



<b>Meeting:</b>	<i>Children, Sports and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee</i>
<b>Date:</b>	<i>6 October 2014</i>
<b>Title:</b>	<i>Better City Better Lives, Children and Young People Progress Report</i>
<b>Report of:</b>	<i>Councillor Chalkley, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People</i>

## **1 Better City, Better Lives Priorities**

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

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

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

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

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

In 2013-14, 83% of young people requiring foster care were placed with Tri-borough foster carers. Since April 2014, 83.3% (25 of the 32) children or young people requiring foster placements have been placed with Tri-B foster carers.

### **1.4 We will ensure that all children, in new proceedings starting 1 April 2014, with a plan for adoption, will be placed with their adopters within 12 months of coming into care.**

In 2013-14, eight children had placement orders starting after April 2013 and two of these children were placed with their adopters within 12 months. As at 30th June 2014 there were ten children in the adoption process whose placement orders started after April 2013. Of these five were placed with permanent carers. Of the remaining five, four placement orders started since April 2014 and one the placement order was in October 2013 so all are within the 12 months timescale.

### **1.5 We will provide 675 free day care opportunities for two year olds.**

The current DfE termly data release identifies 675 families in Westminster, who meet either the 20% or 40% entitlement. This is significantly lower than the original DfE estimate of 886. At present there are sufficient places to meet demand and the turnover in the Autumn 2014 term will ensure that many more eligible families will be able to access a place.

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

In 2013-14, 599 families were worked with and claims were made for 237 (40%) families. The percentage success rate is expected to increase during 2014-15 as the cohort being worked with will not increase significantly in size but the more positive outcomes and results become evident. The original target was 790 but is the subject of negotiation with Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) as despite concerted efforts the authority could not identify the full cohort – due in large part to having the best school attendance in the UK and reducing first time convictions for young people (2 of the 3 national criteria).

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

In August 2014, 95.1% of school year 11 leavers had an offer of a place; this provisional figure is marginally lower than the final figure of 99.6% for the 2013 year. The activity survey will be published in December 2014 which will show post 16 transition outcomes.

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

Three proposals have been received from developers to build the UTC. Separately, a demolition contractor has been appointed - Erith. A communication plan has been drafted for the UTC including consultation with the local community. Appointment of a development partner is being finalised, having completed the procurement process. Additional funding to meet build costs has been secured from the Government and a request has been made to support capital costs and the long term programmes at the UTC via Education s106. The existing building will be demolished in October 2014.

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

In 2013-14 (academic year) results showed that 71% of Westminster pupils achieved 5 grade A\*-C GCSEs, including English and Maths, a 1% increase on the previous year. This result maintains Westminster's position well above the national rate of 59%.

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

We are preparing to pilot an integrated (health and education) 2 year assessment in Queens Park Ward between Sept 2014 – Dec 2014. A key part of this is establishing clearer pathways for practitioners to refer, and ensuring that children with additional needs are identified early. In addition, we are establishing a Children Centre model for the delivery of a Families and Schools Together [FAST] programme.

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

The 2014 Primary school Key Stage 2 L4+ results for 2014 are 85% (up from 79% in 2013).

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

In Westminster City Council, every woman will now be asked whether they have experienced domestic abuse during the course of any social work assessment. During the second quarter of 2014, every father

or male carer will be included and spoken to as part of any social work assessment especially those triggered by reports of domestic abuse.

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

Information on this project will be provided by Public Health for the next Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

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

Since April 2014, 23 (66%) of the 35 young people coming into care were aged 14-17 years. During May-June 2014 we had a number of secure remands which has led to an increase in our LAC numbers.

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

As at July 2014, 39 young people in school years 12 and 13 were recorded as being NEET. Of these, 13 (1.2%) were in school year 12 and 26 (2.3%) in school year 13. At the same time last year, in July 2013, 76 young people in years 12 and 13 were recorded as being NEET. This downward trend in relation to young people who are NEET is encouraging and is reflected in the most recent DfE publication of the NEET Three Month Averages.

Three Month Averages - NEET June 2014	Academic Age 16 -18 (year 12-14)								Change between ave
	2013-14				2012-13				
	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Ave	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Ave	
ENGLAND	5.3%	5.4%	5.5%	5.4%	5.9%	5.9%	6.0%	5.9%	-8.5%
LONDON	4.0%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%	-14.6%
Westminster	3.2%	3.3%	3.3%	3.2%	7.7%	7.8%	7.6%	7.7%	-58.4%

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

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014: 68.6% (83 of the 121 young people) were in education, employment or training. As of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014, current figures for care leavers who are EET are 73.95%. The target for care leavers who are EET is 75%.

