

	<p align="center">London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p align="center">CHILDREN AND EDUCATION POLICY & ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</p> <p align="center">21 September 2015</p>
<p>DIRECTOR'S UPDATE</p>	
<p>Report of the Director for 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 INSPECTIONS

Since the last CEPAC meeting, three schools in the borough have had reports published by Ofsted following inspections. Cambridge School was judged to be Good in June following an inspection in May 2015. At its previous inspection it had been graded as "requires improvement". Westside Alternative Provision Free School was also graded as Good in June 2015. West London Primary Free School was judged to be Outstanding in June 2015. This was the first time the school had been inspected by Ofsted.

3.2. PROVISIONAL EXAMINATION RESULTS 2015

Below are the provisional headlines from this year's school tests and examinations. A further more detailed school performance report will be presented to a future CEPAC, and will include updates on the data and information on the current Local Authority school improvement service priorities and actions. Individual primary school results will be available to the committee when the performance tables are published by the Department for Education (DfE) in December 2015. Provisional individual secondary school results will also be made available by the Department later this term (before 31st October) and this will be followed in January 2016 with the publication of the validated secondary performance tables.

Primary

Early Years profile (Reception year)

The percentage of the Reception cohort with a 'good level of development' was provisionally 68% in Hammersmith and Fulham, compared with 66% nationally (provisional). This was an eight percentage point increase from 2014, compared with a six percentage point national increase.

Key Stage 1 (Year two – 7 year olds)

Compared with 2014, there has been an increase in the percentage of pupils achieving a Level 2 and above (the expected level for the age) in writing (87% to 89%) and mathematics (92% to 93%). The percentage of pupils achieving a Level 2 and above for reading remained the same (91%). Performance was above the 2015 provisional national average at Level 2 and above, by one percentage point in writing, and the same as national performance in reading and in mathematics.

Key Stage 2 (Year six – 11 year olds)

The provisional percentage of Hammersmith and Fulham primary school pupils who achieved a Level 4 and above (the expected level for the age) in reading, writing and mathematics is currently in line with the 84% achieved last year, subject to final checks and validation. This is above the national percentage of 80%.

Secondary

Key Stage 4 (GCSEs)

Following the publication of GCSE results on 20th August 2015, results submitted by schools to the Local Authority indicate a provisional figure of 62% per cent of students achieving 5 or more GCSEs at Grades A*-C including English and mathematics. This is considerably above the national average for 2014 (53%) but is two percentage points down on the 2014 figure for Hammersmith and Fulham. It is too early to provide a full analysis of the reasons for the dip, however there is some evidence of schools being affected by the continued volatility in outcomes following the changes to the examination formats, including

changes to examination board marking in mathematics and other subject areas. This is having a London wide and national impact on overall results. Last year the national average fell six percentage points.

Key Stage 5 (A levels)

For A Levels, the percentage of papers awarded a Grade A* was provisionally 9% in 2015, which was above the 2015 national average (8%); the percentage awarded A*-A was 25% slightly below national (26%) as was the percentage awarded A*-C grades (73% compared with a national figure of 77%). The overall percentage achieving a grade A*-E was 98% and in line with the national average.

3.3. NEW SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION PROVISION

The borough's educational offer has expanded at the start of the new school year with the opening of a new primary school and the expansion of a special school. Burlington Danes Primary Academy opened for reception age pupils in September, a two form entry school funded by the DfE's free school programme in a new building. This is due to be completed by March 2016 with a plan for the children to move into school before the end of the current school year. The school serves an area of increasing demand, especially in view of the major regeneration plans for the north of the borough. Until the new building is ready, the primary school will operate from the adjacent Ark Burlington Danes Academy. A 30 place nursery will also open in September 2016.

Queensmill School has also commenced a pilot through which 5 places are being offered to young people aged 19 who are on the autistic spectrum. This development is expected to improve the local offer of provision for young adults with special educational needs in line with the requirements of the Children and Families Act.

