



City of Westminster

# Committee Agenda

Title: **Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

Meeting Date: **Monday 29th November, 2021**

Time: **6.30 pm**

Venue: **Hybrid MS Teams and Rooms 18.01 & 18.03, 18th Floor, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP**

Members:

**Councillors:**

Karen Scarborough  
(Chairman)  
Geoff Barraclough  
Christabel Flight  
Lindsey Hall  
Aicha Less  
Eoghain Murphy  
Tim Roca  
Mark Shearer

**Elected Representatives:** Ryan Nichol, Parent Governor Co-opted

**Voting Representatives:** Alix Ascough, CE Diocesan Rep  
Marina Coleman, RC Diocesan

**Rep Non- Voting Co-opted Representatives:**  
Mark Hewitt, Headteacher, St John CE Primary School  
Wasim Butt, Principal, Beachcroft AP Academy

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

[Link to live meeting](#)

**If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Officer, Artemis Kassi**  
[Akassi@Westminster.gov.uk](mailto:Akassi@Westminster.gov.uk)

**Corporate Website:** [www.westminster.gov.uk](http://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 Governance and Councillor Liaison 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 pecuniary interests or any other significant interest in matters on this agenda.

#### **3. MINUTES**

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

#### **4. CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING - PORTFOLIO UPDATE REPORT**

**(Pages 5 - 10)**

To update the Committee on current and forthcoming issues in this portfolio.

#### **5. CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, LICENSING AND PLANNING - PORTFOLIO UPDATE REPORT**

**(Pages 11 - 18)**

To update the Committee on current and forthcoming issues in this portfolio.

#### **6. UPDATE ON THE OXFORD STREET REGENERATION PROJECT**

**(Pages 19 - 28)**

To receive an update on the Oxford Street Regeneration Project.

#### **7. UPDATE ON THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH SCRUTINY TASK GROUP**

**(Pages 29 - 38)**

To receive an update from the Chairman and Members of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Scrutiny Task Group on the Group's progress and proposed interim recommendations.

**8. WORK PROGRAMME**

**(Pages 39 - 46)**

To consider a draft report on the Committee's work programme for the remainder of the municipal year 2021-2022.

**Stuart Love  
Chief Executive  
19<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

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## Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	29 November 2021
Report of:	Councillor Timothy Barnes
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member for Young People and Learning
Report Author:	Portfolio Advisor, Patrick Ryan
Contact Details:	<a href="mailto:pryan@westminster.gov.uk">pryan@westminster.gov.uk</a>

### City for All – Young People and Learning Priorities

#### 1. Vibrant Communities

#### 3.2 Keep Children at the Centre of Everything We Do

As part of our ambition to put children at the heart of everything we do, Westminster City Council have placed a strong emphasis on improving the wellbeing and mental health of our young people and ensuring our educational activities in our libraries and beyond are available across the length and breadth of the borough. This is complemented by our enhanced cultural offer to young people – through the Holiday and Activity Food Fund as well as the City Lions programme. Over the last six weeks, City Lions have hosted workshops at the Marble Arch Mound and Somerset House, hosted the Youth Council at Kensington Palace while ten of our City Lions are volunteering at the British Film Institute Festival.

The experiences of young people have profoundly shaped their priorities throughout the pandemic. We are committed to ensuring that the voices of young people are incorporated within the services we deliver and as part of this we are refreshing how we engage with young people to ensure that we capture what is most important to them.

#### 3.3 Supporting Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We have now updated our SEND Strategy for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The Strategy is in place until 2024 and sets out a number of priority areas, including early transition planning in SEND provision to prevent any service gaps and embedding stronger partnerships with families in the service provision of our partners. The action plan to reduce autism diagnosis waiting times and access to face-to-face speech and language therapy support has now been completed. SEND provision for nursery aged children has significantly expanded following the opening of specialist nursery provision at Hallfield Primary, the expansion of Portman

Early Childhood Centre and increased offer at Dorothy Gardner Nursery. We are working toward increasing provision for school aged children with autism.

## **2. Areas of Focus**

### **2.1 Rainbow Family Centre**

Following an Ofsted inspection on 26 August, Rainbow Family Centre was found inadequate. The inspection concluded that poor management placed children at risk and their educational needs remained unmet. The early years advisory and inclusion service worked closely with the Rainbow Family Centre before the Ofsted inspection took place and the service has been aware of ongoing issues with the provider and raised concerns about the setting following a change of leadership at the beginning of this year. An intensive programme of support was due to be introduced in September 2021 consisting of weekly visits and additional leadership support, however Rainbow Family Centre took the unilateral decision not to re-open following a review of their operations. Visits had taken place and the advisory team was in regular communication with the Centre. In part due to staffing issues, agreed actions were not being fully implemented by the Centre. All children have been found alternative provision and families of children with SEND and other identified needs were prioritised.

### **2.2 Support to Afghanistan families and children**

We continue to provide a high level of support to Afghan families in the borough. All school aged children have been enrolled in school and we are working with head teachers to identify emerging needs and offering support. We have also provided early years and college placements for the younger and older children. Beyond this, we continue to provide a range of activities, including English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and family-based activities, many delivered by our voluntary sector partners and community services as well as our library services. Social workers continue to meet with vulnerable families to provide additional support as appropriate.

### **2.3 Support for families through Family Hubs**

The work of our Family Hubs continues to receive attention, having hosted visitors from the National Centre for Family Hubs, the House of Lords and Treasury officials. These have been opportunities to showcase Westminster's leading work on and best practice across the sector.

Family Hubs continue to play a central role in supporting Afghan evacuees, ensuring that families receive the necessary support and advice from social workers and assessing children's safety, and we are currently reviewing our Early Help offer in order to ensure that children's voices are captured.

### **2.4 Youth Violence**

Following the recommendation from our Youth Offending and Youth Justice Joint Strategic Needs Assessment last year to create a local drugs strategy, we have now contracted public sector consultants BASIS to work with us to develop a drugs strategy that takes a whole system approach to reducing drug-related harm. The strategy will

address the root causes of serious youth violence, sexual and criminal exploitation and more. The strategy will conclude in Spring.

We are working closely with the Metropolitan Police Service to trial their new Knife Crime Prevention Orders (KCPO). The Orders attach conditions to young people that can include curfews and restrictions on an individual's use of social media, travel outside geographical boundaries, as well as explicitly banning them from carrying a knife. An action plan has been developed and will be overseen by the Youth Crime Prevention Board. The Integrated Gangs Unit continues to offer workshops to partners and the local community to help prevent and reduce serious youth violence.

## **2.5 Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Support**

We have secured a premises for our Bridging the Gap project, which is one-to-stop designed to provide mental health and well-being support as well as employability and training services. We are in the process of appointing a provider and are working with our partner services - substance misuse, sexual health, employment, and housing support and advice services - to ensure we have the right support in place for residents of all ages. Central and Northwest London NHS Foundation Trust have committed a senior clinician to operate in the Hub part-time; the housing team have been awarded Changing Futures funding to tackle multiple vulnerability and Bridging the Gap was part of this successful bid. We are exploring co-location options with the Changing Futures team with the view of placing them within the hub. The hub will benefit from a part time clinical psychologist in addition to the new Youth Mental Health Worker embedded in our five Westminster Youth Hubs.

The project is a response to increasing youth unemployment linked to the pandemic as well as unmet gaps in the system for young people who have significant mental health and wellbeing needs. It is funded through the MyWestminster Fund to run a two-year pilot, and £648,710 has been allocated.

## **2.6 Holiday Activity and Food Fund (HAF)**

Our HAF programme provides disadvantaged children on free school meals with healthy food and enriching activities during the school holidays and continues to be a success. Over the summer, the HAF programme partnered with 33 providers and supported 2,796 young people across the borough. Demand is higher amongst families with younger children and HAF uptake is made up of 65% primary-aged pupils and 35% secondary-aged pupils. The HAF programme will continue until Christmas where young people on free school meals will benefit from one week of provision.

The feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive. Parents have reported that the provision over the last eighteen months has changed the lives of their children, boosting their confidence and improving their social skills, emotional intelligence, fitness and well-being. Likewise, the overwhelming response from young people has focused on the enjoyment they had. One young person told us it was the first time he had been on a boat.

Though separate from the HAF programme, the Government has introduced a Household Support Fund which is designed to continue to support young people. We are awaiting further detail.

## **2.7 Youth Unemployment**

Westminster City Council has a comprehensive offer of more than 40 services across the council to tackle youth unemployment, including employment support, mental health services, physical activity and social care. The council has made good progress in bringing those services together in a way that tackles youth unemployment in a more strategic way.

The Westminster Leaving Care team are working with over 300 18-25-year-olds, with 82% of them securing a positive destination. The remaining 18% are NEET. Some of the reasons include young offending or in custody, being a young parent, poor mental health, non-engagement with professionals, or uncontactable. According to the latest data from the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance, 70% of 19-21-year-old care leavers in education, employment or training go on to employment, education or training, which is well above the London average of 59%.

