


<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;">JANUARY 2016</p>	
<p>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE</p>	
<p>Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Education</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification: For Information Key Decision: No</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: None</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 To note the contents of the report.

3. EDUCATION

- 3.1. Proposals for the Bridge Academy and Free School are proceeding to provide an Alternative Provision academy on the Finlay/Greswell Street site. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) supports the 16-19 Free School plans and is currently determining the size of its contribution. The Priority Schools Building [maintenance] Programme's contribution to the overall project is also being assessed by the EFA.

- 3.2. Cabinet will be asked in March 2016 to approve the appointment of a full design team to the programme, and in the interim period, designs are being progressed to Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Plan of Work Stage 1 under a separate contract. The Tri-borough Multi-Academy (TBAP) Trust has agreed the specification and is now working up decant proposals so that work on site can commence as soon as designs are agreed and costs match the total budget.

4. YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE

- 4.1. The Youth Offending Service (YOS) was inspected during the week of 14 December 2015. The inspection was led by Her Majesty's inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The current programme of inspection focuses on the quality of youth offending work being delivered to children and young people at the start of their sentence through to the time post-sentence when initial plans should be in place. The main element of the inspection was an examination of evidence provided in advance, interviews with case managers and with the Head of Service and the Director for Family Services in Westminster (the Service has a shared management team with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster City Council).
- 4.2. During the inspection, 34 cases from across the three boroughs were selected by HMIP from a longer list of cases and the four judgement areas as follows:
- Reducing offending – assessment, planning and intervention
 - Public Protection – management of risk and partnership working
 - Protecting the child/young person – keeping young people safe
 - Ensuring that young people serve their sentence – engaging with young people and attention to health and well-being.
- 4.3. The grade descriptors used by HMIP are based on the “sufficiency or insufficiency” of practice on the performance against each criterion.
- 4.4. The indicative results from the inspection indicate that the YOS is working at a high level. The headline feedback is that out of 29 separate judgements, only one was below 80% sufficient (78%); 9 judgements achieved 100%; a further 9 over 90% and 25 out of 29 (86%) judgements were at over 85% which is a significant achievement. In comparison with the England averages of youth offending team inspections, the tri-borough YOS was higher than the national averages on each of the four judgements.
- 4.5. The inspector commented on some really good examples of practice which could be used in the final report, as well as good partnership working and good levels of interventions with young people which were well targeted, based on needs. The team structure and co-location was very positive and staff members were keen, enthusiastic and committed.
- 4.6. There are areas for development related to the timeliness of assessment, planning and interventions and in effective management oversight of risk and vulnerability which will further enhance the work of the service.

- 4.7. The draft report from HMIP was made available on 6 January 2016 and the final report will be published on HMIP website on 27 January 2016.

5. SAFEGUARDING

- 5.1. The November Director's Update referred to a Serious Case Review (SCR) in respect of a child who had connections to Hammersmith & Fulham. The SCR report (known as "Sofia") was published on 22 December 2015.

6. CORPORATE PARENTING

- 6.1. An event for the borough's looked after children and care leavers is being planned for 19th February. This is an annual event which includes presentations of awards to individual children and young people as well as an opportunity to consult and inform the about the services we provide.

7. COMMISSIONING

7.1. CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH (CAMHS)

- 7.2. The Children's Trust Board reviewed local and regional CAMHS developments at its December meeting. This included local responses to the national "Future in Mind" strategy which aims to promote, protect and improve the mental health of children and young people. NHS England has approved local transformation plans to address 8 shared priorities. Developments are planned in a variety of areas including workforce development and training, reducing waiting lists and an Eating Disorder Service which is now up and running. Other local priorities include an updated local mental health needs assessment; a strong emphasis on co-production of services with young people; services for young people with learning disabilities; clearer pathways to crisis and urgent care pathways; meeting the needs of young people involved in offending or affected by gangs and child sexual exploitation.

- 7.3. The Children's Trust Board discussion included a review of a successful Schools-CAMHS Link Pilot with 10 schools in the borough. This strengthened links with CAMHS practitioners who offered schools 2-3 hours of support per week and consideration is being given on how this might be developed further. Other ideas discussed included a young people's conference to be held this year and the possibility of identifying a single point of contact to make services more accessible and flexible for young people. A number of areas were identified for future development including more interaction with parents. Local commissioners are now developing mechanisms to take these ideas forward.

7.4. SCHOOL MEALS

- 7.5. The call off process for the contract to provide school meals in Hammersmith and Fulham schools is taking place this month. This is the final competitive stage where contractors will be evaluated against local priorities before making contract awards. A local working group with strong school

representation has shaped the technical evaluation criteria to ensure that they meet specific local priorities. The call off process and evaluation also involves the local authority school meals contract team and staff and pupil representatives from the borough's schools.

- 7.6. Contracts are due to be awarded in March or April subject to Cabinet approval and commence in June 2016 to enable mobilisation before the Autumn Term. Hammersmith and Fulham may appoint the same or different contractors as Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster where the call off processes have already concluded having been run in a phased approach. The contract is expected to provide quality school meals whilst also delivering savings to the Dedicated Schools Grant.

7.7. TRAVEL CARE AND SUPPORT

- 7.8. The draft policy for independent travel training has been taken to the Travel Care and Support Working Party and is now being considered by elected members with the aim of approving it by the end of January 2016. Following approval, a business case will be developed to identify delivery models and to agree the preferred option.
- 7.9. Ongoing work is taking place to develop the Transport Commissioning Team including establishing a vision statement and training on enhanced customer service and understanding the needs of children with special educational needs. Customer complaints systems have been improved to ensure timely and customer focused responses. Onsite and unannounced spot checks have been taking place across more schools in the borough. Work has also been carried out on the development of Occupational Therapist requirements for new travel plans as well as updating the existing travel plans with schools and transport operators.

8. RETIREMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- 8.1. Members of CEPAC will probably be aware that in October 2015, I announced my intention to retire from the role of Executive Director of Children's Services and the plan is that I will be leaving in May 2016.
- 8.2. Recruitment for my successor has commenced this month with head-hunters appointed and advertisements published. The post will continue to be a role with responsibility for Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster. The aim is for a Members' Interview Panel to have taken place by the end of March 2016, but it should be noted that the recruitment market for this role can be difficult.

9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. 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.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. 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.

11. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. 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.