

	<p style="text-align: center;">London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHILDREN AND EDUCATION POLICY & ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 June 2015</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 Information 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.

3. EDUCATION

3.1. SCHOOL STANDARDS

Since the last CEPAC meeting, four local schools have been inspected by Ofsted and their reports published. This included two schools where the judgement on the overall quality of education was an improvement on their previous inspection. The Courtyard (Alternative Provision Academy) was judged to be outstanding and had previously been judged to be good. St Paul's Primary School was found to be outstanding (previously judged to be Requiring Improvement). With respect to the St Paul's the local authority's effective partnership working with the headteacher and governors was particularly noted in helping to drive up standards. Sullivan Primary School also achieved a very positive outcome from their inspection and in line with their previous inspection were judged to be providing a Good quality education. Flora Gardens Primary School was judged to be requiring improvement after previously judged to be good. The inspectors did however recognise that the local authority were taking appropriate steps to support the leadership team and governors in addressing the areas for improvement.

The percentage of schools judged to be good/outstanding across the borough is now 84%, which is above the nationally published average of 81%. In terms of schools judged to be outstanding, 43% of Hammersmith and Fulham schools have been judged to be providing this quality of education against the national average of 20%.

3.2. HEADTEACHER CONFERENCE

Headteachers attended the annual local authority headteacher conference on 30th April at the Novotel Hotel in Hammersmith. Feedback on the day was very positive with headteachers valuing the input from the key note speaker on developing school collaboration and the opportunities that were provided for networking with colleagues and meeting with a variety of educational organisations.

4. TRANSITION

A report is to be presented to the Adults Policy and Accountability Committee on 6th June 2015 covering the challenges and opportunities in respect of the support currently provided for the transition of disabled young people and those with special educational needs in the borough from Children's Services to Adult Social Care. It is acknowledged that the experience of young people going through transition can be variable and the report also provides options for improved approaches to this issue, building upon changes in legislation such as the Care Act and Children and Families Act. Proposals include a service which plans transition earlier for young people (from the age of 14 at the latest), which listens to the wishes of feelings of young people and their families, enables a smooth transfer to the services required from adult social care, health and

education and that new adult services are developed to respond to any additional needs.

The report included an action plan identifying next steps and timescales to review and address any developments required to existing transition services and relevant statutory provision; eligibility criteria (including how best to support young people and carers who may not meet these); access to appropriate health services; developing the market in relation to short breaks, employment, housing, education and leisure; services for young people and adults with complex behavioural needs; governance and partnership arrangements. A verbal update on the outcomes of the Adults PAC can be provided to CEPAC.

5. SAFEGUARDING

5.1. OPERATION MAKESAFE

The last Director's Update report to CEPAC referred to *Operation Makesafe*, a Metropolitan Police led campaign to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation, particularly targeting the business community. The police has provided a contact number through which concerns can be reported leading to a direct police response or advice being offered. A list of relevant local businesses (hotels and licensed premises in particular) is now being developed. The Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams have agreed to take a role in making direct contact with such businesses to communicate key messages. A range of other opportunities to contact business and raise awareness is also being developed. It is understood that taxi companies (which are licensed through Transport for London across the city) have already been briefed and the police are confirming how this will be done for such companies operating within the borough. Locally we are also to target hostels and supported accommodation provided by the private and voluntary sector in the borough. This is to raise awareness of staff, given that young people who are potentially vulnerable may be placed in such accommodation, including young people placed by other local authorities.

Licensed taxis was a particular sector highlighted by investigations into events in Rotherham and other areas. While such local authorities had responsibility for the licensing of the taxi firms and drivers, in London this is administrated by Transport for London. Here, police single points of contact (SPOCs) have been trained, given borough specific literature and materials and then tasked to deliver the training to cab companies across their respective boroughs. They are recording the dates on which training has been provided for each company. The police are still planning with TfL how best to raise awareness of Operation Makesafe amongst black cab/hackney carriage drivers.

