

MINUTES OF MEETING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2019

PRESENT:

Councillors: Erdal Dogan (Chair), Dana Carlin, James Chiriyankandath, Julie Davies and Tammy Palmer

Co-opted Members: Mark Chapman and Luci Davin (Parent Governor representatives) and Yvonne Denny and Lourdes Keever (Church representatives)

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred Members present to item 1 on the agenda in respect of filming at meetings and Members noted the information contained therein.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dixon and Hakata.

3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

6. MINUTES

The Panel noted that exam results data for June 2019 was still provisional at this stage. In respect of the review on Alternative Provision, this would not now be finalised and submitted to Cabinet until February next year.

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of 19 September 2019 be approved.

7. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS - COMMUNITIES

Councillor Mark Blake outlined key developments within his portfolio:

- Funding that the Council had received from the Mayor's Young Londoners Fund had been used for Haringey Community Gold project and youth outreach work. Over 1,000 young people had been involved in a range of activities so far. Haringey Community Gold had also provided a significant part of the summer programme. In addition, training sessions and apprenticeships had also been offered;
- The Young People at Risk Executive Group had met on 19 September and would be meeting bi-monthly to provide strategic oversight of the strategy. It was chaired by the Director of Children's Services. A new delivery plan for the strategy would be developed in the new year;
- He had recently chaired a workshop on reducing the number of children that come into contact with the youth justice system that had been held with colleagues from the voluntary sector. Recommendations from the outcomes of this were currently being developed;
- There was a commitment to build a youth space for Wood Green as part of regeneration of the area. This would act as a hub for youth provision as well as providing a base for generic youth work. Some potential sites were being looked at and he was pressing regeneration colleagues for this to be progressed quickly;
- He had attended a meeting of the exploitation panel, which reviewed with high risk social care cases. He had been impressed with the work and commitment of staff. It was highly pressurised and challenging work and it was important that those who worked on the front line were listened to so that improvements could be made.

In answer to a question regarding the location of potential sites for the youth space in Wood Green, he stated that it was best that this was somewhere that was considered neutral territory in respect of "post code" issues. There was a wider culture of violence though, not all of which was linked to gangs. A lot of violent incidents were not reported to the Police.

In answer to a question regarding the use of schools for youth provision, he stated that he had been invited to speak at the Headteachers Forum. He was happy to develop a proposal jointly with the Cabinet Member for Children and Families to take this forward. He was mindful of the fact that many schools relied on the money that external lettings brought in but progress could still be made if only a few schools agreed to assist. The Panel noted that the latest bid to the Greater London Authority (GLA) included a commitment to work with two secondary schools and there were high hopes of a positive response.

He shared the concern of Panel Members regarding the safety of pupils returning home from school. The new Borough Commander had introduced changes to rosters though and these would provide a greater Police presence between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., which was when many problems occurred. The Police would need to be involved in any discussion regarding the expansion of after school clubs. There was a significant issue with knifepoint robbery and addressing this was a major priority for the Police.

In answer to a question, he stated that he shared concerns about postcode issues. A visit was being arranged with the Leader to Bruce Grove youth centre and he was happy to discuss how the centre could be more inclusive to young people from other areas of the borough. He wished to develop mediation as a way of easing tensions.

There were no easy solutions though but it was a high priority for the Haringey Community Gold initiative.

In answer to another question, he stated that he would support the setting up of multiple youth hubs in Wood Green but there would need to be the resources for this to happen. In respect of the Street Rangers that were being used in Wood Green, this project had been approved under the previous administration and was funded by the Wood Green Business Partnership. He would prefer that the borough had more uniformed Police officers instead. He agreed to respond in writing to the Panel regarding the feedback that had been received on the interaction between the Street Rangers and young people.

Panel Members noted that some schools did not currently have safer schools Police officers, although recruitment was currently taking place. The Cabinet Member stated that he was not in a position to ensure that all schools were provided with one but could request that this happened.

