



City of Westminster

Committee Agenda

Title: **Children, Sport & Leisure Policy & Scrutiny Committee**

Meeting Date: **Tuesday 21st April, 2015**

Time: **7.00 pm**

Venue: **Rooms 1A, 1B & 1C - 17th Floor, City Hall**

Members:

Councillors:

Brian Connell (Chairman)
Iain Bott
Ruth Bush
Paul Church
Nick Evans
Barbara Grahame
Robert Rigby
Karen Scarborough

Elected Voting Representatives
Aki Turan, Parent Governor
Annie Ee, Parent Governor

Co-opted Voting Representatives
Brenda Morrison, Church of England
Diocese Representative
Louise McCullough, Roman Catholic
Diocesan Board Representative

Co-opted Non-voting Representatives
Smita Bora, Principal of Westminster Academy
Darren Guttridge, Headteacher, Edward Wilson
Primary School

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussion Part 1 of the Agenda

Admission to the public gallery is by ticket, issued from the ground floor reception at City Hall from 6.00pm. If you have a disability and require any special assistance please contact the Committee Officer (details listed below) in advance of the meeting.



An Induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Officer, Sarah Craddock; Senior Committee and Governance Officer.

**Tel: 020 7641 2770; Email: scraddock@westminster.gov.uk
Corporate Website: www.westminster.gov.uk**

Note for Members: Members are reminded that Officer contacts are shown at the end of each report and Members are welcome to raise questions in advance of the meeting. With regard to item 2, guidance on declarations of interests is included in the Code of Governance; if Members and Officers have any particular questions they should contact the Head of Legal & Democratic Services in advance of the meeting please.

AGENDA

PART 1 (IN PUBLIC)

1. MEMBERSHIP

To note any changes to the membership.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations by Members and Officers of the existence and nature of any personal or prejudicial interests in matters on this agenda.

3. MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2015.

(Pages 1 - 10)

4. TRACKERS AND WORK PROGRAMME

To note the progress in implementing the Committee's Recommendation and Action Trackers.

(Pages 11 - 20)

5. CABINET MEMBER FOR SPORTS, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES

Councillor Steve Summers (Cabinet Member for Sports, Leisure and Open Spaces) to update the Committee on current and forthcoming issues in his Portfolio.

(Pages 21 - 24)

6. CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Councillor Danny Chalkley (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People) to update the Committee on current and forthcoming issues in his Portfolio.

(Pages 25 - 30)

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TARGETED EARLY LEARNING OFFER FOR 2 YEAR OLDS.

To report back on the discussion at the meeting on 26 January 2015.

(Pages 31 - 42)

8. YEAR 6-7 TRANSITION

To examine what is available for pupils who are transferring to a Westminster Secondary School.

(Pages 43 - 52)

9. ANNUAL LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS REPORT 2014

To evaluate the work undertaken by the Council.

(Pages 53 - 64)

10. REPORTS OF ANY SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

Verbal update (if any)

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Peter Large
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
15 April 2015

This page is intentionally left blank



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES

**CHILDREN, SPORTS AND LEISURE
POLICY & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
30 MARCH 2015
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Children, Sports and Leisure Policy & Scrutiny Committee** held on Monday 30 March 2015 at 7pm at Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP.

Members Present: Councillors Brian Connell (Chairman), Iain Bott, Ruth Bush, Paul Church, Nick Evans, Barbara Grahame, Robert Rigby and Karen Scarborough.

Co-opted Members: Aki Turan, Annie Ee, Louise McCullough and Smita Bora.

Also present: Councillor Steve Summers (Cabinet Member for Sports, Leisure and Open Spaces).

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Danny Chalkley, Darren Guttridge and Brenda Morrison.

1. MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 It was noted that there was no changes to the Membership.
- 1.2 The Chairman welcomed Steve Summers (Cabinet Member for Sports, Leisure and Open Spaces) to the meeting.
- 1.3 The Chairman also welcomed Phil Rumbelow, Chief Executive from Jubilee Halls Trust and Mary Russell from the Public Health Commissioner and Physical Activity Lead who were attending the meeting to take part in The New ActiveWestminster – Sports and Physical Strategy discussion.
- 1.4 The Chairman advised that Councillor Danny Chalkley (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People) would not be attending the meeting. Any questions that Members had regarding his portfolio would be placed on the Committee's Action Tracker.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

2.1 Councillor Ruth Bush declared that she was a former Parliamentary Consultant to Sports Leaders UK.

2.2 No further declarations of interests in respect of items to be discussed were made, other than those noted in the circulated schedule as set out below in paragraph 2.3.

2.3 The Committee noted that the tabled interests would in future be included in the Minutes. Table of Member's interests tabled at the Committee Meeting was as follows:

Councillor/Member of the Children, Sports and Leisure P&S Committee	Organisation	Nature of Interest
Smita Bora	Westminster Academy	Principal
Iain Bott	Paddington Academy One Westminster	Governor Non-Voting Member of the Board
Ruth Bush	Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education Westminster Faith Exchange	Member Chair
Paul Church	King Solomon Academy	Governor
Darren Guttridge	Edward Wilson Primary School	Headteacher
Annie Ee	Hampden Gurney Primary School	Parent Governor
Barbara Grahame	Quintin Kynaston Academy	Governor
Louise McCullough,	St Vincent de Paul Primary School St Matthews CE Primary School Westminster Volunteers Centre Renaissance Foundation, EC4	Governor Governor City Guide Mentor for Young People

Councillor/Member of the Children, Sports and Leisure P&S Committee	Organisation	Nature of Interest
Robert Rigby	St Josephs Primary School	Governor
	Our Lady's Secondary School, Hackney	Governor
	Local Authority Governor Appointment Panel	Member
Karen Scarborough	St Mary of the Angels Catholic School	Governor
Aki Turan	Quintin Kynaston Academy	Parent Governor

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2015 be approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings subject to the following amendment:

Item 8 - Strategy for the New Leisure Facilities Management Contract, paragraph 8.3. Add a bullet point 'That the Committee noted that there was still disquiet amongst residents regarding the Jubilee Development'.

4. ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TRACKERS AND COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The Committee discussed the possibility of providing table formatted data for the past five years to the Committee where applicable. Officers confirmed that in future the Cabinet Member Reports would include three/five year data for Councillor Chalkley's targets as requested at a previous meeting.
- 4.2 The Committee also briefly discussed the number of children in the borough who were granted at least one of their top three preferences and the reasons why there had been a year on year decrease in children receiving their top three preferences.

4.2 **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Action and Recommendation Trackers be noted.

2. That the Year 6-7 Transition, the Annual Review of Looked After Children, Care Leavers and Corporate Parenting and Nursery Provision/Offer for 2 year olds reports be considered at the next meeting on 21 April 2015.

5. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION: CABINET MEMBER FOR SPORTS, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES

- 5.1 The Committee received an update from the Cabinet Member who responded to questions relating to:

- the Westminster Mile Event.
- the redecoration of St John's Library.
- the MCC Lords School Offer and Launch event.
- the implementation of the Team Westminster Volunteering Strategy.
- the rebuilding of Marylebone library and the scrutiny of the contract.
- the swimming lessons in Seymour Leisure Centre.
- the proposal by the Royal Parks to introduce park charges.
- the overuse of the public toilets in the Church Street library.
- the redevelopment of the Queen Mother Sports Centre and the sports and leisure facilities in Fitzrovia.

5.2 ACTIONS:

1. That a number of site visits be arranged for Members as part of the Committee's more in-depth work of scrutinising the work of the Cabinet Member for Sports, Leisure and Open Spaces portfolio.
2. That a briefing note be sent to the Committee on the Facilities Management Contract.
3. That a briefing note be sent to the Committee listing what schools have taken up the MCC Lords School Offer and the programme of events.

6. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION: CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 6.1 The Committee received a written update from the Cabinet Member which covered current and forthcoming issues in his Portfolio.

7. PRIVATE FOSTERING

- 7.1 The Committee received a report on Private Fostering Arrangements which set out what private fostering actually was and included the Local Authority Requirements under the Children (Private Arrangement for Fostering) Regulations 2005.

7.2 The Committee welcomed Miranda Gittos, Head of Assessment and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to the meeting. She explained how the current arrangements originated following the Victoria Climbié case in 2000 and that since then all Local Authorities had the duty to monitor all private fostering arrangements every six months. The Committee heard that the Tri-Borough Private fostering Social Worker roles and responsibilities sat within the Tri-borough MASH which ensured that awareness was raised and all opportunities to identify cases were taking place amongst professionals such as the NHS, GPs, schools and the general public. The Committee also noted the work of the Tri-Borough private Fostering Panel in continually monitoring the performance and how a multi-agency approach was adopted. It was noted that this approach was being continually reviewed in considering further agencies which would, at Councillor Bott's suggestion include dentists.

7.3 The Committee discussed the various reasons why children were privately fostered, the current service provision, the circumstances when cases were referred to the Child Protection Agency, the training of Social Workers and professionals such as GPs and teachers, the importance of having thorough hand overs when staff vacant their posts and the development of data in this area.

7.4 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

8. THE NEW ACTIVEWESTMINSTER- SPORT AND PHYSICAL STRATEGY

8.1 The Committee received a report on the development of the New Active Westminster – Sport and Physical Strategy.

8.2 Richard Barker, the Director of Sports, Leisure and Wellbeing, and Andrew Durrant, Head of Sports and Leisure discussed with the Committee how the strategy would make a positive contribution to a variety of Council and partner outcomes and how it would be underpinned by an annual activity plan aimed at addressing the key issues concerning sport and physical activity. The Committee noted that The Active Westminster Board would be reformed to lead on the development of the new strategy which would involve several services including Public Health and Children's Services.

8.3 The Committee welcomed Phil Rumbelow, Chief Executive from Jubilee Halls Trust and Mary Russell from the Public Health Commissioner and Physical Activity Lead who advised and discussed with the Committee the work carried out to encourage inactive people to take up physical activity and how many illnesses, especially mental health illness, could be prevented and treated with physical activity. Phil Rumbelow advised how Jubilee Halls supported outreach programmes and local schools but received no public funding to carry out this work.

8.4 The following key themes emerged from the Committee's discussion:

- the link between deprivation and (lack of activity) inactivity amongst hard to reach groups, including primary school children and permission by parents to allow children to take part in physical activity.
- the importance of outreach work and the promotion of everyday activities to the inactive and elderly population by finding venues to hold sport and leisure activities nearer to their homes/communities.
- the demand for competitive sports in schools and links with Westminster's volunteering programme and sports professionals.
- the need for areas without any current facilities to be reviewed to see if any possible sites could be identified.
- the wider use of open spaces and the possible conflict between partners such as using parks for sport versus using the park as a quiet place for relaxation.
- the importance of promoting health and well-being in schools so children link healthy living with being active and/or moving around more throughout the day.
- the importance of engaging with all sports organisations to make the most of their facilities for residents/school children.
- the importance of promoting walking, dancing and generally being more active throughout the day to both children and adults as part of leading a healthy life style.
- the importance of linking and making connections with the retail sector as part of promoting healthy eating and food choices.
- the unlimited free swimming provided by the Council for children and people over 60 years of age.

8.5 The Chairman thanked everyone who had given up their time to attend the meeting and contribute to the discussion.

8.6 **ACTIONS:**

1. The Committee requested that areas without any current facilities be reviewed to see if any possible sites could be identified.

2. That a briefing note on aquatic sporting facilities in Westminster be sent to Members of the Committee.
3. That a Task Group be established to look at the wider use of open spaces.

8.7 RESOLVED:

1. The Committee congratulated Westminster City Council's Sports and Leisure Unit in coming up with creative solutions to ensure their continued success and on the excellent variety of sports and leisure facilities available in Westminster
2. That the Committee welcomed the open approach regarding the need to meet a number of on-going challenges and weaknesses and endorsed the work currently being undertaken particularly in trying to reach communities and groups who would not normally engage in sport or physical activity.

