

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS : RESPONSIBILITIES AND PORTFOLIOS

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Scope of Portfolio

1. Children's Services Functions

1.1 The role of 'Lead Member for Children's Services' as designated under Section 19(1) of the Children Act 2004 and described as follows in statutory guidance:

"a) Education Services - The Authority's functions in its capacity as Education Authority, except those excluded under Section 18(3) of the Act (namely certain functions relating to education, higher education and adult education);

b) Social Services - The Authority's social services functions within the meaning of the Local Authorities Social Services Act 1970 insofar as they relate to children, and the Authority's functions in relation to children and young people leaving care;

c) Health Services - Any health-related functions exercised on behalf of a National Health Service body under Section 31 of the Health Act 1999 insofar as they relate to children; and

d) Inter-agency Cooperation - The new functions of the Child Support Agency set out in the Act, in particular leading and building the arrangements for inter-agency co-operation.

1.2. Appointing Councillors to the Authority's Adoption and fostering Panels in accordance with the Adoption and Fostering Legislation and Regulations.

The above functions incorporate:

- The Council's role as 'corporate parent', including assistance to young people who have been looked after beyond their 16th birthday, where circumstances justify;
- Fostering and adoption services;
- Social services to children and young people with HIV/AIDS and/or those with drug or alcohol problems;
- The Council's responsibilities towards unaccompanied asylum seeking children;
- The Council's regulatory duties in relation to children's social services;
- Ensuring that families with social care needs experience a 'joined-up' service;

- The development of Children's Centres;
- Setting the overall direction in relation to the Council's organisation of funding of, and support to, schools;
- The Council's interest in nursery and 'early years' education, learning out of school hours, play and subsidised and unsubsidised childcare;
- Partnership working with the National Health Service to promote the interests of children and their families, including decision-making on such matters at the Joint Health Partnership Board;
- The Youth Offending Team and youth justice matters;
- The Council's youth services and its encouragement of other services to young people;
- As 'Young People's Champion', furthering the Council's commitment to the involvement of young people in decision-making processes where appropriate;
- Sports activities for children and young people; and
- The Council's relationship with the 'Connexions' service for young people offering support and career guidance (or any successor service).

2. Education Functions

- 2.1 Strategic policy in respect of Education, school extended services, youth and Connexions.
- 2.2 Strategic policy in respect of raising school standards.
- 2.3 Consultation and liaison on educational matters with staff, parents, governors, pupils/students and other users, Government departments and other interested parties.
- 2.4 The budget allocation to schools and other establishments within the Education service with reference to rules laid down in the Scheme for Fair Funding of Schools as appropriate.
- 2.5 Developing and maintaining positive links, relationships and partnerships with local agencies and businesses to deliver all aspects of the service.
- 2.6 Appointing or nominating, and where appropriate removing, the Authority's representatives on appropriate organisations (including school governing bodies) that fall within this portfolio.
- 2.7 Determining applications for financial assistance from the Voluntary Sector and Community Organisations within the Borough that fall within this portfolio.

- 2.8 The development, implementation and monitoring of the Authority's early years strategy.
- 2.9 Adult Learning and Skills Service (incorporating local learning and skills).

3. Social Services functions

- 3.1. The Council's responsibility for policy and operation of the Council's Education transport operation.
- 3.2. Meeting the Authority's statutory functions in relation to children under the Children Act 1989, NHS and Community Care Act 1990, Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and other appropriate legislation.
- 3.3 Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable children are met.
- 3.4 Developing and monitoring service provision in respect of residential facilities, provided for the care of children.

4. Area in which power is shared with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Residents Services

- 4.1 The implementation and monitoring of projects and services in relation to the borough's Youth Offending Team and youth justice matters.

Note: for the purposes of estimate preparation, monitoring and control and staffing/ industrial relations issues, this Cabinet Member is responsible for the following:

In conjunction with the Leader

Tri-borough Executive Director of Children's Services

In conjunction with all Cabinet Members

Chief Executive

MAY 2011, AMENDED OCTOBER 2011, MAY 2012