

Children, Environment and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday, 15th May 2017

Report of: Cllr Richard Holloway

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Young People

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1. Children Services

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child Refugee's

- 1.1 The Council now has 47 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in the care population, this out of a total of 180 children and 19 over the Council's current threshold (i.e. 19 out of 47 are above the 0.07% threshold). Therefore, 19 UASC's are on the rota, awaiting dispersal via this national transfer scheme. However, this process can be very slow, while we wait for authorities across the country to collect and take responsibility for the young people.
- 1.2 The Council continues to act on its duties and assist, where possible, in taking UASC into our care. Whilst we remain over our threshold for UASC's in the general population, the Council is also supporting UASC in securing relocation across the Country, with family, in semi-independent hostels, or independent foster placements.

IGU Funding and Serious Youth Violence

- 1.3 The London Crime Prevention Funding (LCPF) has been the Council's primary source of funding, used to support the Integrated Gangs Unit. In 2018/19, we will receive a 56% reduction in funding from the Mayor's Office. This reduction includes a 30% top slice that has been applied to all London boroughs and this will be used as a pan London co-commissioning funding stream to support regional and partnership commissioned work. The co-commissioned funding will commence in 2018/19 and the framework for its allocation is in the process of being established.
- 1.4 A significant proportion of our overall LCPF funding is used to address youth violence, through work of the Integrated Gangs Unit and the Youth Offending Service. The Council

will continue to fund a variety of roles within the Integrated Gangs Unit that have been evidenced to impact upon reducing offending.

Funding Contributions	
	Amount
Mayor Of Policing And Crime London Crime Prevention Fund	£357,437
Home Office	£30,000
Clinical Commissioning Group	£25,400
WCC Core Funded Posts	£102,000

1.5 During the summer of 2017, the Council will review any allocated co-commissioned funding and the services it will deliver. It will then allow us to evaluate all LCPF and other funding streams; in order to make recommendations on what this funding will deliver, taking into consideration the 56% reduction in LCPF funding. We will also continue to look for alternative funding streams.

1.6 On the 27th April 2017, I chaired a Youth Violence Roundtable, with senior representatives from the Police and the Council, to update local ward councillors, representatives from the Third Sector and a representative from secondary schools to update them on the Council's activities to curb serious youth violence in the City. The meeting was well attended and received well, in addition to the Council's and Police's updates on numerous activities; I was also able to update all attendee's on the current LCPF funding situation.

Troubled Families Programme

1.7 Westminster has exceeded the challenging Payment by Results (PbR) targets that had been set by DCLG for 2016/17, for Phase 2 of Troubled Families Programme. Our target was to achieve significant sustained progress or support family members back to employment for 293 families. We were able to support 126 families back to employment and 178 families in achieving significant and sustained progress. As a result, the Council has been able draw down PbR funding for 304 families and have achieved 104% against our annual target.

1.8 The PbR targets for this financial year have not been set by DCLG yet. We hope to receive more information after the election. We will continue to work towards the deadline for the next PbR claim of September 2017 and Westminster will be engaging a further 474 families to the programme this financial year. We are confident we will be able to meet this target.

	5 year claim target	2016/17 target	Continuous Employment Claims	Significant Sustained Progress Claims	Total achieved to date	% achieved against annual target
WCC	2080	293	126	178	304	104%

