

## **Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Child Protection on 30 March 2011**

### **Finance**

The 2010-11 budget recognised budget pressures primarily in the Looked After Children (LAC) placement budgets including those attributable to the Southwark Judgement. In total £4.4m was added to the budget, including £2.9m for placements and £0.8m for associated legal costs. A further £0.6m was given to support staffing structures in Children and Families targeted at safeguarding services.

Despite this additional resource the service has continued to experience increased demands for its safeguarding services, resulting in an estimated overspend for the year and the need for additional resources to be included as part of the 2011-12 budget setting process.

2010-11 is the final year of the last multi-year funding settlement for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the government has announced both that per pupil funding is being maintained for 2011-12 at 2010-11 levels and that the current funding arrangements are to be continued for a further year. Significant work during 2010-11 has been focussed on lobbying for a change to the inequitable Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) arrangements which disadvantage Haringey and designing and consulting upon a new Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) ready for implementation in April 2011.

### **Educational achievements**

The percentage of pupils attaining 5+ A\* - C grades in Haringey in 2010 is 73% compared to the national result of 75.4%. Haringey schools improved by 24.5% in the percentage of pupils attaining 5+ A\* - C grades at GCSE from 2005 - 2010. This compares with a national improvement of 18.3% in the same period. The percentage of pupils attaining 5+ A\* - C (including English and maths) is 48% compared to the national result of 53.4%. Haringey schools improved by 16.2% from 2005 -10 compared to a national improvement of 9.1% in this measure.

Haringey's Key Stage 2 results (percentage of pupils attaining both English and maths level 4+) in 2010 are 75% compared to national results of 73%. These results, however, have been affected by the national test boycott. Only 20 schools in Haringey (out of 57) did the tests and the published results stated above are based on those schools that did the Key Stage 2 tests.

- There are no Haringey schools below the government threshold of 30% 5+ A\* - C (including English and maths). The government has recently raised the threshold to 35% and this puts Greig City Academy (30%), St Thomas More (31%) and John Loughborough (31%) below the new threshold
- As Corporate Parents you will be pleased at this year's results for Looked After children. Results at GCSE are better than ever; 20% passed 5 A\* - C grades including English and Maths (national LAC results are 12%) and 33% passed 5 A\* - C grades (national LAC results are 26%).
- The levels of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has reduced from 6.8% to 6.6% (2010-2011). The November to January average figure for those young people who are not known has risen slight from 5.0% to 5.5% over the same period from last year. These figures now bring us in line with statistical

neighbours and close to national figures. The challenge will be to continue this improvement in 2011 against an economic down turn.

#### Areas of Focus for the future

- The withdrawal of a number of Government grants and the transfer of others to schools has required a major reduction in staffing numbers and a restructuring of the School Standards Service. This process has now been completed and the new structure is being implemented from 1 April 2011, although the full effects of the new approach will be seen after the Easter break.
- The Government believes that schools rather than local authorities should be accountable for pupils' performance. Accordingly the new Standards Service has been set up to assist schools in processing support for their own improvement, whilst adequate resources for the LA to fulfil its residual responsibilities. Broadly, these involve intervention where schools fall below floor targets and advocacy on behalf of vulnerable pupils and their families. Haringey Council has also retained a range of expertise at a strategic level in order to be able to work in partnership with schools on matters of common concern. To assist in their process and reflect the partnerships approach, an advisory group of headteachers has been established to act as a "critical friend" to the Standards Service. Meanwhile, talks continue in order to identify mutually advantageous ways of working with neighbouring LAs and thus increasing potential capacity.

#### **Investment in primary schools**

Haringey has continued to respond to the London-wide primary reception places shortage pro-actively, with work progressing on the expansion of Rhodes Avenue and planning in progress for additional places in the east of the borough. In recent years 120 new primary admission places have been created, with 30 more at Rhodes Avenue for 2011.

More primary school places will be needed in 2011 and beyond. We have developed plans but await the delayed DfE National Capital Review outcomes in order to see whether sufficient funding will be available.

At Broadwater Farm we are creating a new primary special school linked closely to a rebuilt primary school as an innovative learning campus, providing the best for some of our most vulnerable children alongside a superb mainstream primary school environment.

#### **BSF**

The Building Schools for the Future programme remains on target, with the new secondary school – Heartlands High School – opened on time and within budget in September this year. Works are now completed at all schools apart from remaining work at Heartlands and at Woodside High School and its linked secondary special school (now known as Riverside).

#### **School Meals**

Haringey's school meals service introduced healthy eating menus a year before the new national menus and nutritional standards were required. Meal take up in the all-important primary years has increased by 10% over the last four years.

#### **Prevention and Early Intervention**

Currently the Children's Networks department delivers prevention, early intervention and support services to children and young people who have additional needs. From 1 April

2011, to reflect the budget savings required of CYPS, a reformed department – Prevention and Early Intervention - will have responsibility for Early Years (previously in School Standards), Admissions and School Organisation (previously in Business Support and Development), the remaining functions of School Standards, and the Youth Offending Service (previously in the Chief Executive's Service).

### **Areas of Focus**

- Planning for the cessation of significant levels of grant funding – likely to affect play, extended services, youth and behaviour support;
- reviews of Youth and Connexions, Participation and Play in the light of expected cuts
- reviews of Early Years and Children's Centres in light of proposed budget reductions and the development of cluster-based model of children's centre delivery
- Discussions advancing with Enfield regarding a shared EPS/CAMHS service.
- Review of Childcare fees, following report to Cabinet on 8 February, with the proposed introduction of a new fee structure from September 2011
- further development of multi-disciplinary teams to deliver more integrated support to children/young people identified through the CAF as requiring targeted services e.g. family support, behaviour support, speech and language provision, education welfare etc
- consolidation of an intense piece of work across the CYPS and partners, particularly NHS Haringey and the Mental Health Trust, to develop a strategy to support children and young people with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties to ensure that the needs of these children are appropriately identified, that they receive the right support at the right time and, wherever possible, they are retained in Haringey provision.
- Development of a Preventative and Early Intervention model and thresholds for all staff working with children, young people and families.

### **Children and Families**

The numbers of Looked After Children have continued to stabilise and are now below 600. Children who require statutory intervention to ensure they are safeguarded continues to be the priority for Children's Services and partner agencies.

The recent announced inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children's Services has evidenced the significant progress that the Local Authority and its partners have made to strengthen safeguarding provision over the past 18 months.

The inspection took place over a two week period in January. The inspection noted the highly visible and committed leadership within the partnership and commented that the arrangements for contact, referral and assessment of children in need or who are at risk of harm are good.

With regard to the quality of services for looked after children and young people the report stated that they have been maintained despite the priority afforded to safeguarding services, and the partnership is aiming for top quartile performance in all areas.

The report further commented that the capacity for improvement in both safeguarding and looked after children's services is good, that senior and political leadership has been strengthened and is clearly aware of service needs and areas for further improvement.

Clearly there is still much to do, a number of recommendations were made which will be part of plans for the continued improvement of services.

We will continue to strengthen safeguarding services for our most vulnerable children including looked after children for whom the council and its partners have a responsibility as corporate parents.