

Report for:	Cabinet 17th March 2015	Item Number:	
Title:	Haringey's Childcare Policy 2015 -2018: Improving the Sustainability of Council Maintained Childcare		
Report Authorised by:	Zina Etheridge, Deputy Chief Executive		
Lead Officer:	Jon Abbey, Interim Director of Children's Services		
Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Key Decision: No		

- 1. Describe the issue under consideration**
 - 1.1 Cabinet is asked to note the engagement which is underway with a range of stakeholders to develop Haringey's Childcare Policy prior to consultation getting underway in June 2015.
- 2. Cabinet Member introduction**
 - 2.1 The availability of affordable and accessible childcare for parents and carers is fundamental to supporting our aspirations for strong, resilient children, families and communities across Haringey. We know that the availability of, and access to, high quality childcare is not the same for all across the borough and one of our priorities over the next three years is to address some of these challenges; including how we are better able to ensure that our most vulnerable and disadvantaged children are able to access provision that will make a difference to their outcomes. We need to ensure that parents and carers have good information about what is available in their community.
 - 2.2 We are working with parents, carer and communities to develop this future picture and set out in this report our commitment to doing this.



3. Recommendations

3.1 Cabinet is asked to:

- a. note the engagement underway with a range of stakeholders to develop a sustainable Childcare Policy for Haringey.
- b. agree that consultation on the Childcare Policy for Haringey will return to Cabinet in June for approval.

4. Alternative options considered

- 4.1 The engagement process is exploring a range of options for Haringey's Childcare Policy. The final draft of the Policy will return to Cabinet before consultation takes place.

5. Background information

- 5.1 The development of the Early Help Strategy has underlined the key role childcare plays in delivering prevention and an early help approach to families. Of the sixteen Children's Centres in the borough, five are directly managed by the Council and eleven managed by and located in schools. Eight of the Centres also deliver childcare - of which, four are council run and four are run by schools.

- 5.2 Officers are working with a group of stakeholders from across the Children's Centres system to ensure that the future model for delivery of childcare is sustainable and improves outcomes for all families in the borough. As the proposals for the future model for Children's Centres and a Childcare Policy for the Council are linked the stakeholder group is working on both elements of the proposals to ensure congruence of approach and model.

- 5.3 The current model of delivery and funding of childcare varies across Centres with a split between those which provide childcare and those that do not.

- 5.4 There are a number of options to be considered in developing the Childcare Policy but any changes proposed will be shaped to achieve greater equity, responding to need and quality improvements for all childcare settings in the borough. The Council's statutory obligation under the Childcare Act 2006 is to ensure sufficiency of quality childcare for all local residents. The Council has to ensure access to free childcare places for Children in Need and 15 hours per week free entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. There is a presumption against the local authority directly delivering childcare. If the Council's policy position were to focus on the statutory obligations, a number of areas could be affected, including:

- Role as direct deliverer of childcare – this would directly affect the four council managed Children's Centres delivering childcare
- Role to ensure sufficiency of quality childcare for all working parents and concentrate on managing the market.



6. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

- 6.1 Funding for Childcare and Early Years Education is provided by the Department of Education and forms part of the Dedicated Schools Grant Early Years Block. As reported in the MTFS paper, there are medium term pressures forecast within this block which must be addressed as part of ensuring the sustainability of childcare provision. This report informs the Cabinet about the engagement activity supporting the development of a revised Childcare Policy prior to any statutory consultation. In particular the Authority must consult Schools Forum on the allocation of funding for Early Years provision as set out in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.

7. Assistant Director of Corporate Governance Comments and legal implications

- 7.1 The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted on this Report.
- 7.2 The Childcare Act 2006, The Local Authority (Duty to Secure Early Years Provision Free of Charge) Regulations 2014 and the Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance September 2014 sets out the requirement of the Council to secure sufficient childcare and free early years education for two, three and four year olds in its area.

8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

- 8.1 Our proposals are designed to ensure a more equitable approach to access to quality childcare for all families in the borough.
- 8.2 It is not thought that there will be any differential impact upon any of the protected groups outlined in the Equalities Act 2010, as a consequence of developing Haringey's Childcare Policy. We will, however, ensure that we gather data and undertake analysis to provide assurance that the Policy does not have a differential impact upon protected groups.

9. Head of Procurement Comments

- 9.1 If any of the outcomes need to go through a competitive procurement process the timescales need to be built in to the implementation of the model.
- 9.2 New Procurement regulations come into effect on the 26th Feb and this specifies that social care opportunities now need to be advertised for open competition if they are valued at over 700,000 Euros over a four year period. Waivers will no longer be allowed under these regulations for spend over 750,000 Euros.

10. Policy Implication

The work outlined in this Cabinet report will lead to a sustainable Childcare Policy for Haringey prior to consultation.

11. Reasons for Decision



Haringey Council

Cabinet is being asked to note the development of a sustainable Childcare Policy for Haringey through the engagement of a range of stakeholders. The engagement on the Childcare Policy for Haringey will return to Cabinet in June for approval prior to consultation getting underway in June 2015.

12. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

13. Use of Appendices: Not used