It is planned that a formal launch of Operation Makesafe will take place locally at a date to be announced which will ensure further publicity is given to the issue at a local level.

5.2. NUMBERS OF CHILDREN REQUIRING CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

Numbers of children with child protection plans in the borough had been noted by the Safeguarding, Review and Quality Assurance service to be rising steadily and significantly in late 2014. By the end of December 2014 there were 187 children with protection plans, rising to 192 cases in February 2015. This was substantially higher than the previous 2 years and considerably higher than in neighbouring authorities.

The reasons behind these rises have been analysed by managers including an audit of all initial child protection referrals received during the periods when spikes had been noted. An audit of the thresholds being applied was also completed by an external consultant. The conclusion of the review was that it was not possible to identify any one cause for the increases but that there were a number of influences which had a combined impact leading to a higher numbers of child protection plans.

Strategies were identified and implemented to address this increase. By the end of March 2015, numbers of children with protection plans had reduced to 169. By 15th May 2015, there were records of 147 children being subject to child protection plans. A number of practice changes have been employed including management checks that new cases have met the appropriate threshold for an initial child protection conference; reviewing cases to identify children who might potentially no longer need a child protection plan with more detailed planning for these cases where required; and a careful review of cases which have been subject to a child protection plan in the past.

6. COMMISSIONING

6.1. TRAVEL CARE AND SUPPORT

Cabinet is due to consider a report with a recommendation to strengthen existing travel care arrangements for vulnerable children and adults on 1st June 2015. A verbal update can be provided at this CEPAC meeting. A dedicated commissioner for the borough has been recruited. CEPAC may wish to review the new arrangements in the Autumn.

6.2. SCHOOL MEALS

A Tender Evaluation Team, including representatives from the borough's schools evaluated tenders for the school meals contract in March and April. This led to a recommendation for ten contractors to be appointed to a Framework Agreement from which Hammersmith and Fulham schools can select a provider. The borough will continue to hold the contract on behalf of schools.

On 11th June, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet are to be asked to agree that the named contractors, recommended by

the Tender Evaluation Team, are appointed to the Framework Agreement, and that schools from Hammersmith & Fulham (and Westminster City Council) are permitted to access it. Following the Cabinet decision, details of contractors and cost estimates will be shared with schools in Hammersmith and Fulham. The borough will work with schools to select a provider, and agree the best timeframe for contract mobilisation with them.

7. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- 7.1.** In Summer 2015, KidZania will opening at Westfield. KidZania is the world's fastest growing global educational entertainment brand with fifteen locations in twelve countries. In a 75,000 square foot, child-sized city, children can independently visit over sixty real life establishments including the Bank, Hospital, Police Station, Fire Station, Airline and Theatre. Each establishment offers children a unique role-play environment where they can learn financial literacy, creativity, team working and other twenty first century skills.
- 7.2.** In KidZania, children begin to understand the nature of the world of work, the diversity and function of business, and its contribution to national prosperity. KidZania provides an authentic and powerful introduction to a wide range of careers for under 14s. Children will be signposted to further online information available once they have left KidZania so that they can follow up areas of interest.
- 7.3.** KidZania recognises the gap in the achievement of children from low income families compared to those from more affluent backgrounds, and has worked with the Council to maximise the benefits of the KidZania concept for children attending schools in the Borough. As part of a formal agreement linked to a Section 106 planning obligation, it has allocated 7,333 free tickets annually to the Council, which will be distributed to schools with the aim of enabling pupils to visit KidZania who would not otherwise be in a position to pay the entrance fees. KidZania have been provided with the numbers on roll at all schools including the proportion of pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium. The agreement runs for 20 years and there will be annual review meetings. Meetings have already been set up for senior staff and schools to discuss the KidZania concept in further detail with the company. The KidZania concept extends beyond entertainment and will provide work experience opportunities, as well as creating links with industry.

8. EQUALITY 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. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1. 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.

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.	N/A	N/A