

QUESTIONS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY, 16 MARCH 2009

Page no. in full agenda pack	Question/Observation	Answer (Where applicable)
Questions from Cllr Alexander		
	1. Following up from the question and answer I received at Full Council in relation to the progress on the Heartlands School project, the answer provided me with the update I required but it is still not clear whether the school will be open for business in September 2010 and I would like the Cabinet Member's assurance that this will be the case please.	We are still planning for the school to open in September 2010 for the first cohort of year 7 pupils as part of a phased opening. However, prior to final contract signings, we will review carefully the impact of the economy on the take-up of places, particularly as it relates to the programme of house-building in the Wood Green area.
Page 59	2. What measures are in place to ensure that improvements are successful following the reconfiguration of the C & YP Service Dept?	Changes to referral and assessment are underway to ensure that the initial response is more efficient, effective and child focussed. The changes involve review of systems, processes and structures and will take time to have an impact. We are monitoring outcomes through auditing of cases, particular scrutiny of high risk cases, improved multi-agency working and feedback and continued work on improving supervision and reviewing impact of training.
Page 59	3. Will this "crafting an offer" include offering higher salaries than currently offered? If yes, how will this be funded?	We know that higher salaries on their own are not the answer to improved recruitment and retention. Other factors need to be addressed including good line management and supervision, support, opportunities for development and a good environment to work in. These will all be part of the package being developed.
Page 59	4. School places – which areas of the borough are these most needed and how will this be delivered?	There are places for all Haringey children at reception and secondary transfer for 2009 entry. For future years, birth rates have been very high and these cohorts will be reaching our schools over the next couple of years. For this

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		<p>reason, in line with our policy of providing school places where they are needed at popular and successful schools, we will be proposing at our Cabinet meeting on 24 March to consult further, with the publication of statutory notices, on the expansion of Rhodes Avenue primary school.</p> <p>A full analysis of school place demand and supply will, as in all recent years, be reported through Cabinet in July 2009. Primary rolls are expected to grow in coming years and the annual report will set out our other plans in response to this.</p>
Page 59	5. Key Stage 2 results – how are these going to be driven up?	<p>After year on year improvements the Key Stage 2 results in 2008 dipped. There were major problems with the marking of the tests in 2008 and the results remain provisional. We have worked even harder this year with headteachers to improve Key Stage 2 results. This has included a range of intervention programmes for years 5 and 6, targeted programmes for schools where there were particular concerns about under achievement in 2008, subject leadership programmes, middle management training and development, year 6 one to one support for pupils who need further dedicated support and a focus on under achieving groups. The new measure for all results is English and mathematics combined. The early years and Key Stage 1 programmes are also seen as essential in laying strong foundations, for example in language and literacy skills on which Key Stage 2 will build.</p>
Page 58	6. Heartlands School Head Teacher appointment: What are his aims and vision for the school? Will their salary kick in even if the school doesn't open on time?	<p>The new headteacher will take up his appointment full time from September 2009. During the year prior to opening he will be working to ensure that the school is ready to open and receive the first intake of year 7 pupils. He is an experienced Deputy Head and during the interview articulated a clear vision for the new school. He was</p>

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		particularly strong on community involvement and has already started to work with the Temporary Governing Body and wants to develop links with prospective parents and the local community. He wants the school to be an inclusive school at the heart of the community it serves and to provide a first class education in the broadest sense of the word.
	7. Despite the difficulties faced by the former head of Children's Services, the educational levels have risen impressively over the last few years – is the new head confident that he can continue this year on year rise and indeed better it?	The support systems that have led to impressive gains in educational attainment remain and the intention is to continue the improvements. The schools and Local Authority have high ambitions for what Haringey's young people can achieve and we will continue to set high expectations and strive to meet them.
Questions from Cllr Weber		
Page 57	8. Children in Care. Across the Council 80 staff have under taken RESPECT training plus a handful of Councillors (both Labour and Lib Dem). Will Cllr Lorna Reith attend and actively promote Haringey's "RESPECT" training course?	Cllr Reith has received good feedback from participants of the Total Respect course and is looking into attending.
Questions from Cllr Winskill		
Page 58	9. JAR Action plan – when will Haringey get a response back from Ed Balls and how will the response be shared with cabinet, councillors and partner organisations? Have there been any direct discussions with Mr Balls and/or his advisors? If so, please indicate the scope of the discussions and any actions/decisions taken.	<p>The Secretary of State has asked Ofsted to report their assessment of the JAR Action Plan by 31st March. Our assumption is that we will hear at the same time that he does. Having been open and transparent in the preparation and submission of the Plan, we will be as much so in dealing with the response.</p> <p>As has been reported several times before, there are regular meetings/discussions with the Secretary of State's office. The Leader, Lead Member, Chief Executive and Director meet the Secretary of State and Minister for Children &</p>

