

Jeremy Williams

020 8489 2919

020 8489 2660

Jeremy.Williams@haringey.gov.uk

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To: All Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Dear Member,

Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Monday February 25th 2008

I attach a copy of the following reports for the above-mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda:

9. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS: CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE (PAGES 1 - 4)

Briefing from Councillor Liz Santry, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Williams
Principal Committee Coordinator

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CYPS Briefing for Overview and Scrutiny

“Haringey Borough Council delivers a good service for children and young people” Annual Performance Assessment (2007)

The Children and Young People’s Service (CYPS) was recently assessed by Ofsted as providing a good service to Haringey’s children and young people. In all of the five Every Child Matters outcome areas (Be Healthy, Be Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution and Economic Wellbeing) this was the case and Haringey is now in equal 13th place out of 32 London boroughs.

Schools for the community

We have secured £178m from the Building Schools for the Future programme, and works are planned for completion in 2012. Work is ongoing to develop designs for our secondary schools and finalised plans are being drawn up. Building work will start with Woodside High and Gladesmore in September 2008 with other schools to follow. A new comprehensive community school, scheduled to open in 2010, will form part of the initiative and construction work is due to start in January 2009. The school will encompass support for children with autistic spectrum disorder and the school will have a specialism in the visual arts and media. Every school is starting to benefit from a £26m investment in Information and Communication Technology.

The Sixth Form Centre opened in September 2007, offering a wide range of courses for 16-19 year olds from pre-entry through to level 3 qualifications. The Centre has 627 pupils currently on roll hitting its target for the first year open and we are confident that it is on target to be full by September 2009. The Sixth Form Centre is already making a real difference in providing educational and vocational opportunities for Haringey’s young people and has already reduced significantly the number of young people not in education, employment or training.

Haringey has successfully bid to the Big Lottery Fund for more than £750k to improve play opportunities in the borough through eight projects. Among the projects are schemes to help parents play more effectively with their children, improved play facilities and after school provision for children with disabilities and a project for 12-19 year-old girls in Tottenham. It will also provide a network of inclusive playgrounds in Chestnuts Park, Priory Park, Markfield Park and Lordship Recreation Ground.

Our children’s achievements

Haringey’s children and young people continue to improve their achievement in all age groups. At age 16, results have improved at twice the national rate consistently for seven years. Pupils are getting a good start to their education through our children’s centres and early year’s provision and standards for our youngest pupils aged 7 (Key Stage 1) show continued improvement.

At the end of primary education at Key Stage 2 in 2007 there have been the best ever improvements in the number of children achieving level 4 and above in maths (74% compared to 77% nationally) and science (84% compared 88% nationally) and continued improvement in English (76% compared to 80% nationally). There has been yet another significant reduction in the number of schools where fewer than 65% of pupils achieve level 4 or above in maths (from 24 in 2003 to 16 in 2007) and this year for the first time no schools under 50%, reduced from 10 four years ago. It is our intention to continue to improve this so that all schools achieve above 65% by 2010.

There have been significant improvements in all three core subjects English, maths and science at Key Stage 3. At GCSE results have improved consistently year on year since 2001 at more than twice the national rate. Since 2001 Haringey has improved from 30.9% to 56% in the 5+ A*-C indicator. The schools in the east of the borough have been rapidly closing the gap between east and west with approximately 380 more 16 year olds in the east achieving 5 + A*-C grades in 2007 than in 2001. The main challenge now for all schools to improve is the number of 5+ A*-C with English and maths.

The continued improvement at GCSE is reflected in the performance of the larger ethnic minority groups in Haringey. There is strong evidence that the gap between ethnic minority groups and White UK pupils is closing. In the 5+ A*-C indicator, African pupils have improved by 17% since 2002, Caribbean pupils by 20%, Turkish pupils by 14%, Kurdish pupils by 41%, White UK pupils have improved by 6%.

In Haringey we have 414 looked after children (as of November 2007). There has been a lot of progress in both their educational attainment and in providing good placements. The attainment of looked after children has improved at all Key Stages, the percentage who gained 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE has increased from 5% in 2003 to 31% in 2007 (the national figure for 2006 was 12%). There has been a steady increase in the number of students continuing their education post 16.

