

Children, Sports and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee Briefing

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Briefingof: Head of Cabinet Secretariat

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

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1. 1. **Executive Summary**

In March 2014, Westminster City Council [WCC] published their 2014-15 priorities and projects in their Council Plan, 'Better City, Better Lives'. This report provides an update on current progress against each priority in relation to children and young people. In addition, the report also provides progress against additional priorities and projects relating to children and young people.

2. **Better City, Better Lives Priorities**

2.1 **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. National comparative information is published by DfE in May 2014.

2.2 **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. Sixty new Secondary places are to be provided by September 2014 as part of a programme to deliver 435 new places by 2017. We will provide a further update in relation to the provision of new school places in July 2014.

2.3 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. In April 2014 five (55%) of the nine children or young people requiring foster placements were placed with Tri-B foster carers and four with foster carers from Independent Fostering Agencies.

2.4 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. In 2014, no children in new proceedings starting 1st April 2014, with a plan for adoption have been placed with their adopters within twelve months of coming into care.

2.5 We will provide 886 free day care opportunities for two year olds.

The DfE are due to release the live data on eligible families for free day care opportunities for two year olds in July 2014. This will enable the 886 target to be adjusted to reflect actual eligibility. In 2013-14 a total of 549 eligible children accessed places. From April 2014 there are 404 places available. Capacity building will continue to ensure that eligible families who meet the extended criteria from September 2014 will also be able to access places. At present there are three nursery schools and one primary school who have confirmed that they will deliver additional places for two year olds from September 2014.

2.6 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. An update on the figures for 2014-15 will be provided in July 2014.

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

In August 2013, 99.6% year 11 leavers had an offer of a place (subject to entry requirements). Information on the number of places in education, training and employment for year 11 leavers for 2014/15 will be available in August 2014. Information as at 31st May 2014 indicates that 98.4% of the year group 11 in Westminster, have an intended destination identified.

2.8 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.

Invitation to tender has been issued to developers building the UTC, and submissions due on the 8th July 2014. An advert for the Principal has been drafted which will go out to advert in June 2014, interviews will take place in July 2014, and appointment in September 2014. A £300K opening grant has been confirmed by the DfE. The development of a Stakeholder and Communications Plan is being led by Westminster City Council, with input from the University of Westminster. A Bursary and Scholarship Programme is being designed for consideration by the Sir Simon Milton Foundation and City Bridge Trust (as a prospective sponsor).

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

The update for current academic year is due September 2014. In 2013-14 academic year results showed that Westminster schools achieved 70% of pupils with 5 grade A*-C GCSEs, including English and Maths, the same rate at the previous year. This result keeps Westminster's position well above national rate of 59%. Improvements were made during 2013-14 in a number of schools, and further local authority support was provided through the Tri-borough Education Service.

3. Additional priorities and projects

3.1 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 ensure children with additional needs are identified early and interventions are in place. In addition, we are establishing a Children Centre model for the delivery of a Families and Schools Together [FAST] programme, based on the success of the FAST programmes already taking place in Westminster schools. We are also promoting the 2 year offer to families using the Department of Work and Pensions list of eligible families and their children, and aim to provide enough places for these targeted children through increased provision in schools as well as private and voluntary sector nurseries.

3.2 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].

The Lead Advisers in the Tri-borough School Standards service have been working this year with all schools, but particularly targeting schools where there have been concerns with 2013 results in order to achieve the set targets. We are still awaiting the 2014 Primary school Key Stage 2 results (which will be due in July).

3.3 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, no matter what triggered the 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.

An increasing number of male carers where domestic abuse is occurring have been successfully engaged in sessions with specialist workers to address abusive and controlling behaviour. It is intended to continue offering this accessible service in which specialist workers are co-located and easily available to social work staff undertaking assessments.

3.4 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 at the next Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

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

The reduction in the number of adolescents needing to come into care remains a key priority.

A range of activities and interventions continue to support this including our joint work with Multi-Systemic Therapy, Family Recovery and the Complex Needs Panel. The Care Panel continues to provide a gate-keeping role in this area. Of the 7 adolescents that have become LAC since April 2014, 3 have been Youth Court remands and 3 have been Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers, and so were outside Local Authority control.