9. SCHOOL ORGANISATION AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY

- 9.1 The Committee received a report outlining pupil place planning in Westminster and the draft School Organisation and Investment Strategy 2015 which provided details on projected pupil numbers and opportunities for providing new school places. The Committee noted that the Strategy helped inform other Council Strategies such as planning policies and asset management plans.
- 9.2 The Committee heard from Ian Heggs, Tri-Borough Director of Schools Commissioning and Alan Wharton, Tri-Borough Head of Asset Strategy (Schools and Children's Service) who discussed with the Committee the School Organisation and Investment Strategy which will inform the requirement for capital resources to provide additional pupil places.
- 9.3 The Committee noted that the Strategy anticipated the increasing need for additional secondary school pupil places and the creative ways Westminster was looking to provide these places in the future. The previous focus on additional primary places had been successfully implemented. The Committee further heard about the principals that would guide Westminster in providing more pupil places and that many secondary school pupils preferred to attend local secondary schools.
- 9.4 The following key themes emerged from the Committee's discussion:
 - the Council's statutory duty regarding school places and the Admissions Code.
 - the benefits of the proposed additional secondary school places to Westminster resident pupils.

- the consequences of not proceeding with proposals to expand the selected secondary schools.
- the location of Beachcroft for primary age Alternative Provision pupils.
- the additional demands and financial cost of educating out of borough children in Westminster schools.
- the overall future demand and supply of primary and secondary school places in Westminster.
- the ability to ensure that local residents were successful in gaining a place at their preferred Westminster school.
- the work carried out by the Admissions Team on encouraging parents to make realistic preference choices on their school admission form.
- Sufficient nursery provision places and the Post 16 offer.

9.5 **ACTION:** That a briefing note be sent to Members of the Committee which sets out the impact of the extra secondary school places and whether these places can be allocated to Westminster residents, including the consequences for schools if some of the proposals in the Strategy did not proceed.

9.6 **RESOLVED:**

1. That the requirement for additional secondary school places be noted.
2. That there is currently an adequate supply of primary school places be noted.
3. That the requirement for additional Alternative Provision at primary level which is proposed to be delivered by an extension of the Beachcroft AP School be noted.
4. That the relocation of St Marylebone Bridge Special School be managed by the Education Funding Agency in partnership with the GLA by may require some capital funding from the Council be noted.
5. That the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People to approve the Strategy and the budget provision to implement its proposals contained in the strategy.

10. EXEMPT REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

10.1 **RESOLVED:** That under Section 100 (A) (4) and schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business because it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information on the grounds shown below:

<u>Item No</u>	<u>Grounds</u>	<u>Para of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act</u>
10.	Information relating to an individual	1

11. UPDATE ON SAFEGUARDING ISSUES (verbal update – see agenda item 10)

11.1 The Committee received an update in relation on one case and noted the on-going support that the family and school were receiving from the Social Work Team.

11.2 **ACTION:** That the Chairman writes to the school offering its support to the Headteacher and teaching staff.

12. TERMINATION OF MEETING

12 .1 The meeting ended at 9.47pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

This page is intentionally left blank

Action and Recommendation Trackers and Work Programme

Children, Sports and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date **21 April 2015**

Classification **General**




Report author and **Rebecka Steven, Policy & Scrutiny Officer (x3095)**
telephone **rsteven@westminster.gov.uk**

1. **Action and Recommendation Trackers**

The Children's, Sport and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee examines the wide range of council services and projects that generally fall within the portfolios of Children and Young People, and Sport, Leisure and Open Spaces.

This document presents the legacy actions and recommendations from this committee that result from or apply to the period between June 2014 and April 2015.

The following colour coding has been applied to assist committee members and others to understand the progress made against each item:

-  Outstanding
-  In progress
-  Complete

2. Work Programme

The work programme sets out the business of the Committee for the year ahead. The draft work programme for 2015/16 was presented to the last meeting for comment and input. The final programme will be presented to the meeting of 8 June for approval. If in the meantime members have any suggestions for items the Committee could consider in 2015/16, please contact the Policy & Scrutiny Officer.

3. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (a) Notes the updates contained within the action and recommendation trackers.
- (b) Note the current work programme and the schedule for the next meeting.

Action Tracker

Children, Sports and Leisure Committee

ROUND ONE (18 June 2014)

Agenda Item	Action and responsible officer	Update
-------------	--------------------------------	--------

No outstanding actions.

ROUND TWO (6 Oct, 2014)

Agenda Item	Action and responsible officer	Update
-------------	--------------------------------	--------

No outstanding actions.

ROUND THREE (24 November 2014)

Agenda Item	Action and responsible officer	Update
-------------	--------------------------------	--------

No outstanding actions.

ROUND FOUR (26 January 2015)

Agenda Item	Action and responsible officer/ Cabinet member	Update
-------------	---	--------

No outstanding actions.

ROUND FIVE (9 February 2015)

Agenda Item	Action and responsible officer/ Cabinet member	Update
-------------	---	--------

Cabinet Member Update	That all future briefing notes include table formatted data for the past five years where applicable. Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Unfortunately due to staff resourcing, this cannot be done. Members reiterated this request at the meeting of 30 March and Ian Heggs
-----------------------	---	--

		undertook to ensure that it was implemented. Action Complete
--	--	---

ROUND SIX (30 March 2015)		
Agenda Item	Action and responsible officer/ Cabinet member	Update
Action Tracker	To request that the Policy and Scrutiny Officer check that the information requested on EU Nationals had been circulated as per the update provided.	The information was circulated via email on 24 March. Action Complete.
Action Tracker	To request that site visits of sports facilities be arranged for members for an afternoon in the near future.	Officers are liaising to arrange this.
School Organisation and Investment Strategy	That a briefing be emailed to members covering – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the impacts on existing WCC secondary schools on increasing figures • the impact on WCC parents achieving their first preference • the consequences (and any insight officers may have) on existing schools of no action is taken. Ian Heggs 	

Recommendation Tracker

Children, Sports and Leisure Committee

ROUND ONE (18 June 2014)

Agenda Item	Recommendation and responsible officer / cabinet member	Update
-------------	---	--------

There are no outstanding recommendations.

ROUND TWO (6 October 2014)

Agenda Item	Recommendation and responsible officer / cabinet member	Update
-------------	---	--------

There are no outstanding recommendations.

ROUND THREE (24 November 2014)

Agenda Item	Recommendation and responsible officer / cabinet member	Update
-------------	---	--------

There are no outstanding recommendations.

ROUND FOUR (26 January 2015)

Agenda Item	Recommendation and responsible officer	Update
-------------	--	--------

Early Help Strategy	4. That further promotion of the two year old offer and an update on uptake at regular intervals be reported back to the Committee. The Committee endorsed the importance of early intervention in a child's development. Steve Comber	4. Ongoing.
---------------------	--	-------------

Early Help Strategy	5. That Councillor Barbara Arzymanow be thanked for preparing her report on the changing landscape of nursery provision in Westminster and that officers prepare a response to the salient points and conclusion of the report, especially regarding how best practice can be shared across institutions and what role (if any) Westminster City Council can play in implementing the recommendations. Jackie Devine/ Phil Tomsett	5. Report on agenda for meeting of 21 April. Action Complete.
---------------------	---	--

ROUND FIVE (9 January 2014)		
Agenda Item	Recommendation and responsible officer / cabinet member	Update
There are no outstanding recommendations.		

ROUND SIX (30 March 2015)		
Agenda Item	Recommendation and responsible officer	Update
Active Westminster Strategy	To establish an Active Communities Task Group to consider unused 'assets' (parks, estates, community venues etc) which could be better utilised for physical activity, and the conflicts that arise between encouraging the use on parks etc for sport and service users who may want the spaces to not be utilised in this way, in order to explore what can be achieved within the hopes and expectations of residents. Andy Durrant/ Richard Barker/ Rebecka Steven	Members have been invited to join this Task Group and officers are liaising on a date for the first meeting.

ROUND SEVEN (21 April 2015)

Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Represented by:
Cabinet Member questioning	To hold to account and give 'critical friend' challenge to the portfolio holder.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Year 6 - 7 Transition	The committee will examine what is available for pupils who are transferring to a Westminster secondary school.	Jayne Vertkin
Annual Review of the Looked After Children, Care Leavers and Corporate Parenting	Evaluation of work undertaken into LAC, Care Leavers and Corporate Parenting. At meeting of 6 October it was agreed to roll over this item to a future meeting.	Andrew Christie/ Glen Peache
Nursery provision/ offer for 2 year olds	Report back for info further to discussion at meeting of 26 January. For information.	Jackie Devine/ Phil Tomsett

Work Programme

Children, Sports and Leisure Committee

ROUND SEVEN (21 April 2015)

Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Represented by:
Cabinet Member questioning	To hold to account and give 'critical friend' challenge to the portfolio holder.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Year 6 - 7 Transition	The committee will examine what is available for pupils who are transferring to a Westminster secondary school.	Jayne Vertkin
Annual Review of the Looked After Children, Care Leavers and Corporate Parenting	Evaluation of work undertaken into LAC, Care Leavers and Corporate Parenting. At meeting of 6 October it was agreed to roll over this item to a future meeting.	Andrew Christie/ Glen Peache
Nursery provision/ offer for 2 year olds	Report back for info further to discussion at meeting of 26 January. For information.	Jackie Devine/ Phil Tomsett

Other Committee Events & Task Groups

Group/ Issue	Update	Type
School Meals Task Group	Has met once and two conference calls have also been held. Final meeting date 12 May.	Task Group

ROUND ONE - 8 June 2015

(*full work plan for 2015/16 to be presented to meeting of 8 June)

Main Theme – Sport, Leisure and Open Spaces/ Children and Young People

Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Represented by:
Cabinet Member questioning	To hold to account and give 'critical friend' challenge to the portfolio holder.	Cabinet Member for Sport, Leisure and Open Spaces
Sports and Leisure- Service Review	To provide a presentation/ briefing on the activities of the sports and leisure service including a review of the impact on wider corporate priorities and outcomes	Richard Barker/ Andy Durrant
Annual Review of the Looked After Children, Care Leavers and Corporate Parenting	Evaluation of work undertaken into LAC, Care Leavers and Corporate Parenting (annual report).	Andrew Christie

Other Committee Events & Task Groups

Group/ Issue	Update	Type
Active Communities Task Group	Officers liaising to establish this Task Group	Task Group

This page is intentionally left blank



Sports, Leisure and Open Spaces Policy and Scrutiny Committee Briefing

Date: 30th March 2015

Briefing of: Councillor Steve Summers

Portfolio: Sports, Leisure and Open Spaces

Briefing Author and Contact Details: Councillor Steve Summers
ssummers@westminster.gov.uk
0207 641 5729

1. Sports and Leisure

The Porchester Centre

1.1 Works to improve the existing ground floor area of Bridgefield House (the building adjacent to the Porchester Centre) are progressing well and will complete in April 2015. The new facility will provide a flexible community space for meetings, training events and activities.

Queen Mother Sports Centre

1.2 Works to redevelop the reception, café and health and fitness facilities at Queen Mother Sports Centre are progressing and works will conclude in April 2015.

1.3 The works have relocated the reception facilities to the ground floor of the building to provide more prominence of the centre from street level and an enhanced experience for customers. The cafe facilities have been moved to a more central location within the main facility which will provide a more convenient environment for customers. Improvements to the popular health and fitness facilities include new lighting, new flooring and decoration.

1.4 The vast majority of works are now complete and the improvements have been welcomed by customers. The only remaining works relate to signage and branding and ventilation systems which will be completed in 2 weeks.