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		<p>Families monthly to report on progress. In the intervening two weeks between those meetings, there are meetings with officials from the Secretary of State’s office. The discussions cover the progress being made in preparation (now delivery) of the Plan, together with any other matter that the Director thinks the Secretary of State might need to know about. These are effectively monitoring meetings and not a forum for decision making or other actions.</p>
	<p>10. On 27th February, the Evening Standard announced the setting up of an external Quality outcomes Board. Please tell us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the remit of this board • the reporting structure (internal and external) • how members were recruited • how the idea of the board originated • who will provide the secretariat for the Board. • of any other local authorities that have set one up. • Whether the minority groups will be invited to participate in the activities of the board. • How will the local Safeguarding Children board relate to the QOB? • Are there any members common to both Boards? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please tell us how far the plans for the QOB were advanced when Cllr Reith and the CYP director appeared at OSC last month to present the Jar Action Plan. • Please tell us why no mention of the QOB was made at this meeting. • Please tell us why no mention of the Board was made during the motion on CYP Scrutiny at the last full Council. • Please tell us why communication with Haringey 	<p>I am not able to answer the majority of the questions you have asked concerning the Qualities Outcomes Board (QOB), as they fall outside the Children & Young People Cabinet portfolio. However I can respond to your query asking how the Safeguarding Children’s Board would relate to the QOB as follows:</p> <p>The Safeguarding Children’s Board is independent of the Council and as such will bear no relation to the QOB.</p> <p>As this is the only information regarding the QOB that as Cabinet member for Children & Young People I am able to provide you with for this meeting, I suggest that you write to the Leader who will be able to answer the remainder of your questions in writing ASAP. Alternatively the Leader of the Council can answer any questions you choose to submit about the role and remit of the QOB when she is next scheduled to attend Cabinet Question time at Overview & Scrutiny Committee.</p>

QUESTIONS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY, 16 MARCH 2009

	Councillors about the QOU was made through newspapers.	
Page 59	11. OSC has asked that more apprenticeships are mediated through the BSF programme, as well as increasing the number of jobs made available to local people. Would the lead member update us on any initiatives/developments in this area.	<p>Haringey BSF's contractors are to employ a wide range of apprentices, with the first group of apprentices set to start training in September 2009.</p> <p>RM, the ICT provider, will train IT apprentices at each of the secondary schools. They will complete an initial five months of studying at a specialist training centre, prior to six months working at one of the school sites. Following this, the apprentices will be guaranteed an interview with RM.</p> <p>The building contractors involved on the BSF programme have also agreed in principle to take on apprentices at each of their projects (1 apprentice for every 4 to 5 million pounds per contract) and to ensure that they identify opportunities for local employment. It is hoped up to 30 apprentices will develop through this scheme.</p> <p>Haringey Council's 14-19 team will be responsible for ensuring these schemes attract suitable candidates.</p>
Page 59	12. Please update us on the work being done to recruit and retain permanent social workers.	A range of options are being developed including improving communication and addressing specific concerns raised, visible senior management support and feedback, prioritising for improvement the area where recruitment is most difficult ie referral and assessment, a review of roles, tasks and responsibilities to inform future recruitment, continuation of the graduate social worker recruitment scheme
Page 59	13. In your key issues and challenges note, you mention challenges to the delivery of the BSF programme in the context of	Although the schemes are not PFI based we have experienced some delay in getting to contract closure; due

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	<p>the credit crunch and delays to PFI deals. Please update the committee on the issue and indicate any specific projects (pending or ongoing) that are likely to experience delays.</p>	<p>to the adoption of early work packages and proceeding under letters of intent this has not to date incurred significant delay to planned scheme completion dates. Sticking as closely as possible to start on site and scheme completion dates will remain one of our key priorities”.</p>
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