

MINUTES OF CABINET MEMBER SIGNING MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 18TH MARCH, 2022, 12.00 - 12.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Zena Brabazon, Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children, and Families.

In attendance: Ngozi Anuforo, Head of Strategic Commissioning, and Fiona Rae, Acting Committees Manager.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. ANNUAL CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY REPORT

The Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children, and Families considered the report which noted that the Childcare Act 2006, and Early Education and Childcare statutory guidance, gave local authorities a duty to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, childcare provision for children aged 0-14 and up to 18 for disabled children. The provision should be sufficient to meet the requirements of parents/carers to enable them to work or undertake education or training leading to work, and for their child to access their free entitlement place.

It was also noted that section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 and statutory guidance stated that there should be an annual report 'to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and make this report available and accessible to parents'. The Annual Childcare Sufficiency Report had been prepared to support this duty.

The report outlined childcare supply and demand progress since 2020, identifies key findings relating to childcare sufficiency during 2021 and provides key challenges and improvement actions for 2022.

In response to a question from the Cabinet Member, it was explained that childcare provision had remained reasonably resilient throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. It was noted that only three settings had closed in 2020 and, as this had occurred quite early in 2020, it was not clear that this had happened as a result of the pandemic.

In relation to the figures for the take up of places for early education and childcare, it was clarified that this related to the number of available places that were used rather than the total number of children who were taking up places. It was agreed that a

briefing note would be provided to the Cabinet Member outlining comparative data and observations between 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.

The Cabinet Member RESOLVED

To approve the Annual Childcare Sufficiency Report 2020-2021, as set out in Appendix 1, and to agree to its publication on the Council’s website.

Reasons for decision

The reason for the recommendation is that a decision to approve the proposed Annual Childcare Sufficiency Report 2020 (Appendix 1), will ensure that the Council is fulfilling its statutory duty, under the Childcare Act 2006.

In addition, the Annual Childcare Sufficiency Report will provide an updated representation of Haringey’s childcare market, enabling the Council to develop childcare plans to support the market and maximise childcare participation in the future.

Alternative options considered

The requirement to complete an Annual Childcare Sufficiency Report is part of the statutory requirement placed on the Council by the Childcare Act 2006.

CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Zena Brabazon

Signed by Cabinet Member

Date ...22 March 2022.....