Improvement works to the Games Area at Queen's Park Gardens

1.5 The improvement works to the 'free to access' Games Area (new fencing, floodlighting and improvements to the surface) and the provision of new outdoor gym equipment at Queen's Park Gardens are progressing well and the majority of works are now complete.

1.6 The new courts will be spray painted in the Spring (these works are weather dependant) and the floodlighting for the MUGA will be commissioned in April (the required works by UK Power Networks have now completed and the floodlighting is expected to be commissioned in the coming weeks).

Paddington Recreation Ground- entrance improvement works

- 1.7 The improvement works to the Carlton Vale entrance at Paddington Recreation Ground (part funded through Ward budgets) are virtually complete and the new signage will be installed at the end of March.

Sayers Croft- residential block extension

- 1.8 The programme of works to create new shower facilities for one of the residential accommodation blocks at the Sayers Croft Centre is progressing well. The main building works have completed and the 'fit out' works will be completed by the end of March.

Initiatives and Events

MCC Lords Schools Offer and Launch event

- 1.9 Over 30 schools have now signed up to the programme, with a mix of school based coaching, visits to Lords and even match day ticket offers, which is excellent. Discussion with the MCC's Community Development Manager and officers has led to a plan for a more formal launch on **Monday 27th April** between 4-6pm. All Westminster schools have been invited to attend the launch.

Westminster Mile 2015

- 1.10 An ambitious target of over 8,000 participants has been set for the Flagship Westminster Mile event this year with a strong focus on promoting participation from children and families. Nearly 2,000 registrations have already been made so far which is extremely encouraging.

Place Making Awards

- 1.11 The Westminster Mile event and the new Bluebell Glade at Paddington Recreation Ground have been shortlisted for the finals of the national 'Place Making' awards. The awards event will take place on 31st March 2015.

2. Libraries and Culture

Queen's Park Library

- 2.1 Internal redecoration works have been completed at Queen's Park Library and it re-opened to the public on 3 November 2014. All works have now been completed.

Marylebone Library

- 2.3 A re-procurement exercise has been concluded by Property and the report is with the Member for Finance for approval. The scheme, including a new library is now expected to complete in Q1 2017. A temporary library will remain open at Macintosh House until the new library is ready for use.

St John's Wood Library

- 2.4 St John's Wood Library is closed from 11 to 25 March for redecoration.

Registration service

- 2.5 Twenty-three venues, including Mayfair Library and Asia House showcased their facilities in a Westminster venue open day on 15 March.

3. Volunteering and the Voluntary Sector

Volunteer Brokerage

- 3.1. The Volunteer Brokerage service in Quarter 3 continued to over perform its targets for volunteer registrations and placements. Including do-it.org registration, there were 1,032 new volunteer registrations for the third Quarter of the final year of the current contract against a target of 712 (145%). There have been a total of 255 placements for this Quarter, which has exceeded the target of 250 (102%).
- 3.2. The service contract for volunteer brokerage is due to expire in August 2015 and work is ongoing with stakeholders to re-design and re-procure a contract to commence from August 2015. The new service will reflect changes at a national level to the do-it.org platform commissioned by the Cabinet Office allowing for more local outreach to particular groups e.g. unemployed with general opportunities becoming more self-service in nature.

Team Westminster Volunteering Strategy Implementation

- 3.3. Work is on-going to implement the commitments contained within the volunteering strategy. It is expected that the Westminster Time Credits service will commence in July 2015.
- 3.4. The specification for a new Volunteering Brokerage service, which combines general brokerage with a more targeted service where the Provider will broker a volunteering opportunity based on someone's personal skills and interests is currently being developed by officers.
- 3.5. The Team Westminster Flagship Volunteering Programme has entered the final stages of procurement. The flagship Team Westminster Ambassadors and Team Westminster Active programmes will replace the existing 'City Guides' events volunteering and 'A City Transformed Through Sport' programmes. The programme will also include Team Westminster Community Action, a scheme focused on creating a pool of locally registered volunteers that can be called on to get involved in major social action days across the city. It is expected that the new Team Westminster Flagship Volunteering Programme will commence in August 2015.

4. Parks, Open Spaces and Cemeteries

Broadly Street Gardens

- 4.1 The drainage and flood improvement works at Broadley Street Gardens have been completed with full re-instatement taking place. Additional planting and landscaping has also been incorporated into the design.
- 4.2 The Council's grounds maintenance contractor, Continental Landscapes Ltd, was responsible for the design and sourcing of the new planting arrangements. A&N Contracts worked with park officers to find a solution to the continued flooding of a low lying pathway. A soak-away has been created and full re-landscaping of the area followed, to date this approach appears to have fully resolved the problem.

Tamplin Mews Gardens

- 4.3 Construction of the new play area is well under way and completion is expected in early April. The design of the play area was subject to extensive public consultation led by the Friends of Tamplin Mews Gardens with all works being fully funded by Thames Water. Some additional park benches will also be installed and other minor improvements made. The parks contractor, Continental Landscapes Ltd, will also be arranging bulb planting sessions with local residents and schools during Spring/Summer.

Causton Street Play Area

- 4.4 The old paddling pool has been decommissioned and the area filled in. A new interactive ground level play splash area is being created with completion expected by the end of April. The new design specifically reduces the risk of trips and falls by very young children whilst enhancing the play experience.

St Georges Square

- 4.5 Following the winter storms in 2014 the park staff accommodation was demolished by a large falling tree; a successful insurance claim for a replacement building and improved building has been installed and is fully functional. The area around the park fountain has been re-paved with planting areas incorporated to include sustainable planting. The re-turfing at St Georges Square dog walk area has also recently been completed.

Westbourne Green Open Space

- 4.6 The old shrub area running along Harrow Road which had become very old and tired has been split into several zoned areas for replacement. The first zone has been completed with the old shrub material being removed, the area levelled and grass seed applied. A new native species hedge will be planted along the road side to encourage greater bio-diversity. Further replanting will be taking place over the coming months along the length of the perimeter.



Meeting:	<i>Children, Sports and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee 21 April 2105</i>
Date:	<i>Prepared March 2015 based on information as at 28th February 2014.</i>
Title:	<i>City for All - Children and Young People Progress Report</i>
Report of:	<i>Councillor Chalkley, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People</i>

1 Better City, Better Lives Priorities

1.1 We will ensure that at least 80% of resident children in the borough are granted at least one of their top three preferences for schools.

In March 2014, 94.9% of Reception Class and 83.6% of Secondary transfer resident children were granted at least one of their three preferences. This compares to 95.7% (national) and 92.5% (London) for Primary Schools and 95.5% (national) and 90.7% (London) for Secondary school.

1.2 We will provide 240 extra primary school places and 60 extra secondary school places in 2014/15, ensuring we keep pace with projected demand.

In 2013-14 the Primary capacity was 11,751 places and Secondary capacity was 10,002 places. For 2014-15, ARK Atwood has opened with the full complement of 420 Primary pupil places. No new Secondary places have been provided as yet but a working party has visited a number of sites to assess future options as part of a programme to deliver 435 new places by 2017.

1.3 We will ensure that at least 80% of children in foster care are placed locally through the Tri-borough Fostering and Adoption Service.

In 2013-14, 83% of young people requiring foster care were placed with Tri-borough foster carers. Since April 2014 fifty-five (70%) of the seventy-nine children or young people requiring foster placements have been placed with Tri-B foster carers. At the end of February 2015 of the cases referred to Fostering Placements Service one was on-going which may improve the current annual performance rate.

1.4 We will ensure that all children, in new proceedings starting 1 April 2013, with a plan for adoption, will be placed with their adopters within 12 months of coming into care.

Since 1st April 2013, thirteen children have had placement orders starting. Of these, nine have been placed with adopters four within 12 months of the placement order. Of the remaining four children waiting to be placed with adopters, three have currently exceeded the 12 month timescale and are yet to be placed. One has yet to be placed and is currently within the 12 month timescale so the performance rate may improve.

1.5 We will provide 801 free day care opportunities for two year olds.

The DfE termly data release includes all families who meet either the 20% or 40% entitlement from the expanded eligibility criteria. 801 families in Westminster have been identified, an increase of 19% from the initial termly release of 675 target. 61% (491) meet the 20% criteria and 39% (310) meet the 40% criteria. At present there are sufficient places to meet demand. Capacity building, especially with schools and other early years provision, is focused on creating additional places for the Spring 2015 term onwards. Next termly data release from DfE has been received and will be reported in the March Cabinet

Member update. At the end of October 2014, 332 (81%) of the 411 places available were taken up by 2 year olds.

1.6 We will ensure that at least 50% of families on the Troubled Families programme will have resolved their offending, anti-social behaviour and poor school attendance.

Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published performance (March 2015) shows WCC is now at 69% PBR turnaround against target of 640 families. There is one more payment by results window until the end of Phase 1 of the Troubled Families programme in May 2015. Westminster is on track for 75-80% PbR turn round by that time.

1.7 We will ensure that there is a place in education, employment and training for every young person after they complete their GCSEs.

In September 2014, 99% of school year 11 leavers had an offer of a place (subject to entry requirements) this provisional figure is comparable with the final figure of 99.6% for the 2013 year. Indicative figures from the 2014 activity survey show that 97% of these young people made successful transition post 16 (this is the highest performance across central London) 1.9% are NEET (29 young people) and 1.1% not known (16). Further updates are expected which may improve the rate. Opportunities for January starts at post 16 provision are available and localities teams will be working with these vulnerable learners.

1.8 Working with the Sir Simon Milton Foundation, Network Rail and the University of Westminster, we will start on the building of the University Technical College to ensure that Westminster has a skills ready workforce which matches the needs of the employment market.

The latest programme plan for the development from Property shows completion of the UTC as delayed until September 2017 this delay has been agreed by DfE This follows a risk appraisal of enabling works which are no longer viable due to cost and risks of undertaking prior to the determination of the main planning application. UTC Member organisations will be consulted on options to open in 2016 in temporary accommodation, to defer opening until 2017 or pursue another option aligning to sponsors' objectives.

1.9 We will ensure that 75% of Westminster's pupils will achieve 5 grade A*-C at GCSE, including English and Mathematics, in 2014.

In 2013-14 (academic year) DfE latest published results showed that 68% of Westminster pupils achieved 5 grade A*-C GCSEs, including English and Maths, compared with 70% the previous year. This result maintains Westminster's position well above the national rate of 53% (which is down from 59% in 2013). The decline, both locally and nationally is, at least partly, attributable to revised methodology.

1.10 We will promote school readiness, testing new approaches through the Neighbourhood Community Budget Pilot in Queens Park.

An integrated (health and education) 2 year assessment is being piloted in Queens Park Ward between Sept 2014 – Dec 2014. Year to date, 80% (24 of 30) 2 year old children have had a 2 year old assessment in their setting. Ten parents have attended parenting skills training in the 1st year of their child's life which is on track to achieve the target of 14. Employability data for the number of parents who access employability skills classes in QP ward is proving difficult to collect and we are working with Paddington Development Trust to develop reporting on this in a meaningful way. Six community champions have been recruited since April 2014.

1.11 We will increase the proportion of children in Westminster Primary Schools who achieve or exceed Level 4 in Reading, Writing and Mathematics in Standard Attainment Tests [SATs] to 80%.

The 2014 Primary school Key Stage 2 L4+ results for 2014 are 86% (up from 79% in 2013). This is well above this year's national average of 79%.

1.12 We will hold more perpetrators of domestic violence to account for their actions through prosecution and effective programmes which address their behaviour.

In Westminster City Council, every woman will now be asked whether they have experienced domestic abuse during the course of any social work assessment. In children's social care each assessment contains a prompt for the assessing worker to ensure that there are persistent attempts to engage the male carer or perpetrator of domestic abuse in the assessment and if this is not possible to say why.