## **2.8 COVID Safety Measures in Schools**

For the first half of the Autumn term, overall attendance in Westminster secondary schools was above the national average by 1.8%. Primary school attendance was marginally below at 0.5% the national average. Schools were expected to facilitate two onsite Covid tests at the start of term and from there on young people have been expected to continue twice weekly lateral flow testing from home. Should a young person test positive they are required to self-isolate and take a PCR test. If this is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days before returning to school. There is no longer a requirement for young people who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive to self-isolate, but they are encouraged to take a PCR test.

We continue to work closely with schools to support them in the management of COVID-19. The vaccination programme for 12-15-year-olds is ongoing, with Immunisation Teams delivering at least one clinic in all schools by 5 November. NHS England announced recently that parents of can now book young people into local vaccination sites using the National Booking Service and as such some parents are taking advantage of this opportunity rather than wait for schools-based Immunisation Teams. Outbreak management plans remain in place alongside procedures for managing and isolating confirmed cases. Arrangements for young people to undertake remote and online learning remain in place and the council continues to monitor Covid cases on a weekly basis and provide support and guidance for schools and early years settings.

## **2.9 Education Recovery**

Following the universal catch-up premium and National Tutoring programme funding the Government provided councils to support children and young people catch up on missed education last academic year, a one-off recovery premium of over £1 million for this academic year has been provided. Building on the pupil premium, this funding is to help schools support disadvantaged pupils.

The Westminster allocations are summarised below:

	<b>Catch-Up Premium</b>	<b>NTP: School-Led Tutoring</b>	<b>Recovery Premium</b> <i>(provisional allocation)</i>
Local Authority Maintained	644,800	309,488	385,868
Academies	893,120	584,674	704,698
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,537,920</b>	<b>894,161</b>	<b>1,090,566</b>

### 3. Primary School Capacity

We continue to proactively work with a number of schools to manage pupil number shortfalls, particularly in primary schools. Schools have already taken positive action to reduce risk, including attracting more pupils, filling vacancies, managing financial shortfalls, restructuring and permanently reducing published admissions numbers. The process to amalgamate Westminster Cathedral and St Vincent de Paul schools is underway and our priority is to ensure that the transition for pupils, staff, parents and stakeholders is as smooth as possible.

#### 3.1 Ofsted

Ofsted have begun undertaking inspections and it is likely that more of our schools will be inspected. In preparing for their inspections, all schools are being supported by their School Standards Lead Adviser. Our schools team are working closely with schools to support them during the Ofsted process. Given the number of Outstanding schools we have in Westminster, a number of our schools have not been inspected for some time. At a national level, there is an expectation that some schools will receive different grades than they may be used to, given the impact the pandemic has had on young people.

#### 3.2 Sir Simon Milton Westminster - UTC

Due to continued low pupil numbers, the Department for Education has now taken a decision to close the UTC in August 2022. A listening exercise taking into consideration the views of students, parents, staff and stakeholders has concluded and a final decision will be made by the Department for Education. The site will remain in educational use whatever the outcome of the current discussions and a small number of education providers have expressed an interest. We are confident that activities there will offer technical and practical learning opportunities to young people well into the future.

### 4. **Cabinet Member Decisions (September - November 2021)**

Since the last Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee, the following decisions have been made.

- SEND Strategy, 2021-24

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City of Westminster

## Business and Children's Policy Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** Monday 29 November 2021

**Portfolio:** Business, Licensing and Planning

**The Report Of:** Councillor Matthew Green, Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning

**Report Author and Contact Details:** Patrick Ryan, Portfolio Advisor  
[pryan@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:pryan@westminster.gov.uk)

### City for All – Business, Licensing and Planning Priorities

#### Thriving Economy

##### West End Recovery- West End Pop-up Project

- 1.1 Our pop-up programme continues to prioritise local entrepreneurs by providing them with free space in vacant units across some of the world's busiest shopping destinations. In addition, we are providing funding to help fit out these spaces. The programme has been delivered by the council alongside partners including the Business Improvement Districts in order to support the West End and other prominent high streets following the impact COVID-19 has had on businesses. We have delivered eight pop-ups activations to date and we are planning for an additional 13 to be delivered by the end of March 2022.

In partnership with The Crown Estate and Bottletop we have turned former Zara Home on Regent Street into an immersive space by iconic British artist Morag Myerscough. In line with our focus on sustainability, the space will sell sustainable products, focus on a Clean Power campaign and will offer visitors the opportunity to switch to a clean energy provider in store. A soft launch took place at the end of October. At 500 Oxford Street we will be transforming 20,000 square feet into an experiential retail space – it will combine art and retail and include emergent artists, independent brands, designers. There will be a focus on themes that are on the top of retailers' agendas: inclusive sizing, sustainability, gender fluid fashion.

The current NNDR Localism Relief scheme to support pop-up activations has been extended until 31 March 2022. Given the success of the programme, property owners have expressed interest in activating units through the winter period and into Spring 2022. We have received further expressions of interest for longer-term pop-ups activations which we are exploring.

##### West End Recovery- Westminster Investment Service

- 1.2 The Westminster Investment Service (WIS) continues to support both new and established businesses grow and we work closely with the Business Improvement Districts, property owners and partners to identify further investment. We recently supported US Fintech company, Tipalti, who now have opened their European Headquarters in the West End, with their search for permanent office space. They expect to recruit heavily over the next three years and we plan to work closely with them during this period to ensure that we maximise local benefits. In October we also welcomed new diplomatic arrivals to London to

introduce them to our offer. New connections were made with Trade Attachés and we plan to host business delegations to support them to expand in London.

#### West End Recovery- Westminster Reveals

- 1.3 Following the launch of our first destination campaign, Westminster Reveals, we have attracted footfall and showcased a diverse and exciting array of entertainment, hospitality, arts, and culture unique to London. We have contracted external agency Sister to promote our upcoming Christmas events. In total, our Inside Out Festival, which finished at the end of October, attracted 250,000 visitors. Our Underbelly Festival, which finished at the end of September, also attracted 150,000 visitors and sold 25,000 tickets.

We have been working closely with art agency Colab to bring art to our streets. British-Ugandan artist Lakwena Maciver has transformed the unused rooftop above Temple Underground station into a colourful space filled with art. It will remain open until 30 April and incorporates a new studio for artist residencies. This follows the creative quarter in Strand-Aldwych which hosted a skate-park and lessons to encourage young people into the sport.

We have enabled Walk with Amal, a 3.5 metre animated puppet that represents a 9-year-old Syrian refugee on her journey from Syria across Europe, drawing attention to the ongoing refugee crisis and the large number of young girls leaving the education system. It is supported the Arts Council and the Greater London Authority's (GLA) Let's Do London campaign and has attracted over 5,000 residents to date.

#### West End Recovery- Future Occupiers

- 1.4 Following the virtual trade missions to Asia in July, a further mission was held in Europe in October. 40 companies joined us from across Europe from sectors including sustainable fashion; health and wellbeing; museums and experiential; and food and beverage. The programme is currently engaging with 59 companies regarding their expansion into the West End and has made 30 direct introductions between future occupiers and property owners.

#### West End Recovery – Marble Arch Mound

- 1.5 Visitors continue to visit Marble Arch Mound, with 184,772 people having been up the Mound as of 18 November. The exhibition has been a draw for more visitors to the West End, with many going on to spend money on food, attractions and Westminster shops. Since introducing a customer experience feedback tool in September, we have received feedback from 196 visitors. 69% of them would recommend visiting the attraction while 66% said they were visiting the area specifically for the Mound.

#### West End Recovery – Oxford Street District

- 1.6 We are committed to supporting the future success of the nation's favourite high street and its surrounding neighbourhoods. The case for investing in the Oxford Street District is even stronger following the pandemic and in order to satisfy ourselves that the existing approach is the right one, we are currently carrying out an internal programme-wide review to ensure the programme meets key tests relating to the business case, meaningful engagement, the positive impact on residents and cost.

On top of programmes and we have already delivered – such as greening on Oxford Street – our Soho Photography Quarter is under construction. The Quarter will make the space more pedestrian-friendly and include the installation of cross-street banners, art and images curated by the Photographers Gallery. Works on Berners and Newman Street were delivered in October, which is the first step towards the wider Berners and Newman Street Greenway

programme. This project aspires to improve the public realm, including better conditions for pedestrians and cyclists through the reduction of traffic, and introduction of additional greening, street furniture and lighting. We are working with partners on proposals for Manchester Square area which will create a new culture-focused public space, improve pedestrian safety and introduce a dedicated eastbound cycle lane.

#### West End Recovery - Alfresco Hospitality

- 1.7 The alfresco scheme came to an end on 30 September 2021 as businesses now operate indoor dining. The temporary road closures and barriers that were in place have now all been removed. Businesses can still apply for a licence to allow outdoor dining on pavements, providing there is sufficient access for pedestrians. Moving forward there are 11 areas where permanent schemes are being developed.

There are a number of permanent schemes in place or under development. Following a series of consultations, these are Covent Garden, St John's Wood High Street, Elizabeth Street, Eccleston Street, North Audley Street and Pimlico.

