

	<p align="center"><b>London Borough of Hammersmith &amp; Fulham</b></p> <p align="center"><b>CHILDREN AND EDUCATION POLICY AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</b></p> <p align="center"><b>10 FEBRUARY 2015</b></p>
<p><b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE</b></p>	
<p><b>Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services</b></p>	
<p><b>Open Report</b></p>	
<p><b>Classification</b> - For Information <b>Key Decision:</b> No</p>	
<p><b>Wards Affected:</b> 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. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 3.1. Focus on Practice programme is a Tri-borough programme, funded by the Department of Education Innovation Fund, which will fundamentally change the way practitioners work with children and their families. It aims to reduce the number of looked after children by 20%, as well as producing a significant reduction in re-referrals to children's social care. It is a comprehensive skills development programme for staff including

accredited modules in systemic practice, family-centred assessment and intervention, motivational interviewing, and parenting theory and skills. These evidence-based interventions will allow the borough's practitioners to engage more effectively with families. The skills development programme will be provided to every practitioner and manager within all parts of children's social care. The programme is subject to two evaluations. One will be undertaken by an external organisation (to be confirmed) identified by the Department for Education. An internal evaluation will be undertaken by Donald Forrester from the University of Bedfordshire which started in January 2015.

- 3.2. Recent developments in the borough include the appointment of the Head of Clinical Practice who started working here in January 2015. The borough is also recruiting 10 social workers and 10 clinical practitioners as part of the programme. The first sessions of the systemic training started at the end of January, with practitioners in all local services from Early Help through to the Adoption service taking part. Work is also taking place to address systems which act as barriers to more effective practice taking place. Sessions involving practitioners and managers will be facilitated by our Innovations Coach to begin to identify these barriers and develop plans to address them.
- 3.3. The Children and Education Policy and Accountability Committee may wish to receive a more detailed report on Focus on Practice at a future meeting.

#### **4. CHILD POVERTY**

- 4.1. A proposed approach to developing a local Child Poverty Strategy was agreed at the Health and Wellbeing Board on 19 January. This followed a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which was published in 2014 which identified a number of priorities based upon the needs of local children and their families. While Children's Services will lead the strategy, it will work with other relevant council departments and other partners to produce it. The strategy will identify key outcomes and indicators through which progress can be monitored. A follow-up report outlining the strategy is being scheduled to be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board by May 2015 and can be considered by the Children and Education Policy and Accountability Committee shortly after this point.

#### **5. COMMISSIONING – PASSENGER TRANSPORT**

- 5.1. The borough's passenger transport service was reviewed by CEPAC on 6 July 2014 following mobilisation of contracts and the implementation of a new service
- 5.2. The outcomes of the recent service user consultation are currently being considered, and will inform the Passenger Transport Working Party in February. Analysis of the service development options available, together with the associated financial and legal implications is being concluded and will inform future decisions. CEPAC may choose to receive a further report

about the service at an appropriate point to be confirmed after these decisions have been made.

## 6. COMMISSIONING – SCHOOL MEALS

- 6.1. The Stage 1 Pre-Qualification Questionnaire evaluation has now concluded, and those potential providers who demonstrated their ability to deliver the required service quality will shortly be invited to participate in Stage 2, the Invitation to Tender process and evaluations. It is suggested that CEPAC may choose to receive a report on progress three months after the contract is relet.

## 7. EQUALITY 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. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. 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.

## 9. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. 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.	Child Poverty JSNA April 2014 ( <a href="http://www.jsna.info/document/child-poverty">http://www.jsna.info/document/child-poverty</a> )	Steve Bywater 020 87535809	Children's Services Commissioning
2.	Report to LBHF Health and Wellbeing Board on Child Poverty, 19 January 2015 <a href="http://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/documents/g3725/Public%20reports%20pack%2019th-Jan-2015%2017.00%20Health%20Wellbeing%20Board.pdf?T=10">http://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/documents/g3725/Public%20reports%20pack%2019th-Jan-2015%2017.00%20Health%20Wellbeing%20Board.pdf?T=10</a>		

3.	Passenger Transport Service. Report to LBHF CEPAC, 8 July 2014 <a href="http://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/documents/g3542/Public%20reports%20pack%2008th-Jul-2014%2019.00%20Children%20and%20Education%20Policy%20and%20Accountability%20Committee.pdf?T=10">http://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/documents/g3542/Public%20reports%20pack%2008th-Jul-2014%2019.00%20Children%20and%20Education%20Policy%20and%20Accountability%20Committee.pdf?T=10</a>		
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