3.4. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT IMPLEMENTATION

The introduction of the Children and Families Act in September 2014 necessitated the implementation of a remodelling of the Special Educational Needs Service. This has included the recruitment of a new shared management team and the development of new frontline 'key worker' roles to deliver the specific requirements of the new legislation.

Similarly, 'statements' Special Educational Need have been replaced by Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. During the last academic year there were 136 requests for assessment for an EHC Plan for Hammersmith & Fulham children and young people. Of these requests we have agreed to assess 79 young people and, of these, 76 plans have been issued or are due to be issued.

Following liaison with service users and key partners regarding their experience of services provided during the first year of delivery of the new legislation, we have identified the following priorities to :

- To enhance customer experience by significantly improving communications and levels of statutory compliance;
- Improved joint working between Education, Family Services and Adult Social Care to improve the transition arrangements for young people from the age of 14;
- Improving the local offer for young people aged 16-25 who are now eligible for a statutory plan;

4. CHILDREN'S CENTRE INSPECTIONS

Melcombe Children's Centre was inspected in the last school term and judged to be "good". Ofsted's report of 16 June 2015 commented on the high levels of registration, particularly from children from priority groups and those expecting children, the Children's Centre's role in helping children to be ready for school, the balance between targeted and universal services, the promotion of inclusion, and highly effective leadership, governance and management.

5. SAFEGUARDING

- 5.1. The service now has two embedded domestic abuse workers from Advance (the specialist organisation which supports women who have experienced domestic violence) and a further post working with perpetrators of domestic abuse will be in place by October. These additional resources will strengthen our response to domestic violence and abuse which are significant issues in over half of the statutory social work cases.
- 5.2. The previous Director's Update for CEPAC referred to the initial impact of service changes designed to reduce the number of children with child protection plans following recent increases. 145 children currently have child protection plans; a reduction from a peak of over 200 in 2014. This does not reflect a decrease in child protection concerns as referral rates are higher, however we are working differently with families, for example by using the "Strengthening Families" model which leads to better family engagement, greater clarity about what the concerns are and what families need to do, with our support. The Focus on Practice programme is also beginning to impact upon our interventions with families.

6. CORPORATE PARENTING

This year's examination and test results have been very positive for the borough's looked after children. Their GCSE results have improved year on year. In 2014/15, 37% of eligible pupils achieved over 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C including English and Mathematics; 75% achieved over 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C GCSEs. There have also been improvements in the proportions of pupils achieving a Level 4 or above in Reading, Writing and Maths at the end of Key Stage 2 in their final year at primary school.

Attendance rates have been maintained over the past 2 years with 90% average attendance rates for statutory school age children. There have been no permanent exclusions of our looked after children for the past 5 years. Fixed

term exclusion rates have dropped from 19% in 2013/14 to 12% in 2014/15. The numbers of care leavers who go to university have increased from 21 (13%) in 2014/15 to 24 (14%) in 2015/16. The ongoing improvements reflect a range of actions by the Virtual School team including ensuring high quality Personal Education Plans are in place for the children.

- 6.1. One of the borough's care leavers has recently returned from a 10 week expedition with Operation Raleigh International. Following a rigorous selection process including a three night residential, she spent 10 weeks in Costa Rica and Nicaragua working alongside local communities improving their access to water. The expedition also included a trek, carrying kit for 19 days through the jungle. The borough's Virtual School is working with Raleigh with the aim of securing similar opportunities for our care leavers next summer.
- 6.2. Over recent months there has been a significant pressure on services in the south east of England (and Kent in particular) resulting from increasing numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people. As a result (and as a temporary measure rather than a longer term solution) it has been agreed that all London local authorities should be asked to accommodate one additional unaccompanied asylum seeking child each. Hammersmith and Fulham is now caring for a 17 year old young person through this arrangement.

7. COMMISSIONING

7.1. SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

A comprehensive range of activities in the Borough, were made available to children and young people over the school summer holiday through this year's "Summer in the City" programme. This included activities and programmes for disabled children, young carers, families. Anecdotal feedback from providers suggests that the programme was well publicised with good levels of participation from local children and young people in what was on offer. We will also be consulting with the Borough Youth Council for their views on what was provided and how it might be improved in future years.