1.13 We will ensure that 75% of 2 year olds in Westminster will receive a developmental review, targeting 2 year olds in the city's most deprived wards.

Public health has recently received access to 0-5 CHIS (Child Health Information System) data but performance is currently reported by CCG rather than LA. 2014-15 Q3 data (73.8%) shows improved uptake of the 2 year review for both CLCCG & WLCCG when compared with April 2014 (66.1%).

1.14 We will reduce the numbers of adolescents needing to come into care to 45.

Since April 2014 there have been 88 new admissions to care relating to 80 individual children or young people. Of these, 57 (65%) admissions related to 51 young people aged 14 to 17 years old. Of these, 38 (67%) were young people resident in the borough which is currently below the target set of 45 for the year 2014-15. Further analysis of this cohort indicates that 19 (33%) of the 57 admissions were Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). This reflects an increase in the number of non-European Nationals who are 17 years old who arrive in the UK or were abandoned who have sought accommodation under the Children Act (1989) Section 20 status as young people with no person who has parental responsibility for them in the UK.

1.15 We will reduce the number of 16-18 year olds [years 12 and 13] Not in Education, Employment and Training [NEET] to 37.

The Department for Education (DfE) national performance on NEET figures for the school year 12 to 14 was published in January 2015. In January 2015, 74 (2.4%) of the 3,682 young people in school year 12 to 14 were NEET compared with 123 (4.1%) in January 2014. The January 2015 rate is below both the England (4.7%) and London (3.4%) rates. In relation to this pledge, for school years 12 and 13, 1.7% (43 young people) were NEET which is marginally above the target set.

Academic Age 16 -18 (year 12-14)

	2014-15				2013-14				Change between average
	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Average	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Average	
ENGLAND	4.6%	4.7%	4.7%	4.7%	5.2%	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	-11.3%
LONDON	3.2%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.7%	3.8%	3.9%	3.8%	-10.5%
Hammersmith & Fulham	2.6%	2.6%	2.4%	2.5%	3.2%	3.1%	3.2%	3.2%	-21.9%
Kensington & Chelsea	3.6%	3.6%	3.7%	3.6%	5.4%	4.7%	5.2%	5.1%	-29.4%
Westminster	1.8%	2.3%	2.4%	2.2%	3.6%	3.7%	4.1%	3.8%	-42.1%

1.16 We will increase the number of Care Leavers who are in Education, Employment and Training [EET]

As of 31st December 2014, 71% of care leavers were EET, an improvement from 68.6% as at 31st March 2014.

1.17 We will improve our approach to joint safeguarding with the Police in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation [CSE].

Westminster Children's Services and the Metropolitan Police are subject to Pan-London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocols. All new cases are assessed by the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub [MASH]. Police are invited to all Strategy Meetings regarding CSE cases as part of Joint Investigation Protocols. The new Police Pan London Missing Persons Team will link with Tri- Borough MASH. At end of quarter three, 100% (9 of 9) of CSE cases in last quarter all have been jointly dealt with by Children Social Care and Met Police in Westminster.

1.18 We will work with more than 30 families in 2014/15 to ensure their children, who are disabled or have special educational needs, have the support of a joined-up Education, Health and Care Plan.

Following the implementation of the Children and Families Act in September 2014 we have started the process for assessing young people for a joined-up Education, Health and Care plan. The 20 week assessment process has been started with eleven young people and their families from Westminster. The first assessments are expected to be completed during January 2015. This means we are on target to work with 30 families by the end of the academic year.

1.19 We will train twelve young people with special educational needs to enable them to travel to and from school independently.

Travel trainers have worked with ten WCC children over the last year, to enable them to travel to and from school independently. More young people will be identified for this support during the 2014/15 academic year, starting from September 2014. Next update is due in January 2015 and will be incorporated in the February Cabinet Member update.

1.20 We will provide ten young people who have learning difficulties with local specialist further education provision to support them in gaining independence and employment.

From September 2014, the Kennet West Skills centre partnership between QEII/Westminster Kingsway College has eighteen learners enrolled (ten from WCC). The number of places will increase to thirty places from 2015.

1.21 We will increase the number of mentors who work specifically with young people involved in crime to reduce their re-offending to 80%.

Since April 2014, six young people were released from custody and all were offered a mentor, the take up was four (66.6%). We offer mentoring to all young people leaving custody providing they are below 18. We are in the process of training seven new mentors and these will be available to work with young people at the end of February. Given the low number of active mentors (three) we have prioritised those leaving custody. Westminster has four young people who will be released in the next quarter and all four will be offered a mentor and will be subject to the YOT Whole Family process.

1.22 We will provide more support for young carers.

Spurgeons now have an established venue (Ebury Bridge Centre) in Westminster which has become a popular spot for many young carers attending ongoing group sessions that are delivered at the centre. Youth carers attendance has steadily increased since the July 2014 engagement event. As at 31st December 2014 Spurgeons have provided support to 80 cases, received 28 referrals and completed 25 initial assessments.

1.23 We will support more vulnerable children [e.g. Looked after Children, children in need of Education, Health and Care Plan] to transfer successfully from primary to secondary school.

There are a total of 71 children at level one (highest level of need). All these children have now been made an 'offer' of support based on the available interventions and progress followed up on a one to one basis between September and December 2014.

1.24 We will improve the health of children and young people by encouraging families to use primary care services more effectively and reducing attendance at A&E by 10%.

As part of the overall North West London out of Hospital Strategy, the three Inner London CCGs (Hammersmith & Fulham, West London and Central London CCG) are all developing local 'Connected Care for Children' clinics based in GP surgeries. The Connected Care for Children model brings paediatricians into GP surgeries to provide clinics for children with long term conditions and/or health needs that may trigger an A&E visit. West London CCG already has several clinics operating through 'paediatric hubs' (surgeries collaborating together). Central London CCG implemented its first hub in August 2014 and now has five hubs operational, with a further two hubs to commence before April 2015. As at December 2014, 52 paediatric patients had been seen in the 10 clinics at that date. It is too early to confirm how many A&E appointments have been prevented to date, but it is a clear indication of the number of outpatients appointments saved enabling patients more convenient and faster access to services closer to home.

1.25 We will improve safeguarding actions by Children's Services, Health and Police in relation to FGM.

We are working with Health to agree a protocol whereby all women who have suffered FGM are referred to Social Care for a social assessment of circumstances and have developed written materials for families from affected communities. Workshops for staff have been held to ensure that all staff are trained in being able to identify and prevent FGM. As at 31st December 2014 there had been 29 referrals. There have been increased referrals from schools as well as data gathered through the pilot project running at St Mary's hospital. Some of these mothers have gone on to give birth to boys. A LSCB protocol to improve information sharing and referral rates in relation to FGM is now under consideration. The Pilot Project at St Marys has been successful and nominated for a British Midwifery Journal Award, and the approach will be rolled out across the three Boroughs this year.

1.26 We will reduce the numbers of young people offending by 20% [to 69 young people from 87].

The MOJ have recently published the quarterly information which indicates there were 17 First Time Entrants (FTE) in the Westminster during April to June 2014. Whilst the most recent quarter published information is higher when compared to each of the quarters reported last year, the annual data still shows a downward trend as a result of very low numbers last year. Between 2012-13 and 2013-14 we have seen a 60% reduction in FTE's in WCC.

This page is intentionally left blank



Children, Sports & Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	21 April 2015
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Implementation of the Targeted Early Learning Offer for 2 Year Olds
Report of:	Head of Commissioning (Early Intervention)
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Children's Services
Wards Involved:	All
Policy Context:	Better City Better Lives Priority
Report Author and	Jacqueline Devine
Contact Details:	jacqueline.devine@rbkc.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The targeted early learning offer for 2 year olds forms part of a wider strategy of early intervention and prevention for young children, targeting services where they are needed the most in order to improve outcomes for disadvantaged families. The specific aims of the offer are:
- To give targeted two year olds an extra boost in all areas of their learning and development through access to good quality integrated care and education

- To ensure targeted two year olds can access the universal 3&4 year entitlement in the term following their 3rd birthday
- To aid school readiness.

1.2 Free early education became a statutory entitlement for eligible two year olds from 1 September 2013, with the local authority having a duty to secure provision for those families who met the 20% eligibility criteria (see appendix 1 for full eligibility criteria). The entitlement matches what is currently provided to universal 3&4 year olds, so eligible 2 year olds can receive up to 570 hours of free education in the term following their 2nd birthday. The programme extended in September 2014 to include more low income families so that 40% of families nationally became eligible. There are currently 799 eligible families in WCC (Spring 15), which represents 32% of the borough's total 2 year old population. Of these eligible families, 61% (487) meet the 20% entitlement which is equivalent to free school meals criteria and 39% (312) meet the 40% entitlement so are low income families in receipt of working tax credit/universal credit. There are 783 eligible families for the Summer 15 term.

1.3 This paper summarises the progress made in implementing this statutory requirement and the strategies in place to increase capacity building and take up from eligible families.

2. Key Matters for the Committee's Consideration

2.1 This report is primarily for information, but Members may like to consider the following when perusing the paper:

- What other steps could be considered to drive take up from eligible families?
- Can take up of the 2 year old offer support the sustainability of school nursery classes?
- Will accessing the targeted offer, combined with childcare support already available as part of Universal Credit or the forthcoming tax free childcare entitlement (worth up to £2k per annum per child), support families to access work opportunities?

3. Background

3.1 A targeted offer to 2 year olds was first introduced as a pilot for all local authorities to implement in 2009, concentrating on the 15% most disadvantaged families. The benefits of accessing good quality early education will also improve the life chances for these targeted children through the two year old offer and research backs this up:

- A child’s development score at just 22 months can serve as an accurate predictor of educational outcomes at 26 years¹
- A child’s ability to use language, with 24 months recognised as the ‘critical period’ for the acquisition and expression of key language skills”²

The offer aims to improve disadvantaged children’s social and cognitive outcomes so that by the age of five they are as ready as their more advantaged peers to start and fully benefit from school

3.2 In respect of the evaluative work carried out on the two year old offer (which is largely based on the pilots rather than the current programme) there are a number of factors that influence good outcomes for two years olds:

“We have found overwhelming evidence that children’s life chances are most heavily predicated on their development in the first five years of life. It is family background, parental education, good parenting and the opportunities for learning and development in those crucial years that together matter more to children than money, in determining whether their potential is realised in adult life”³

The key influencers can therefore be summarised as:

- a good early years home learning environment;
- a good quality pre-school
- a more effective primary school⁴.

4. Current Position

4.1 The DfE has advised local authorities that they should initially plan for an 80% take up of places from eligible families as a target when building capacity. Once this target is reached local authorities are encouraged to expand capacity further if demand continues to increase. Table 1 shows the current number of families who meet the eligibility criteria in WCC and the number of places required to support 80% of families taking up the entitlement. The table also shows the shortfall against current capacity.

Table 1: Current Capacity against Potential Demand

DWP list of eligible families for Spring 15	No. of Places Required (80%)	Current No. of Places (within borough)	Projected Shortfall (to achieve 80% capacity)
799	639	444	195

4.2 The majority of places are currently delivered through the private and voluntary early years providers, including childminders, although three of the maintained

¹ HM Government (2011) Early Intervention: The Next Steps: An Independent Report to Her Majesty’s Government Graham Allen MP, page xiii

² National Leadership College (2013), *Being and becoming: under threes in focus*

³ Department for Education (2013) Early Years Evidence Pack

⁴ Ibid

nursery schools also deliver places. Table 2 on the following page shows current take up against capacity and the number of vacancies.