The number of adoptions and special guardianships is increasing, providing a stable future for these children and young people. Haringey has also been successful in its bid for the Rainer-DfES Looked After Children Mentoring Pilot. The overall aim of this national project is the establishment of a pilot of adult to child mentoring for looked after children in foster care and residential settings and we are now putting this in to place.

Attendance has improved in primary schools and is now at the national average with approximately 117,000 more half day sessions were attended by primary pupils in 2007 than in 2002 which equates to 390 more pupils attending for a full year. Secondary attendance has also continued to improve and is now above the national average with approximately 75,300 more half day sessions were attended by secondary pupils in 2007 than in 2002 which equates to 250 more pupils attending for a full year. Special school attendance continues to be good and is expected to be above the national average.

The progress made by our children and young people overall is therefore strong and when 149 Local Authorities are compared nationally for progress between Key Stage 2 to 4 we are placed 13th out of 149 and for Key Stage 3 to 4 we are 35th out of 149.

Fostering

The CYPS has received verbal feedback following the Ofsted Inspection of Haringey's Fostering Service. The inspection is judged in a similar format to the APA, with an overall judgement, a judgement under the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes and a judgement under management.

The overall judgement is good. In two areas we are judged to be outstanding and there were elements of outstanding in other areas. The formal report will be received around the middle of February.

This is an extremely positive result for a local authority fostering service and demonstrates how effective joined up working between health, education and social care can achieve positive outcomes for young people. This inspection shows that Haringey Carers are well supported and that children in in-house placements receive a positive service.

Haringey children need to be placed in or near to the borough, hence, the need to attract Haringey people to care for Haringey's children in care. In 2008/09 we will be focusing our recruitment initiatives on white UK/European families and those who are interested in and have the space and ability to care for teenagers and larger sibling groups.

Children's centres

We are well on track to add a further eight children's centres to the existing ten, so that by April 2008 Haringey will have one of the most extensive networks of children's centres in the country. This will represent a total capital investment in the region of £18m. This should be seen alongside a record £11.5m revenue investment for the coming year in our children's centres, a £1m increase on last year. This substantial investment is helping to support our children and their families, especially those in our most disadvantaged wards and helping parents get back in to work.

Children's centres form part of the development of 0-19 services alongside play, extended schools and the youth service. Together these services are providing support to children and families through a child's various life stages. We have just finished a consultation of planned changes to the management of the council's play centres and the five council-run children's centres which is going to Cabinet on 18 March. The proposals include schools increasingly taking on the management of centres.

Youth Centres

The Youth Service has made significant improvements to the provision for young people. The Summer University was a major success with 3,830 young people taking part in a wide range of activities on offer. We also successfully launched Youth Space, our website specifically aimed at young people and we are currently receiving over 8000 hits a month. 40% of young people participating in a Youth Service programme have achieved an accredited outcome evidencing that more young people are gaining proficiency in physical activities, expeditions and recreation activities.

The recent assessment of the youth service praised the significant improvements that have been made to the service. More young people are taking part in youth activities and the additional funding through the London Youth Offer will enable us to further develop opportunities for our young people.

Youth Participation

As the voice of young people in Haringey, the Youth Council is made up of young people from secondary schools, special schools, youth organisations and social care. We are pleased to report that since its establishment a year ago, Youth Councillors have been involved in the development of the Play Strategy, the Youth Space website, working with the LSCB to produce a more accessible version of the 'Haringey Anti-Bullying and Discrimination Incident Policy'.

They are also making a discernable difference to the lives of other young people through their administration of the Youth Opportunities Funds (YOF) in allocating funding to local groups. One of the YOF-funded projects, the MPower gardening project based at Markfield, won a national Youth Challenge - 'Actions Speak Louder' Award, which aims to reward the most innovative projects for young people created through the YOF.

Youth Councillors are also represented on the UK Youth Parliament, elections for which took place at the beginning of February. Turnout this year is well up on last year's figures of 800; over 2,700 pupils registered to vote this year and Farjina Begum (PVA), Adam Jogee (Highgate) and Sam-Newton Fenner (Fortismere) have been elected as the borough's representatives at the UK Youth Parliament.