

MINUTES OF THE Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel HELD ON Thursday, 15th January, 2026, 6.30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Anna Lawton (Chair), Kaushika Amin, George Dunstall

ALSO ATTENDING: Amanda Bernard, Cllr Mary Mason and Cllr Lotte Collett

40. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred Members present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting, and Members noted the information contained therein'.

41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Grosskopf, Cllr Abela and Cllr Isilar Gosling. Cllr White attended the meeting as a substitute for Cllr Grosskopf.

42. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

44. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

45. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th November were agreed as a correct record.

46. HARINGEY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT & SCHOOLS FINANCIAL UPDATE 2024-25

The Panel received a report which provided an update on educational attainment outcomes for children and young people in Haringey in 2024-25. The Panel also

received a report which provided an update on schools' finance. The report was introduced by James Page, Chief Executive of the Haringey Education Partnership and Jane Edwards, Director of Schools and Learning, as set out in the agenda pack at pages 11-25. Cllr Zena Brabazon, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families was also present for this item. By way of introduction to the education attainment report, the following was noted:

- The Panel was advised that Haringey had seen improving results in education attainment and that since 2022, the borough was chasing London, rather than national averages. Attainment levels across London were much higher than almost anywhere else.
- The score for good levels of development at Early Years was 73.5%. This was the tenth highest score nationally. Phonics was at 84%, which was above the London and national average.
- At KS2, Haringey reached the London average in reading, writing and maths at 70%. This was a major improvement on past performance.
- Significant progress had been made in closing gaps in attainment. SEND scores were high and rising in these results. Disadvantaged Turkish and Black African students came in above the Haringey average.
- The Panel were advised that one disappointing piece of data was a regression in attainment from Black Caribbean boys at KS2, after two years of improving scores. It was suggested that a significant reason for this was because of the makeup of the cohort, being 60% boys and 40% SEND it was suggested that this was an anomaly and it was expected that results would bounce back next year.
- At GCSE, London was on average half a grade higher than the national average. Haringey was in the middle of the London and national average. Disadvantaged students performed well. SEND scores were characterised as being very high.
- Haringey had the lowest exclusion rate of secondary school pupils in the whole of London. Officers emphasised that of 32 secondary exclusions last year, 25 were successfully reintegrated within the academic year.
- The Panel was advised that outcomes for Turkish/Kurdish students at KS4 got much stronger, but they were not as good in terms of early years. As part of the racial equality group, chaired by Mr Page, a Turkish/Kurdish working group had been established which was led by a school leader. The working group would be looking at specific actions to take in order to improve performance. It was suggested that part of it related to delayed language development.

The following arose in discussion of this item:

- a. The Panel sought clarification about the interaction of scores for Turkish/Kurdish and those for EAL, and that fact that EAL scores at KS4 suggested that speaking a second language wasn't in itself a disadvantage. In response, officers advised that they did not have the figures for the percentage of EAL that were made up of Turkish/Kurdish young people. It was acknowledged that the reasons were complex and that EAL was made up of an umbrella of different communities who had different migration experiences. It was suggested that socio-economic differences and cultural differences played a significant role.
- b. The Panel sought assurances around the lower than expected attainment for Black Caribbean boys at KS2 and what was being done to bridge the gap. In

response, officers set out that the general point around it being 60% boys, was that girls did better than boys in terms of educational attainment across all of the data sets. It was emphasised that this was an anomalous result and therefore it was expected to be a one-off. Attainment for this group had increased by twelve percentage points in two years and that the current score was a regression.

- c. The Panel asked about the racial equality group and how the SEND cohort was represented at steering group meetings. In response, officers advised that the steering group did used to meet more regularly, but that the group took a decision to redefine its membership around those who were leading on areas of work. This was a decision taken by the group as a whole.
- d. A co-opted member of the Panel commented that they were concerned around who was present to represent those young people and who understood how to engage with them. Concerns were made about the role played by historical trauma and that the reasoning behind tended to be based on assumptions. In response, officers set out that the inclusion and access group made sure that every school was trauma informed, to ensure that it met the needs of any part of the cohort. Officers also highlighted the impact of language that cares had in engaging with young people in a meaningful way. This had been highlighted by Ofsted. It was suggested that the challenge was how to take this into schools. The Panel was also advised that there was a black educators network in order to recruit, retain and encourage black teachers. There was also a pan-London network to racial equality that had been set up.

Clerk's Note: 19:03 – Cllr Mary Mason and Cllr Lotte Collett joined the meeting at this point.

- e. In response to a question, officers advised that disadvantaged in the context of the report meant in receipt of Pupil Premium.
- f. In response to a question, officers agreed to provide a written response around the reasons behind the attainment gap for Turkish/Kurdish young people at KS2. The Panel felt that ascribing it to having English as a second language did not fit with the scores for EAL. **(Action: Jane Edwards/James Page)**.
- g. In response to a question about how to lower attainment gaps, it was emphasised that what was happening in the classroom in terms of the quality of teaching and learning was the key factor. It was also set out that HEP were working closely with schools with lower levels of attainment and to ensure that intervention began in early years in order to prevent the gap from widening as children progressed through the school system.

RESOLVED

Noted

47. CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ANNUAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2023- DECEMBER 2024

The Panel received a copy of the Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report 2023-24, along with a cover report and an appendix that set out the take up of the government's scheme of 30 free hours childcare. The report was introduced by Jane Edwards, Director of Schools and Learning, as set out in the agenda pack at pages 27-58. Christine Yianni, Childcare Sufficiency Manager and the Cabinet Member for Children,

Schools and Families were also present for this item. The following arose as part of the discussion of this item:

- a. The Panel queried how the cost of childcare in Haringey compared to inner, rather than outer, London boroughs. In response, officers agreed to provide the figures in writing. **(Action: Christine Yianni)**.
- b. The Panel questioned whether the Council had a role in facilitating the childcare market, if and when they believed that there were gaps in provision. In response, officers advised that they did look at the market, see if there were any gaps and let people know if more provision was needed. A number of schools had set up nurse provision recently, in response to market demand. Officers commented that the growth in provision was in the 9 months plus category due to the new funding entitlement. The Council had sort to direct grant funding for this age group into areas that were under provisioned. The Cabinet Member commented that Early Years was run on the basis of being a market, with providers having to operate like a business. The driver for the funding for 9-23 months old children was to get parents back to work.
- c. In relation to language and racial equity, it was commented that the term 'minority ethnic' used in the report was outdated. Instead, it was suggested that the term 'global majority' should be used. It was also commented that there were cultural factors behind why some communities had lower take-up levels of formal childcare settings. It was stated that it was important to acknowledge and understand the cultural differences at play.

RESOLVED

Noted.

48. VIRTUAL SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

The Panel received a copy of the Virtual Schools Annual Report 2024-25, along with a covering report. The report was included in the agenda pack for Panel Members to note. The Panel was advised that any questions on the report would be taken in writing.

RESOLVED

Noted.

49. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

N/A

50. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

26 February.

51. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

RESOLVED

That the work programme was noted and any amendments were agreed.

CHAIR: Councillor Anna Lawton

Signed by Chair

Date