2. Schools and Education

National Funding Formula

- 2.1 The Council understands the rationale behind the newly proposed National Funding Formula (NFF) and welcomes the work to balance the levels of school funding nationally, in a fair and transparent manner. However, the proposed Area Cost Adjustment does not reflect the reality of spending pressures in Westminster's Schools. Instead, the Area Cost Adjustment should be increased to 30%, in order to reflect the need for continued education investment in central London and across the UK.
- 2.2 Looking at the overall picture, Westminster Schools benefit from the NFF, with 22 schools in Westminster receiving higher levels of funding. However, the Council does not agree with the proposal to set the minimum funding floor at minus 3%, no school should lose money as a result of the NFF.
- 2.3 On analysis, it is clear to see that schools with a higher proportion of pupils with additional needs are better served by the NFF proposals and the Council welcomes this new focus. Nevertheless, basic school funding is currently too low to enable effective management of schools in Westminster and in central London as a whole. The NFF proposals, do not recognise the concentration of deprivation experienced in central London and as result, this will lead to a reduction in funding where the density of children with the highest needs occurs.
- 2.4 I have personally written to all Head Teachers in the City in order to communicate the points above. In this letter, I also encouraged all schools to submit their responses to the NFF consultation and highlight the need to adjust the Area Cost Adjustment.
- 2.5 Once the Government produces the consultation response, after the General Election, Officers will begin analysing the full range of impacts it could pose.

School Places

- 2.6 The Council has up-dated the School Organisation and Investment Strategy, based on recent projected pupil numbers.
- 2.7 For primary level, there is no justification for expanding schools or creating new ones at present. Because of the prevailing surplus, the Council is talking to governing bodies, both diocese and academy sponsors about ensuring future viability, including shared staffing, shared sites, partial letting of sites, and other efficiency initiatives. Westminster continues to 'import' nearly 1,400 primary pupils, more than it 'exports' to other boroughs. This trend has remained consistent for many years. Approximately 90% of Westminster residents choose to send their child to a Westminster primary school at the first point of entry (Reception).
- 2.8 At secondary level, the Council is proceeding with a programme to expand four secondary schools, in order to deliver a total of 600 additional places. These expansions will allow us to accommodate for additional pupils, of whom, extra primary places have already been

provided. The Council has sought to expand schools to benefit the highest number of resident pupils, although this is constrained by the location of schools and the physical capacity to expand

- 2.9 Westminster continues to 'import' over 2,500 secondary pupils, more than it 'exports' to other boroughs. Between 75% and 80% of Westminster residents choose to send their child to a Westminster secondary school at the first point of entry (Year 7). This trend has been consistent for many years and, as for primary, is in the main attributable to schools rated 'Good' and 'Outstanding' that are desirable to parents.
- 2.10 I am delighted that on this year's National Offer Day, Westminster surpassed last year's performance, with 82% of parents receiving their 1st preference, and over 90% of parents receiving their 1st or 2nd preference.

QK Academy

- 2.11 Following the publication Ofsted report, which judged the school to be inadequate and to be requiring special measures, a number of actions have been taken by the Council's Education Team to ensure the Council is doing all it can to support QK Academy:
- The Lead Link Adviser and the Deputy Director of Education have met with the Head Teacher following the inspection and an action plan has been created as a result. The Link Education Lead Adviser and the Director of Education will both be keeping in constant communication with the school, in order to provide timely advice.
 - The Chair of the Trust, the Head Teacher and the Deputy Director of Education have also with Department for Education officials and the Deputy Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) to identify and select an suitable Academy sponsor for the school. It has now been confirmed that the highly successful Harris Federation will become the new sponsor of the school.

High Needs Funding Formula

- 2.12 In recent years, Westminster has seen increasing pressure on its High Needs Funding allocation, which has failed to keep pace with rapid and unpredictable demand pressures.
- 2.13 Whilst the Council agrees with the principle of reforming high needs funding, it will be impossible to achieve fairness through the redistribution of an insufficient funding pot. The acute pressure on high needs budget will only intensify and efficiencies alone will not meet the growing funding gap. We believe that an injection of additional funding, into the high needs block, is required urgently to keep pace with rapidly rising demand and changing types of need.

School Attendance

2.14 Work is on-going to reduce the number of young people, whose education status is 'not known.' When analysing the most recent published national rates, Westminster continues to perform well, operating below the national and London rates.

NEET	Academic Age 16 -17 (year 12-13)					
	2016-17			2015-16		
	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16
Westminster	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.4%	1.2%	1.1%
Number of young people	24	26	25	33	30	27
LONDON	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	2.1%	2.1%
ENGLAND	2.7%	2.8%	2.9%	2.7%	2.8%	3.0%

2.15 In regards to those young people who are 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET), when compared to 2015, Westminster's NEET percentage is performing well, remaining below both the national and London rates for 2016-17.

