


<p><b>London Borough of Hammersmith &amp; Fulham</b></p> <p><b>CHILDREN AND EDUCATION POLICY &amp; ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</b></p> <p><b>23 November 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 and Review  <b>Key Decision:</b> No</p>	
<p><b>Wards Affected:</b> All</p>	
<p><b>Accountable Executive Director:</b> Andrew Christie, Executive Director of Children's Services</p>	
<p><b>Report Author:</b> Andrew Christie, Executive Director of Children's Services</p>	<p><b>Contact Details:</b>  Tel: 020 8753 3601  <a href="mailto:andrew.christie@lbhf.gov.uk">andrew.christie@lbhf.gov.uk</a></p>

## 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.

## **EDUCATION**

### **2.2 SCHOOL INSPECTIONS**

Since the last CEPAC meeting, Holy Cross School was inspected by Ofsted on 23 and 24 September and judged to be good. The school's effectiveness of leadership and management was found to be outstanding. This shows significant improvements having been made since when the school was previously inspected in 2013 and it was judged to require improvement.

### **2.3 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT IMPLEMENTATION**

Following consultation with service users and partners about their experience of the first year of delivery of the new Act, a Special Educational Needs Service Improvement Plan has been developed to address a number of priorities which have been identified. These include improving the communications and statutory compliance of the Special Educational Needs Service; improving joint working between Education, Family Services and Adult Social Care to develop the transition arrangements that are in place for children from the age of 14; to manage the financial demands resulting from more young people aged 16-25 now being eligible for support through Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans by proactively improving local provision for this age group; and to increase training for young people to be able to travel independently to and from education provision where appropriate. The service will report on key performance indicators for each priority area on a quarterly basis.

## **3. CHILDREN'S CENTRE INSPECTIONS**

- 3.1 The report of Ofsted's inspection of Fulham Central Children's Centre was published in September 2015. Ofsted judged the centre to be inadequate. This was the first time that Fulham Central had been inspected. The local authority is working closely with the Pre- school Learning Alliance (who are commissioned to provide children's centre services at Fulham Central) to address the issues raised in the Ofsted report. There is a comprehensive action plan in place which we are working on to ensure that children and their families, particularly those most in the need within the centre's reach, are offered the best possible children's centre service.
- 3.2 In July 2015 it was announced that a consultation would take place on the future of children's centres nationally, including consideration of what accountability framework is required to best demonstrate their effectiveness. Subsequently the Department for Education have agreed with Ofsted to pause the children's centre inspection cycle, pending the outcome of the consultation. This means that any children's centre inspections due in the 2015 to 2016 academic year under sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Children's Centre (Inspections) Regulations 2010 will not now take place until the consultation has concluded.

#### **4. SAFEGUARDING**

- 4.1 Operation Makesafe was formally launched by the Council with the Metropolitan Police on 14 October. This is a campaign to raise awareness of and tackle child sexual exploitation with a particular focus on businesses such as licensed premises, hotels, food outlets and mini-cab offices which may be targeted by perpetrators. Council officers have been visiting relevant businesses to offer free police training. There are accompanying initiatives including a poster campaign and a dedicated telephone number through which concerns can be reported directly to the police. A more detailed briefing on Operation Makesafe including publicity materials has also been made available to CEPAC members.
- 4.2 The Executive Director's update for September's CEPAC reported a reduction in the number of children requiring child protection plans. This followed concerns in 2014 when over 200 children had such plans but total had been reduced to 145. This reduction has continued with 110 children now having child protection plans. This results from ongoing use of working differently with families through the "Strengthening Families" model with the Focus on Practice programme also starting to have a positive effect.
- 4.3 A Serious Case Review in respect of a child who had connections to Hammersmith & Fulham has been completed and is expected to be published before the next CEPAC meeting.

#### **5. CORPORATE PARENTING**

##### **5.1 ACCOMMODATION FOR CARE LEAVERS**

The recent development of our Semi-independent Living Commissioning Strategy was informed by the objective of ensuring looked after young people aged 16–18 and care leavers aged 18–24 are placed in safe and instructive semi-independent supported accommodation that is most suited to their requirements and represents best value. The accommodation is commissioned to provide young people with the understanding and life skills required to move on to independent living in the community when appropriate. The strategy is now being implemented. A contract has been in place from May 2015 to provide the core of supported accommodation for Hammersmith & Fulham's care leavers through placements located within the borough. This is a block contract with a single provider (Centrepoin) with 71 units across 9 properties. In some cases, it is not appropriate for a care leaver to be placed in borough, due to safeguarding issues or previous care connections. In these circumstances, additional semi-independent living placements in Greater London will be commissioned from a framework agreement. It is anticipated that the framework agreement will be in place by the end of the year.

## **6. COMMISSIONING**

### **6.1 SCHOOL MEALS**

Following an update provided for the previous CEPAC, recommissioning of the school meals service contracts for Hammersmith & Fulham continues. The “call-off” for Kensington and Chelsea has now concluded. This process is planned to commence in Hammersmith and Fulham in January 2016 with contracts due to be awarded in March or April and due to commence in June 2016. Hammersmith and Fulham may appoint the same or different contractors as Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster.

Planning for the mobilisation of contracts is well underway and will be managed by the existing School Meals Contract Management Team based within the Children’s Commissioning Directorate. The team will also continue to be responsible for the contract monitoring of the school meals service, providing continuity and a clear point of contact for schools.

### **6.2 TRAVEL CARE AND SUPPORT**

Work continues 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. Key recent changes and developments have included:

- The development of an enhanced performance management framework with key indicators and work is now progressing with providers to set up processes and systems to gather the required information.
- Negotiation of contractual arrangements and changes where required, in order ensure full sovereign accountability and control for the service.
- A new Information and Communications Technology system is being procured for the Transport Commissioning Team (TCT) including additional equipment to improve communication, for example through vehicle tracking and a self-service portal for parents and service users. Phase 1 of this improvement has been implemented with a new text messaging service being available to all service users and their parents and carers.
- A draft policy for independent travel training has now been written in order to improve the choice of transport for service users, and enhance service user skills, where appropriate. The draft policy is currently subject to consultation with service users, carers and parents, and other key stakeholders.
- The Commissioning and Contracts Improvement Manager has been working closely with travel providers to develop and implement improvement plans for the Service. In line with implementing the revised vision for the service, a clear plan of development work is being

undertaken with the TCT to focus on delivery of arrangements and the further improvements and changes which need to be achieved.

- The Travel Care and Support Working Party continues to meet with its remit and terms of reference broadened to include Adult Services. Officers are supporting the Working Party with a focus on service design, commissioning arrangements, performance monitoring and ongoing development.

## **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, 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.

## **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**

None.

### **LIST OF APPENDICES**

None.