

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS: RESPONSIBILITIES AND PORTFOLIOS

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Scope of Portfolio

1. Children's Services Functions

The scope of this portfolio is concerned with leadership, strategic planning and development, partnership working and decision making within the following policy and service areas:

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 75 of the Health Act 2006 insofar as they relate to children; and
- d inter-agency co-operation - the arrangements for the Children's Trust and safeguarding duties set out in the Children Act 2004, in particular leading and building arrangements for inter-agency co-operation."

The above functions incorporate:

- 1.2. the Council's role as 'corporate parent', including assistance to young people up to 24 years who have been looked after 13 weeks beyond their 16th birthday, where circumstances justify;
- 1.3. fostering and adoption services;
- 1.4. the Bi-borough Virtual School for Looked after children
- 1.5. Locality family Support Services
- 1.6. Children's Centres;
- 1.7. setting the overall direction in relation to the Council's funding of, and support to, schools (*although these are delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education - see above*);
- 1.8. Children's Services asset management
- 1.9. the Council's interest in nursery and 'early years' education, learning out of school hours and subsidised and unsubsidised childcare;

- 1.10. partnership working with the National Health Service to promote the interests of children and their families, including decision-making on such matters at the Health and Well-Being Board;
- 1.11. the Youth Offending Team and the youth justice matters;
- 1.12. Youth services and its encouragement of other services to young people;
- 1.13. as 'Young People's Champion' furthering the Council's commitment to the involvement of young people in decision-making processes where appropriate;
- 1.14. commissioning and providing services to young people with disabilities in transition to adulthood;
- 1.15. sports activities for children and young people;
- 1.16. the Council's relationship with the 'Connexions' service for young people offering support and career guidance (or any successor service)
- 1.17. Community Budgeting including the Troubled Families Programme (the Tri-borough Family Recovery Programme)
- 1.18. Care Proceeding review
- 1.19. Further opportunities relating to Tri-borough working.
- 1.20. Appointing and where appropriate removing, the Authority's representatives on organisations that fall within this portfolio;
- 1.21. Determining applications for financial assistance from the Voluntary Sector and Community Organisations within the Borough that fall within this portfolio.
- 1.22. The development, implementation and monitoring of the Authority's early years strategy.
- 1.23. Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable children are met.

2. Social Services functions

- 2.1. 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:-
 - social services to children and young people in need under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989;
 - the Council's responsibilities towards unaccompanied asylum seeking children;
 - the Council's regulatory duties in relation to children's social services;
- 2.2. ensuring that families with social care needs experience a 'joined-up' service;
- 2.3. Developing and monitoring service provision in respect of residential facilities, provided for the care of children.

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

- 3.1. 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