

	<p align="center">London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p align="center">CHILDREN AND EDUCATION POLICY AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</p> <p align="center">18 NOVEMBER 2014</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 Review & Comment</p>	
<p>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.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

3. EDUCATION

- 3.1. The borough's percentage of students provisionally achieving 5 or more GCSEs at Grades A*-C including English and mathematics, was 65% in 2014. This was considerably above the national average for maintained schools for 2013 (59%). While 65% is below the 67% achieved in 2013, the result needs to be placed in the context of the changes to the GCSE examinations which has had an impact on results nationally. The percentage achieving the English Baccalaureate (a combination of

English, mathematics, science, a language and a humanities subject) was 37% in 2014 was well above the national figure of 23% in 2013.

- 3.2. For A Levels, the percentage of papers awarded a Grade A*-B was provisionally 53% in 2014, which was above the 2014 national average (52%). Those achieving the highest grades (Grade A*-A) was 28%, which was also above the national average of 26%.
- 3.3. Since the start of the Autumn Term and at the time of writing this report two of the borough's schools have been inspected by Ofsted (Queensmill and Normand Croft). A verbal update on the published outcomes will be possible by the time of the meeting. The overall judgements for all LBHF schools (including Academies and Free schools) as at 24 October based on their most recent inspections are as follows:

Judgement	No. of schools	Percentage
Good/Outstanding	47	84%
Outstanding	22	39%
Good	25	45%
Require improvement	7	13%
Inadequate	2	4%
Total	56	100%

- 3.4. The percentage of schools rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted at 84% is above the latest published national average of 80%
- 3.5. Key aspects of the Children and Families Act in relation to children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities have been implemented and the target date of 1 September has been achieved where required. Specific developments include:
- A single assessment process leading to a Education, Health and Care Plan (replacing statements of SEN)
 - Publishing the 'Local Offer' of services for children with SEN on the Council's website
 - A Special Educational Needs key-worker service model with recruitment to key posts
 - Training and briefing sessions for officers who are working under the new arrangements
 - A policy for the initial implementation of Personal Budgets
 - Work with colleagues in Adult Social Care to understand the support and education requirements for young people aged 16 and above.

4. Children's Social Care

- 4.1. Following on from the announcement of the DfE's approval of our bid for £4.25million funding to implement the Focus on Practice initiative, there have been a number of developments as the programme starts to be implemented. The programme was formally launched through two events on 10 October which were attended by frontline staff and managers and addressed by the Cabinet Member for Children and Education. Recruitment is under way for 10 transitional social workers and 10 clinical practitioner posts across the three boroughs. Training providers will be identified in early December, to deliver learning of the four methodologies (systemic practice, Signs of Safety, motivational interviewing and parenting theory and skills). Practitioners and managers commence training in late January 2015.
- 4.2. Family Services continues to carefully monitor key performance indicators in relation to vulnerable children. Numbers of children with child protection plans have increased over time and are currently at a higher number compared to anytime over the previous three years. The rate of child protection plans per 10,000 of the child population is higher than both the England and London rates. There continues to be a downward trend in the number of children in care with the total number steadily declining from 200 on 1 April 2014 to 185 in September. This reduction can be attributed to fewer children coming into care and more leaving care. Although the numbers of care leavers have marginally increased, numbers have remained comparable.

5. Troubled Families

- 5.1. A request was made for further information regarding families who have not been "turned around" by the Troubled Families programme. i.e. qualified for payment by results. Analysis is available of those cases where there has been no Payment by Results in the most recent claim which was made in August 2014.
- 5.2. The greatest proportion of non-improvement was shown in cases triaged as "level 3", i.e. Family Recovery. These are families identified as having the greatest needs and being furthest away from change. There was least improvement on the "Not moving off benefits" category for this cohort, with only 41 or 3% of families being evidenced as moving into 'continuous employment' for the whole 540 family cohort so far. Work is taking place with the Council's regeneration department and Job Centre Plus to develop a more bespoke offer to parents and young adults in these families. 54% of cases where there was no improvement were as a result of non improvement in Youth Crime. The Youth Offending and the Troubled Families teams are working on reducing re-offending by implementing a number of additional interventions. The next highest category was education accounting for 36% of non-improved cases (most were because there was no reduction or an increase in the number of fixed term or permanent

exclusions) and lastly 11% of Anti-Social Behaviour cases did not change.