#### West End Recovery – Westminster Markets

- 1.8 Westminster Markets have been trialling a number of interventions to revitalise and increase footfall across Westminster, alongside testing new concepts to encourage a greater selection of traders to choose Westminster to start their business. We recently held a Night Market in Rupert Street linked to the International Food Festival, which was well received by residents and businesses in the area. We have also secured £1.2 million from the European Regional Development Fund to run the Digital Street Markets programme which will see Wi-Fi deployed to each of the markets run by the council. Wi-Fi networks will be free for all market traders to access and will provide a fast and reliable internet connection alongside training that will upskill businesses and help them realise the benefits of social media and promotional activity. Berwick Street Wi-Fi is now operating and shortly other market areas will go live.

### **Training and Employment**

#### Westminster Employment Service

- 1.9 To date, 25 Kickstart vacancies at the council have been filled by Westminster residents. We are redoubling our efforts to recruit to the remaining five opportunities. Hiring managers report that they are impressed with the quality and calibre of Kickstart recruits and having more Westminster residents joining our workforce shapes our services for the better. Westminster Adult Education Service is also supporting Kickstarters through their employability programme. Beyond this, we also support external organisations recruit through Kickstart and to date 12 vacancies have been filled. Given the Chancellor extended the Kickstart Scheme until March 2022, we will continue to support residents access employment opportunities.

As part of our Westminster Employment Service programme, over 540 residents have registered for support since April and we have supported 288 into employment against an annual target of 320. Given the success of the service we have increased our annual target to support 420 residents into work. We have also surpassed our annual target of 42 by supporting 51 residents progress into roles that offer higher salaries or provide access to further training. We continue to support more residents than ever to remain and progress into work through training, volunteering, support with debt and money management and more.

## Westminster Wheels

2. Westminster Wheels to date has trained and offered 25 young people from Westminster paid employment. All participants were previously unemployed. Our most recent cohort of five residents completed their training in September and began working in the Westminster Wheels shop on Church Street. A further two roles are being recruited through Kickstart to support sales and they will start working with Westminster Wheels in December. In addition, Westminster Wheels continues to make a positive contribution to the Church Street community and beyond. We took part in the Clean Air Action Day where the project was promoted to residents and stakeholders. We are working with the Markets team to promote in other locations, we have agreed a programme of promotional activity with the University of Westminster and we continue to encourage residents and businesses to donate bikes. We plan to donate two dozen bikes to the community in the run up to Christmas.

## Westminster Adult Education Service

- 2.1 Despite challenges, Westminster Adult Education Service has achieved exceptional results for learners. Our overall achievement rate for 2020/21 is 88.6% for over 5,300 learners. This compared favourably against the 87% achievement rate prior to COVID-19. Recently we have hosted several workshops to raise the profile of lifelong learning as part of Lifelong Learning Week. We have championed local providers and showcased our offer, and workshops have supported residents with CVs, LinkedIn advice, UCAS applications, interview techniques, practice interviews and career coaching. Mental health and wellbeing activities were also on offer.

Our new Digital Careers programme has proved incredibly popular. Our partnership with Amazon Web Services and Westminster Employment Service is already oversubscribed with all 25 spaces filled. Given our expertise, the British Library awarded WAES a contract to lead the British Library apprenticeship programme for the Level 3 Library, Information and Archive Services Assistant. A team of eight new apprentices are due to start in January 2022. Beyond our core offer, we will be supporting residents achieve qualifications through the National Skills Fund, part of the Government's Plan for Jobs.

## **Place Shaping**

### Strand Aldwych

- 2.2 The Strand Aldwych project has achieved its first major milestone by converting what was an area with high levels of traffic and pollution, into a new cultural learning quarter. In September we held 'September on the Strand' which drew thousands of visitors. It included a pop-up skate park which provided 250 free skate-boarding lessons. Construction is ongoing on the Strand and the Aldwych two-way scheme is due to complete at the end of 2022.

The construction project is being delivered to time and on budget according to the £18,090,232 approval gained in December 2020. The total scheme spend to the end of period 5 on the Aldwych 2-way and Strand Meanwhile elements of the scheme is £9.938million. Partners have contributed to this project through attending workshops, providing meeting space and financing supporting studies.

### Harrow Road

- 2.3 Following the completion of the Harrow Road Place Plan in August 2021, we are progressing the design and planning at Harrow Road and Westbourne Green as well as the Maida Hill

Market. Community feedback has been gathered and we intend to hold a public consultation in the coming weeks. Work is expected to start on the sites in summer next year.

The Place Shaping team secured £900,000 towards the delivery of Harrow Road Place Plan from the Greater London Authority's Good Growth Fund (GGF) in 2020. This funding is matched by Westminster's Programme to provide a total project budget of £1.8m.

### Victoria Place Plan

- 2.4 Work is underway to explore how we can introduce enhanced greening to Victoria Street and we are in the process of developing a strategy and identifying a first tranche of permanent projects that can be delivered across the course of the next financial year. £300,000 has been ringfenced within the capital programme to carry out design and technical work in support of the strategy and seed fund the first tranche of project delivery in 2022/23. Contribution from partners will be decided once a set of deliverables has been identified.

We are leading on a project to renovate the Lillington and Longmoore Gardens Community Centre and develop an Open Spaces and Play Strategy for the estate. In partnership with residents, we are currently reviewing the designs and will be submitting a planning application in due course. £750,000 has been ringfenced within the 2021/22 and 2022/23 Capital Programmes to carry out design work and seed fund project delivery. £47,572 has been allocated to project delivery via the Open Spaces, Greener Places programme. An application for circa £925,075 has also been made to the Carbon Offset Fund to further contribute towards project delivery costs.

The Future Victoria Masterplan was disrupted by COVID-19 but we are recommencing community engagement in early 2022 to assist with the completion of the concept masterplan for the station and surrounding areas. £50,000 has been ringfenced within the 2021/22 Capital Programme to cover expected costs associated with recommenced engagement activities. As a key project partner, Network Rail will be contributing towards the costs of engagement work once it recommences.

### Soho

- 2.5 Our Vision for Soho aims to develop a positive vision statement, set of objectives, and projects that will address current and emerging pressures facing Soho. We continue to engage with Soho's communities and have held a series of workshops to understand their priorities. Once completed, the Vision for Soho will sit alongside the Soho Neighbourhood Plan to provide a comprehensive plan for Soho's future. £1.8 million has been ringfenced to support the delivery of Vision for Soho projects over the course of 2022/23. A legal situation has arisen which may impact the programme timeline.

£1.8 million from the Council's Capital Programme has been ringfenced to support the delivery of Vision for Soho projects in 2022/23.

### Open Spaces, Greener Places

- 2.6 The Open Spaces, Greener Places programme comprises a number of schemes to improve the quantity and quality of our open spaces and green infrastructure. Ten schemes were successful in securing funding for 2021/22 including improvements to parks and open spaces, play facilities, and green infrastructure. These schemes are:
- Greening Baker St (George's Park)
  - Barkour Park, Paddington Rec
  - Shrewsbury Green Oasis

- Queen's Park Gardens
- Lillington Gardens
- St John's Church Gardens
- Wharnccliffe Gardens
- Selby Square, Queen's Park
- Lisson Green Estate
- Adventure Playground, St John's Wood.

A mid-year review of progress is being undertaken to ensure all projects are on track to be delivered by April 2022.

### Paddington

- 2.7 We are exploring options for taking the Paddington Places strategy forward. The emerging strategy sets out the council's position on the area's place shaping potential and provides a collective forward plan for all stakeholders adopt to deliver a high quality and holistic design for the area. The strategy is designed to support better movement of pedestrians and cyclists and unlock possibilities for healthier environments for the local community. In the coming months, we expect to take forward several projects, the first being a detailed design for Stone Wharf Gardens.

The strategy is at an early stage and not yet costed. Potential sources of funding have been identified, including existing planning application contributions allocated to the area; capital funding through the Place Shaping portfolio; CIL; and stakeholder development sites.

### **Vibrant Communities**

#### Gambling Licensing Policy

- 2.8 We have published our Gambling Policy, which we are required to do every three years. Following a review, we have developed a new approach that will attempt to provide greater controls and better protect residents, especially those at risk of related harms from gambling. The approach will enable the council, residents, and the Licensing Sub-Committee to challenge the "aim to permit" principle. The principle creates a presumption in favour of granting a permit and puts the council on the back foot because the starting position favours the applicant. As part of this work, we have also developed a Local Area Profile that will provide applicants with information on the demographic living in the area and the general risk to gambling related harm. The Local Area Profile designates Gambling Vulnerability Zones and applications in these areas will have a greater scrutiny and limited hours. The consultation period for the new policy has been open since 27 September and closes on 28 November. The new Gambling Policy will be introduced by Spring of 2022.

