

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



# Children and Education Policy and Accountability Committee Minutes

**Monday 27 March 2023**

## **PRESENT**

**Committee members:** Councillors Helen Rowbottom (Chair), Daryl Brown, Lucy Richardson and Aliya Afzal-Khan

**Co-opted members:** Eleanor Allen (London Diocesan Board for Schools), Nandini Ganesh (Parentsactive Representative) and Nadia Taylor (Parent Governor Representative)

### **Cabinet Member**

Councillor Alex Sanderson (Cabinet Member for Children and Education)

### **Guests**

Henry Leak (NHS North West London)

### **Officers**

Jacqui McShannon (Strategic Director of Children's Services)

Peter Haylock (Operational Director for Education and SEND)

Georgina Herry (Lead Adviser for School Improvement)

Sarah Bright (Assistant Director, Commissioning)

Amana Gordon (Operational Director, Children and Young People's Service)

David Abbott (Head of Governance)

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mercy Umeh.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Alex Sanderson (Cabinet Member for Children and Education).

Councillor Daryl Brown and Eleanor Allen joined the meeting online.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

## **4. CO-PRODUCTION IN MENTAL HEALTH PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Henry Leak (NHS North West London) presented the report that set out the range of co-production activity undertaken in relation to developing emotional wellbeing and mental health provision for young people and how that feedback was reflected in the way services were delivered

Councillor Lucy Richardson asked different services and organisations like MIND, CAMHS, and schools communicated to avoid repetition. Henry Leak said the mental health partnership group brought all partners together to create relationships, facilitate information sharing, and ensure alignment on service creation and delivery.

Councillor Richardson asked if all of the available services were clearly set out online. Henry Leak said they were, but they were testing a new template, similar to the Local Offer, with Parentsactive and other service users.

Councillor Daryl Brown asked if schools taught children about emotional intelligence and how to regulate their emotions. Peter Haylock (Operational Director for Education and SEND) explained that most schools would have Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) classes. There was also a traded offer of additional support that schools could buy into. Amana Gordon (Operational Director, Children and Young People's Service) noted that the Attachment Aware Schools Programme had launched recently, which aimed to ensure schools created the right environment for children to self-regulate. Members requested more information and she agreed to share an article from the staff newsletter covering the programme.

### **ACTION: Amana Gordon**

Councillor Aliya Afzal-Khan asked how the effectiveness of mental health provision was measured and what mechanisms were in place to drive improvement. Henry Leak said they monitored uptake of services. Councillor Afzal-Khan said it would be useful to see data on how many people were being helped and the measurements for effectiveness.

Nandini Ganesh asked if the providers listed in Appendix 1 of the report were also suitable for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and if they dealt with behaviour issues. Henry Leak said not all of the providers did. They would look for support from the inclusion service and CAHMS where necessary. Nandini Ganesh asked if special schools had access to mental health services. Peter

Haylock said they had the same opportunities and used the services most effective to them.

Eleanor Allen asked to what degree mental health affected poor attendance at school. Henry Leak said mental health did have an impact on school attendance and they had an attendance team that worked with schools on that. There was also a toolkit for schools around emotionally based reasons for not attending.

Nadia Taylor noted she was involved in an applied research project on mental health and neurodiversity at Imperial, and asked if schools would be willing to engage with the project. Peter Haylock said he thought schools would be keen to be involved. They agreed to discuss it further after the meeting.

**ACTION: Nadia Taylor / Peter Haylock**

Nandini Ganesh asked about emergency mental health support which was a common problem for Parentsactive parents. Henry Leak said emergency support was a complex area. There was a dynamic support register system in place. If someone was at risk they were put on the register, partners would then discuss what could be done to stop further deterioration.

The Chair asked if the right data was being collected across the various organisations and services and how sophisticated the information flow was. She asked if it was responsive to residents' needs. Henry Leak said there was a system covering North West London called WSIC or 'Whole Systems Integrated Care'. WSIC collated data from GPs, acute Trusts, adult social care and was used to track anomalies like groups that weren't accessing care where one would expect. He said it was still early days for population health data, but now it was in place and being built on and would be a key focus for future work.

