

<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>CHILDREN AND EDUCATION POLICY & ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</p> <p>24 April 2017</p>	
<p>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE</p>	
<p>Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification: For information Key Decision: No</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report provides a brief overview of recent developments of relevance to the Children's Services department for members of the Policy and Accountability Committee to consider.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to review and comment upon the contents of this report.

3. EDUCATION

Ofsted Inspections on local schools

- 3.1 The Bridge AP Academy inspected in February 2017 received a good rating. The Inspection report notes that results have risen this year and all Year 11 pupils gain appropriate qualifications, including work-related ones.
- 3.2 William Morris Sixth Form inspected in February 2017 received a 'requires improvement' rating. The Inspection has noted that leaders and governors

have taken prompt and effective steps to rapidly improve the school's performance.

- 3.3 Lena Gardens Primary School received a 'good rating' from a short inspection in February 2017. Inspectors noted that leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection.

Sex and relationships education to be made compulsory in all schools in England

- 3.4 In March 2017 the government tabled amendments to the Children and Social Work Bill which will make it a requirement that all secondary schools in England teach relationships and sex education (RSE). The amendments also allow the government to make regulations requiring personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) to be taught in all schools in England - primary and secondary, maintained and academy in future.
- 3.5 The government is proposing the introduction of the new subject of 'relationships education' in primary schools and renaming the secondary school subject 'relationships and sex education', to emphasise the central importance of healthy relationships. Age-appropriate lessons will have emphasis on what constitutes healthy relationships, as well as the dangers of sexting, online pornography, and sexual harassment.
- 3.6 The Secretary of State for Education in a written statement introducing the amendment has said that 'schools will have flexibility over how they deliver these subjects, so they can develop an integrated approach that is sensitive to the needs of the local community; and, as now, faith schools will continue to be able to teach in accordance with the tenets of their faith.'
- 3.7 The government will hold discussions on what should be taught to children, and at what age, and there will be a public consultation later this year. Parents will continue to have a right to withdraw their children from sex education. The DfE has stated that pupils could be taught the new curriculum from September 2019.

4. FAMILY SERVICES

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people

- 4.1 The Home Office contacted the authority in March 2017 regarding the next phase of the Dubs scheme. The UASC Central Admin Team is requesting information on available placements within Local Authorities for Dubs children. The team is looking to find placements across the regions for 150 Dubs children and young people.
- 4.2 The Council is making a new commitment to take an additional 10 children. In its response to the Home Office the Council has highlighted that:

- it committed to take an additional 15 Dubs children in August 2016 but since that time the Council has only received 13 children. The authority remains committed to taking an additional 2 children, from the August 2016 agreement. Therefore, the Council's commitment is to taking an additional 12 Dubs children in total this year within the current funding arrangements.
- there is a gap of at least £15k per young person per year between the real cost and the government funding, recognising that responsibilities for Care Leavers is up to 25 Years of age.
- the Leader of the Council at the Home Affairs Select committee on the 22nd February publicly made the offer to take an additional 100 Dubs children if the government provided full cost recovery.

4.3 All 13 of the children/ young people currently placed by Hammersmith and Fulham are with Foster Carers. One young person is placed in borough and the remaining 12 are placed out of the borough. Please see the table below for the age breakdown of children under the Dubs Scheme and UASC Children (excl. Dubs Scheme) as at 30th March 2017.

Age	Numbers of Dubs scheme children / young people	Numbers of UASC children / young people
11	1	-
12	6	-
14	-	1
15	4	1
16	1	4
17	1	17
18	-	1

Hammersmith and Fulham Care Leaver and Leader discuss the impact of removing Council Tax for care leavers on Victoria Derbyshire Show

- 4.4 Hammersmith & Fulham were the first borough in London to scrap council tax payments for care leavers, until their 25th Birthday. The Children's Society has praised the plans. The charity's policy director Sam Royston, said: "To expect some of the country's most vulnerable young people to start paying council tax just days after leaving care is setting them up to fail...Without the family safety net that most children benefit from as they become adults, many new care leavers struggle to open a bank account, let alone juggle their household bills and plan financially for the long-term.'
- 4.5 Earlier this month the Leader of the Council and Care Leaver Ria Roberts appeared on the BBC Victoria Derbyshire Programme highlighting the benefits of this policy and financial constraints care leavers face. Recent research highlights that over 57% of care leavers struggle with paying bills and have debts. In Hammersmith and Fulham 35 Care Leavers will benefit when the policy is introduced this month.