7.2. TRAVEL CARE AND SUPPORT

Work has been progressing to implement the revised vision for the Travel Care and Support service which aims to deliver a high quality service with a stronger emphasis on caring for those who use the service. Meetings have taken place with all providers of Travel Care and Support services to share the revised vision and expectations for the service and to discuss and plan as to how this will be achieved. The key changes and developments are:

- Recruitment of a Commissioning Manager who is based on site with providers to improve service delivery with a particular focus on staff training and development and communications with service users, schools and other stakeholders
- An enhanced performance management framework with key indicators. Work is now progressing with providers to set up processes and systems to gather the required information

- Letters from Councillor Macmillan were sent to all parents and carers of children and young people using home to school transport to inform them of the changes planned for the service. Four meetings also took place with parents and carers in June and July 2015 to discuss the changes and give parents and carers an opportunity to comment and provide their views
- The service development and improvement plan for the Transport Commissioning Team (TCT) is now fully in place
- Work is underway to negotiate contractual arrangements and changes where required, in order ensure full sovereign accountability and control
- Procurement of a new ICT system for the TCT with additional solutions to improve communication with service users and stakeholders. Phase 1 of this improvement is currently being implemented as a text messaging pilot with this service due to be available to all service users and their parents and carers by October 2015.
- The development of a strategy and service model for independent travel training

Officers have continued to support the work of the Travel Care and Support Working Party with a focus on service design, commissioning arrangements, performance monitoring and ongoing development.

Work has also taken place over the school summer holidays to ensure that details of all new starters and leavers who require transport to school were confirmed and shared to enable careful planning of arrangements at the start of the Autumn term. There has been a particular focus on: ensuring the vehicles used are fit for purpose; relevant training including refresher training for existing staff has taken place; up to date compliance with Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks; the meeting and greeting for children using the service for the first time and verification of route timing.

The Transport Commissioning Team has identified children with high levels of needs and arranged meetings with parents and occupational therapists to develop individual travel plans where required. Schools have been advised of the children travelling to their schools, including route numbers, drivers and escort details. A text messaging system to improve communication with families is being piloted for the first three weeks of September for 56 children who travel to Wood Lane and Cambridge schools. The Transport Commissioning Team resource has been enhanced for the first few weeks of the new school year to ensure speedy responses can be made to any enquiries or concerns which might emerge.

A total of 206 children are receiving home to school transport from the start of the new school year.

7.3. **SCHOOL MEALS**

The recommissioning of the school meals service contracts for Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster is moving into the final stage of procurement via three competitive call-off processes from the Framework. These will be conducted sequentially for each of the three authorities resulting in

sovereign contracts. The call-off, mobilisation and contract start are planned in a phased approach across each borough to ensure that service transition is a smooth process. Following consultation with the Schools Forums and School Heads groups, the first borough to call-off from the Framework Agreement will be Kensington and Chelsea, followed by Westminster and then Hammersmith & Fulham. Hammersmith & Fulham's call-off start date is scheduled for 11 January 2016 with the contract due to start in June 2016. There will be a standalone call-off process for each borough to ensure that the provider that is appointed best meets local needs and requirements. The three boroughs may appoint the same or different contractors.

Robust planning for the contract mobilisation phase is underway, overseen by a dedicated School Meals Contract Team who will also have responsibility for the contract management of the contracts once they commence. The team have a track record of working closely with schools and suppliers to ensure that there is quality provision in place and they have successfully managed previous school meal contract mobilisations.

7.4. OTHER UPDATES – LONDON YOUTH GAMES

Children and young people from the borough took part in 24 events in this year's London Youth Games over an 8 month period. There were participants from all of the borough's mainstream secondary schools including private schools in either trials or competition. Young people attending out of borough schools, and those involved in local sports clubs also took part. There were top ten finishes for our senior tennis team, female cricket, Paragames girls football, girls table tennis, girls cross country, hockey and swimming teams and male table tennis and football teams. Overall the borough finished in 29th position equalling the overall result from 2014.