The Chair asked if Council colleagues felt they had access to the right data. Sarah Bright (Assistant Director, Commissioning) said they hadn't had sight of the WSIC data and would like to explore that. The Chair discussed how best to progress the data issue. She saw value in improving data sharing between the Council and the NHS and suggested the Council's Business Intelligence team could help the NHS evaluate investment and service effectiveness. She also highlighted co-production as an area where the Council could support NHS North West London to realise a common goal.

Sarah Bright noted that officers had a working group with the ICS and they could look at sharing data in a systemic way. There was also a role for Public Health regarding the JSNA. Henry Leak noted that Public Health already had access to WSIC data. He said work was ongoing to ensure there were robust data agreements in place which were being trialling in some areas.

**ACTION: Sarah Bright / working group to progress data sharing agreement**

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee noted the ongoing work and achievements to date.

## **5. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22**

Peter Haylock (Operational Director for Education and SEND) presented the report with support from Georgina Herry (Lead Adviser for School Improvement).

Peter Haylock said he was very pleased with how schools have performed and published outcomes continued to be above national averages at EYFS, Primary, KS4 and KS5. The proportion of schools rated good or outstanding had also improved since the report was published and now stood at 100%.

Councillor Lucy Richardson asked if the Council could do something to celebrate the results with the borough's Headteachers. Peter Haylock said the team were planning an event in the summer.

Councillor Richardson noted the borough's impressive figures for persistent non-attendance, particularly against the national figure which had doubled since the pandemic. She said it was worth looking into the reasons for this and spread practice to other areas. Peter Haylock said the team had made funding available to support schools and put systems in place to ensure children were in school.

The Chair said she hoped that national Government were looking to the borough and the Education team as examples of good practice. Jacqui McShannon (Strategic Director of Children's Services) said officers met regularly with the Department for Education and they did promote the borough and volunteer where appropriate. Officers also liked the opportunity to learn from other Local Authorities.

Councillor Aliya Afzal-Khan congratulated the borough's schools and the Education team on such positive results. She highlighted the success of the Learning Partnership and asked if it could offer support to struggling schools. Peter Haylock said the Learning Partnership only ran in primary schools at present, though once the partnership was more developed it may expand. He noted that there were secondary headteacher meetings and other collaboration forums in place. He also explained that secondary schools were all Academies and they tended to work together in their Trusts.

Nadia Taylor asked if the move to Academies had improved schools. And if so, which of them were better in the current arrangements. Jacqui McShannon said the borough had a rich landscape of school provision and it was too complex to generalise. One of hallmarks of Hammersmith & Fulham was the way that schools worked together, both formally and informally to achieve the best results for the borough's children and young people.

Nandini Ganesh asked if the NEET (young people who were Not in Education, Employment or Training) figures in the report included SEND pupils. Peter Haylock said they did – they were tracked through the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) casework team and other colleagues in the borough's institutions.

Nandini Ganesh asked if falling rolls was still an issue for schools in the borough. Peter Haylock said it was a concern for some schools as there had been a decrease in the birth rate across London.

The Chair asked if there was learning to be taken from the impressive SEND performance. Peter Haylock said the credit should go to schools and the work they had put in behind the scenes including putting intervention plans in place and exam preparation work. His team made sure SEND services could be accessed and provided advice, guidance, and shared good practice with schools.

The Chair noted the low persistent absence figures and asked officers if they knew why that was the case. Peter Haylock said there was a strong culture of achievement in the borough's schools which combined with better tracking meant the likelihood of persistent absence was lower.

The Chair congratulated the borough's schools and the efforts of the Education team for their fantastic work.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee reviewed and commented on the school performance details in the report and the school improvement priorities identified.
2. That the Committee noted that outcomes should be viewed within the context of the pandemic and the effect of school closures, pupil & staff absences, staff well-being and the resulting effect of the pandemic on pupils' social, emotional and mental health.

**6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Committee noted the following dates of future meetings:

- 3 July 2023
- 13 November 2023
- 29 January 2024
- 25 March 2024

Meeting started: 7.00 pm  
Meeting ended: 9.00 pm

**Chair** .....

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