#### Environmental Supplementary Planning Document

- 2.9 We are finalising the Environment Supplementary Planning Document for adoption to ensure it takes account of our Climate Emergency Action Plan, the latest guidance from the GLA, and incorporates the views of residents, businesses, developers and other partners. We are also working on a new Statement of Community Involvement, which will set out the principles of the council's engagement with communities on planning issues. This will also include our continuing commitment to supporting communities produce neighbourhood plans. The Pimlico Neighbourhood Forum's plan is now being independently examined and there are others in the pipeline currently being prepared by our dedicated Neighbourhood Fora across the City.

Our commitment to neighbourhood planning remains strong and we want to ensure the voices of local communities continues to be heard.

We have prepared a new Article 4 Direction to allow the council to retain planning controls in our designated high streets that lie outside of the Central Activities Zone, covering more than 30 locations. The Direction will ensure new permitted development rights allowing the conversion of commercial properties to residential use does not compromise the vitality and viability of our high streets.

Following successful referendums in Soho, Fitzrovia West, and Queen's Park, we have now adopted three new neighbourhood plans in Westminster. These plans carry full weight in individual planning decisions alongside the City Plan and London Plan. Neighbourhood plans are a fundamental part of the planning system and reflect our communities' priorities for how they want to see their local area grow and change, as well as to help protect what they love.

### Planning

3. The application determination performance of the Town Planning Service continues to exceed the level required of the Department for Levelling Up and Communities. For Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2021/22, 77% of Non-Major applications have been determined within their target determination date whilst 83% of Major applications have been determined within their target determination date.

2,039 applications were received during Quarter 2 of 2021/22. This is an increase of 47 applications (2.4%) versus the same period during 2020/21 but remains down by 261 applications (-11%) on 2019/20, the last pre-pandemic year. The number of applications received has fallen by 47 relative to Quarter 1 of 2021/22 (2,095). Prior to this application numbers increased in four consecutive quarters post pandemic. We are confident that application numbers are continuing to transition back towards pre-pandemic levels.

### Holocaust Memorial – Victoria Tower Gardens

- 3.1 Following the call-in of the Holocaust Memorial, a claim has been made to challenge the planning permission. On 28 October, the High Court granted the challenge permission to proceed on two of the five grounds the Claimant cited. The case will now proceed to a substantive hearing and a date is expected to be confirmed shortly.

## **4. Cabinet Member Key Decisions**

Since the last Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee, I have formally approved the following key decisions:

- Marble Arch Mound – Project and Financial Update
- Soho Neighbourhood Plan
- Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Plan
- Local List of Information Requirements for Planning and Associated Applications
- Article 4 Direction
- Local Development Scheme
- Gambling Policy
- Queen's Park Neighbourhood Plan

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## Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee

<b>Date:</b>	29 November 2021
<b>Classification:</b>	General Release
<b>Title:</b>	Oxford Street District Programme Update
<b>Report of:</b>	Debbie Jackson, Executive Director of Growth, Planning and Housing
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio</b>	Cllr Matthew Green, Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning
<b>Wards Involved:</b>	West End, Marylebone High Street, Bryanston and Dorset Square
<b>Policy Context:</b>	
<b>Report Author and Contact Details:</b>	<b>Debbie Jackson</b> <a href="mailto:djackson@westminster.gov.uk">djackson@westminster.gov.uk</a>

### 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1.1 An update on the Oxford Street District (OSD) programme was last presented to the Finance, Smart City and City Management Policy and Scrutiny Committee in May 2021. This highlighted the progress that had been made with temporary Oxford Street public realm works.
- 1.1.2 With the shift of OSD to the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning, the purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee on the review of the OSD programme that has been underway since August 2021 and the proposed way forward for projects. Going forward, each project will be measured against four key tests, explained in further detail on the following sections:
- A clear case for change
  - Meaningful engagement and partnerships
  - Clarity on impact for residents
  - Robust costing and investment perspective

- 1.1.3 In addition, this report provides a breakdown of the programme's spend to date, governance and forward look on upcoming programme activities.

## **2 Key Matters for the Committee's Consideration**

- 2.1.1 The OSD programme, including project prioritisation, finance, and engagement and consultation has been under review since August 2021. This exercise is necessary to ensure that the proposed programme interventions deliver the key tenants of the OSD Framework and demonstrate that the four key tests have been met for all projects. In doing so it would be beneficial to gain the Committee's input into the following:
- 2.1.2 Have we got the four key tests right (outlined in section 4)?
- 2.1.3 What is the ideal engagement approach moving forward given the complex nature of the District and stakeholders? Are there audiences that we should be involving going forward and how do we meaningfully engage them?
- 2.1.4 The successful delivery of the OSD programme hinges on private sector investment and support. How can we best engage with the private sector on the design, delivery and maintenance of the District given its multiple audiences?

## **3 Background**

- 3.1.1 Oxford Street is one of the world's most celebrated retail streets, it is visited by millions of people each year and is an essential part of the West End and London offer. The street's setting means it sits alongside several distinctive and historic neighbourhoods, including Fitzrovia, Marylebone, Mayfair and Soho, that provides a richness and vibrancy that cannot be matched. Therefore, it is important that Oxford Street is considered as part of a diverse District, integrated into the wider West End, where it can provide world class retail, commercial, culture and leisure opportunities, and is a good neighbour for local residents. Celebrating and amplifying the different elements will reinforce its continuing status as London's primary shopping street and support its development into a vibrant centre for civic life and commerce.
- 3.1.2 Oxford Street's current condition does not match its importance and status. Key challenges need to be addressed for the District to continue to thrive and remain an attractive choice for residents, visitors, businesses, as well as to attract further investment. These challenges include:
- Poor quality public realm, high levels of congestion and limited amenities mean that the current pedestrian environment is no longer fit for purpose. However, it is anticipated that the number of pedestrians in the Oxford Street District will only increase with the opening of the Elizabeth Line stations.
  - The District is also one of the most polluted areas in the UK. The majority of harmful emissions are released from road traffic.

- The change in high street retail moving away from traditional commerce and towards an approach that includes leisure, entertainment and experience has meant that retail trends have continued to evolve at pace. It is vital for Oxford Street to adapt and build upon its unique mix of retail, office, culture and leisure offer.
- 3.1.3 The OSD Framework was launched in February 2021, building on the 2019 Place Strategy and Delivery Plan, to set out the Council’s vision on how the challenges faced by the District will be addressed. The Framework sets out the vision for ‘Reinventing the Nation’s High Street’ and delivering a ‘Greener, Smarter, Future, Together’.
- 3.1.4 Since the Framework launch, the OSD programme has delivered improvements to Oxford Street and the District. These have included new greening and seating on Oxford Street and selected side streets, along with temporary pavement widening. This was delivered concurrently with the start of construction of the Soho Photography Quarter scheme and Berners/Newman Street traffic switch.

## 4 The Four Key Tests

- 4.1.1 Westminster remains committed to supporting the future success of the nation’s favourite high street and its surrounding neighbourhoods. The case for investing in this area is even stronger following the pandemic and the Council is focused on doing everything it can to deliver on this pledge alongside its partners. However, four key tests must be met to determine the viability of proposed projects - a clearly articulated case for change, meaningful engagement of stakeholders, complete clarity on impacts for residents and robust costing.
- 4.1.2 A Clear Case for Change – The rationale for undertaking a project must be fully articulated and align with the overarching objectives outlined in the existing Oxford Street District business case. Proposed improvements to the public realm, gains and losses in terms of biodiversity and air quality, impacts on accessibility and safety are particularly relevant and must be thoroughly understood before a project can be endorsed.
- 4.1.3 Meaningful Engagement and Partnerships – Meaningfully engaging with stakeholders, residents and the wider community is central to all OSD schemes and a precursor to project development. It is understood that strong partnerships must be forged to deliver and manage public realm improvements. As part of this key test, a project must garner stakeholder support, secure the necessary funding, co-ordinate with other development activity in the vicinity and have the relevant joint agreements between partners in place.
- 4.1.4 Clarity on Impact for Residents – As a public authority, Westminster puts the needs of its residents at the forefront of its decision-making. Core to a project’s rationale is the impact of proposed changes on the day-to-day activities of local communities. Therefore, the benefits of any proposed public

realm scheme must be clearly stated and ways of mitigating its negative outcomes outlined.

- 4.1.5 Robust Costing and Investment Perspective – All projects must undergo a detailed cost analysis and investigate additional investment potential to ensure proposals are cost-effective and contribute to delivering the programme’s objectives, and that costings are robust. For public realm works this includes a clear understanding of not only construction costs but longer-term maintenance implications as well.

