



Haringey Council

Report for:	CYPS Scrutiny Panel 27 February 2014	Item Number:	
Title:	Early Years Review (Corporate Delivery Unit) and Update on Work to date		
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Ward(s) affected: All	Report for: Non Key Decision		

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 The Council's corporate priority Outstanding for All, enabling all Haringey children to thrive, will be most effectively underpinned by a strong foundation in early years. Evidence and best practice shows that rounded development in the early years will support children and young people to achieve their full potential. The Early Years Strategy is in development across the Council and with partners and will seek to ensure that this foundation is laid well to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people.
- 1.2 For Children and Young People's Services, Early Years has been identified as one of the five priorities in its Commissioning Framework. To support this priority, a monthly Early Years Partnership Board was established in autumn 2013 which is multi-agency and focused on establishing a good foundation for children in the period from conception through to the age of five.
- 1.3 To ensure early years is implemented effectively in Haringey, the Corporate Delivery Unit was commissioned to carry out a Design Review of early years provision across the Council and its partners responding to the question "How can the council ensure that children in Haringey have a good level of development at Early Years Foundation Stage and are school-ready?" Its wide-ranging report was concluded in January 2014 and is attached to this cover report.



2. Cabinet Member introduction

Achieving a good foundation in Early Years is fundamental to enabling a child to develop and to achieve its full potential. As Cabinet Member for Children, I endorse the approach and findings of the Design Review and support the actions being taken forward to implement its recommendations.

3. Recommendations

The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider the Design Review and to comment on its findings and recommendations.

4. Alternative options considered

The Design Review considered a range of options and the attached report sets these out in detail.

5. Background information

- 5.1 The Design Review identifies a number of key actions which are now being taken forward. The Assistant Directors for Schools and Learning and for Commissioning have a shared priority to drive forward the improvements in early years provision and are currently focused on ensuring the council's programme for free education entitlement for eligible two years old is in place delivering sufficient places of a high quality which are taken up by those who need them. The Early Years Commissioner, working with colleagues on quality, is also prioritising this element of work.
- 5.2 From September 2013, all local authorities in England have had a statutory duty to secure early years free entitlement places for the most disadvantaged two year olds using nationally prescribed criteria. The purpose of this entitlement is to improve educational outcomes for children from the most deprived backgrounds and to ensure more children are school ready. Free entitlement places offer each eligible child 15 hours per week of early education, up to a maximum of 570 hours per year.
- 5.3 To meet this duty, and improve outcomes for the most disadvantaged children, the Council, within the emerging framework of the Early Years Strategy, has developed a plan built around the three core pillars of sufficiency, quality and access. It is now implementing this plan to offer sufficient places, which are of high quality and which are accessible to those families entitled to them. For example, the Council is working to develop the market for childcare and is proactive in identifying sites which can be used for new or expanded provision. A report to Cabinet on 11 February 2014, proposes increasing the rate of funding available per hour to providers participating in the programme. Quality is a prime consideration and officers continue to support the improvement of provision across Haringey's diverse early education and childcare market.



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- 5.4 There are a number of barriers to access which are being addressed through targeted work with families and communities and by ensuring that provision meets a wide range of need.
- 5.5 Children's Centres continue to offer support to this programme and are the pivotal elements of our wider early years model which is based on family focused provision and outreach to the most disadvantaged families who may not otherwise come forward to services. Whilst the current focus of activity is to support the early years programme for two year olds, this can only be effectively progressed by looking at all areas affecting a child's development in its early years.

6. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 Scrutiny Panel are advised that should Cabinet approve the increase of the hourly rate for two year old free early education to £6 per hour, there will be a financial sustainability issue estimated to be from 2016-17 onwards as demonstrated in the attached Appendix.
- 6.3 The Free Education Entitlement is funded from a ring-fenced allocation within the Early Years Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. Place led funding for eligible two year olds has been allocated for 2013-14 and 2014-15. Funding will move to a participation basis from 1 April 2016. Underspends arising due to participation levels being lower than Department for Education expectations will be applied and carried forward to fund £6 per hour rate.
- 6.4 The Haringey Schools Forum is responsible for allocating Early Years Block funding and is committed to reviewing all funding within the Block by the end of March 2015 in order to ensure that the £6 per hour rate is sustainable.
- 6.5 Increasing participation of two, three and four year olds will increase resources in the Early Years Block which could be used to mitigate any reductions elsewhere in the Early Years Block required in order to secure sustainability. Increased participation and achieving a good level of development during early years would also be expected to save future costs to both Haringey Council and schools.

7. Head of Legal Services and legal implications

The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on this Report. There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation.



8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

The focus on early years in Haringey aims to ensure that all children growing up in the borough receive the best start in life. Targeted work with the most disadvantaged families seeks to reduce the gaps in opportunity and school readiness experienced by some children in their first five years. The national programme to deliver free educational childcare places to those meeting nationally set criteria helps to support the Council's focus on improving the outcomes for all children, by targeting those facing most disadvantage many of whom possess many of the characteristics protected under sections 4 – 12 of the Equality Act 2010. This work will therefore contribute to the Council's performance of its public sector equality duty.

9. Head of Procurement Comments

The Head of Procurement has been consulted on this Report. There are no procurement implications arising from the recommendation.

10. Policy Implication

For Haringey, the policy for early years is in line with its Corporate Plan and Health and Wellbeing Strategy objectives to give children growing up in Haringey the best start in life and to deliver high quality services which offer children the chance to thrive. By working in partnership with health, private and voluntary sector partners and schools to support children up to the age of five and their families, the Council believes it can dramatically improve their outcomes. Through focusing on the three pillars of sufficiency, quality and access, the Council can ensure that provision for free early education for two year olds contributes to a solid foundation in early years which will stay with a child throughout their life.

11. Reasons for Decision

N/A – report for information only.

12. Use of Appendices

The Design Review is attached as Appendix 1.

13. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

n/a