



**Agenda Item  
10**

**Report Status**

For information/note           X  
For consultation & views  
For decision

**Report to Haringey Schools Forum – Thursday 7th December 2017**

**Report Title: Early Help Service update**

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**Purpose:**

- 1. To provide an update on the impact and range of support from the Early Help Service as part of wider early help provision**

**Recommendations:**

- 1. That Forum members note the adaptation, progress and impact of Early Help as part of Haringey's continuum of support**

## 1.Introduction and background

1.1 This paper provides Schools Forum with an up to date report on the coverage, reach and impact since October 2016 and November 2017 of the council's Early Help (EH) service in relation to non-statutory, family support provision.

1.2 In Haringey our Early Help and Targeted Response offer is a collaborative model for early intervention, with key partners involved, primarily through the TAF approach. The EH service provides holistic family support for families facing multiple and complex needs, below statutory threshold and incorporates the Troubled Families remit. The TRT provides intensive support for young people at the edge of care and vulnerable adolescents. This approach and the desire to work collaboratively with universal settings and providers to bridge the gap between universal need and statutory provision, is reflected in the **Working Together 2017** document. This guidance created an opportunity for Haringey to re-align internal resource to provide capacity to appropriately respond to those cases which do not need statutory intervention. To support delivery of the objectives of the EH service and continue to build a broad and accessible partnership offer in Haringey, a management reorganisation in April 2017 has increased our focus and resources to lead partnership development across the age-ranges (under 5's and school-age) including the development of C4C and a broader school's partnership offer.

2. We have recently had a Joint Targeted Area Inspection focussed on Neglect. We will receive the formal outcome letter in due course and will work together with partners to deliver an effective response to any issues raised.

## 3. Report.

Over the past 13 months the EH service has supported 927 families with 1732 children

2.1 This has been another busy year for the Early Help service focussing on strengthening our core family support offer and increasing collaboration with schools and settings as well as continuing to develop our skills and strengthen our partnership early help offer.

Four Family Support Workers have now been trained by the Autism team to provide additional support to families both in the school day and outside of the school day. A further group will be trained in early 2018. They offer support through early intervention to promote attendance in school and Early Years settings, and ensure carry-over of effective behaviour strategies to the home environment. Early help is working to minimise exclusions and maximise opportunities for young people in Haringey to be educated locally and in settings which are appropriate to their needs.

In the last 12 months, EH Supported 476 children who have been stepped down from statutory plans

2.2 Developing our partnership's reach, skills and capacity is key to enhancing the current early help provision and we now have effective links with Commissioning to support reducing the number of student exclusions, with Homes for Haringey to prevent evictions, with Youth Justice to prevent re-offending or first time entrants to the justice system and health in responding to family need identified through the Healthy Child Programme.

The re-referral rate for cases coming to EH from either direct EH contract or being Stepped-down from Social care and subsequently closed following EH intervention is low at 8% evidencing the value of EH support following the conclusion of a statutory plan

2.3 For schools the expanded partnership intervention offer, Prevention Through Partnership programme (PtP) has been distributed to all schools. PtP now offers nearly 60 partnership interventions, many applicable to all settings as well as a selection which are age relevant. At the heart of this offer, is the desire to help schools and Early Years settings draw upon a single source of multi-agency services, to support the families they work with, by providing a range of interventions available locally. This complements, rather than replaces the core offer from the Local Authority Early Help Service and is intended to support settings with building resilience to work together to deliver help at the earliest point and start to build a Team Around the Family that will reduce the risk of any escalation or need for further services later on. Link Family Support Workers remain the first point of contact for schools to speak directly to their FSW at the earliest signs of behaviour which may lead to exclusions, so that a collaborative plan can be developed to offer support in addressing issues within the family which may be the trigger for poor behaviour. This approach is strengthening relationships between schools and link FSW's.

In the last academic year family support workers have Attended 154 vulnerable children meetings and delivered or supported 47 workshops in school settings

2.4 Workshops have been delivered in numerous settings ranging from parenting, budgeting, housing and benefits and also delivered three, 12 week parenting programmes in partnership with local schools which have seen graduation rates of around 90% of participants. However, the EHPB is aware that parenting provision across the borough has not

been sufficiently visible or effectively coordinated to enable schools to nominate parents to appropriate support. As a result, a Parenting Coordinator has been appointed to map provision and provide strategic direction and operational delivery across the partnership to improve equitable access to evidence-based parental support programmes and initiate workforce development activity.