- 4.3 There are currently 481 places of which 444 are available for children who are currently aged two and 360 of these are currently occupied. Applications are coming in on a daily basis and take up is increasing therefore the number of vacancies (84) is likely to reduce as the term progresses. There are currently 37 places occupied by eligible children who turned 3 by the end of December 14. These places are unlikely to be accessed by new 2 year olds until September 15 when these children move into school nursery provision. So although Table 1 shows a shortfall of 195 places to meet demand from 80% of eligible families this figure would reduce in Autumn 15 once these occupied places became available.

Table 2: Current Capacity against Take Up

Current No. of Places for 2 year olds	Current Take Up	No. of Vacancies	% of take up against DWP List (Spring 2015)	Places occupied by targeted children who have now turned 3
444	360	84	45%	37

- 4.4 Building capacity to meet the expanded criteria has been a challenge and one shared with many other London boroughs. Appendix 2 shows the results across London of the February 2015 survey carried out each term by the DfE. At the time the national average take-up was 62% and London was the region with the lowest overall take-up (50%), with only five of the London boroughs exceeding the national average.
- 4.5 Take-up has marginally increased this term since the December 2014 survey. However, at present, even if all vacant places were filled the borough could only achieve a take up rate of 56%. Delivering places through children’s centres (see paragraph 4.2) will be a step change in delivering the targeted entitlement in Westminster. Section 5 below outlines how the City Council will build further capacity to enable greater take up by eligible families.

5. Strategies to Increase Capacity

- 5.1 As outlined in section 4, there is a projected shortfall of 195 places in order to achieve an 80% take up from eligible families (80% of 799 families i.e. 639 families). The strategies for reducing this shortfall are provided below:
- 5.2 **Developing targeted 2 year old places as part of the re-shaping of Children’s Centre Services** – As part of the re-shaping of children’s centre services, there is a focus on rigorous targeting of children and families with additional needs and vulnerabilities. Developing early education places for 2 year olds in children’s centres will provide additional support to families as part

of this service offer. The places will be delivered at the following four children's centre/school sites:

- Bayswater Children's Centre (delivered in collaboration with Dorothy Gardner Centre)
- Harrow Road Children's Centre (delivered by Essendine School)
- Queens Park Children's Centre⁵ (delivered in collaboration with Dorothy Gardner Centre)
- Paddington Green Children's Centre (delivered in collaboration with Portman Early Childhood Centre)
- Micky Star Children's Centre (delivered by London Early Years Foundation)

Initially 100 places will be delivered from September 15 across these four sites with a further 40 places created in the following terms but there is still capacity to provide more places as demand grows. The borough has the support of a Family and Childcare Trust (FCT) consultant who is working with schools and key partners to develop the offer and identify capital requirements.

5.3 Building Capacity with Current Providers – Although 30 private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers deliver 2 year old places @ £6.07 per hour, this rate drops in the term after eligible children turn three under the current funding formula. This is not matched by significantly reduced costs (staff ratios remain high) and therefore creates a problem where parents do not contribute income to nurseries from other sources. These children may need to stay with their PVI provider for up to two terms until they can access a maintained school nursery place, most likely in the September after their third birthday. Of the current participating providers only three receive £6 an hour or more for three year olds and this has been viewed as a barrier for PVI providers to offer additional places. The recommendation to keep the funding rate at £6.07 per hour for these targeted children was approved by the WCC Schools Forum in March 15 and the Early Years Team will be contacting all participating providers to inform them of this change to current funding arrangements and to assess whether additional places will be offered.

5.4 Engaging Schools to participate – At present there are three nursery schools participating and Essendine School will be collaborating in delivery of new places from September 15. A further ten schools have been approached to deliver places as they are situated in areas of potential high demand and have a high proportion of children meeting free school meals criteria. It is hoped that some of these schools will participate and having these early adopters will

⁵ In appendix C of the report on Service Proposals for Early Help (February 2015), it was proposed that 2 year old places could be delivered at Westbourne Children's Centre. A subsequent evaluation of the premises concluded that the allocated space would not be suitable for delivering childcare, mainly due to difficulties in accessing outdoor play space. However, these places can now be accommodated at Queens Park Children Centre without disrupting other scheduled services.

encourage more schools to engage, especially once the entitlement embeds, and demand reaches beyond 80%. From September 2015 schools will be able to deliver early education for 2 year olds without needing a separate registration for childcare.

6. Marketing Strategy to Improve Take Up

6.1 A range of marketing initiatives have been deployed to increase take up as capacity grows. As well as the DfE's national use of electronic bill boards and promotion through supermarkets, the borough has promoted the entitlement through the council website, children's centres and the Family Information Service. The DWP list is now filtered down to each children's centre reach area and shared with the relevant maintained children's centres to inform their outreach work. The Early Years Team has also worked closely with other professional teams who could directly market the entitlement to families they work with, such as Health Visiting and Troubled Families.

6.2 An intensive marketing campaign is currently being planned to generate demand from eligible families so that they are able to take up new places as soon as they become available. The campaign will include the following:

- Birthday cards promoting the offer to families with children who are approaching their second birthday
- Information postcards sent to eligible families with one or two remaining terms of eligibility. These postcards will also be on display at key sites such as children's centres and libraries, along with posters
- Targeted outreach to families identified through the DWP list who have not yet taken up a place or submitted an application form
- Engage Parent Champions to market the places to local families
- Work with partners/departments to market the offer including JCP, SEN and LAC teams
- Refreshing webpage information on the council website and investigate other forms of social media to promote the offer

6.3 There is also an IT project in development that would allow parents to check their eligibility on-line through the three council websites and this has proven to be an effective marketing tool in other boroughs. This project is also assessing whether the supply of places can be linked so that parents can check their eligibility and claim a place with a provider at the same time, thereby reducing the customer journey and the amount of brokerage currently undertaken by each Early Years Team.

7. Governance of the 2 Year Old Programme

7.1 To lead action to meet the statutory duty to provide targeted places, a steering group has been set up in Autumn 2012 and comprised of officers from commissioning, finance, early years, school improvement and localities. The

steering group is supported by two working groups with responsibility for the following delegated tasks:

- Capacity and Quality – supporting the expansion of place capacity through all early years providers and schools, supporting settings to maintain good and outstanding judgements as well as measuring outcomes.
- Finance and Administration – supporting the brokerage service, incorporating 2 year old funding across all sectors as well as 3&4 year old funding across PVI providers and childminders. This group also assesses the required upgrades to the Tribal system to streamline brokerage, administration and finance responsibilities.
- Marketing - Implementing and evaluating the marketing strategy to ensure greater take up and support the sustainability of providers to continue delivering the offer.

- 7.2 The group meets on a monthly basis and an implementation plan, focused on building capacity and take up, is in place. The working groups continue to deliver their delegated responsibilities and a new marketing working group has been set up which is currently developing a marketing strategy, informed by best practice developed in other London boroughs. . A monthly update report on progress in building capacity and increasing take-up is also provided, and progress is further monitored through the Best Start in Life Programme Board.
- 7.3 Performance of the programme has been reported over the last two years through the 'Better City Better Lives' report and this will continue on a termly basis.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 All places are spot-purchased, at a rate of £6.07 an hour, as part of the brokerage process that the Early Years Team manages and providers are paid on a termly basis. Each local authority has been given a funding allocation within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) based on the projected number of eligible families but funding will be based on participation from April 2015.
- 8.2 The majority of places for nursery provision falls in the Autumn term, so targeted children who turn three in the Autumn or Spring term need to stay with their current provider for up to two terms. Although the hourly rate each early years provider receives is dependent on the value of each supplement they attract under the early years funding formula, the majority of providers receive less for a three year old place than a 2 year old place. Unlike fee paying families who may require additional hours and services that enable each provider to remain sustainable, these targeted families may not require this and therefore the provider continues to deliver the same offer albeit it at a reduced funding rate. In order to reduce this barrier to capacity building, the Schools Forum has recently approved a supplement, to be implemented in the Summer 2015 term, that will ensure providers continue to receive £6.07 per hour in total for targeted children once they turn three.

- 8.3 Part of the consultancy support to schools participating in the offer is to draw up a business plan to ensure delivery of the offer is sustainable. Unlike participating PVI providers who deliver places as part of a wider childcare offer, the offer in schools is for targeted families only, although as part of the Government's drive to support flexible 8am-6pm nursery provision, schools may wish to consider developing a wider offer to support working parents.
- 8.4 All providers receive a resources package of £2.5k to deliver places and there is capital funding to support providers to develop a project that enables a greater number of places to be delivered and/to enhances the environment to support early learning.

9. Risks and Mitigations

- 9.1 There are two main risks with regards to the City Council not meeting this statutory duty; insufficient places to meet demand and poor take-up. These will be mitigated by the following:

Insufficient Places

- Engagement with schools will grow capacity and, where a school is unable to deliver the full 2 year old offer, they can receive funding for eligible rising 3s which may better suit the need of an individual schools as well as some eligible families
- A strategy for delivering places as part of the realigning of children's centres services is in place, with places to be delivered from September 2015.
- The supplement for targeted children when they turn three will release further places in the PVI sector as it provides greater financial sustainability

Poor Take Up

- A comprehensive marketing campaign will be carried out during the Summer 15 term, capitalising on the growth in places anticipated for September 15
- The delivery of places through schools provides a great variety of options for parents
- The on-line eligibility checker will speed up the process for families to access the offer
- The targeted offer, combined with the increase in childcare support through Universal Credit or tax free childcare, supports the affordability of childcare for low-income working families

If you have any queries about this Report please contact:

Jacqueline Devine, Children's Services Early Years Commissioner

020 7938 8512

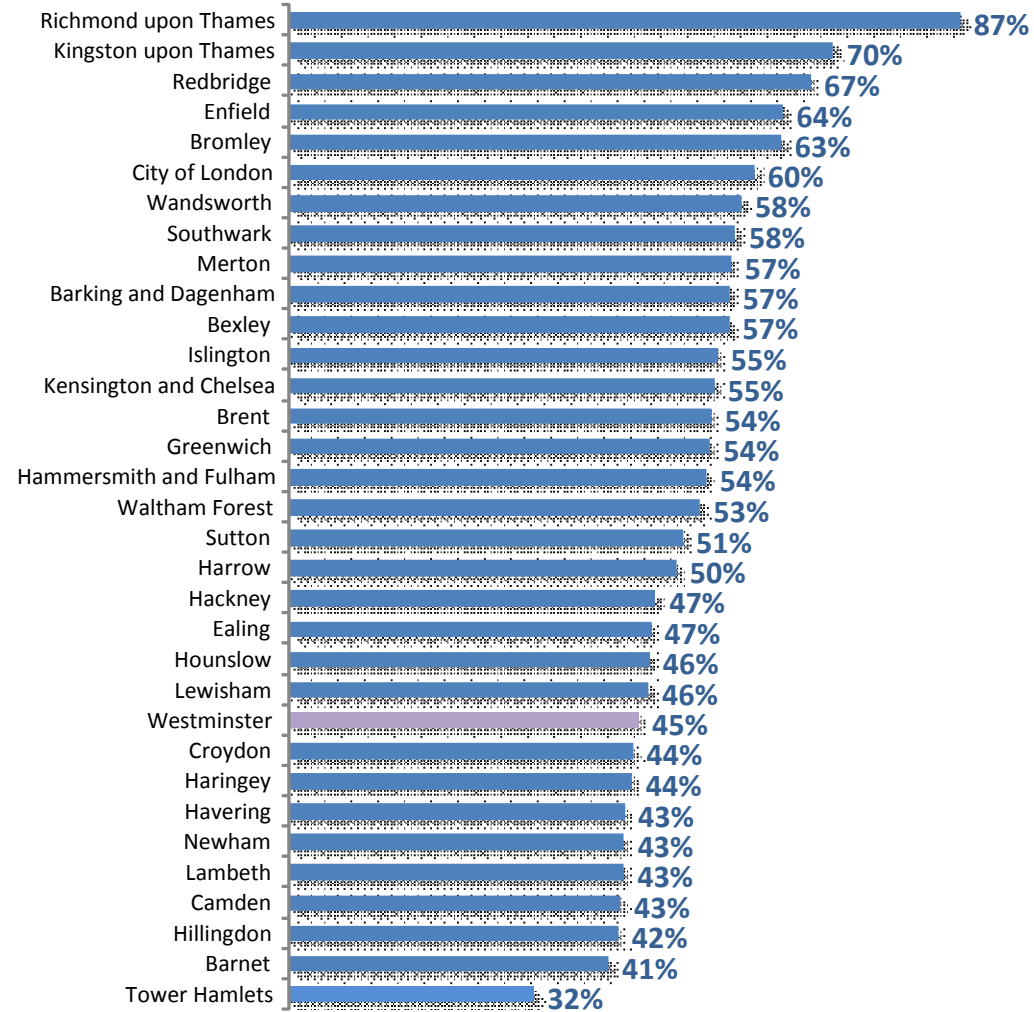
jacqueline.devine@rbkc.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility Criteria since September 13	Eligibility Criteria since September 14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Families meet the eligibility criteria also used for Free School Meals ▪ Children are looked after by the local authority ▪ Any others, at the discretion of the LA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Families meet the eligibility criteria also used for Free School Meals; or Receive Working Tax credits and have annual gross earnings of no more than £16,190; or Receive Universal Credit and have annual gross earnings of no more than £16,190. ▪ Children have a current statement of special educational needs/ an Education, Health and Care plan; or They attract Disability Living Allowance (DLA) ▪ Children are looked after by the local authority; or Children have left care through special guardianship or an adoption or residence order ▪ Any others, at the discretion of the LA (such places will not be included as participation funded places from April 15)