'Not known'	Academic Age 16 -17 (year 12-13)					
	2016-17			2015-16		
	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16
Westminster	2.4%	1.9%	1.7%	3.8%	3.4%	3.3%
Number of young people	57	46	42	93	83	82
LONDON	4.9%	2.9%	2.7%	5.0%	4.0%	3.8%
ENGLAND	4.1%	2.9%	2.7%	4.2%	3.3%	3.3%

3. Children's Commissioning

Youth Services

3.1 As of April 2017, all but two of the existing youth clubs remain operational. There has been one confirmed closure for a smaller club (The Crypt) and a further club remains closed whilst undergoing refurbishment (North Paddington Youth Club). A recent

mapping exercise across all existing providers confirms they remain open and that services for young people continues, albeit on a reduced timetable of provision.

- 3.2 The average council had reduced spend by nearly £1 million, an average of 36% since 2011/12, with more savings planned in 2017/18. When viewed against this background, Westminster's investment in establishing the Foundation offers a sustainable, long term solution to funding services for young people. Indeed, Young People's Foundations are now a popular response to the change in focus of traditional youth funded services, with Foundations having been created in Brent, Barnet, Hammersmith & Fulham, Camden and Harrow.
- 3.3 Westminster City Council continues to run its 'Summer in the City Programme', providing free and low-cost activities to keep children and young people entertained and active during the summer period. In addition, the Council continues to co-ordinate the Westminster Youth Council, in order to ensure young people have a voice, contribute to decisions that affect them, ensure representation for young people across the borough and are well informed about the opportunities, activities and services available. The Council also continues to run an annual Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme for young people aged 14 to 24, offering a successful and highly popular youth awards programme.
- 3.4 A further review of the current financial position for youth club providers is currently being carried out by the Foundation, in order to establish the financial security of existing youth providers and the areas of greatest need across each locality. The analysis from this exercise will inform a Big Lottery funding bid, to address the borough wide survey on the needs of young people.

Young Westminster Foundation

- 3.5 The Young Westminster Foundation's application to the Charity Commission was successfully approved in September 2016, providing charitable status and entry onto the charity register. The three founding trustees are in place and include Rachael Wright-Turner; Tri-borough Director of Children's Commissioning, Jackie Rosenberg; Chief Executive for One Westminster and Shane Ryan; Chief Executive for Working With Men.
- 3.6 There are plans to review and extend the trustee membership at the first Annual General Meeting. Following consultation with the lead partner, John Lyons Charity, and the Foundation's Chief Executive Officer, the launch event is being scheduled later this year, with the first Annual General Meeting to follow. The benefits of launching later will allow the Chief Executive Officer time to build strategic relationships and make connections with other programmes across Westminster.
- 3.7 Children's Services Commissioning have established and coordinated an on-going Young Westminster Foundation working group, which has been in operation from June 2016. This has included a dedicated Commissioning & Transformation Lead and on-going oversight from both a Strategic Commissioner and Head of Service. The working group has additional input and representation from key professionals across the sector, in order to support the work of setting up the Foundation. In addition, Children's Services

Commissioning has ensured maintenance of regular trustee boards for strategic decision making and guidance.

3.8 Furthermore, the working group is working on a number of priority work streams at present, including:

- Development of a charity website
- Engagement of the corporate sector
- Fundraising strategy

3.9 Recruitment for the Chief Executive Officer has now concluded with the appointment of Philip Barron. Phillip previously worked as a Community Manager for Land Securities, Chair of Refugee Youth and Project Manager at the London Development Agency, and also has extensive experience working across the voluntary, public and corporate sectors.

3.10 The Foundation will become fully operational shortly after the Chief Executive commences employment in May 2017. Soon after this appointment, the recruitment for the Foundation's Fundraising Manager will begin. Details on membership will be made available over the coming months, with networking events scheduled on a sector specific basis during the summer months.