## **5 Delivered Projects**

- 5.1.1 Oxford Street Temporary Improvements - The first phase of the Oxford Street District Framework, delivered in April 2021, included a temporary scheme on Oxford Street and selected side streets, with the aim of enhancing greening, improve biodiversity and introducing creative street features.
- 5.1.2 The temporary interventions are an initial step towards reimagining and revitalising the nation’s high street for new patterns of use, by providing new bespoke modular seating, planting and playful gobo lighting projections. Pockets of space have been provided for rest on the busy high street along with a refreshed street environment. Increased footway space on Oxford Street has also been achieved that enables safer and more comfortable pedestrian access.
- 5.1.3 The Marble Arch Mound - The Mound is out of scope for this report as it was discussed separately at the Business and Children’s Policy Scrutiny Committee which took place on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

## **6 Projects underway: Soho Photography Quarter**

- 6.1.1 The new Soho Photography Quarter, comprising Ramillies Street, Hills Place and Ramillies Place, is under construction with completion planned by the end of April 2022. The scheme will deliver a more attractive, accessible, and pedestrian-friendly space. The Quarter will be transformed into a new cultural destination through the installation of cross-street banners, an art frieze and projection, with images curated by The Photographers’ Gallery.
- 6.1.2 A Clear Case for Change  
The Quarter has been dominated by servicing and waste storage for businesses backing onto its streets, which has a detrimental effect on the attractiveness of the area, linked to anti-social behaviour as a result. The lack of access control has resulted in higher level of vehicular through traffic area and safety concerns for pedestrians.

Improving the public realm quality and overlaying a cultural offer is an attempt to redefine the identity of the area as an attraction and contributes to the delivery of key cornerstones of the OSD programme including culture and

activation and greening in this key through route from Oxford Street and Carnaby and Soho, in collaboration with The Photographers' Gallery.

#### 6.1.3 Meaningful Engagement and Partnership

The scheme was presented and reviewed during the Place Strategy consultation in 2019. This has been supplemented by statutory consultations (Section 6 and Traffic Management Order) and ongoing discussions with key properties in the Quarter.

#### 6.1.4 Clarity on Impact for Residents

The Quarter is dominated by retail and office uses with a small residential presence. The scheme attempts to improve the quality of the public realm through lighting, greening and reduced motorised vehicular through traffic, which is attractive to both daily users of the Quarter and visitors, and in turn seeks to address anti-social behaviour in the area.

#### 6.1.5 Robust Costing and Investment Perspective

The budget for this scheme was approved via a Cabinet Member Report in 2019 is circa £2.84m. This budget has subsequently been revised based on current contract rates and is now calculated at approximately £3.1m but falls within the programme allowance for this scheme as it is supplemented by Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding of £600k.

## **7 Projects underway: Berners and Newman Street**

7.1.1 Works on the traffic switch for Berners and Newman Streets were delivered in October 2021. This is the first step towards the wider Berners and Newman Street Greenway programme, highlighted in the OSD Framework document, which seeks to improve the public realm including highways surfaces, street furniture, greening and lighting. The scope of these initial works allowed traffic direction to be changed to northbound on Berners Street and southbound on Newman Street with the aim of creating a more coherent traffic network in the District.

#### 7.1.2 A Clear Case for Change

The initial junction works on Berners and Neman Street, including the traffic direction change, are a move towards realising the benefits of a more effective signal and traffic function on these streets. These works facilitate the creation of a coherent District network with fewer circuitous routes and less conflict between turning vehicles, providing a safer and more comfortable cycling environment, and connection to existing and planned cycle networks.

#### 7.1.3 Meaningful Engagement and Partnership

Neighbourhood forums and amenity societies were engaged together with relevant properties and stakeholders in advance of the traffic switch. Along with statutory consultation, there is commitment to gather local feedback on the proposed scheme for these streets before construction commences.

#### 7.1.4 Clarity on Impact for Residents

The proposed interventions on these streets will improve their safety, amenity, and attractiveness, as routes through the District and valuable public spaces to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. The proposed change to the kerbside has been assessed from a District-wide perspective and will rationalise uses on the streets in question.

#### 7.1.5 Robust Costing and Investment Perspective

Progression of a project from concept to construction is based on a clear understanding of cost and maintenance implications, and its contribution to the delivery of the overall programme objectives. This is applicable to the Berners/Newman Street traffic switch. The cost of the switch including design, junction works, temporary and permanent traffic signals and overheads is within the existing approvals.

### **8 Projects underway: Manchester Square**

8.1.1 We are working in partnership with The Portman Estate and the Baker Street Quarter Partnership (BSQP) on engaging with stakeholders on proposals to improve Manchester Square in Marylebone, as part of the Council's ambitions for the wider Oxford Street District. Proposals for the Manchester Square area will create a new culture-focused public space, improve pedestrian safety and introduce a dedicated eastbound cycle lane on the northern side of the square.

#### 8.1.2 A Clear Case for Change

Manchester Square is currently subject to several underlying challenges, that the design proposal for the area is aiming to tackle. There is a lack of publicly accessible open space in the area and Manchester Square Gardens itself is not open to the general public. Currently the poor pedestrian environment detracts from the environment surrounding The Wallace Collection, a notable cultural venue in the District. This is further compounded by the traffic arrangement in the area which poses a pedestrian safety risk. Uplifting the area with improved lighting and management will also seek to address levels of anti-social behaviour that is experienced locally.

#### 8.1.3 Meaningful Engagement and Partnership

A robust communications and engagement strategy has been developed, in partnership with The Portman Estate and BSQP.

As a part of the design development in 2020 and 2021, regular localised consultation has taken place with key stakeholders, including local businesses, schools, residents' groups, landowners and ward councillors to determine access requirements, share information on traffic changes and gather feedback on the proposed public realm vision. Key partners have also been engaged in discussion on the management regime for the area. The type of engagement has included meetings, site visits, drop-in sessions, emails, e-bulletins, as well as social media and website updates, which offers a variety of options to local stakeholders to share their feedback.

#### 8.1.4 Clarity on Impact for Residents

To facilitate the new public space, it will be necessary to remove a proportion of the existing parking in the square. The impact of removing parking has been considered in detail and analysis has been undertaken of the usage of parking within the square and the availability of parking across the local area and across the District as a whole. While there is no net loss of residential parking bays proposed through the scheme, the location of residential parking bays will be adjusted to continue to meet the demand within the square, whilst also addressing the demand on neighbouring streets. Traffic reassignment analysis has also been finalised and the scheme is expected to have negligible impact on immediate local area.

The proposed interventions on Manchester Square will improve safety and attractiveness of the area and provide a new valuable public space to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

#### 8.1.5 Robust Costing and Investment Perspective

A private sector contribution has been secured for the design and construction of the scheme from The Portman Estate and BSQP. This will be supplemented by a CIL funding secured in June 2019, as well as S106 contribution and OSD programme funding. The cost of the scheme is being finalised and this will be subject to a separate approval in December.

### 9 Programme-wide Finance

9.1.1 The table below highlights the approval to date on the programme sought through Cabinet Member/Cabinet Report, as well as the spend to date against each approval. This does not include the £6m allocation for Marble Arch Mound, which will be funded from the overall £150m OSD allocation.

DATE	APPROVAL METHOD	RECOMMENDATION	APPROVAL AMOUNT	SPEND TO DATE
Oct 2018	Cabinet Report	Approve £2.5m of spend to develop Place Strategy & Concept Design	£2.5m	£2.5m
Nov 2018	Cabinet Member Report	Approval to commence procurement process	n/a	n/a
Feb 2019	Cabinet Report	Approve updated Place Strategy and results of consultation	n/a	n/a
April 2019	Cabinet Report	Approve Full Business Case justifying £150m investment. Approve £21m of expenditure on feasibility design and staffing costs	£21m	£16.1m

Sept 2019	Cabinet Member Report	Approve £2.8m for detailed design and construction of Ramillies Street work package	£2.8m	£1.6m
Oct 2019	Cabinet Member Report	Approve the award of the Design and Build contract following the procurement process	n/a	n/a
Nov 2019	Cabinet Member Report	Approval of Resource Contracts (Project and Programme Management and Commercial and Cost Management Services)	n/a	n/a
June 2020	Cabinet Member Report	Approve the award of the Design Guardian following the procurement process (funded from £21m)	n/a	n/a
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£26.3m</b>	<b>£20.2m</b>

#### 9.1.2 Outcomes to date on the programme include:

- OSD Place Strategy and Delivery Plan (2019) and OSD Framework Document (2021)
- Full Business Case drafted and approved (2019)
- Procurement support for successful contract award (MCJV) (2020)
- Design work for priority schemes including Berners Street, Davies Street, James Street, Greenways North, Manchester Square
- Construction of Oxford Street footway widening, planting and seating, Soho Photography Quarter and Berners/Newman Street traffic switch (2021)

## 10 Forward Look

10.1.1 An internal review is underway within which the OSD programme is re-affirming its commitment to meeting the key tests of a clear case for change, meaningful engagement, and complete clarity on impact for residents, costs and investment for all upcoming projects.

10.1.2 Further to the key tests applied to the projects, governance for the programme is also being refined. Key updates are taken to the OSD programme board, which is attended by senior council officers, and subsequently to regular cabinet member briefings, all of which review and monitor programme progress and upcoming project activities and engagement.

10.1.3 As part of the programme review, expanded boundaries and grouping of projects have been proposed, which represent a more strategic approach to delivery. These delivery areas better address operational and other

interdependencies and are a comprehensive approach to achieving change in the District.