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

Westminster Children's Services and the Metropolitan Police are subject to Pan-London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocols. All new cases are assessed by the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub [MASH]. Police are invited to all Strategy Meetings regarding CSE cases as part of Joint Investigation Protocols. The new Police Pan London Missing Persons Team will link with Tri- Borough MASH. Between April and June 2014, 100% (3 of 3) of CSE cases have been dealt with by Children Social Care and Met Police in Westminster.

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

We are currently planning for the Education, Health and Care [EHC] Plan single assessment and working with 30 WCC families from September 2014. We have developed a draft plan and will be running a pilot EHC single assessment from 20<sup>th</sup> June which will include 2 WCC children and their families.

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

Travel trainers have worked with ten WCC children over the last year, to enable them to travel to and from school independently. More young people will be identified for this support during the 2014/15 academic year, starting from September 2014.

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

Fifteen WCC young people will be attending the Kennet West Skills centre partnership between QEII/Westminster Kingsway College from September 2014.

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

Currently, 50% of our highest risk young people are offered a mentor. We currently have a cohort of mentors who are undergoing enhanced training on working with our young people involved in the criminal justice system.

**1.22 We will provide more support for young carers.**

Seventy-six young carers were transferred from the previous Westminster provider to Spurgeons, the new provider of services to support young carers in Westminster.

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

Work in relation to this project is 'on track'. Each locality has now identified children who are likely to have difficulties in transitioning from year 6 to 7. There are a total of 71 children at level one (highest). All these children have now been made an 'offer' of support based on the available interventions and progress will be followed up on a one to one basis between now and December 2014.

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

The three Inner London CCGs (Hammersmith and Fulham, West London and Central London CCG) are developing local 'Connected Care for Children' clinics based in GP surgeries. The Connected Care for Children model which links hospital based paediatricians to GP surgeries continues to be rolled out on a pilot basis by all three inner London CCGs with initial results confirming high satisfaction levels from families.

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

We are working with Health to agree a protocol whereby all women who have suffered FGM are referred to Social Care for a social assessment of circumstances and have developed written materials for families from affected communities. Workshops for staff have been held to ensure that all staff are trained in being able to identify and prevent FGM. A three month (October to December 2014) pilot project is being developed to support and assess mother's who have had FGM and give birth to girls or have girls in the family. As at July 2014 there had been 11 referrals which is an increase from 3 referrals at the start of reporting.

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

As MOJ information is published six months in arrears. MOJ have recently published a recalculated figure for the previous year (April 2012 to March 2013) which shows 101 First Time Entrants in Westminster (an increase from the 87 previously published by MOJ). If the target reduction in numbers remains to reduce to 69 this will be difficult to achieve in 2014-15 as it represent a 32% reduction in numbers. A 20% target based on the recalculated figure would be a reduction in numbers to 81 young people from 101.

## **Update on implementation of the Children and Family Act**

### **The Local Offer**

On 1st September, the City Council published its offer for parents and young people including in and out of school provision along with services and support provided by the Council, NHS, private and voluntary sectors. This followed consultation with Westminster's Parents Participation Group. The Westminster Local Offer can be viewed at:

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/local-offer>

Liaison has taken place with Head Teachers and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCOs) in schools, as well as practitioners who work with children and young people across education, health, and care to ensure effective joint working. A piece of work has been commissioned specifically to understand the provision that is available for young people post 16 and to plan future development.

### **Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans**

Local systems and processes are in place including a template for EHCs and a trained team, including key workers. All new assessments from September 2014 have been following the new single assessment process leading to an EHC plan and draft eligibility guidelines have been developed which are to be considered for approval by Cab/SEB. A schedule has been communicated through which children who currently have statements will transfer onto the new plans. This will take place over four-year transition period with every child's statement of SEN converted during the year prior to changing Key Stage phase. All parents were informed of this in writing in August 2014 with flexibility for them to request a different transition date if there is a specific need for this.

### **Personal Budgets**

The City Council, in partnership with relevant strategic bodies, have agreed a Personal Budgets Policy and Guidance which include a statement of eligibility criteria and the decision-making process. There is also a description of services which lend themselves to personal budgets and how relevant funding might be controlled.

## **Passenger Transport Update**

The SEN service operation is currently transporting 311 Westminster children to and from 60 schools. There have been operational challenges in the early stages of the new contracts including children being picked up late, lengthy journeys, availability of specialist equipment, consistency and quality of transport staff as well as communication challenges for parents wanting to contact operators when there were difficulties. These difficulties stemmed from lack of familiarity of new drivers with the routes, gaps in information held about children and vulnerable adults (including information held by the previous operators who were not always willing to pass information on).

Much service improvement and contract management activity has taken place from July, and over the Summer holiday period. Service improvements have focused on route planning, meeting the needs of individual children, communications with key stakeholders, customer care, staff development and contract monitoring. This will continue into the new term to ensure maximum coverage.