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

As at 30th April 2014, 39 young people in years 12 to 13 were recorded as being NEET. Of these, 14 (1.2%) were in year 12, and 25 (2.2%) were in year 13. At the same time last year, on the 30th April 2013, 80 young people in years 12 and 13 were recorded as being NEET. Of these 32 [2.8%] were in year 12 and 48 [4.1%] were in year 13. This downward trend in relation to young people who are NEET is very positive and encouraging.

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

As of 9th June 2014, current figures for care leavers who are EET are 73.95%. For April 2013 to March 2014: 67.9% (53 of the 78 young people) were in education, employment or training. Thus, the current figure represents a positive improvement at a time when many eighteen year olds have come to the

end of their courses and are in between another course and employment or training. The target for care leavers who are EET is 75%.

3.8 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. The Protocol aims to assess, challenge and provide an enhanced and effective service to reduce the harm and threats posed to children and young people from Child Sexual Exploitation. Between October 2013 to March 2014, 10 referrals were received in relation to CSE: 1 male and 9 female. All new cases are assessed by the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub [MASH]. Police are invited by Children's Services to all Strategy Meetings re: CSE cases as part of Joint Investigation Protocols. The new Police Pan London Missing Persons Team will link with Tri-Borough MASH. They will also link with the Police specialist CSE Team.

3.9 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 20th June which will include 2 WCC children and their families.

3.10 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 10 WCC children over the last year, to enable them to travel to and from school independently.

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

10 WCC young people will be attending the QEII/Westminster Kingsway College multi-skills centre from September 2014. Applications from a further 6 WCC young people are awaiting confirmation.

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

Currently, 50% of our highest risk young people are offered a mentor. We have a target that 80% of young people leaving custody are supported by a mentor. Mentors have been identified and selected; we have 4 potential volunteers and will pilot this with a very small cohort of young people. We anticipate recruiting a larger pool of volunteer mentors over the coming months.

3.13 We will provide more support for young carers.

76 young carers were transferred from the previous Westminster provider to Spurgeons, the new provider of services to support young carers in Westminster. Spurgeons are focused on re-engaging current services users in

their new service, and on identifying and engaging new service users. This project is reported on a quarterly basis, and so further information will be available at the next Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

3.14 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. This is a total of 65 children. All these children have now been made an 'offer' of support based on the available interventions and progress will be followed through and monitored.

3.15 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.

As part of the overall North West London Out of Hospital Strategy, the three Inner London CCGs (Hammersmith & Fulham, West London and Central London CCG) are all developing local 'Connected Care for Children' clinics based in GP surgeries. The Connected Care for Children model brings paediatricians into GP surgeries to provide clinics for children with long term conditions and/or health needs that may trigger an A&E visit. The GPs and paediatricians work together to deliver local solutions for families which will encourage use of Primary Care rather than reliance on A&E or out patients. The Connected Care model, currently being developed by West London CCG is particularly targeting frequent A&E users. West London CCG already have several clinics operating through 'paediatric hubs' (surgeries collaborating together) in the north of the borough and results are encouraging. Central London CCG is currently developing paediatric hubs in North Westminster and has plans to cascade the model to the south of the borough, with the aim of offering nine paediatric hubs in total.

3.16 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. We have developed written materials for families from affected communities and are developing 'keep safe' materials to work with girls directly.

A Child Protection Advisor [CPA] post was created to lead on faith and culture based maltreatment – including FGM. The CPA, tracks all FGM cases that are referred to the Borough. At present, 11 cases have been referred. We are working with community based organisations to raise awareness and help break down barriers to working with Children's Services. We are working with schools in order to focus on prevention, support young girls who could be at risk and also raise awareness. This is done through the Education Welfare Officers. We are working with school nurses to ensure that they have discussions with young girls and raise awareness. All Team Around the School meetings now discuss FGM, so there is a holistic preventative approach.

3.17 We will reduce further the numbers of young people offending.

Currently we have a target of 20% reduction [69 young people] and an update of the information is reported to Local Authorities by the MOJ six months in arrears. From April 2012 to March 2013, 87 young people became first time entrants to youth justice system. Between April 2013 and December 2013, 28 young people became first time entrants to the youth justice system.