10.1.4 The proposed prioritisation of projects within each delivery area is based on:

- progress made on delivery to date and encompassing schemes already in construction that have confirmed the case for change
- projects at a mature design stage that still require the application of the key tests
- projects that require scoping and brief setting, the consolidation of stakeholder ambition and demonstration of the case for change

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers, please contact Report Author**

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#### **APPENDICES:**

[Appendix A. Oxford Street District Place Strategy and Delivery Plan](#)

[Appendix B. Oxford Street District Business Case](#)

[Appendix C. Oxford Street District Framework Document](#)

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## **Improving the emotional well-being and mental health of children and young people in Westminster**

### ***Interim Recommendations and Briefing – Scrutiny Task Group***

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the lives of all children and young people across the country, including Westminster. Whilst the disease itself has largely targeted the elderly and the most vulnerable, its social ramifications have meant that children's lives were put on pause and many opportunities were taken away from young people.

Most children and young people are incredibly resilient, however evidence collected throughout the pandemic suggests that some children and young people, especially those with certain characteristics, appear to have experienced greater negative impacts on their mental health and well-being.<sup>12</sup> These include children and young people who are disadvantaged economically, with pre-existing mental health needs, and those with special education needs and autism.

Both the Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee and the Adults and Public Health Policy and Scrutiny Committee wanted to shine a spotlight on this issue. A Task Group was established in March 2021 to better understand children and young people's emotional well-being and mental health needs within the City and if the Council could do more to support these young people. The Task Group is made up of six core members:

- Councillor Karen Scarborough (Chairman)
- Councillor Tim Roca
- Councillor Christabel Flight
- Councillor Aicha Less
- Councillor Angela Harvey
- Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis

The Task Group set out to answer the following question: *Can the council be doing more to improve the mental health and well-being of children and young people in Westminster?*

Answering this question first required ascertaining the level of mental health need within the City amongst children and young people and then whether the Council had the appropriate level of provision to match this need, in both quantity and quality of services.

The inquiry focused on the mental health and well-being needs of children and young people across the lifespan, from 0-25 years-old, to assess if there were any gaps in support. Task Group members received evidence from young people, council services, schools, community providers as well as NHS mental health services for children and adolescents (CAMHS)<sup>3</sup>. All were unanimous in their commitment to

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<sup>1</sup> Co-Space Study, University of Oxford 2021. [Available here](#)

<sup>2</sup> Public Health England 2021. [Available here](#)

<sup>3</sup> A full list of witnesses can be found at the end of this briefing

supporting children and young people across Westminster and this commitment shone through throughout all the evidence sessions. The inquiry took evidence from an array of witnesses, but it is important to acknowledge that the evidence within the report cannot capture the full picture of mental health needs and available support services across Westminster.

Whilst the Task Group heard many examples of excellent practice, this report will recommend how the Council and local partners can go above and beyond to support its youngest residents. The final Task Group report will focus on five key themes:

1. Underlying factors contributing to low well-being and mental ill health
2. Service provision in Westminster
3. The co-ordination and promotion of these services
4. Early Intervention and prevention
5. Whole-Council and Whole-Community Approach

These themes paint a picture of a City working hard to support all children and young people and also highlight where improvements can be made. The final report provides a range of observations about the effectiveness of Westminster's local mental health system and importantly recognises that the Council is a small cog within that system. The final report offers a mixture of practical recommendations the Council and local partners can take forward and wider recommendations that should act as a starting point between local partners to improve the local mental health system.

Below are summaries of the main themes that have come out of this inquiry. The final report will be reviewed at the next Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 and published during Children's Mental Health Week.

This interim briefing proposes four recommendations for the Council and local partners. These recommendations are focused on continuing to support children's well-being, awareness of services currently available across the City and increasing funding for CAMHS services. Further recommendations will be made in the final report.

## **Context - Mental health and well-being of children and young**

According to the Office of National Statistics (ONS) population data, there are up to 50,701 children aged 0-17 years old and up to 30,488 young people aged 18-25 years old living in Westminster.<sup>4</sup> It is estimated that one in six school-aged children have a mental health issue,<sup>5</sup> whilst for young people and young adults aged 17-22 years old, this increases to one in five. In Westminster, this would equate 5751 children and young people aged 5-16 years old and 3675 young people aged 17-22 years old.<sup>6</sup> These proportions are stark and will likely grow.

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<sup>4</sup> ONS Population Data 2021. [Available here.](#)

<sup>5</sup> NHS Prevalence Data 2020. [Available here.](#)

<sup>6</sup> ONS Population Data shows 34,507 children aged 5-16 years olds inclusive, and 18,376 17-22 year olds inclusive.

## Well-being

Whilst the vast majority of children are happy with their lives, *The Children's Society's Good Childhood Report 2021*<sup>7</sup> estimated that 306,000 10–15-year-olds in the country are unhappy with their lives and roughly a quarter million children did not cope well with changes during the pandemic. Young people are particularly unhappy about their school and are coming under pressure to adhere to high standards, for example the proportion of children unhappy with their school lives has leapt from 1 in 11 ten years ago to 1 in 8.<sup>8</sup> Low subjective well-being and mental ill-health are related concepts but not synonymous. Their research has suggested for example that lower life satisfaction in early adolescences could act as a warning sign for the development of mental health issues.

Whilst the Council and local partners routinely collect data and information about children and young people that access mental health services, they could benefit from more systemically understanding children's lives and their well-being. Understanding children's well-being, and importantly if and why children have low well-being and trying to improve this would enable local partners to support children on the onset of mental health problems developing.

Measuring children's subjective well-being would give the Council and local partners a wealth of data on how children feel about their lives. It would enable agencies to commission services more strategically, to measure the impact of policy and programmes, and to better understand the drivers of children's well-being and onset mental health needs.

### **Case Study: #BeeWell<sup>9</sup>**

BeeWell is a wellbeing measurement and improvement framework for secondary schools in Greater Manchester. The project is asking pupils about aspects of their lives that influence their well-being. Schools routinely use academic data to assess the progress of their pupils, make decisions about their priorities for action and evaluate the success of their efforts. Measuring well-being will serve a similar purpose, being used intelligently to improve young people's experiences and outcomes. The programme is currently in Phase 2 and set to run until May 2024.

In Westminster, the Health Education Partnership<sup>10</sup> is commissioned to deliver The Healthy Schools and Healthy Early Years Programmes which are evidenced-based public health initiatives which support settings to deliver a whole setting approach to emotional and physical health and wellbeing. Schools complete an initial review, (bronze toolkit) to demonstrate they have the requirements of Healthy School status which focusses on four main areas: Emotional health and well-being, Personal Health Social Economic Education (PHSE), healthy eating and physical activity and relate to both school curriculum and the emotional and physical learning environment.

Once schools have achieved Healthy Schools status they can move on to the next level, where an outcome-based action plan is developed based on a needs analysis

<sup>7</sup> The Children's Society's 'Good Childhood Report' 2021. [Available here.](#)

<sup>8</sup> IBID

<sup>9</sup> University of Manchester, Beewell programme proposal. [Available here.](#)

<sup>10</sup> Westminster – Health Education Partnership. [Available here.](#)

identifying a priority health and well-being area for the school's population. At this stage schools collect baseline data which includes the use of well-being and life satisfaction measures. As this programme shows, some schools across Westminster are already analysing the well-being and life satisfaction of their pupils through these programmes. The Council should work with local partners to explore how this data can be collected and analysed more analytically to better understand the well-being of children across the City.

- 1. Recommendation:** *The Council should continue to support evidence-based programmes that monitor and evaluate children's health and wellbeing such as the Healthy Early Years and Healthy Schools Programme and explore if they can be expanded.*

## **Mental Health**

Whilst local partners have limited data on the well-being of children and young people, they have a better understanding of the mental health needs of their residents. The *Centre for Mental Health* has estimated that as many as 1.5 million more children and young people may need new or additional mental health support because of the pandemic.<sup>1112</sup> *The Royal College of Psychiatrists* analysis of NHS Data showed that nationally referrals for children and young people's mental health services between April and June 2021 were up 134% from the same period last year and 96% on 2019.<sup>13</sup>

Similar findings were echoed in Task Group evidence sessions by witnesses who stated that the pandemic would have both increased the prevalence of poor mental health in local children, young people and the young adult population and hindered access to support. For example, in a recently published report by the Young Westminster Foundation they found that over 60% of young people felt that mental health issues were common amongst their peers.<sup>14</sup> As such, the Council is bracing for a sustained increase in need and demand locally over the next few years.

Evidence from both the local Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Mental Health Support Teams in schools (MHST) to the Task Group showed that as well as seeing high levels of need, they had also seen an increase in the complexity of presentations. During the inquiry, it became apparent that the Council not only needs to increase awareness of its service provision for those struggling with mental health issues but should increase its work to tackle the root causes of low well-being and mental health issues in children.