To improve the quality and consistency of transport crews as well as their approaches to customer care, a programme of training has been implemented and provided by the local authority with additional input from the schools and one of the major operators. This includes mandatory sessions on safeguarding along with a “refresher” course on customer care, movement, handling, wheelchair and vehicle safety and dealing with vehicle emergencies. An Autism Awareness course is also being provided targeted at staff who will be transporting children with these needs.

A weekly performance data report has been implemented in Children’s services to track late running journeys, complaints and members’ enquiries, safeguarding case, and other contract activity such as spot checks or audits. The latest performance information for week ending 19/09 recorded 4 Westminster children as being delayed on one of their journeys either to or from school that week. (2 of these were as a consequence of road congestion, 1 delay resulted from the late collection of the escort en route, and 1 delay resulted from the need to organise a taxi, as the child was not ready for the initial transport.)

The ongoing performance of the operators will continue to be robustly monitored, with any early remedial action taken as necessary.

## Elective Home Education Update

### Summary

From September 2013, support for children who are electively home educated (EHE) has been provided by a Tri Borough team, the ACE team. This team is responsible for addressing the Council's statutory duties with regard to Elective Home Education amongst other functions relating to other groups of vulnerable children at risk of missing education.

The Tri Borough is committed to operating a consistent standard of support and intervention across Westminster City Council, the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, and the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, combining and adopting best practice from each of the boroughs.

Following consultation with professional staff in each borough and two meetings with advocates for EHE families, between April 2013 and December 2013, the former WCC EHE policy was adopted Tri Borough, with minor changes that have affected a significant change in practice.

The revised policy and procedures outline a process whereby a Local Authority Home Education Adviser (HEA) will, wherever possible, meet with all EHE families to discuss provision and offer advice if necessary. WCC Legal Services have advised that the revised policy is legally compliant and the new policy was formally adopted in March 2014.

The team have worked with in excess of 100 EHE families since September 2013, with 94 HEA meetings taking place with the agreement and cooperation of the HEA families; 8 of these have involved WCC residents.

However, in 3 cases (1 in WCC), families, supported by advocates, have been adamant that they will not meet with the HEA; other methods to establish that the child(ren) are in receipt of education have been suggested and LA officers' efforts continue.

Legal advice has been sought and an option is available for the Local Authority to initiate School Attendance Order Proceedings; if proceedings are successful, the Magistrates would direct the children to enrol at a school, unless the family provide evidence to the court of the provision being made, which is what LA officers have been attempting to establish.

The change of policy has led to a high level of interest in the WCC EHE community who have made contact with local MPs and Councillors, objecting to the introduction of a policy that supports LA officers attempting to meet with EHE families, as this is *not* supported by DfE EHE guidance issued in 2007.

Professional bodies nationally are currently discussing the DfE 2007 guidance in relation to EHE which many believe is in need of revision, as it can be interpreted as unhelpful in supporting LAs to fulfil their statutory responsibilities.

## **Background in WCC**

Historically, WCC officers had developed a very strong relationship with EHE advocates and families who choose to home educate. This involved regular meetings, discussions about policy documents and input into training and information sessions for colleagues.

The previous WCC policy adhered closely to the DfE 2007 guidance, which in turn had been devised with significant input from EHE families and their advocates. The revised policy, whilst adopting the significant amount of content in the original policy, attempts to ensure the LA can have greater confidence that all EHE children resident in the borough are in receipt of a suitable education.

The previous WCC policy resulted in the new Tri Borough team responsible inheriting a list of 70+ EHE children; although in a small number of cases there were reports from parents/carers on proposed education plans, the policy meant that neither parents nor children had had face-to-face contact with any LA officer in relation to EHE provision.

During the course of the last 12 months, all families on the list have been contacted resulting in officers establishing that 60% were inappropriately recorded as EHE –

- 25 children had returned to school
- 9 children were no longer WCC residents (including 5 who were no longer in the UK)
- 6 children were over statutory school age
- 2 children were not in receipt of any education; parents wanted advice on school placements
- 2 children have statements of SEN; EHE had not been approved by LA SEN
- 13 children cannot be traced and investigations continue
- 13 children are confirmed as EHE and will be monitored under the new policy, along with all children identified as EHE WCC residents, since September 2013.

## **Conclusion**

It is proposed that the revised policy and procedures, which still aims to be 'light touch' and currently suggests only an annual visit from the HEA, better supports WCC in its responsibilities to ensure all children living within WCC are in receipt of a suitable education, be it in school or otherwise, including EHE.

A Working Party is proposed to include advocates, LA officers and EHE parents in an attempt to agree any revisions to current policy and to encourage cooperation with the new policy without needing to resort to legal action.

Finally, it should be noted that meeting with families to discuss their EHE provision can frequently identify families who want help with returning a child to school, did not fully understand the implications of their choice and want advice or, in a small number of cases, families with previously unidentified social care needs.