

Children, Environment and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday, 21st June 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 54 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in the care population. The Council's National Transfer Scheme Threshold (0.07%) is currently 28 UASC's, thus, the Council is 26 UASC over its threshold.

1.2 The total number of UASC's is made up of:

- 16 legacy cases (cases held before 1/7/16)
- 1 case transferred from Kent
- 37 cases that are/ were walk-in's, via the assessment team, which have either been accepted by us or are still in Westminster waiting transfer to another local authority, under the National Dispersal rota.
- There have been 13 walk-in's since the 19/5/17 – we believe young people are making their way to central London, then presenting at our offices.

1.3 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.

Serious Youth Violence

- 1.4 Since I chaired the Youth Violence Roundtable in April, the IGU have embarked upon a significant piece of work, with colleagues in Early Help and the Safer Schools Partnership (SSP), to strengthen our links with local providers of mainstream and alternative education to secondary school children. Officers in the IGU have met with Secondary School Heads and now, at least one Police Officer from the SSP now attends the IGU's weekly analysis meetings.
- 1.5 In the last month, the IGU has seen an increase in the number of referrals received directly from teachers and Schools Officers requesting early intervention with a young person. As a result, the IGU has started delivering a series of workshops to Year 9, 10 and 11 students, focussing on the following: joint enterprise; drug dealing; knives and guns and issues linked to child sexual exploitation. Our information sharing arrangements with schools has improved significantly since the roundtable, which is enabling us to identify young people who are most vulnerable and offer early intervention to interrupt this trajectory.

2. Schools and Education

National Funding Formula

- 2.1 Officers and I continue to monitor all announcements regarding the Schools National Funding Formula. Various commitments have been made to ensure no school loses funding as a result of the National Funding Formula, and once the General Election has concluded, officers will analyse the detail in order to understand the full range of impacts on Westminster's Schools. Once this exercise has been completed, I will make contact with schools again to inform them of our analysis and offer further advice.

QK and the Harris Federation

- 2.2 I am pleased to confirm that the Department for Education have asked the Harris Federation to work with Staff at Quintin Kynaston from September 2017. Currently, there are 41 Harris academies, including 8 primary academies and 23 secondary academies. It is reassuring to know Harris schools came top of the Progress 8 league tables, in five of the nine London boroughs they have schools in. A Special Measures judgement from Ofsted is always unsettling for a school, but we are confident that, with the support of a group like the Harris Federation, safeguarding and achievement of students can be transformed quickly.

Ofsted Inspections

- 2.3 There have been eight published inspection reports on Westminster schools this academic year. The majority of these have been 1 day inspections of schools which have previously

been judged to be good schools. In all these schools, Ofsted confirmed that the quality of education being provided remains good. This includes five primary schools (St James and St John, St Luke's, St Mary Magdalene's, St Mary of the Angels, Westminster Cathedral), one secondary school (Westminster City) and one alternative education provider (Beachcroft).

2.4 The overall percentage of good and outstanding schools in Westminster, as judged by Ofsted, remains very high relative to national averages. Currently 97% of schools are good or outstanding, when compared with the latest national average of 89%, this is excellent progress. The number of outstanding schools in this figure is also above national figure of 21%, as 36% of Westminster schools are judged to be outstanding. Schools continue to receive support in preparing for inspections and in addressing Ofsted recommendations from the Education service's School Standards team.

School Attendance

2.5 In regards to those young people who are 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET), Westminster's NEET percentage is performing well, as 1% of Westminster's young people are currently classed as NEET. This is 0.9 % below the current London rate and a whole 1.9% below the current national rate.

NEET	Academic Age 16 -17 (year 12-13)							
	2016-17				2015-16			
	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Ave	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Ave
ENGLAND	2.8%	2.9%	3.0%	2.9%	2.8%	3.0%	3.1%	3.0%
LONDON	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	1.9%	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	2.1%
Westminster	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%
	26	25	25		31	28	28	

2.6 Work is also 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 a whole 1% below the current national and London rates.

Not Known	Academic Age 16 -17 (year 12-13)							
	2016-17				2015-16			
	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Ave	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Ave
ENGLAND	2.9%	2.7%	2.8%	2.8%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%
LONDON	2.9%	2.7%	2.7%	2.8%	4.0%	3.8%	3.7%	3.8%
Westminster	1.9%	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%	3.4%	3.3%	2.5%	3.1%
Number	46	42	41		83	82	62	

3. Children's Commissioning

Young Westminster Foundation

- 3.1 Since my last P&S update, a significant amount of work has been carried out to support the development of the Young Westminster Foundation and its new Chief Executive; Phil Barron. I have met with Phil to discuss his priorities for the foundation and where the Council can assist in his work.
- 3.2 To support the work of the foundation, the Children Services Commissioning Team have drafted a proposal to undertake a 'needs analysis' to better understand the needs of young people in Westminster and how the Council can respond to these changes. The analysis will be commissioned through the Young Westminster Foundation; in tandem with a wide range of partners, including youth providers and young people's themselves. Historically, the Council commissioned such research annually, with the last study taking place over 8 years ago.
- 3.3 As part of this, the Children Services Commissioning Team have reached an agreement with Economic development, Leisure services and Public health to collaborate and joint fund this research, in order to recognise the shared agendas and outcomes for young people.
- 3.4 It is essential that we gain a critical insight into the needs of young people, through dialogue, as there is a significant gap between this and the generic research available. The foundation has already undertaken preliminary research with youth providers across Westminster. The consultation indicated that the sector welcomes the foundation as a partnership organisation to help sustain services in the future. The role of the foundation is seen as pivotal in providing leadership, information sharing and as a vehicle for funding. The initial research also indicated support for this analysis of young people's needs, which can then be expanded on to support a collaborative fundraising strategy moving forward.
- 3.5 The needs analysis will be led by young people and in collaboration with the city's youth providers. This will help the Council go above and beyond the generic requirements of the Young People's Foundation model and focus on local needs in Westminster:
- 3.6 The needs analysis will include the following **deliverables**:
- **Online survey** – Designed with research consultants, London Youth and young people, promoted through social media, schools and youth clubs.
 - **Peer Researchers** – The Youth Council will form a core group of young people, aged 18-25, to act as peer researchers. This will be incentivised by time credit scheme.

- **Youth Intern** – An intern will be recruited for a 10 week part-time placement, through to the summer, to help with administration, organisation and facilitation duties.
- **Partners** – All schools, youth providers, London Youth, housing associations, Westminster City Council and businesses will be consulted.
- **Consultation Events** – As part of this research, consultation events will be planned to take place at youth clubs and schools during August and September.
- **Focus Groups** – 4 Focus groups will be created and facilitated by a consultant to include: youth practitioners, schools, housing associations and businesses.
- **Final Report** – Lastly a final report will be drafted to summarise the entirety of the research. This will be produced by external consultants, in order to provide objectivity and validity. The report will include details on methodology, findings and a set of key recommendations.

1.5 As a consequence of the research, it is intended we will see the following **outcomes:**

- **Outcome framework** – Young people will shape the future of activities and desired outcomes, which will then be commissioned by the Foundation. The Foundation will therefore be in a unique position to make funding applications based on the views of young people across the City of Westminster.
- **Fundraising strategy** – the research will act as an on-going body of evidence for funding applications and underpin our approach to corporates, high net worth individuals and funders.