In respect of violent youth crime, he was supportive of the work being undertaken by the Borough Commander to change Police rosters to that they were better able to respond to incidents. In addition, officers from the Violence Task Group were providing some local investigatory support. There were currently discussions at a strategic level regarding the use of stop and search. He was sceptical about its effectiveness but was happy to look at relevant data. There were concerns regarding its use on younger children and in respect of first contact as these could create hostility to the Police. Youth work was being expanded but this was being done from a low base due to severe cuts that had taken place previously in Haringey. Increasing engagement with children and young people was a particular priority. He felt that there was a need for earlier intervention and a greater focus on strengths when assessing young people, rather than risk. An independent advisory group was being set up and consideration could be given to inviting them to a future meeting of the Panel.

He felt that there was a need for more early intervention but the focus of activity was at the acute end of the scale as early intervention was not statutory. Multi agency working could always be improved. In particular, there could be better engagement by the Probation Service. Ann Graham, the Director of Children's Services commented that there had previously been funding for early intervention but this had now ceased. However, services could still respond to children who were considered to be in need.

AGREED:

That a briefing note be provided by the Cabinet Member for Communities to the Panel on the interaction of Wood Green Street Rangers with children and young people in the area.

8. CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS) TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

Charlotte Pomery, Assistant Director for Commissioning, reported that the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) transformation programme had been

developed following a review that had been undertaken in 2015. There were a number of risk factors, which included neglect and adverse childhood experiences. Access to services was being improved but there were disproportionate numbers of referrals between the east and west of the borough and from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. The review had identified a lack of early intervention and key partners had been working together to address the issue.

She reported that £1 million in additional funding had been obtained through the successful Trailblazer bid. This would be used to develop early intervention services in non-stigmatising settings and, in particular, schools in order to improve access. Work was also being undertaken to reduce waiting times for services, with a 4 week target. In addition, a successful application had also been made for inclusion in the Schools Link programme. Work was also being done to develop a different strategic structure for CAMHS. This involved moving from the current tiered structure to the "I Thrive" model of service. Further developmental work was needed on services for children and young people with autism and a learning disability and also to address waiting times.

Panel Members welcomed the developments and commented that it was important that they were communicated to school governors. In answer to question, Ms Pomery stated that the Trailblazer programme had emerged out of a government Green Paper. It was envisaged that the pilot project would eventually lead to a wider roll out programme. The learning from the pilot in schools in the east of the borough would be used to develop services elsewhere. In respect of the transition process to adult services, work was being undertaken to improve the process. The issue had also been referred to in the NHS long term plan. The Panel noted that a special joint meeting of the Panel with the Adults and Health Panel on transition had taken place in March and a further one was planned.

In answer to a question regarding the low percentage of young people who sought help from services, Ms Pomery felt that this was due to a range of issues. These included lack of awareness of mental health issues, lack of knowledge of access routes into services and the stigma associated with mental health in some communities. The long waiting times for services that there had been until recently had also acted as a deterrent.

Concerns were raised that the involvement of Bruce Grove Youth Centre in the More than Mentors programme to improve transition from primary to secondary school could act as a deterrent for children from other post code areas. Ms Pomery agreed to look into this issue and report back.

She reported that it was known from the Alternative Provision review and anecdotally that mental health was a significant issue in schools and gaps in support had been identified. Impact and activity data would be collected as part of the evaluation of the Trailblazer project in order to measure its effectiveness. This could be shared with the Panel. The Schools Link programme was aimed at raising awareness of mental health issues and understanding pathways.

AGREED:

1. That the Assistant Director for Commissioning be requested to provide further detail on how any “post code” issues could potentially impact on the “More Than Mentors” initiative; and
2. That the evaluation of the Trailblazer scheme, including impact and delivery data, be shared with the Panel.

9. TACKLING CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Linda Edward and Marlene D’Aguilar from the Council’s Public Health Service reported on current action to address childhood obesity. It was a complex issue and there were clear links to deprivation. Data from over a 10 year period showed that the percentage of children who were obese had plateaued. However, there were clear inequalities and children in the east of the borough were three times more likely to be obese than those from elsewhere.

