

Children, Environment and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday 18 September 2017

Report of: Cllr Richard Holloway

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Young People

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1. Children Services

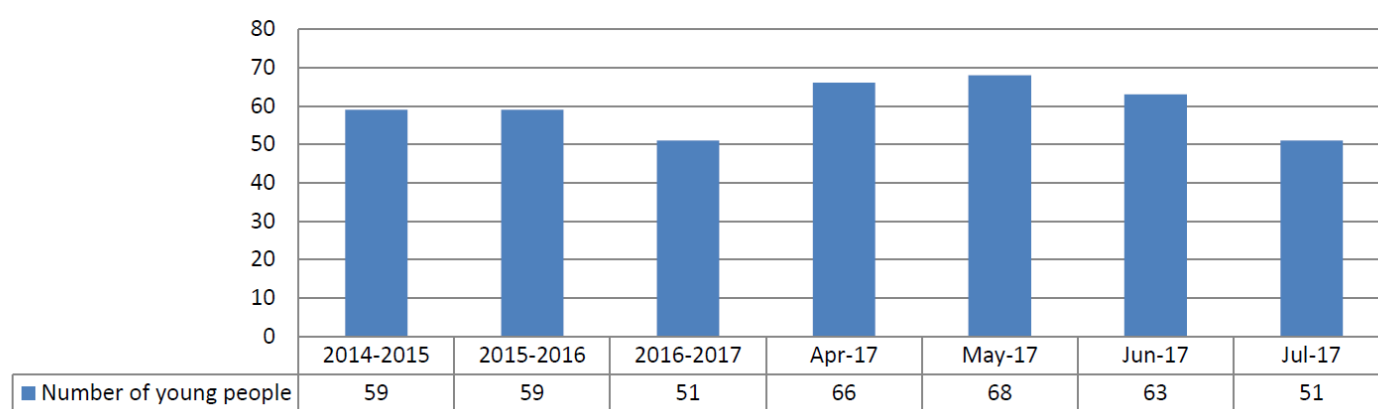
London Crime Prevention Fund Changes

- 1.1 The London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) will be allocated according to a new 'need and demand formula' from 2018/19. In addition, 30% of the overall LCPF will be allocated to 'co-commissioning services', rather than direct to local councils between 2018/19 and 2020/21. The effect of these changes on our LCPF funding is a 56% cut between 2017/18 and 2018/19. Further discussions are taking place on the impact of these changes on those services currently largely funded by the LCPF, most notably the Integrated Gangs Unit.
- 1.2 Westminster, in conjunction with Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham and Brent Council have led on three expressions of interest which have been submitted as bids for Co Commissioned Funding. These expressions of interest are focussed on Early Help - looking at providing intensive support for year 6 and 7 children at risk of exclusion, The Integrated Gangs Unit - aiming to extend the work of the unit to Brent, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham, and child sexual exploitation looking to partner with Barnardos to provide specialist therapeutic services to children who display harmful sexual behaviour. We will also be supporting 7 further bids on a range of issues, led by other organisations and councils. MOPAC will advise which expressions of interest have been successful on 29 September 2017.

Social Care

- 1.3 As of 30 July 2017 there were 1,290 social care cases allocated to teams. As of 31 July 2017 there were 192 children in care in Westminster, an increase of 12% on July 2016. mainly due to the rise in Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (now 52). Our numbers of UASCs have doubled over the last 2 years significantly impacting our overall care population. At same time the number of children for which there was a Child Protection plan in place was 85. This has remained stable over the last year. The Youth Offending Team were actively working with 51 young people. We usually see a small caseload fluctuation over time.

**Youth Offending caseload numbers
(previous year numbers as at 31st March)**



Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child Refugees

- 1.4 The Council now has 52 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in the care population. The Council's National Transfer Scheme Threshold (0.07%) is currently 28 UASCs, thus, the Council is 24 UASC over its threshold. This UASC total includes 48 legacy cases (cases held before 1/7/16). Although the Council are currently over their threshold number, Family Services are still required to assess and accommodate as Looked After Children, UASCs who present in Westminster, whilst they wait to be placed outside Westminster on the National Dispersal Rota. While Westminster remains over their quota they will not receive any direct referrals from the Home Office.

Female Genital Mutilation

- 1.6 The Council continues to work with communities affected by the practice of FGM, primarily through FGM maternity clinics and community engagement. Together with partners we provide trauma therapy to victims, and work with mothers or expectant mothers who have suffered FGM to ensure the practice is not perpetuated. We promote inter-agency and cross borough sharing of information to provide a holistic approach to combatting this problem.

- 1.7 The project has been active in maternity clinics at St Mary's hospital, Queen Charlottes hospital and, most recently, Chelsea and Westminster hospital. This activity is part of a clinic-led approach which delivers a comprehensive offer of care and protection. In accordance with mandatory reporting requirements, all concerns related to FGM are reported to Family Services where they are triaged and a decision is made as to whether a social work assessment is required.

