

	<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>20 APRIL 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. FOCUS ON PRACTICE

- 3.1 Practitioners, managers and senior leaders have all started systemic training. The feedback has thus far been positive, with practitioners and managers commenting that the ideas being presented are already having an impact on the way they think about the work they do with children and families. Practitioners, managers and senior leaders continue to work on the identification of systems conditions which are barriers to good practice, and practitioners are now beginning to use different recording strategies which allow them to be more analytical and efficient in their time. The

Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education (University College London) have been appointed to undertake the independent evaluation of Focus on Practice.

#### **4. TRANSFER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL OUTCOMES FOR SEPTEMBER 2015**

- 4.1 Parents will have received the outcome of their application for secondary school on National Offer day, Monday 2 March 2015. The resident application cohort has increased to 1249 compared to 1167 last year. The outcomes are very similar, with demand across the borough adequately met. The total number of preferences submitted for the six secondary schools has also increased to 6161 compared to 5838 last year. Early indications show 54.7% of residents will be offered their first preference school (59% last year) and 78.7% offered one of their first three preferences (83% last year).
- 4.2 The low proportion of families being offered their first preference can be attributed to a number of factors, such as, demand for Hammersmith & Fulham schools from out of borough residents, the low number of residents offered faith schools in the borough as they do not meet a high enough priority against the respective school's admission criteria, and applicants naming schools for which they have no realistic expectation of successfully gaining a place as a first preference, as they have nothing to lose by doing so if they make use of their five remaining preferences.
- 4.3 The number of applicants without an offer is 155 or 12% of the overall resident cohort 117 (9%). There are sufficient places available in Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington and Chelsea (girls only) to allocate a school with a vacancy to all children within a reasonable distance from home (within 3 miles). As is historically the case, movement on waiting lists, and parents declining offers in favour of Independent schools, will enable further offers to be made for schools of preference between now and September.
- 4.4 The number of vacancies across the borough is 265 (256 last year). All children without an offer were provided with an offer of a school with a vacancy. As the Admissions service is shared across three boroughs, any boys close to Hammersmith and Fulham without an offer in Kensington and Chelsea will also be allocated the closest school in Hammersmith and Fulham with a vacancy. This will mean that schools with vacancies have had the opportunity to promote their school and increase their roll numbers. Schools affected have arranged further Open day/Evenings for parents.
- 4.5 A change in offer trends is most evident for Hammersmith Academy. A change in the way applicants are banded (benchmarked with the national ability range) has significantly altered the outcome of offers. The allocation of offers must be made equally across the five Bands. However with 262 of the total 607 applicants placed in the lower Band E, it has

meant that offers could only be made to children in that Band living within 0.362 of a mile within the designated priority area. The offers in the remaining Bands all extend beyond the priority area. The Council has raised their concern with the Academy in a response to their consultation on changes to the Academy's admission arrangements for 2016/17.

## 5. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

- 5.1 Cross sector Education, Health and Social Care Statutory Assessment and Resource Allocation Panels have now been established. Thus far, there have been 69 new requests for assessment for an Education Health and Care Plan, as detailed below:

Age Range	
Under 5	37
Primary	14
Secondary	13
Post 16	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>

Status	
Agreed for assessment	36
Decision deferred	2
Awaiting panel decision	12
No for assessment	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>

- 5.2 As well as these new requests for assessment, the local authority is required to transfer all young people who currently have a statement to an Education, Health and Care plan by the end of 2017. In Hammersmith and Fulham this equates to 801 transfers. These are taking place during the next three academic years, as outlined below:

2014/15	
Year Group	Total
Year 11	59
Year 13	23
Year 14	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>

2015/16	
Year Group	Total
Reception	11
Year 1	65
Year 3	55

Year 5	43
Year 7	49
Year 11	65
Year 13	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>

<b>2016/17</b>	
<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Total</b>
Year 3	55
Year 4	46
Year 5	43
Year 7	49
Year 9	47
Year 10	54
Year 11	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>359</b>

- 5.3 With regards to staffing, 20 out of the 21 Keyworker vacancies in the Special Educational Needs Service have now been recruited to, with recruitment to the remaining vacancy on-going.