The approach that was being adopted was based on prevention with a range of services and activities were being provided. It was recognised that no single service could deal with the issue on their own and a whole systems approach was being followed with the aim of ensuring that health was in all policies. There were a range of initiatives taking place:

- Haringey had been the first local authority to ban the advertising of products with high fat, sugar or salt as part of its corporate advertising policy;
- Cycle training was now offered to children from the age of nine and up to and including adults;
- There was a commitment to introducing School Streets across the borough. This had been introduced at Lordship Lane School and was to be extended to other schools in due course. It involved the reduction of access for cars during school drop off and pick up times, with the aim of encouraging walking and cycling;
- Health Impact Assessments were being considered as part of larger planning and regeneration developments within the borough;
- Schools and residents could apply for their road to become a Play Street, which closed streets off for a period of time. In addition, there had been a Weekend of Play, which involved 80 small community events in parks;
- A community hackathon took place in August and the views of young people about physical activities were sought as part of this. They emphasised the importance of activities that involved the whole family. They also reported that youth violence deterred many young people from participating in activities;
- During the school summer holidays, a wide range of activities had been offered for children and young people, including ones specifically aimed at girls;
- 131 local businesses had signed up to the healthy catering commitment to reduce fat, salt and sugar in hot food takeaways. In addition, the new London Plan had allowed a 400 metre barrier to be placed around schools. No further hot food takeaways would be given planning permission within this. In addition, it would now be compulsory for all existing hot food takeaways within these areas to sign up to the healthy catering commitment;
- The clinical obesity pathway had been significantly revised. In addition, the role of the school health service had also been revised in order to give a stronger role for school nurses;

- An infant feeding strategy was being developed;
- There were now a number of water and milk only schools within the borough. Some schools had also introduced 15 minutes of physical activity every day as part of the active mind initiative; and
- The Healthy Start initiative, which provided free fresh fruit, vegetables and milk to low income families, had been updated with the aim of increasing uptake.

Public Health would continue to work with stakeholders and partners and aim to align with the Mayor's ambition to end childhood obesity and, in particular, his ten ambitions for London.

Ms D'Aguilar reported that work was being undertaken with Islington to develop healthy school meal standards for schools. Haringey had a number of different school meals suppliers. A "Sugar Smart" event had been arranged in April to which suppliers had been invited. She agreed to see if it could be determined if there was a correlation between receiving free school meals and obesity. Panel Members commented that Islington had invested in developing kitchens in schools so that they were able to cook meals on site. It was also felt that "one-off" events were unlikely to make a long term difference.

Councillor Brabazon, the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, reported that nurseries and primary schools often produced high quality school meals, some using locally sourced and organic ingredients. It should therefore not be assumed that Haringey was starting from a low level. She felt that the Public Health approach was valuable. However, there was much to do and support was needed. She also highlighted the impact of housing. In particular, some families in temporary housing had limited access to cooking facilities and therefore had no choice but to eat processed or take away food. In such circumstances, a high quality school meal was particularly important.

Ms D'Aguilar stated that the importance of good housing was acknowledged and health and well-being was now being considered in all new housing developments. The reliance of many families in temporary accommodation on take away food made the provision of healthier hot food take aways even more important. In answer to a question, Ms Edward commented that many nurseries were involved in the London wide health early years initiative.

Panel Members commented that very few schools were within 400 metres of shops and would therefore be subject to the previously mentioned restrictions on hot food takeaways. It was felt that a more ambitious and joined up approach was required. Great encouragement needed to be given for walking and cycling. In particular, more cycle lanes needed to be provided so it was safer to cycle.

Ms D'Aguilar stated that Transport for London was promoting adopted a "healthy streets" approach to making streets more accessible. Public Health had provided training for a wide range of stakeholders regarding this, including Councillors. In addition, a walking and cycling strategy was in the process of being developed.

