

RECOMMENDATION TRACKER
Economic Development, Education, Community and Place Shaping
Economic Development, Education and Place Shaping
Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Recommendations from the meeting on 19 November 2018

RECOMMENDATION 1

Work with primary schools to identify creative ways of meeting the financial challenges caused by surplus primary school places.

Cabinet Member comments:

- We will work with schools (and the academy sponsors/Diocesan authorities where appropriate) to identify opportunities to protect the viability of schools and bring forward initiatives which support the City for All objectives.
- Training sessions will be offered to all schools with surplus places that have a deficit budget position or are at risk of moving into a deficit budget. Officers will support schools in producing deficit recovery plans. All options including federating schools and having joint leadership teams will be discussed.

Recommendation is **AGREED**

RECOMMENDATION 2

Seek good examples from other local authorities to learn from their strategies for dealing with financial challenges caused by primary school place surpluses and improve existing practices.

Cabinet Member comments:

- We are aware that many authorities across London face similar challenges. We will be contacting them directly and through representative bodies such as London Councils to identify suitable policies

Recommendation is **AGREED**

RECOMMENDATION 3

Review ways of gathering data to identify the number of children eligible to the free entitlement to nursery provision with a view to ensuring that those who are eligible can access the offer

Cabinet Member comments:

- We use the DWP list of families who they have identified as eligible and reach out to those identified using various methods including outreach home visits.
- As a means of further promoting the free entitlement, officers have recently

introduced a new initiative called Busy 2s. This has involved the introduction of a 'ticket' as part of the initial letter to parents. The letter (laying out instructions and ticket) is sent in a blue envelope addressed to the child. Parent takes this Busy2s directly to the pre-approved setting and child can start as soon as possible in the relevant term.

- Once the child has accessed Busy 2s for a term, the parent is sent a personal invite from the Early Years Service to attend an employment, training or volunteering event delivered by FACES to arrange a one-to-one as some parents may not want to attend an event. Parents are then tracked to ascertain whether their child would be eligible to access 30 hours' childcare once they turn three years.
- The initiative, whilst in its infancy, has been successful in bringing together a more collaborative approach with partners across the Early Years sector and FACES.

Recommendation is **PARTIALLY AGREED**

RECOMMENDATION 4

Facilitate the sharing of knowledge or lessons learnt from the outstanding nursery schools within the city, especially concerning provision for nursery pupils with SEND.

Cabinet Member comments:

- Verbal update to be provided at the committee meeting.

Recommendation is **AGREED/PARTIALLY AGREED/NOT AGREED** (*delete as appropriate*)