## **6. OFSTED SCHOOL INSPECTIONS**

- 6.1 Larmenier and Sacred Heart Catholic was inspected in February 2015 and received an Outstanding rating from Ofsted in March 2015. The inspection report highlights the school's success in providing opportunities for pupils to thrive academically, socially, physically, spiritually, morally and culturally. Fulham College Boys' Academy was inspected in January 2015 and received a Good rating from Ofsted in February 2015. The inspection report commended collaborative work with the Studio School which successfully supports high quality provision for students with special educational needs and disabilities.

## **7. OFSTED CHILDREN'S CENTRE INSPECTIONS**

- 7.1 Masbro Children's Centre was inspected in February 2015 and received a Requires Improvement rating by Ofsted in March 2015. An action plan is being drawn up to address the key issues outlined in the inspection report.

## **8. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)**

### **8.1 The Casey Report**

The Committee will be aware that an independent inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Rotherham found evidence of sexual exploitation of at least 1,400 children in Rotherham from 1997 – 2009 and 2009 – 2013 and it was established that there was a 'collective failure' by both the Council and the Police to stop the abuse. A subsequent inspection

commissioned by the Department for Communities and Local Government carried out by Louise Casey highlighted serious deficiencies in all areas inspected and called into question whether Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council has the capacity to improve.

## **8.2 Local developments on CSE**

- a. Within Hammersmith & Fulham protecting children from sexual exploitation effectively continues to be a priority for Children's Services, and has been identified as a key priority for the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in 2015/16. A number of actions are taking place to further improve local referrals rates and responses, particularly through the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE). We are also developing an increased focus on tackling perpetrators through prosecution of disruption.
- b. A particular development is the roll out of Operation Makesafe which is a Metropolitan Police led awareness raising campaign targeting businesses such as hotels, licensed premises and taxi firms. It includes publicity materials and training with the aim of encouraging managers and employees in such businesses to be aware of the signs of CSE and to report it to the Police through a dedicated telephone number. The relevant leads in Council departments who work with such businesses have been engaged and plans are being made to distribute materials, identify forums where CSE can be discussed and organise training opportunities.

## **9. CHILD POVERTY**

- 9.1 A Child Poverty strategy is currently being developed following agreement at the Health and Wellbeing Board in November 2014 for Children's Services to lead this piece of work. A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment was published in 2014, which identified a number of priorities based upon the needs of local children and their families. Children's Services have been engaging other relevant council departments and partners to produce the strategy, notably in relation to issues relating to housing and accessing employment. The strategy will consider the causes and consequences of poverty locally, makes links with other on-going activity (such as the Childcare Task Group) and identify key indicators through which progress can be monitored.

## **10. COMMISSIONING – PASSENGER TRANSPORT**

- 10.1 The outcomes of a recent service user consultation, together with the work of the Passenger Transport Working Party have informed the development of recommendations to strengthen service arrangements. These will be considered by Cabinet in April 2015 and a review of new arrangements and their effectiveness is proposed for a CEPAC Meeting in the Autumn.

## **11. COMMISSIONING – SCHOOL MEALS**

- 11.1 Tenders have now been received for the second phase of the School Meals commissioning process (Invitation to Tender phase). Seven tenders have been received for the Primary, Special and Nursery School services, and five tenders have been received for the Secondary School services. These will now be evaluated with the involvement of school representatives to inform recommendations for the appointment of suppliers to the Framework agreement. This will then be followed by a final phase of work to award service contracts for each Borough. The timetable for contract award and mobilisation will be planned in consultation with the schools to avoid key pressure points in the school calendar.

## **12. EARLY LEARNING FOR TWO YEAR OLDS**

- 12.1 In February, Hammersmith and Fulham recorded take up of the early learning offer for two years old at 54%, or 352 children. This is an increase of 19.6 percentage points from October 2014. This has been reported to the Department for Education, who produce national performance tables. Within London, the average performance of Local Authorities is 50%. The DfE have confirmed that Hammersmith and Fulham's achievement now places the Borough at 16<sup>th</sup> place in the middle of the league table, out of a total 33 London Boroughs. Further work to increase the marketing and take up of the local offer, and provide additional places will continue to ensure that the Borough builds on this achievement.

## **13. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 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.

## **14. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1 As this report is intended to provide an update on recent developments, here 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.

## **15. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

- 15.1 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**

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