Table 2: DfE Voluntary Survey on Take up of 2 Year Old Places in London

London region take-up - February 2015



This page is intentionally left blank



Children, Sports and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Tuesday 21 April 2015
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Year 6 – 7 transition; Progress in developing a systematic approach to supporting Year 6 – 7 transition lead by the Early Help service.
Report of:	Director of Family Services
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Children and Young People
Wards Involved:	All
Policy Context:	Better City Better Lives Priority
Report Author and Contact Details:	Jayne Vertkin, Head of Early Help Services jvertkin@westminster.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

In January 2014 the paper attached as appendix 1 (in the background papers) was presented to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee; it outlined a framework and systematic approach to the management of year 6 – 7 transition. The approach was broken down into 3 parts – identification, intervention and evaluation. The aim was for this to be an integrated response between Westminster’s early help service, schools and the voluntary sector; 2 packs were produced detailing the approach – one for schools and another for locality practitioners. This report provides an update on progress against each of the 3 areas and sets the work in the wider context of the new ‘on track’ project. ‘On track’ is a tri-borough initiative, which is a part of Focus on Practice, and aims to reduce the number of older children (10 years plus) from entering the care system. The hypothesis being that there are a number of ‘missed opportunities’ in a child’s life when we could work with the family to prevent problems reaching crisis later; the year 6 – 7 transition will be seen as a key opportunity to identify children more at risk of becoming late entrants to care.

Both the year 6 – 7 transition and the ‘On track’ project are set within the context of the Early Help Strategy.

Although progress has been made in 2014 in prioritising this cohort, there is still considerable work to be undertaken in 2015 to fine-tune the approach.

2. Key Matters for the Committee’s Consideration

- The committee are asked to note progress and invited to provide any challenge to the approach.
- The committee are asked to note that this approach relates only to Westminster children and a challenge for schools is accessing similar levels of support for out of borough children.

3. Background

This section will outline progress against the 3 areas in our emerging framework.

3.1 – Identification

In summer 2014, as a part of the new framework, we aimed to create a list of children in each locality who were deemed more at risk in their transition from primary to secondary school. This list was populated by the early help locality teams using agreed criteria for example children who had been subject to a common assessment in the last year (CAF), those known to social care services and children identified by schools as likely to struggle with transition. These children were then discussed at each primary school in a meeting that we call the ‘transition TAS’ (team around the school). These children were prioritised into 3 levels of support depending on their need as follows:

1. High level of support;
2. Targeted support;
3. Lower level support.

In reviewing progress made last year, we made significant steps in developing a systematic approach to identifying children but the model was too locality focused in that a list of children was collated for each locality rather than for each secondary school. This meant that a school in the north-west may not have heard about a child living in the south of the borough. This is being addressed and ***in 2015 each secondary school will receive a transition list made up of children from across Westminster.*** We will also ***introduce a transition review TAS*** in the autumn term once the children are in their new schools.

It needs to be noted that for schools there is still the issue of children who attend Westminster schools but live in other boroughs as these boroughs may not offer a similar level of support.

3.2 – Interventions

The interventions that were delivered for each area of need are indicated below:

3.2.1 High level

- Either 'Going Places Speech and Language Programme' (more details are attached in the report at appendix 1) or the 'Stepping Up to Secondary School Transition Programme' delivered by the Early Help teams. The latter consists of workshops and fun activities.
- One to one support from a young people's practitioner from the early help teams;
- Positive activities delivered through local youth clubs;
- Support from a volunteer mentor over a longer period, and out of office hours, to raise aspirations;
- Gangs awareness workshops;
- Play service holiday opportunities including a residential;
- Edutain summer sports programme;
- Specific school based programmes i.e. the Quintin Kynaston Nurture groups.

3.2.2 Targeted support

- Support from a volunteer mentor;
- Gangs awareness workshops;
- Positive activities delivered through local youth clubs;
- Play service;
- Edutain summer sports programme.

3.2.3 Lower level support

- Positive activities delivered through local youth clubs.
- Play service
- Edutain sports opportunities

3.2.4 In My Backyard (IMBY)

In addition, all children were invited to attend an IMBY group. This is a 20 week programme introduced into Westminster by Save the Children; children are encouraged to share their fears and work on communication skills with other young people they have not previously met, increasing their confidence and replicating the transition they will encounter into secondary school. In 2014 Save the Children trained 2 Westminster staff in each locality to offer and deliver to our transition

cohort. Following this training, IMBY was successfully delivered after school in the autumn term.

For 2015 we have adjusted the timetable of when the programme will be delivered to take into account the length of their school day, clocks changing (participants often did not want to leave the sessions after school when it was dark) and the resources needed to deliver the programme to have the most impact. For the academic year 2015-2016, IMBY will be delivered from **February 2016 for 20 weeks**. This is so that we can take into account the school day, delivery to (hopefully) take place in school during the day (tutor time). We aim for the cohort for IMBY to be the original transition group (2015) plus any other pupils that have been identified (at a Transition TAS Review in the Autumn term as needing more support and that would benefit from the IMBY programme.

3.2.5 Learning and next steps about the interventions.

- **Attendance was variable** at the sessions (in all areas of need) and non-attendance was not rigorously followed up. For example, 71 children were identified to attend the stepping up programme delivered by the Early Help teams and 55 (77%) attended consistently. The programmes were seen as part of a summer holiday programme and **input needs to be sustained for longer**.
- In 2015 **all children identified as having a high level of need will all be allocated a 1:1** worker who will aim to build a relationship with them and their family and offer support at least until the Christmas break and maybe longer; the worker will follow up non-attendance.
- In 2014 the **support was too focused on the child and we missed an opportunity to work with the whole family**. In 2015 parenting support will be made available to the parents alongside support for the child. When children are identified at the transition TASs, names will be forwarded to the parenting co-ordinator and her team so that they can start to build relationships with the parents. Parents ideally identified by April/May, with a view to them participating in a parenting programme between June-July. There is also the possibility of providing an evening parenting group running from 6.30-8.30 in one locality for all localities, for those parents who may not be able to access the parenting sessions during the day due to work commitments.
- In 2015 we will focus on **2 levels of support high and targeted** and aim to be more active in following up the children in the high category for longer and working with the whole family.

3.3 – Evaluation

A DfE commissioned research paper¹ identified five aspects to a successful transition for children as follows:

¹ Research Report DCSF – RR019. What makes a Successful Transition from Primary to Secondary School? (2008)

- developing new friendships and improving their self-esteem and confidence;
- having settled so well in school life that they caused no concerns to their parents;
- showing an increasing interest in school and school work;
- getting used to their new routines and school organisation with great ease
- experiencing curriculum continuity.

Any evaluation in 2014 was very limited. We reviewed attendance and what we had achieved in relation to the process but we did not formally track the outcomes for each child or link to their progress in school. However, staff have now been trained to use the outcomes star and in 2015 we are planning to use this so that we can report on individuals and as a cohort. The Outcomes Star is a unique suite of tools for supporting and measuring change when working with people; it is well researched, widely used and endorsed. Staff in family services have been trained to use the ‘family plus star’ and the ‘my star’. The star will be able to highlight issues and progress in the 5 areas flagged above.

In addition, as a part of the On Track programme mentioned in the introduction we will also be using a predictive model to identify children most of risk of coming into care later; this will be achieved by identifying key risk factors and this will support the identification of children at year 6 – 7 transition. A tracking tool is being developed alongside this to better understand outcomes and the interventions that make the most impact.

3.4 Next steps

The transition TAS meetings will start in the summer term and all the changes to processes identified above will be implemented. A review of progress will be available in January 2016.

4. Health and Wellbeing Implications

N/A

5. Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications. This is a priority and the main cost is staff time.

6. Risks and Mitigations

N/A

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the
Background Papers please contact Jayne Vertkin Ext 5745**

jvertkin@westminster.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1

Briefing on how Westminster's Early Help (locality) service will support Year 6 – 7 transition

1. Introduction

The move to secondary school means a number of major changes for all children. Most children will cope with these with support from their family, school and peers but children who are more vulnerable, because of their social or family circumstances, may be less resilient and find the move a lonely and challenging time that can spiral into poor outcomes. Westminster's early help teams, also known as the locality service, sees this transition as a key opportunity to offer targeted support to children with the aim of helping them to achieve and enjoy their school experience. Although this work has been a priority previously, we have been further developing it over the last year to create a more consistent framework that we have broken down into - identification, intervention and monitoring / evaluation. Our aim is to develop a more systematic approach that joins together what different agencies provide into a single, consistent offer for children.

2. Identification

In term 5 (April-May) we have developed an additional 'team around the school' (TAS) meeting to discuss children transitioning from year 6 to 7 who may need additional support during this period. From 2014 a list of children, who may experience difficulties, will be created ahead of the meeting as follows:

- The locality service will create a list of all transition students who have a common assessment (CAF)², who are children in need (CIN) or subject to a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority (LAC). This list is sent to the TAS chair.
- The locality service will also ask schools to provide a list of children they feel should be considered for extra support. This will include children, who have a statement of educational needs (SEN), children with social / emotional difficulties, children who have been excluded from primary school or are at risk of exclusion and children who are gang affiliated.

² A common assessment is an early intervention assessment that can be generated by any one working with children and is usually undertaken at the first sign of concerns.

At the meeting each child's needs will be discussed, recorded and prioritised, showing which children most require support. A plan of intervention will be developed as part of a multi-agency panel. Children who have been referred will be offered opportunities from the following Interventions to compliment school based programmes.

3. Interventions

Once identified children are currently offered a range of the interventions listed below but from 2014 **we want to improve our offer and ensure that the children with the greatest needs receive the most help and this needs better co-ordination between agencies.** The aim is for every organization's intervention to become part of a 'whole' rather than a standalone offer.