2.5 The 'Team Around the School' approach has been deployed in six schools across the borough with initial discussions about developing a response to issues in a further three settings. Current themes include CSE, young people at risk of Gangs involvement, Serious

Youth Violence/Knife crime in partnership with the Integrated Gangs Unit, police colleagues and specialist workers.

Working directly with a primary school to support development of a 'multi-agency SEMH hub' as a partnership initiative between the Service, School and CAMHS.

2.6 Alongside commissioning, we have established an Inclusion Panel to support schools with highest levels of fixed term and permanent exclusions. Meetings have been held at several secondary settings with high exclusion rates –and will be followed by Primary schools with similar pressures. The focus for this approach is vulnerable groups, including Children in Need, Children subject to Child Protection and Looked after Children who have one of more fixed term exclusion in the current or previous term; Children at all key stages who have experienced multiple fixed term exclusions impacting negatively on attainment; Children and young people known to at least one service (i.e. Youth Justice) and at high risk of exclusion, managed move or referral to alternative provision; Children and young people who have experienced 1 exclusion of over 10 days in the previous term. Working collaboratively we aim to enable students to remain in settings and support families to address underlying issues leading to poor behaviour.

The re-entry rate into Early Help following case closure between April 2017 and August 2017 is 10.26% evidencing the effectiveness of intervention and increasing family resilience.

2.7 We are keen to remind secondary schools to encourage students to take advantage of the range of activities and sessions delivered at Bruce Grove where experienced youth workers can offer targeted support and effective engagement with young people looking for positive activities and opportunities to socialise in a safe environment.

2.8 Currently the youth offer includes; open sessions promoting engagement and participation through sports, arts and technology with onsite support provided by Youth Practitioners and a Gang Worker. Targeted provisions are also delivered during Open Access including groups supporting girls including input from Safer London to raise awareness of CSE and Safetalk promoting Sexual Health; Safer London deliver a CSE drop in session every fortnight; a Sexual Health clinic every Friday; A music project designed to raise self-esteem, self-confidence and business enterprise skills. The POW (Protect Our Women) project is due to start in Feb 2018 to help young people create music and lyrics addressing VAWG; A Dance

project run by Community Leaders develops fitness and self-confidence. Sanjuro Martial Arts project works with young people with SEND, to support their social inclusion, participation and wellbeing every Wednesday.

Year 6 transition programme agreed with 24 primary schools for spring/summer 2018 led by the Early Help's Youth team supported by partner agencies following successful pilot in 4 schools in July 2017

2.9 We have established a strong and vibrant Youth Council with representatives from every secondary school and engagement across the primary sector. This group recently ran a very successful 'Reverse Stop and Search' project with the Police which was written up by a Youth Cabinet member and published in The Voice. Learning was promoted for both young people and Police including how the Police might adapt their approach to young people with autism during procedures.

2.10 Peer Mentoring training is underway with 12 committed young people as trainee Mentors who will then be matched with younger children who are members of BGYS. We are working closely with schools, locality teams and Social Care teams on this to identify a suitable cohort of children who would benefit. We also planning alongside Dr Nick Barnes to start a second programme in a Secondary School. Letters will be sent out seeking Expressions of Interest before Christmas for a programme to run early in 2018.

The Service coordinated and delivered 'Routes to Work Careers Fair' which was a great success on 8/11/17 with over 70 Exhibitors and approx. 1,200 attendees (more than last year). See attached for breakdown of Exhibitors.

Early Help is working together with Project Futures (Mac-UK) to reduce knife carrying by young people. A pilot at Harris Academy, Philip Lane and St Paul's & All Hallows to be evaluated early 2018

#### **4. Conclusion**

3.1 It is widely acknowledged that early intervention provides both the most opportune time to address emerging issues and build individual and family resilience and thereby reduce demand on higher cost and acute services. Whilst the true impact of effective early help provision will only be seen over time as children and families in Haringey move forward from the challenges they face and reduction in demand against statutory and high costs services is evident. Additionally, family resilience will increase resulting in less reliance on formal support services. Early Help is continuing to flex and grow the direct service offer and encourage and enable partners to play a fuller role in the creation of a truly partnership early intervention offer across the borough. To maximise the impact of this work the support of settings and Schools Forum for the EH Service and wider partnership, which is jointly funded by the council, Schools Forum and DCLG through grant funding, will ensure that our collaborative approach delivers meaningful impact and evidence-based outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and families, which is recognised as contributing to improved attendance, behaviour, development and achievement in settings across the borough.