## **Theme 1 – Underlying factors contributing to low well-being and ill mental health**

The Chief Medical Officer for England identified several groups of young people as being at risk of developing mental health problems, including children living at a socio-economic disadvantage, children with parents who have mental health or substance misuse problems, and vulnerable children.<sup>15</sup> These groups must not only receive

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<sup>11</sup> Centre for Mental Health, Covid19 briefing 2020. [Available here.](#)

<sup>12</sup> NHS Confederation 'Reaching the tipping point: Children and Young People's Mental Health' (August 2021) Available [here](#)

<sup>13</sup> Royal College of Psychiatrists, Analysis of NHS Digital Data, 2021. [Available here](#)

<sup>14</sup> Young Westminster Foundation, Our City Our Future. [Available here.](#)

<sup>15</sup> Mental Health Foundation and Joseph Rowntree Foundation 2016. [Available here](#)

targeted mental health support, but the Council must also work with partners to ensure early help is available to these children.

Whilst these groups are most at risk and usually known to the Council, there may be a higher number of vulnerable children currently not known to services and therefore going unsupported. Identifying and reaching these children and young people was a challenge acknowledged by the Task Group.

The inquiry identified five groups and/or reasons that might increase the risk of children and young people developing mental health issues. These were:

- Children in poverty;
- Employment and opportunities available to young people;
- Children affected by parental mental illness;
- Children in Care and Care leavers; and
- Children and young people with autism.

The final report explores these categories in depth and makes targeted recommendations for the Council and local partners to adopt in order to better identify and support these groups of young people.

## **Theme 2 – Service provision in Westminster**

Whilst local authorities are a relatively small partner in local mental health systems, they have a vital role in helping children to have mentally healthy childhoods. The commissioning landscape of mental health and well-being services for young people is complex. The provision is a mixture of statutory and non-statutory children's services, CCG commissioned services, voluntary sector services and services provided by faith and community groups. Mental health support is also provided through schools.

Westminster has a rich array of services available to children and young people in the City that promote good well-being and support those with mental health needs. These services are not always commissioned with the sole aim of supporting child and family well-being or mental health, but as part of the local early intervention offer. From family hubs to youth centres, Westminster has a mixture of universal and targeted services that support all age ranges. These services tend to cluster around three main localities where children would go to get support - schools, NHS services and in the community.

The inquiry examined the support provided to young people in these localities to assess the current service provision available to children and young people and if there were any gaps in support. The report examines the following services and/or policies in detail:

- Well-being and mental health support from youth clubs;
- Well-being and mental health support from family hubs;
- Child-centred approach to supporting mental health and well-being;
- Mental health support teams in schools;

- Whole school approach to improving mental health;
- Mental health support from GPs; and
- Mental health support from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Throughout the evidence sessions, many witnesses raised with the Task Group the need to expand the mental health support provided by CAMHS. The Task Group were informed that Westminster CAMHS had received additional clinical capacity, in reality this means an increase from 1050 children accessing those services in 20/21 to 1363 in 21/22.<sup>16</sup> However, given the scale of the mental health crisis amongst children and young people, which has been exacerbated by the pandemic, the Task Group questioned whether the current funding level was enough.

Westminster CAMHS activity this year has generally tracked above 2020 levels, averaging a 12% increase on the previous year up to mid-August.<sup>17</sup> Whilst this had started to level off, it shows the rising levels of need amongst young residents with serious mental health problems. It's worth noting however, that Westminster CAMHS has not seen the same pattern of increased referrals that has been reported for core CAMHS as a whole.

Often the perception of CAMHS from young people, parents and teachers was negative. Witnesses cited long waiting times, the length of time between referral and treatment and high thresholds to receive mental health support as reasons for this negative perception. However, young people's perceptions of CAMHS and their experiences often did not align. After receiving treatment, young people told the Task Group that they felt very supported and listened to by the clinicians and overall felt that it had helped them cope with their mental health issues. The Task Group welcomed this and acknowledged the commitment of the clinicians throughout the pandemic to continue to support vulnerable children.

As of mid-October 2021, the NHS had received over £34 billion to respond to the Covid19 crisis<sup>18</sup> this year alone, the additional funding allocated by the Government has been welcomed by all. NHS Trusts such as Central North-west London that provide services such as community treatment for physical conditions, mental health and sexual health support should also receive an allocation of this funding. As whilst the Task Group acknowledges that all services within the NHS need additional resource as a result of the pandemic, this also includes children and young people's mental health services, which have been historically and disproportionately underfunded.

**2. Recommendation:** *The Central North-West London (CNWL) NHS Trust should allocate a greater proportion of its budget to children and adolescent's mental health services. This recommendation should not come at the cost of dis-investing in frontline NHS services elsewhere, and if this cannot be achieved then the Task Group would support its partners in asking central*

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<sup>16</sup> Access has been defined as an individual child having at least 2 appointments within a year

<sup>17</sup> Evidence Submission from CAMHS, September 2021

<sup>18</sup>NHS Funding Announcement – UK Government October 2021. [Available here](#)

*Government for further funding for CAMHS service in order to support the rising levels of need after the pandemic.*

In addition to the above recommendation, Members of the Task Group should convene a roundtable involving all local partners and providers of mental health and well-being services across Westminster to assess where the gaps in services are and how more young people can be supported before they reach NHS Crisis services.

The final report will provide recommendations to other local partners on how these services can be improved and reach a wider group of young people.

### **Theme 3 – Co-ordination and promotion of local mental health services**

As stated above, Westminster undoubtedly has an array of services available to young people. However, the Task Group explored beyond individual service provision to understand the environment and conditions needed for a local mental health system to function effectively. The final report explores the following key components that enable a local mental health system to run effectively:

- Co-ordination of services
- Accessibility and awareness of services
- De-stigmatising mental health
- Funding and sustainability of services

Throughout the inquiry it became increasingly apparent that the key to an effective local mental health system was co-ordination and multi-agency working between the Council, local partners and the community they serve as well as the promotion of these services. The Task Group was told by the Bi-Borough Directorate for Children's Services that the benefits of this partnership working had shone through throughout the pandemic. The inquiry received some excellent examples of multi-agency working and stated that this should be sustained and expanded between all local partners.

The inquiry also found that awareness of mental health and well-being services varied amongst young people across the City. The Council is already working hard to promote these services amongst children and young people. To boost awareness, they have piloted the use of a keyring, with a QR code on it, that directs viewers to a page with available mental health support on it. However, some young people informed the Task Group that they would not use a keyring as it could be stigmatising. The young people suggested a mobile phone app would be better, as well as physical advertising in schools, parks, leisure centres and youth clubs. Posters with the QR code on it have also been distributed to schools and community providers across the City. These steps are welcome but should be expanded into other communication channels in order to reach a greater amount of young people.

- 3. Recommendation:** *The Council should create and implement a promotion strategy for existing mental health and well-being services across the Borough. This will include promoting services available in schools, statutory and non-statutory services as well as community and faith-based support.*

The *Young Westminster Foundation* and *Young K&C* operate a services and support directory called *OurCity*.<sup>19</sup> This website hosts activities, programmes and support for under 25's in Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea. Across the Boroughs, 61 programmes and support providers are listed under health and well-being and 22 under mental health<sup>20</sup>. This type of accessibility is very welcome, and the Council should explore how they can help promote the *OurCity* Directory more widely and if this can be linked to the Councils own mental health and well-being offer.

**4. Recommendation:** *The Council should work with local partners to improve awareness of the OurCity Directory.*

## **Theme 4 – Early Intervention and Prevention**

The growing local, regional and national concerns about young people's mental health and well-being has led to increasing emphasis being placed upon promotion, prevention and early intervention. Nowhere is this emphasis more apparent than in Westminster City Council, where it has become a strategic priority to intervene early to improve the life chances of children and their families.

Witnesses informed the Task Group that, whilst referrals to CAMHS had increased during the pandemic, the increase appeared lower than that of neighbouring boroughs. One of the early hypotheses for this was that Westminster had a strong early intervention offer, and therefore children and young people were being supported before they reached crisis point. The final report examines the early intervention offer across Westminster and the link between good well-being and physical health.

## **Theme 5 – Whole-Council and Whole Community Approach to improving mental health**

There are many different teams and services within Westminster City Council that are both knowingly and unknowingly trying to improve the well-being and happiness of their residents. From maintaining the city parks to building affordable homes with more access to utilities, these services have all been proven to have impact on young people's well-being.

The final report concludes that, whilst the Council practises good multi-agency and bi-borough working in many respects, bringing different directorates together under the same objective – to improve well-being and mental health of children and young people – would enable a more efficient and co-ordinated response to this issue. This theme explores how the Council and the whole community can work with one another more efficiently to improve the well-being and mental health of children and young people.

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<sup>19</sup> Our City Website. [Available here.](#)

<sup>20</sup> Website searched on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

## **Conclusion**

The pandemic has shone a spotlight on existing health inequalities and accelerated the rising levels of mental health issues amongst the City's youngest. But it has also brought together local partners under a renewed sense of urgency and ambition to tackle this growing crisis. This shared ambition came through strongly throughout the inquiry and the Task Group members were impressed with the programme of work by the Council and its local partners to support Westminster's children and young people.

The Task Group hopes that these interim recommendations can build on this existing good work by providing the Council and its partners with the tools to understand children's lives better as well as to better co-ordinate and communicate the array of statutory and non-statutory well-being and mental health support available across the City to Westminster's children and young people.