Ms Edward stated that there was regular contact with school governors to update them on progress with the healthy schools agenda. Consideration was being given to

undertaking work with schools regarding their catering contracts, which a number had outsourced. A report on the progress of this could be made to a future meeting of the Panel. She reported that a number of schools were participating in the sugar smart initiative and were therefore only providing water and milk. The Chair raised the issue of advertisements in high streets promoting offers for junk food, which he felt, required attention.

AGREED:

1. That the Panel be provided with further information by the Public Health Service on whether there is a link between receiving free school meals and obesity; and
2. That a report be made to a future meeting of the Panel on the outcome of work by the Public Health Service and schools in respect of their catering contracts.

10. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND PERFORMANCE

James Page, Chief Executive of Haringey Education Partnership, reported on recent education attainment and performance statistics, as outlined in the report. He highlighted the following:

- In Early Years, there had been a considerable improvement in those pupils reaching the good level of development (GLD) standard from 50% in 2013 to 75% in 2019 and current performance was above the London and national average;
- In Key Stage (KS) 1, outcomes for the expected and greater depth standards were both above national averages in all subjects;
- For KS2 attainment, all subjects were in line with or above national averages at expected standard level. 66% of Haringey pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined, which was above national but below the London average. Performance for reading within this had suffered a dip of 3.5% though. At greater depth standard, reading, writing and maths combined and writing separately were all above the London average;
- GCSE performance (KS4) had been strong. It was above the national average but below that for London. In respect of Progress 8 scores, these were higher than both the national and London averages;
- 'A' Level performance was also strong and the borough's results were 50th nationally. The number of young people taking vocational courses within the borough at post 16 level was very small though; and
- There was evidence that Turkish and Black Caribbean young people were not performing to the same levels as other groups.

Panel Members felt that the overall figures for the borough masked the impact of poverty by smoothing out considerable variations in performance between schools. Data on performance levels in different schools would be better able to highlight this. Children being tested in phonics were likely to find the tests very challenging if English was not their first language, especially if their mother tongue was not phonetically based.

Mr Page stated that there was a considerable amount of data available, including details of performance by individual schools as well as different groups within the

borough. Variance between schools was tracked. Disadvantage was a major factor influencing performance and schools who were able to buck the trend were of particular interest. However, some lack and minority ethnic (BAME) groups were performing less well than the disadvantaged group as a whole and there were a range of other factors that also influenced performance. Work was being undertaken to address BAME achievement and, in particular, black Caribbean children and young people. Having English as an additional language could be factor for some younger children but the underperformance of some groups was present at all stages. The levels of underperformance were also greater for these groups with English as an additional language than in comparable local authorities. He reported that there was currently a programme to train an expert cadre of EAL trainers.

Panel Members expressed disappointment that there was a lack of detail in the report on programmes to address the performance issues that the test and exam results had revealed. They requested that future reports provided evidence that programmes were in place to respond to the issues highlighted within the data as well as targets and outcomes arising from action being taken. This would provide reassurance to the Panel that progress was being made. It was noted that statistics for those pupils categorised as disadvantaged would have been affected by the reduction in entitlement for free school meals.

In answer to a question regarding the sharing of best practice, Mr Page stated that it would be possible to provide scatter plots showed the comparative performance of different schools. There was a considerable amount of peer to peer work undertaken to spread best practice, which included work through the networked learning communities, the schools partnership programme and peer to peer reviews.

AGREED:

That future reports on educational attainment and performance provide:

- Data on the comparative performance of schools within the borough; and
- Clear evidence that programmes are in place to respond to performance issues highlighted within the data, including targets and outcomes.

11. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Panel Members felt that falling school rolls was a significant issue and could benefit from an in-depth review. It was noted that reduced rolls were already having a serious impact on some primary schools. The range of different types of schools within the borough and their respective status impacted on Council's ability to plan for school places. A review that addressed the range of different types of school within the borough could consider what would be the most effective response to the changes that had taken place. It was felt that falling school rolls should be included as part of a wider review on school structures.

AGREED:

That the Panel undertake an in-depth review on the range of school structures within the borough and its impact and that this include specific consideration of falling school rolls.

CHAIR: Councillor Erdal Dogan

Signed by Chair

Date