

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL TUESDAY 16 JULY 2013

The draft minutes of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel are herewith attached. Key items discussed were as follows:

1. PROGRESS REPORT - RESPONSE TO THE OUTSTANDING FOR ALL COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT

Our Chair stated that, although recommendations 1 to 4 were particularly significant, the other recommendations of the Commission's report were also important. We noted that parent governors had been invited to meet with the interim Head of Governor. Role profiles had now been developed in order to ensure clarity in terms of expectations. Two prototypes had also been developed for pupil passports. One of these had now been agreed for trialling. In respect of recommendation 10, three dates had now been agreed for open public meetings. It was hoped to attract as many parents as possible to these. In response to the suggestion that area forums could be used for this purpose, the Cabinet Member stated that the audience would not necessarily be the same. They could nevertheless be used to get people interested in relevant educational issues.

We noted that the government aimed to promote a mixed economy of schools. Its ultimate aim was to remove the authority of local Councils in respect of schools and this was acknowledged as the direction of travel. Schools could now choose which services they bought back from local authorities. Haringey currently went above and beyond what some other Councils offered and did not currently bill schools for services, although this approach might need to be reconsidered. The Council's role was now more one of influence rather than command and control.

The Cabinet Member stated that academies were not obliged to collaborate with the Council in the work that was being done but the converted schools were still very committed to working with the borough and had stated that they wished to remain as part of the borough's family of schools.

We noted that, in respect of additional recommendation 1, Christine Gilbert, the former Head of OFSTED, had been appointed as schools champion. Her role would be to scrutinise and challenge and provide an expert perspective. It was also noted that the role was now paid rather than voluntary.

We **AGREED** that the Panel be provided with further information on the 29% of schools within the borough that are currently not classified as good or outstanding by OFSTED and, in particular, whether they are maintained schools.

2. HARINGEY 54000 PROGRAMME UPDATE

We noted that work to inform the Haringey 54000 project was still being undertaken with other local authorities in order to learn from their experience. In addition, meetings had been taking place with external providers who had relevant experience. There were various different models that could be used to deliver the project. For example, it was possible for providers to be remunerated according to the outcomes that they achieved and this could be targeted around particular services. There was also the social enterprise model where local authorities put resources into an organisation to deliver particular services. Savings above a certain threshold could be shared between the provider and the

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL THURSDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 20123

Council. Alternatively, the local authority could opt to set up a social enterprise organisation to undertake this work and not benefit directly from any of the savings made.

We noted that an external provider had undertaken a needs analysis using some software which the Council did not have and had been able to show where the blockages with referrals occurred. They had also been able to give the Council the benefit of their expertise on areas such as unit costs and benchmarking, as well as best practice from elsewhere. Although the aspiration was to deal with referrals quickly, if too many cases were referred, delay could be caused. Work was being undertaken to identify the source of the most effective referrals.

We **AGREED** that the brief for the outline strategic partner be shared with the Panel.

We **RECOMMEND** that clarity in respect of responsibility for the monitoring and scrutiny of the strategic partner be sought and included within the procurement process.

3. CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY 2013-15 DELIVERY PLAN

Our Chair suggested that, in addition to minimising the number of children living in temporary accommodation, the Council should also aspire as part of the strategy to reduce the time that they spent there. We noted that an analysis of how the pupil premium was being spent was to be produced and that OFSTED were interested in this particular issue. This work would need to be commissioned in due course as the service did not currently have the capacity to do this. The analysis would be submitted to the Panel when it was available.

The Council was currently working with 337 families as part of the troubled families initiative but needed to identify a number more. 20% of the funding was payable by results and the first claim had now been made. The programme provided the opportunity to explore new ways of working with families. Outcomes to date had been promising and included better attendance at school and less anti social behaviour. However, employment initiatives had been less successful so far.

We expressed concern at the numbers of children living in overcrowded households and noted that the Strategy was Council-wide and included housing services. There was a continuing need for engagement between C&YPS and housing services. It was possible to undertake some actions to mitigate the effects of overcrowding on children through, for instance, the provision of quiet study areas.

We noted that the target for the provision of nursery places for two year olds was 882 places as opposed to the number quoted in the delivery plan. We felt that the target for take up should be higher. The Director of C&YPS commented that she felt that the 85% target was not aspirational enough and stated that the target would be reviewed. The government expectation was a take up of 90%. A Big Lottery fund bid had been made to fund work with families in four wards in the east of the borough. The bid had successfully got past the first stage of the bidding process.

We **AGREED** that:

1. The comments made by the Panel be incorporated into the updated Delivery Plan and a further report made to the Panel in due course; and

**REPORT OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL
THURSDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 20123**

2. An analysis of how the pupil premium is being spent be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel.

**Cllr Martin Newton
Chair**