Support to children and their parents consists of a range of the following interventions:

- Targeted **group workshops** in primary schools; themes include staying safe, how to develop safe and positive friendships, who to ask for help. This will be delivered in partnership by the locality teams, Integrated Gangs Unit, Police, and local arts providers i.e. Paddington Arts.
- **One to one support.** Once the child is identified, contact will be made by a **young people's practitioner from the locality team.** The initial meeting will aim to engage the child, parent and primary school. One to one sessions will then be offered to some children with complex needs and this can continue until the Easter term of Year 7. In addition we will encourage some children to receive support from a **Boost Mentor**³, or recommend the child is linked to a **peer mentor** within their secondary school to support their successful transition.
- In the **summer holidays** secondary schools offer a transition programme to induct and support all year 7 children. As an additional to these programmes, the locality teams offer weekly **workshops and activities** to prepare the children for secondary school. From 2014, greater emphasis will be placed on working in partnership with the secondary schools to deliver **this summer transition programme jointly** and in providing ongoing support e.g. Quinton Kynaston has two year 7 nurture groups and the NE locality team will work closely with the school to offer additional transition support for those pupils who have emotional and behavioural needs. This is work in progress.
- **In MY Backyard (IMBY)** is a 20 week programme and children are encouraged to share their fears and work on communication skills with other young people they have not previously met, increasing their confidence and replicating the transition they will encounter into secondary school. The

³ This is part of the mentoring scheme that we run in Westminster City Council

programme was started through our partnership with Save the Children. The last group did this by working together to develop a video about local housing. The group met weekly and at the start of each session shared experiences about their transition at secondary school. The feedback from parents, primary and secondary schools has been overwhelmingly positive. Parents have fed back that their children settled into secondary as a result much better, identifying more confidence, better communication, less fear, awareness of support and children's more positive response to education as a result. This has been echoed by feedback from secondary schools. ***The plan is now to train our staff to deliver this programme and to offer IMBY to all children as a part of a transition offer.***

- The locality teams have started to offer **gang prevention workshops** to year 6 in targeted primary schools and the aim is to make this more consistently available. This is in addition to the Growing against Gangs programme offered as a part of the Your Choice programme delivery.
- A **supplementary school for Kurdish pupils** ran on Saturdays throughout last summer as a particular transition need has been identified within this community and it is hoped that this will continue in 2014.
- Children with **speech and language** needs are offered a **targeted programme** by Westminster Specialist's Schools outreach programme. The programme is offered to all secondary schools (to date only King Solomon has not participated and this is because they have their own model). The programme covers the areas based on current research about the issues that are of concern to children in transition to secondary, these are as follows:
 - Making new friends in school
 - Standing up for yourself/bullying
 - Getting to know new teachers
 - Finding your way around your new school
 - How to manage homework
 - Feeling lost in a new environment
 - Knowing who to ask for help
 - Ordering and eating lunch

It is a 6 week programme (delivered in the final term of year 6), where children are taken from primary school to the secondary school they will attend; they therefore have the opportunity to meet other children in the same situation. The criteria for entry onto the programme are currently very broad, one criteria being 'any other vulnerable children' and so, at times, this has had to be prioritized further. Sessions are very structured and themed so for example, look at how to buy food in the canteen – what do you need to say to the dinner

lady in ordering food, where do you sit, how do you buy the food. Feedback from teachers has been really positive in identifying children with issues earlier, who they may not have identified without this programme. ***The programme has now been published and locality staff have been trained to use the resources and co - deliver.***

- We are currently mapping what **youth and community groups** can also provide, to include in the offer of support to children at transition.

4. Reporting and Evaluation

Some limited evaluations have been undertaken of our work with transition but it hasn't been robust enough to demonstrate outcomes. However, we are currently piloting a distanced travelled tool in the south locality – the outcomes star – and plan to build its use into transition work from next year. We will then be able to use the star in year 6 and repeat at intervals. This will enable us to report on outcomes (distanced travelled) for the whole cohort. We are also developing the evaluation framework to include the evaluation of 'Going Places' and IMBY

Jayne Vertkin
December 2013



City of Westminster Committee Report

Meeting or Decision Maker:	Children, Sport & Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	12 January 2015
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Annual Looked After Children and Care Leavers Report 2014
Wards Affected:	All
Better City, Better Lives Summary	The outcomes and life chances of Westminster's Looked After Children and Care Leavers form a critical component of Westminster's commitment to a safer, healthier city, which give every child the best start in life.
Key Decision:	None
Financial Summary:	None
Report of:	Tri-borough Executive Director for Children's Services

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report highlights the significant responsibilities the local authority has in relation to Looked After Children, and how it discharges these.
- 1.2 Nationally, there were 68,400 children and young people in care on 31 March 2014, a slight increase on the previous year. Generally, outcomes for Looked After Children are poorer than those who have not been in the care system. Despite the good work and dedication of professionals and carers, challenges still remain in improving the experiences and outcomes for Looked After Children. Locally, we closely monitor the profile and outcomes of our care population in order to effectively plan services. Section 3 outlines the profile of our current care population and the following sections highlight outcomes for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

- 1.3 Section 5 highlights Westminster's strategic priorities for Looked After Children services and future developments in services
- 1.4 This report is for information.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 In this report, the term Looked After Children refers to those children for whom Westminster City Council has assumed Parental Responsibility through a care order or by an agreement with their parent(s).
- 2.2 Westminster also has a duty and responsibility to those young people who leave care after the age of 16 years until they reach the age of 21 years, or 25 if they are in higher education.
- 2.3 The majority of Looked After Children need alternative care and accommodation due to the inability of their primary care giver to offer safe and effective care within the family home. Many Looked After Children are able to return to their parent(s) speedily and do not require long term services or interventions. Many who remain in care are likely to have suffered neglect or abuse, prior to coming into our care, and are likely to require support from a range of services.

3. Numbers of Looked After Children

- 3.1 At the end of March 2014 there were 176 children Looked After by Westminster City Council. Of those children and young people who were Looked After at the 31 March 2014, 70 percent (125 out of 176) had been Looked After for at least twelve months. During the course of the 2013/14 financial year 90 children and young people started to be looked after, of which 44 percent were aged 16 and above (40 out of 90). During the 2013/14 financial year there were 105 children and young people in care who ceased to be looked after; 44 (42 percent) episodes of care ended as a result of the young person turning 18 and 35 (33 percent) ended with the child returning home to their parents.
- 3.2 The number of Looked After Children has steadily declined over the past five years: from 247 Looked After Children in March 2004 to 176 children in March 2014. The number of Looked After Children as a proportion of the population in Westminster is 49 LAC per 10,000 population; the third lowest in Inner London. This is lower than Hammersmith and Fulham (62 per 10,000) and slightly higher than Kensington and Chelsea (36 per 10,000).

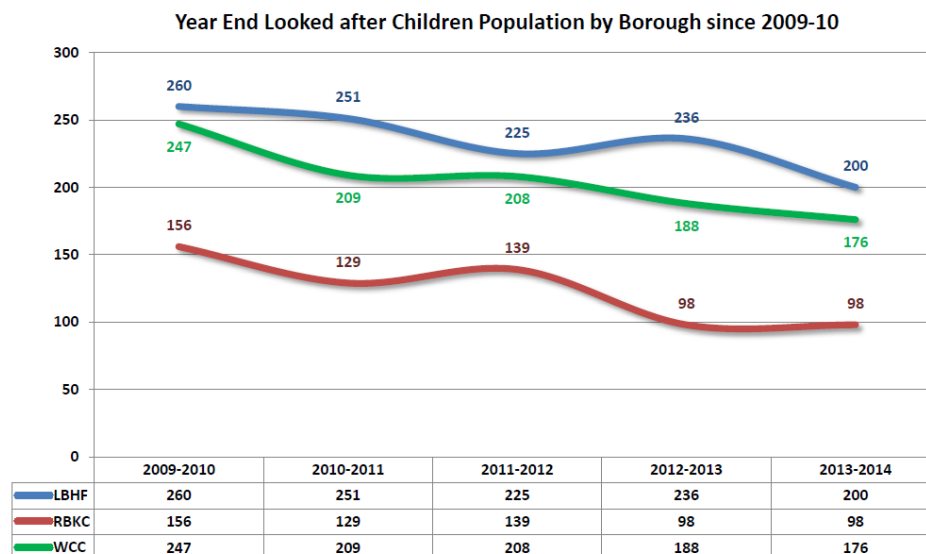


Table 1: Looked After Children population (year end): 2009/10-2013/14

- 3.3 The majority of children Looked After at the 31 March were aged 10 and over, with 58 children aged 16 and above (33 percent) and 65 aged 10 to 15 (37 percent). Only 24 children were Looked After under the age of five (7 aged under one and 17 aged between one and four).
- 3.4 Abuse and neglect was the largest category of need, recorded as the main category of need for 72 of the 176 (x percent) Looked After Children at the 31 March 2014. 16 children were Looked After due to absent parenting (the majority of these young people will be unaccompanied asylum seeking young people); 41 due to family dysfunction; 13 due to family in acute stress; 6 due to disability; 4 due to socially unacceptable behaviour and 24 due to parental illness or disability.
- 3.5 The majority of Looked After Children are in foster care placements: of the 176 Looked After Children at 31 March 2014, 139 (79 percent) were in foster care; were in residential placements; and 2 were in residential school placements. Of the 28 Looked After Children in residential placements 21 were in supported accommodation and 7 in children's homes. Other Looked After Children were placed for adoption or placed with parent.
- 3.6 As a geographically small borough, not all Looked After Children are able to live within Westminster when they are in care. Of the children and young people Looked After at the 31 March 2014, 84 percent were placed in London, including within Westminster

4. CORPORATE PARENTING

- 4.1 Corporate Parenting is the term used to refer to the collective responsibility of the Council to provide the best care and protection for children and young people who are 'looked after', that is, who are in public care. Effective corporate parenting will need the commitment from all Council employees and elected Members and an authority wide approach. These responsibilities for Local Authorities were first laid out in the Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004 and reinforced in the Children and Young People's Act 2008.
- 4.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel has a key role in monitoring how the Council discharges its corporate parenting responsibilities. Over the past year the Panel has continued to meet with Looked After children and young people. Topics for this year have included Foster Care Standards; the Tri-borough strategic vision for Looked After Children and Care Leavers; out of area placement standards; educational outcomes; volunteering opportunities for Care Leavers and how the board can help with sponsorship; and planning special events held for Looked After Children and Care leavers, such as the sports day and Christmas Party. The membership and structure of the board has also been reviewed to improve the ability of young people to direct topics and ask questions of the Board.

5. STRATEGIC PLANNING

- 5.1 A Tri-borough strategy for Looked After Children has recently been developed which sets out the vision and intended outcomes for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in the three boroughs in the period 2014 to 2017.
- 5.2 The strategy has six strategic objectives:
- Children on the edge of care are better supported to remain within their families and community
 - Looked After Children and Care Leavers are provided with security, stability and are cared for
 - Looked After Children and Care Leavers are safe from harm and neglect
 - Looked After Children and Care Leavers are supported in reaching a good standard of education
 - Looked After Children and Care Leavers health needs are promoted and supported
 - All Looked After Children and Care Leavers have a voice in decisions which affect their lives.
- 5.3 To support the delivery of the strategic priorities, and progress towards shared outcomes, an annual borough specific Looked After Children and Care Leavers improvement plan will be developed and delivered with partners. The plan for the Westminster is included in Appendix A. The plan will be monitored by a Tri-

borough multi-agency service improvement group, which will link directly with the Children in Care Councils and will be able to respond to the issues that these councils raise.

- 5.4 The Tri-borough Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has a significant role in ensuring effective multi-agency work and safeguarding for Looked After Children. The LSCB has requested an annual report on progress made with achieving outcomes outlined in the Tri-borough Looked after Children's Strategy.
- 5.5 The Children, Sport & Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee is also involved in monitoring the quality and effectiveness of services, via the scrutiny of this annual report on services and outcomes for Looked After Children and Care Leavers. A report on the work of the Tri-borough Fostering and Adoption Team will also be presented annually.
- 5.6 Other relevant performance indicators are reported quarterly through the Family Services Management Group and then to the Cabinet Member via their weekly Cabinet Briefings.