Out of Hours Emergency Duty Social Work Service. (EDT)

4.6 A year ago during the Ofsted inspection, concerns were raised that EDT was not operating at the same standard of practice as the rest of Children's Social Care (i.e. the day services). Inspectors noted the following:

- There was insufficient capacity to interview and where necessary place children into care, at times the service relied on the police to do so.
- That Safeguarding processes were not being followed. That multiagency strategy meetings (or phone calls) with the police Child Abuse Investigation unit were not being undertaken.

4.7 The service accepted these observations. As a consequence, resources were provided to add an additional on-call social worker every shift. They are deployed to visit and interview parents and children where immediate safeguarding concerns arise that cannot wait until normal working hours. They negotiate with families to prevent family breakdown and avoid admission to care where possible. Lastly they ensure that children are safely placed into care where necessary. New operating procedures were devised to ensure practice met improved standards. In March 2017 an audit was undertaken to ensure the new practice standards were being adhered, which confirmed significant improvements in practice.

Luton Child J Serious Case Review: due for publication 18th May 2017 by Luton LSCB.

4.8 This review concerns services provided to Child J and his family. Child J was a 13 month old little boy who died in November 2015 as a result of head injuries. A post mortem examination showed the child had also experienced fractures to his arm and leg, 5-7 days and 4-6 weeks, prior to his death. His Mother and her partner are currently serving prison sentences for offences connected with his death. The Serious Case Review has been co-ordinated by Luton LSCB as the baby died in Luton; the family also had previously lived in Hammersmith and Fulham and Ealing.

4.9 When living in Hammersmith and Fulham the report found no particular concerns were raised about Child J's early life, although his mother had been known to Family Services in Hammersmith and Fulham during her pregnancy. The review authors found that the social work practice around the pre-birth assessment, and the decision to close the case to Family Services in Hammersmith and Fulham was sound.

4.10 The review authors did identify some concerns about the input from the local Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) who had some involvement with mum, because they did not refer mum to health visiting services when she stopped engaging with the FNP programme in Hammersmith and Fulham. The family were later re-homed in Ealing.

- 4.11 The rest of the review considered practice in Ealing and Luton; two general themes applicable to other Local Authorities related to:
- Domestic violence. In England, the services for victims of domestic abuse^[1] are predicated on one model around ‘coercion and control’ meaning that there is a formulaic response that fails to recognise other aspects of domestic violence (e.g. situational couple violence) which may require a more nuanced reaction. The review has identified that practitioners may have a limited understanding of the risks to children posed by perpetrators of violence against adults (i.e. violence not specifically aimed at children).
 - Current case transfer arrangements between local authorities for ‘children in need’ do not require that an assessment of the child is undertaken (by the new home borough) prior to deciding if the plan should continue potentially leading to those children’s needs being overlooked.
- 4.12 The case is being reviewed by our Local Safeguarding Children Board Case Review Subgroup on 19th April 2017.
- 4.13 The Cabinet Member for Children has raised with the Minister the issue of CIN transfer and the need for tighter requirements to ensure that the response from the receiving Local Authority is appropriate to the level of concern.

COMMISSIONING

Family Support Service

- 5.1 At its meeting on 6th March, Cabinet approved the establishment of a Family Support Service from 1 October 2017 which will deliver a comprehensive and fully integrated child, young person, and family support across the Borough. The services in scope are as follows: Early Help, Children’s Centres and Youth services (Phase 1); Health Visiting and School Health (Phase 2). Phase 1 services will move into the Family Support Service in Autumn 2017. Phase 2 services will transfer in Autumn 2018.
- 5.2 The vision for the Family Support Service (FSS) is *“A borough where families in need are given the right help at the right time to support them to meet challenges, develop resilience, and create positive futures.”* The ambition is to achieve improved outcomes for families through effective and holistic whole-family early intervention, delivered in the community.
- 5.3 The initial focus of the Programme will be the creation of a new delivery vehicle which will achieve integration as professionals and services are pulled

^[1] The Government defines domestic abuse as: “any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.” The behaviour captured in this definition includes: “...a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim” 8 March 2016. <https://www.gov.uk/domestic-violence-and-abuse> downloaded 20-11-2016

together under a single employer or commissioning arrangement and through the development of a holistic family support perspective and service arrangements. The approach approved by Cabinet is to establish the FSS as a Joint Venture Company, which will enable these critical preventative services to benefit from a broader collaboration of skills, capabilities and resources. This will be essential to support such a complex service transformation. At the same time, the structure will enable the Council to have a significant level of control and influence over the services. A market engagement event in early February attracted over 40 providers. Continued informal conversations with the market indicates a strong level of interest from the market, which recognises the scale of innovation and ambition that the FSS represents.