## **Witnesses to the Task Group**

The Task Group took written and verbal evidence from the following professionals and groups;

- Westminster Young Healthwatch
- The Young Westminster Foundation
- Westminster City Council's Public Health Team
- OurTime, Service Provider
- Westminster City Council's Sport, Leisure & Active Communities Service
- MIND, Mental Health Support Teams in Schools (MHSTs) Service Provider
- Westminster City Council's Children's Services Team
- Westminster Youth Council
- Principal, Beachcroft AP Academy
- Deputy Headteacher, Gateway Academy Primary School
- Westminster Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Evidence has also been collected from internal and external research, evaluations of Council strategies and policies as well as evidence provided to the Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

Members of the Task Group express their thanks and gratitude for the input received by all witnesses and Council Officers.

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## Business and Children's Policy & Scrutiny Committee

<b>Date:</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
<b>Classification:</b>	General Release
<b>Title:</b>	<b>2020/21 Work Programme</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Governance and Councillor Liaison
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning and Cabinet Member for Young People and Learning
<b>Wards Involved:</b>	All
<b>Policy Context:</b>	All
<b>Report Author and Contact Details:</b>	<b>Hannah Small</b> <a href="mailto:Hsmall@Westminster.gov.uk">Hsmall@Westminster.gov.uk</a>

### 1. Executive Summary

1. This report asks the committee members to consider items for the Committee's 2021/2022 work programme.

### 2. Meeting dates for the 2021/2022 year

- 2.1 The Committee is advised that the scheduled meeting dates for the 2021/2022 year are:
  - 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022
  - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

### 3. Suggested topics

- 3.1 The October meeting will cover health and safety in schools as well as an update on the School Inclusion Pilot. The Committee is therefore asked to reflect on and discuss the suggested work programme for the remainder of the municipal year.

- 3.2 Committee members are participating in a scrutiny task group investigating the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people in Westminster, led by Cllr Karen Scarborough (Chairman of the Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee). The Committee may wish to consider topics suitable for future task group work later in the municipal year.
- 3.3 Owing to recent changes in Cabinet Member portfolios, the Oxford Street District is now within the portfolio of Cllr Matthew Green and within the remit of this Committee. Scrutiny of the Marble Arch Mound will therefore be conducted by this Committee.

**If you have any queries about this report or wish to inspect any of the background papers, please contact Hannah Small.**

**[Hsmall@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:Hsmall@westminster.gov.uk)**

Appendix 1 – Work Programme  
Appendix 2 – Terms of Reference

**Appendix 1. Draft Work Programme 2021/2022  
Business and Children's (BC) Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

<b>ROUND ONE 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021</b>		
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Reasons &amp; objective for item</b>	<b>Represented by</b>
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Young people and Learning, Cllr Tim Barnes
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities.	Cabinet Member for Business and Planning, Cllr Matthew Green
Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report	To receive the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report for 2019-2020.	Angela Flahive, Head of Safeguarding Review and Quality Assurance

<b>ROUND TWO 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b>		
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Reasons &amp; objective for item</b>	<b>Represented by</b>
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities.	Cabinet Member for Young people and Learning, Cllr Tim Barnes
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities.	Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning, Matthew Green
Gambling Policy	To review the proposed revisions to the Councils Gambling Policy and to provide comment on the proposal of Local Area Profiles.	Raj Mistry, Executive Director of Environment and City Management Kerry Simpkin, Head of Licensing, Place and Investment Policy

<b>ROUND THREE 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b>		
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Reasons &amp; objective for item</b>	<b>Represented by</b>
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Young people and Learning, Cllr Tim Barnes
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning, Matthew Green
School Inclusion Pilot	To receive an update on the School Inclusion Pilot and comment on strategies through which more schools can be encouraged to become involved in trauma informed approaches	Sarah Newman, Bi-Borough Executive Director of Children's Services Steve Bywater, Supporting Families Strategic Manager Nicky Crouch, Director of Family Service

Health and Safety in Schools	To receive an update on health and safety in schools. This issue was referred to the Committee by the Audit and Performance Committee	Sarah Newman, Bi-Borough Executive Director of Children's Services Ian Heggs, Bi-Borough Director of Education
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<b>ROUND FOUR</b> <b>29<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b>		
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Reasons &amp; objective for item</b>	<b>Represented by</b>
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Young people and Learning, Cllr Tim Barnes
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning, Matthew Green
Oxford Street Regeneration Project	To receive an update on the Oxford Street Regeneration Project	Debbie Jackson, Executive Director for Growth, Planning and Housing
Update on CYPMH Task Group	Chairman to provide a progress update on the CYPMH Task Group and discuss interim themes and recommendations	Chairman and Members of the scrutiny task group

<b>ROUND FIVE</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022</b>		
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Reasons &amp; objective for item</b>	<b>Represented by</b>
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Young people and Learning, Cllr Tim Barnes
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning, Matthew Green
School Performance	To review the 2021 School Performance Strategy	Sarah Newman, Bi-Borough Executive Director of Children's Services Ian Heggs, Bi-Borough Director of Education
Children and Young People Task Group Report	To review the Children and Young People's Mental Health Task Group report	Chairman and Members of the Scrutiny Task Group

<b>ROUND SIX</b> <b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2022</b>		
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Reasons &amp; objective for item</b>	<b>Represented by</b>
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Young people and Learning, Cllr Tim Barnes
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning, Matthew Green

Al-Fresco Dining Scheme	To review the future of Al-Fresco dining in Westminster and to review what works best for residents and businesses ahead of summer 2022.	Debbie Jackson, Executive Director for Growth, Planning and Housing Raj Mistry, Executive Director of Environment and City Management
Westminster Investment Service	To receive an update from the Westminster Investment Service and to review its priorities	Debbie Jackson, Executive Director for Growth, Planning and Housing

### UNALLOCATED ITEMS

Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Represented by
Out of Area Care Placements and Semi-Independent Accommodation	To scrutinise the use of out of area care placements and semi-independent accommodation for looked after children	Sarah Newman, Bi-Borough Executive Director of Children's Services
NEET & Apprenticeships	To hear an update from the NEET task group set up by the Cabinet Member for Business & Planning and the Cabinet Member for Young People & Learning.	
Social Care Review 2021	To hear how the Council intends to implement recommended changes from the Children's Social Care Review 2021 [Please Note: Review is yet to be completed]	Sarah Newman, Bi-Borough Executive Director of Children's Services
School Uniform	To hear an update from School Standards team on how it intends to work with school to lower the cost of school uniform, as per the Education (Guidance about the Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021. [Please Note: Guidance is yet to be implemented]	Sarah Newman, Bi-Borough Executive Director of Children's Services Ian Heggs, Bi-Borough Director of Education

### TASK GROUPS AND STUDIES

Subject	Reasons & objective	Type
Children and Young People's Mental Health and Well-being	To understand children and young people's mental health needs in the Borough, what services Westminster provides and what can be improved	Running Now Research Task Group
The Mound	To scrutinise the Marble Arch Mound	Extraordinary Meeting
Licensing	To review in detail the Council's licensing policy	



## **Appendix 2. Terms of Reference**

### **BUSINESS AND CHILDREN'S POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

#### **COMPOSITION**

Eight (8) Members of the Council (five Majority Party Members and three Minority Party Members), but shall not include a Member of the Cabinet.

Four (4) co-opted Members with voting rights i.e. one co-opted representative each from the Church of England and Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Boards and two Parent Governor Representatives. 2 co-opted Members without voting rights, i.e. two Headteachers of Westminster maintained schools.

NB: The voting rights of the co-opted only extend to matters relating to Education.

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- (a) To carry out the Policy and Scrutiny functions, as set out in Article 6 of the Constitution in respect of matters relating to all those duties within the terms of reference of the Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning and the Cabinet Member for Young People and Learning.
- (b) To carry out the Policy and Scrutiny function in respect of matters within the remit of the Council's non-executive Committees and Sub-Committees, which are within the broad remit of the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 13 (a) of the Policy and Scrutiny procedure rules.
- (c) Matters within the broad remit of the Cabinet Members referred to in (a) above which are the responsibility of external agencies and in particular to scrutinise matters relating to the provision of Health Services within Westminster, including the consideration of any reports referred by the local Health Watch.
- (d) To scrutinise the duties of the Lead Members which fall within the remit of the Committee or as otherwise allocated by the Westminster Scrutiny Commission.
- (e) To scrutinise any Bi-borough proposals which impact on service areas that fall within the Committee's terms of reference.
- (f) Any other matter allocated by the Westminster Scrutiny Commission.
- (g) To have the power to establish ad hoc or Standing Sub-Committees as Task Groups to carry out the scrutiny of functions within these terms of reference.
- (h) To oversee any issues relating to Performance within the Committee's terms of reference.
- (i) To have the power to scrutinise those partner organisations that are relevant to the remit of the Committee.
- (j) To consider any Councillor Calls for Action referred by a Ward Member to the Committee.

*February 2021*