- 5.3. The families that did not change tended to have a greater number of children in the family, on average 3.5 compared with 2.7 average for the programme. They also had a greater number of children attending a Pupil Referral Unit, a greater number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), a greater number of children identified as Children in Need, a higher likelihood of family members being notified to the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) or experiencing domestic violence and a slightly increased number of young people having substance misuse issues that reach the threshold for structured treatment.
- 5.4. In summary families with greater levels of problems have been harder to change. However the programme is not complete and there are 7 more months to work and measure the impact in families behaviour and there is projection of 80% or more who where work is likely to lead to Payment by Results by the end of January 2015.

6. Young people

- 6.1. The Borough Youth Forum (BYF) are planning their outreach programme for the coming 6 months which will involve hosting BYF sessions in schools and youth clubs around the Borough. The Member of the Youth Parliament (MYP) and Deputy Member of the Youth Parliament (DMYP) are leading on this piece of work and are currently identifying areas of interest. The annual British Youth Council "Make your Mark Survey" was held in the borough and over 4000 votes were received. The results of the voting will go inform the annual House of Commons debate. The issues that Hammersmith & Fulham young people said were most important to them were as follows:

1. Curriculum for life – 1193 votes
2. Work experience – 402 votes
3. Vote at 16 – 290 votes

"Curriculum for life" covers a need identified by young people for the school curriculum to include input on practical life skills, particularly around finance and understanding of further and higher education costs and funding.

Sessions will be planned around these issues to obtain feedback from young residents on how they would like us to feed into the Council decision making process and policy. Councillor MacMillan and Councillor Fennimore will be invited back to the BYF to discuss ways of working together to address some of the issues resulting from the Survey.

- 6.2. The BYF are also planning the "Youth Take Over Day" which is being held on 21 November and will have a role in the delivery of events and

hosting other young residents on the day. Work on the proposed election process, to form a newly elected Hammersmith & Fulham Youth Parliament will be prioritised after the Youth Takeover Day.

- 6.3. The Local Safeguarding Children Board have invited the BYF to attend a consultation and engagement group to give their views on safeguarding in the borough.

7. Commissioning

7.1. Passenger Transport

- 7.2. The Passenger Transport Working Group has now met on two occasions. It is chaired by the Chair of Governors for Queensmill School and has 14 members including two head teachers, three elected members, representatives of parents and the voluntary sector along with the Executive Director, Director of Children's Commissioning and the Assistant Director for Special Educational Needs. The Group is assessing and reviewing future options for the development of the service.

- 7.3. Performance of the Passenger Transport Contract continues to be reported on, reviewed and responded to on a weekly basis in respect of Hammersmith & Fulham children. The volume of activity over the first half of the Autumn Term has been as follows:

The service has been providing transport for 201-213 children a week (the numbers being transported has increased slightly throughout the term). Therefore there were between 2010 and 2130 individual journeys made by the children concerned in every full week.

The Transport Commissioning Team (TCT) has been contacted on 203 occasions during the period. There have been 36 notifications of delays to individual routes. There are 60 routes which operate twice daily for Hammersmith & Fulham children (41 bus routes and 19 taxi routes). Therefore the highest percentage of delay notifications experienced in one week was during week ending 17 October when 7 or 1.2% of journeys were delayed. A total of 153 Hammersmith & Fulham children have been on buses affected by notified delays over the half term, although this total may include children who were affected on more than one occasion. There were a total of 56 complaints, a high number of which were made during the first part of the half term. The majority of the complaints (60%) tend to be regarding lateness and delays. Other complaints tend to be related to planned collections of children at the start of the day, issues in relation to vehicles provided and staff skills or behaviour.

- 7.4. The TCT receives calls in respect of a wide range of circumstances: delay notifications; complaints and dissatisfaction with the service; or simple notifications e.g. that a child does not need to be taken to school that day. In addition to telephone calls to the TCT, such

notifications and concerns are also collated from visits and presence at various schools.

- 7.5. Contract meetings are scheduled to take place with the SEN bus operators during the half term holiday in order to review the performance and identify and agree the areas where further improvements are still required. Journey delays will be a particular focus including whether additional proactive planning is required by the operators in order to mitigate against difficulties such as long-term road works.

Children's Centres

- 7.6. At the October Cabinet meeting it was agreed to extend the contracts of the borough's Children's Centres for at least another 6 months until September 2015 with provision for a further extension until March 2016. Children's Centres provide a range of front-line services for vulnerable families and enable the Council to meet a number of statutory duties.
- 7.7. In the last year, the Children's Services Commissioning Directorate has been working with Family Services on an Early Help Review to assess the current picture, identify local and national best practice, and make some recommendations about future delivery of services. The extension in contracts will ensure the administration have sufficient time to consider these options and shape the services.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. 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.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. 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.

10. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. 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

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	None.		