- 5.4 The FSS vision provides the opportunity to create a new provider vehicle, which can act as a strategic health and wellbeing provider for Hammersmith and Fulham. This could include elements of adults and health services, where there are shared pathways and duplicated interactions with families. This opportunity was approved by Cabinet. The Health and Wellbeing Board endorsed the need for both adults' services and health services (as commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Group) to review the opportunities that may exist to improve services and outcomes for families through inclusion in the Family Support Service.
- 5.5 The process to select a Joint Venture Partner(s) will need to consider the outcome of this broader development of the FSS vision. Whilst this is completed, an interim transition is being developed, which will enable the first phase of service transformation to commence. This will involve the establishment of the FSS as a 'Teckal compliant' Local Authority Company. The primary next steps to establish the FSS are:
 - Establishment of a Shadow Board, to act as a strategic governance forum for the emerging service. A nomination is being sought via the Executive Heads Group for a Head teacher representative on the Shadow Board.
 - Design and procurement of a number of 0-18 locality services, which will act as specialist sub-contractors to the Family Support Service.
 - Completion of a Phase 1 service development plan. The first phase of this work is to design safe and effective operating procedures for the interaction between Tier 3 Early Help Services and the Children's Social Care Front Door, in advance of the transfer of Early Help into the Family Support Service. The second phase of this work will commence the development of an integrated service model for Phase 1 services.
 - Selection and appointment of a Managing Director for the Family Support Service.
 - Implementation of a premises strategy, to enable all Phase 1 Family Support Service to deliver an integrated service from the existing children's centres network.
 - Design and implementation of an interim operational infrastructure.

- 5.6 Work is also underway to develop a revised programme structure. This will enable the adults and health opportunities to be identified, assessed and developed as a part of an integrated programme, aligned to a common vision and financial plan, whilst allowing the Phase 1 service transition and transformation to progress.

Travel Care and Support Service

- 5.7 On 31 March 2017, the Leader approved the decision to establish a sovereign framework and award the minibus and taxi travel care and support contracts which will deliver travel care and support services to eligible children, young people, and vulnerable adults in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.
- 5.8 The new provider of minibuses was awarded the contract on the basis of an excellent tender which put quality at the centre of the service offer. It met the criteria of a specification that was co-designed with parents, carers, schools, day services and social care stakeholders. The focus of the specification was to clearly define and enhance quality in the areas of; staff competence, service continuity, improved communication and compassionate care.
- 5.9 The benefits of this procurement include; a sovereign travel care and support service that works specifically for the residents of Hammersmith and Fulham, meets the Council's commitment to paying the London Living Wage and offers significant social value initiatives by the new provider.
- 5.10 The new service will commence for day services on 1 August 2017. For schools, the new service will commence at the start of the new academic year (1 September 2017). From previous lessons learned, the Council has maximised the implementation period to ensure a smooth and successful transition. Implementation will therefore begin once the contract has been awarded on 21 April 2017 and the Council will work closely with the new provider and key stakeholders to implement the contract.
- 5.11 Contractual arrangements have been made to ensure that the current provision of travel care and support services continue until 31 July 2017 when the new provider commences.

6. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As this report is intended to provide an update on recent developments, there are no immediate equality implications. However, any equality issues will be highlighted in any subsequent substantive reports on any of the items which are requested by the Committee.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. As this report is intended to provide an update on recent developments, there are no immediate legal implications. However, any legal issues will be

highlighted in any subsequent substantive reports on any of the items which are requested by the Committee.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. As this report is intended to provide an update on recent developments, there are no immediate financial and resource implications. However, any financial and resource issues will be highlighted in any subsequent substantive reports on any of the items which are requested by the Committee.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT
None.