6. SAFEGUARDING OUTCOMES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS

- 6.1 Children who are subject to frequent placement moves are less able to form positive attachments with carers which make them more vulnerable to unsafe relationships from other adults or their peer group. The number of placement moves that children have is carefully monitored in all three boroughs to ensure plans are adapted to make placements more resilient where required. In 2013/14 only 6.3 percent of Looked After Children experienced three or more placement moves, a significant reduction on previous years (averaging 11.5 percent in 2012/13 and 2011/12) and much lower than the national average of 11 percent.
- 6.2 Looked after children are significantly more likely to go missing than their peers, and therefore vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Children with frequent placement changes are more likely to go missing and this behaviour also impacts upon the stability of their current placement. There were a total of 40 episodes of Looked After Children missing in 2013/14.
- 6.3 There are significant efforts at both the local and national level to reduce the distance at which looked after children are placed from their borough of origin. While there are a small minority of children who are more effectively safeguarded by being placed at a distance e.g. those young people identified to be at risk due to gang affiliation, the lack of foster placements in Inner London means that many children need to be placed in other local authority areas, although usually these are in London. A total of 25 Looked After Children, looked after on 31 March 2014 were in an outer London placement.

6.4 Care Leavers aged 18 and under are safeguarded through the application of child care legislation, and post 18 through the Pan London Safeguarding Adults procedures. In 2013/14 the Leaving Care team piloted a project reviewing the knowledge and confidence of Personal Advisors in the application of adult safeguarding procedures. The pilot has increased staff confidence in redefining safeguarding issues into the risks posed by others and the risk from young people's own self disregard through unwise decision making. New templates, practice guidance, audit tool and training has been designed and delivered and plans are being developed to share this across the Tri Borough care leaving services.

7. HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

7.1 Looked After Children and young people share the same health risks and problems as their peers but often to a greater degree. They often enter care with a worse level of health than their peers in part due to the impact of poverty, abuse, neglect and chaotic parenting.

7.2 Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that health assessments are carried out for every looked after child in their care. Of the 156 Annual Health Assessments (for children who have been in care for a year) 98 percent were carried out on time. The six assessments not carried out within timescales were due to child illness, child missing or refusing the assessment, exams, and delay in referral being received. All those children were subsequently seen on another date.

7.3 The Local Authority should act as a 'good parent' in relation to the health of looked after children. Within that role it has the right to approve the immunisation of children within its care against vaccine preventable diseases as per the national immunisation schedule. The proportion of children with up to date immunisations continues to rise: 94 percent in 2013/14. The continued improvement is related to a drive to ensure that young people receive their school leaver booster (diphtheria tetanus and polio) and to ensure that eligible girls are receiving the human papilloma vaccination (HPV).

7.4 Dental health is an integral part of the Health Assessment. The Local Authority and NHS Trust are required to ensure that LAC receive regular check-ups with a dentist. 100 percent of under fives are up to date with dental checks. Dental checks for 5-16 year olds are slightly lower at 94 percent and are lower for over 16s at only 81 percent.

7.5 Due to the nature of their experiences prior to and during being looked after, many LAC will have poor mental health. This may be in the form of significant

emotional, psychological or behavioural difficulties. A total of 57 Looked After Children are engaged with specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

8. EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

- 8.1 Education that encourages high aspirations and individual achievement, with minimum disruption, is central to improving immediate and long-term outcomes for Looked After Children and Care Leavers. We know that Looked After Children and Care Leavers face significant barriers to achieving good educational outcomes, therefore closing the attainment and progress gap and creating a culture of high aspirations is a major priority for the Westminster City Council.
- 8.2 In April 2014 the three Tri-borough Local Authorities appointed a single Tri-borough Virtual School Head. The virtual school maintains accurate and up to date information about how Looked After Children and Care Leavers are progressing in education and takes urgent and individual action when they are not achieving well.
- 8.3 There were only three pupils in the Key Stage 1 cohort with all achieving L2 or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. A key factor in their achievement was that these pupils were in relatively stable school and foster placements, attended mainstream school and none had a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN).
- 8.4 There were 6 pupils in the Key Stage 2 cohort with 50 percent achieving Level 4 or above in both English and Mathematics. Performance at Key stage 2 has declined since the excellent results of 2012 and 2013; however, this was expected and reflects the more complex nature of the cohort. Despite the fall in results it is encouraging that 5 of the 6 pupils met their targets and reached or exceeded their expected level of progress. 60 percent of pupils in mainstream schools achieved L4 in reading, writing and Maths. Pupils who made their expected level of progress were in relatively stable school and foster placements and attended mainstream school.
- 8.5 Most pupils in Key Stage 3 made good progress with 70 percent reaching Level 5 or above in reading and writing (English). Pupils who are making expected levels of progress are predominately in long term stable foster and school placements. One pupil moved to a boarding school at the end of year 8 and it is encouraging that academically she is achieving well. All pupils attend a provision rated as good or outstanding by OFSTED.
- 8.6 There were 21 pupils in the Key Stage 4 cohort. The percentage of pupils achieving 5 GCSE's grades A*-C is less than in previous years (24 percent);

while this is disappointing it was not totally unexpected and reflects the more challenging and diverse nature of the cohort, as well as previous years high levels of performance. Overall Westminster Looked After Children are still expected to be above average for all Looked After Children nationally. One pupil achieved exceptionally well, achieving A or A* in all but one of her subjects. Overall performance was also affected by the fact that two pupils were not educated in the UK and one pupil is still in year 10. One pupil became pregnant during year 11 but managed to complete her education before the birth of her baby.

- 8.7 The most significant factor in determining overall performance was the high number of pupils educated in non mainstream provision, which reflects the more complex and challenging needs of the cohort. This includes 5 in alternative provision and 6 in special day or residential schools. Of those pupils educated in mainstream schools 40 percent achieved 5 GCSE grades A*-C including English and Maths.
- 8.8 Steady progress has been made in addressing the issues and barriers around sustaining education, training and employment for post 16 Looked After Children and Care Leavers. Not in education, employment or training (NEET) levels fluctuate but analysis of EET performance at the end of the academic year 2013/14 shows 74 percent of 18 - 25 year old care leavers are EET and 81 percent of 19 year olds are EET.
- 8.9 Key priorities and areas for improvement for the Virtual School in 2014/15 include:
- Improve progress at KS4 – to above the national for similar pupils;
 - Improve progress and attainment of higher attaining pupils at KS2 and KS3 - raise attainment of this group to above national and ensure all pupils make at least 4 points progress;
 - Improve progress at post 16 – improve EET levels for 16-19 to 75 percent; and
 - Reduce level of persistent absence to less than 8 percent.

9. ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

- 9.1 The Children in Care Council (CICC) meets between six to eight times a year. Members of the CICC have been involved in a number consultation and projects over the course of the year. Members are also involved in Westminster Young People's Housing Forum and Corporate Parenting Panel. The members are particularly proactive when involved in specific participation or consultation events. Activities by members of the CICC over the past year have included: taking part in Westminster Takeover Week; applying for funding from the O2 Big Shout which has been used to set up an art project called Chasing Dreams;

meeting with senior managers to discuss services for Care Leavers; taking part in national consultations with a National Voice, Ofsted, and with Ed Timpson MP; participating in consultations for Looked After Children services; and being involved in the planning of Looked After Children events.

- 9.2 The Children and Young People's Panel (CYPP) has nine members aged from 9 to 17. The CYPP sessions are a mixture of consultations and recreational activities; over the past year the CYPP has been involved in national Ofsted Consultations; planning and facilitating events; and met with senior managers from the council. Members have gained transferable knowledge and skills; including knowledge about their rights and entitlements as well as Westminster's policies in relation to LAC. They have also presented in various forums, helped plan and deliver LAC events and contributed to designing LAC information and leaflets. Recreational activities have included going to Thorpe Park, Madame Tussuads, Marchants Hill Residential, Cake Baking, Go karting and Karaoke.
- 9.3 The CICC and CYPP have recently merged to help them have a stronger impact on influencing decision making in Westminster.
- 9.4 Looked After Children and Care Leavers have also been involved in a Recruitment Panel to assist in decision making about various positions in Children's Services. Young People on the panel receive training and learn how to score candidates answers. Their contribution also helps to develop a more child focussed workforce which values the participation of young people. During 2013/14 the Panel has assisted with the appointments of social workers; the Looked After Children Deputy Service Manager; the Tri-borough Assistant Director of Children's Services and Independent Reviewing Officers.
- 9.5 Other activities and events include:
- The **Looked After Children Christmas Party** which involved Looked After Children and Care Leavers in the planning and delivery. Over 80 people attended the Christmas Party which was held at the Stowe Centre. The party included a talent competition "Westminster's got talent", music, Christmas party games, present giving from Father Christmas, face painting and arts and craft.
 - The **Looked After Children Fun day**, held in August 2014 promoted healthy lifestyles in an informal and fun way. Activities included races, giant health stalls, tug of war, and arts and crafts. The event was also attended by the Lord Mayor who gave out medals to the children and young people attended.
 - The annual **Sayers Croft Residential** (know as Summer Camp to the children) is a long established event where staff from Children Services and Francis Holland Girls School work collaboratively to organise a five day residential for Looked After Children and Francis Holland six-formers. On the trip Children took part in various activities such as camping, rope climbing, archery, pond dipping, rock climbing and raft building. Many of

the children that attended had complex and challenging behaviour where they struggle to make relationships with their peers and/or have the opportunity to engage in outward bound activities.

- In November 2013 young people from the 3 boroughs attended the '**Look to the Future**' Residential including five Looked After young people from Westminster. The residential included education workshops focusing on young people's career and education aims for the future as well as how to achieve them. Activities included a Giant Swing, Rope Climbing, Power ball, Robot wars, Night Walk, Playing Hide and seek in the woods and a DVD evening.
- Westminster Children Services have collaborated with Tate Britain for several years on a range of art projects. '**Make Yourself At Home**' was specifically aimed at getting both foster carers and Looked After Children to interact in the gallery and to make connections with specific pieces of Art. In doing so, this would influence the children and foster carers when they were given tasks to create their own art pieces. A total of nine foster families participated in the project which ran over six Saturdays between Januar and March 2014. Foster parents felt the project enabled them to spend quality time together.

9. OUTCOMES FOR CARE LEAVERS

- 9.1 The Leaving Care Service assists, befriends and advises young people to make a successful transition from the council's care to independent living in the community.
- 9.2 Care Leavers move into the service at the age of 18 when they officially leave care and become an adult. At this point, they are allocated a Personal Advisor who takes full case responsibility. The Pathway Plan sets out the support available for all aspect of their life, with a particular emphasis on securing settled accommodation and appropriate education, training and employment (EET). The Plan is reviewed every six months until the young person is 21, or later if they are completing an agreed course of education, training and employment.
- 9.3 From April 2011 a former care leaver over the age of 21, but under 25, will be able to return to ask for their case to be reopened in order to complete a course of EET up to the level of a first degree. The Leaving Care Service are currently supporting 28 young people at university. One care leaver recently achieved a distinction in a masters degree of astrophysics and the service has provided additional support to her to go on to her PhD course in the same subject.
- 9.4 The team supported up to 160 young people in the current year. Following a national trend there has been a fall in care leavers who came into care as Unaccompanied Minors seeking asylum and a rise in high needs, complex cases where the young person came into care over the age of 14.

- 9.5 At the end of March 2014, of the relevant 19 year old care leavers, 72% were in education, employment or training. 100% were in suitable accommodation and further no care leavers were evicted from their final stage accommodation.

GLEN PEACHE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

KEVIN JONES
Interim DIRECTOR FOR FAMILY SERVICES

ANDREW CHRISTIE
TRI BOROUGH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

This page is intentionally left blank