annual target
WCC	2080	293	144	115	259	88%

## **2 Schools and Education**

### **School results**

2.1 The 2016 percentage of pupils achieving as expected in reading, writing and mathematics for Westminster is 58%, as determined by the new national method of reporting. The national figure is 53% and Westminster is currently ranked 32<sup>nd</sup> by the Department for Education overall.

	2013	2014	2015	2016 (new national method of reporting)
<b>Westminster LA</b>	79%	86%	84%	58%
<b>National</b>	76%	79%	80%	53%

2.2 Following the introduction of the new national GCSE grading structure, Attainment 8 and Progress 8, Westminster continues to perform above the national average in both measures:

- Attainment 8: Westminster score – 54.5, National score – 48.5
- Progress 8: Westminster score – 0.32, National Score – 0.00

2.3 Using the previous grading structure, 5+ A\*-C including English and mathematics, figures show a slight decrease from our 2015 score (68%), with 66% achieved in 2016. However, the 2016 figure continues to remain above the national average of 53%. Overall, Westminster is currently ranked 13<sup>th</sup> for this indicator and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest of the Inner London boroughs.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016 (new national method of reporting)	
	% 5+ A*-C including English and mathematics				Attainment 8 score	Progress 8 measure
<b>Westminster LA</b>	70%	68%	68%	66%	54.5	0.32
<b>National</b>	59%	53%	54%	53%	48.5	0.00
<b>Inner London</b>	63%	60%	60%	58%	51.3	0.17

### School Attendance

2.4 Work continues to reduce the number of young people whose education status is 'not known.' Overall, numbers have reduced by 33 since July 2015. The most recent published national rates show Westminster continues to be above the national and London rates. We are currently waiting on the DfE to publish the next set of rates.

	Academic Age 16 -18 (year 12-14)					
	2016-17			2015-16		
	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15
<b>'Not known'</b>						
Westminster	10.7%	10.6%	11.1%	12.5%	12.1%	12.2%
Number of young people	395	392	410	458	441	443
LONDON	7.4%	7.2%	7.6%	7.5%	6.9%	8.1%
ENGLAND	6.6%	6.3%	7.0%	7.1%	7.3%	13.2%

- 2.5 In regards to those young people who are 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET), when compared to 2015, there has been a reduction of 23 young people. Westminster's NEET rate remains below both the national and London rates.

	Academic Age 16 -18 (year 12-14)					
	2016-17			2015-16		
	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15
<b>NEET</b>						
Westminster	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.9%	2.9%	2.7%
Number of young people	66	66	66	95	95	89
LONDON	3.4%	3.4%	3.5%	3.6%	3.6%	3.8%
<b>ENGLAND</b>	4.4%	4.5%	4.6%	4.8%	4.9%	5.4%

- 2.6 As it stands, early indications suggest there will be further improvement in our efforts to reduce the number of young people who are NEET, however, the data needed to confirm our end of year position for 2016 will be available in the Spring.

### Special Education Needs

- 2.7 To date, Westminster Children Services have helped 9 young people, with special educational needs, to travel to and from school independently.
- 2.8 The SEN Service continues to work through the backlog of SEN statements, in order to transfer them to the new Educational Health and Care (EHC) plans. Since the start of the 2016–17 financial year, a total of 64 transfer reviews have been issued.

### 3 Children's Commissioning

#### Young Westminster Foundation

- 3.1 The Council continues to assist, where possible, to help ensure that the Young Westminster Foundation can drive forward its work with businesses and individuals in supporting youth services in the borough. The Foundation's trustees conducted interviews on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 for the Chief Executive Officer and 5 candidates

were interviewed from an initial shortlist of twenty. As a result, 2 strong candidates have been taken forward for a second round of interviews.

- 3.2 Additional resources have been put in place during the interim period. An interim Development Manager is now in post to take on overall project management responsibility for the Foundation. It is proposed this post will overlap with the start date of the Chief Executive Officer. Furthermore, an Independent Consultant and a Support Officer from a youth sector organisation are providing support to cover specific work streams.
- 3.3 Over the coming weeks, work will commence to ensure the Foundation has key policies in place for the Chief Executives start date. This will include the development and coordination of the Foundation's wider membership and a review of the Foundation's Governance and decision making structure.