SEN Provision

- 1.8 Under the Children and Families Act Westminster's Special Education Needs (SEN) service has a statutory requirement to produce Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for children with special educational needs. The time limit to complete these plans is 20 weeks. The Act also requires that all SEN Statements be converted into EHCPs by May 2018. On both of these targets Westminster continues to perform below the London average.
- 1.9 In response to this we have introduced a Service Improvement Plan and provided additional funding and staff to the service. Recent Department for Education data shows that our service has improved but there is still much more to do if we are to meet our targets. The new Bi-borough Executive Director of Children's Services will chair the new SEN Progress Improvement Board which commences in September and will sit monthly to monitor the progress. In addition, in recognition of the Tri-Borough complexities of the arrangement, the DfE have provided a consultant who will offer additional support to the service.

2. Schools and Education

Examination Results

- 2.1 Our primary schools have performed exceptionally well this year. The reception cohort with a good level of development was provisionally 71% up from 69% in 2016. This mirrors the national average which also rose 2 percentage points to 71%.
- 2.2 At Key Stage 1 (7 year olds) the pupils working as expected remained stable, with a 1% increase in writing maths and 1% decrease in reading compared to 2016. The percentage of pupils assessed as working at greater depth improved in writing by 2% on 2016, the proportion of students working at this level in maths remained at 22% although reading did fall one percentage to 25%, equal to the national average. Westminster schools continue to perform above the national average in writing and maths at Key Stage 1.
- 2.3 The percentage of Key Stage 2 pupils working both as expected and at greater depth has increased compared to last year. Westminster pupils now perform above the national average in both of these categories for all subjects.

Key Stage 2
Tests (reading and mathematics) and teacher assessments (writing)

	Westminster				National			
	reading	writing	maths	RWM	reading	writing	maths	RWM
Working as expected 2017	77%	80%	84%	68%	71%	76%	75%	61%
Working as expected 2016	66%	79%	76%	58%	66%	74%	70%	53%
Working at greater depth 2017	26%	21%	31%	10%	25%	18%	23%	9%
Working at greater depth 2016	18%	19%	22%	6%	19%	15%	17%	5%

2.4 At GCSE level, it is important to note two factors. First, the results are currently provisional, incomplete and subject to re-marking and additional checks by the Department for Education. Second, further reforms to the GCSE grading system, which replaced grades A*-G with grades 9-1 limit comparability with previous results. Grades 9-4 are deemed equivalent to A*-C ('a standard pass'). The Department for Education has also introduced a strong pass measure (grades 5-9). The result we currently have are mixed, some schools have increased their standard pass percentage while others have seen a drop. However, based on provision results it does appear Westminster schools will continue to perform above the national average.

2.5 At A Level, results have remained stable overall, there has been a slight decrease in the number of pupils achieving the highest grades and slight increase in the numbers achieving passes. Again, these results are provisional and subject to change.

**A Level
Exam Results (provisional estimates)**

	Westminster		National
	2017	2016	2016
A*	9%	10%	8%
A* - A	28%	31%	26%
A* - B	59%	58%	53%
A* - C	82%	80%	77%
A* - D	95%	94%	92%
A* - E	99%	99%	98%

Pre-school Education Provision

2.6 We have successfully increased our early education capacity to facilitate the additional free 15 hours early education places for 2 year olds. All capital projects have now been completed; the latest being the creation of additional 22 spaces at Hallfield School. We are confident these changes, which leave us with 400 spaces available, have left us with enough capacity to meet demand. The take up of these places has significantly improved (from 56% in the Autumn Term last year to 82% in the spring term this year) and is now above national average. We continue to advertise early education places through our website, leafleting campaigns and the children's centre outreach team. We are currently checking the uptake figures for the summer term and are waiting to hear back from providers.

School Funding

2.7 Since the General Election the Department for Education have confirmed further details about the implementation of the National Funding Formula. In particular, the Secretary of State has confirmed that every school will receive a real term per-pupil increase in their budget. We believe that these changes mean that, in addition to guaranteeing there will be no schools in Westminster that lose out, it is likely that Westminster will see a greater increase in overall school funding than set in out in the original NFF changes. There remain some details that require clarity before these changes are introduced between 2018 and 2020. I believe these details must be confirmed as soon as possible in order to give schools the ability to plan for the coming financial years.

- 2.8 Despite these welcome NFF changes, our schools will continue to face pressures on their budgets. I am determined to ensure that we, as a council, help schools to innovate and cooperate to meet these challenges. To this end officers organised a 'Good Practice Workshop' on 'making best use of your school budget and raising income'. At this meeting schools were able to share examples of ways of raising money and sharing resources to deliver efficiencies while minimising the impact on our children's education. We will continue to facilitate this sharing of best practice by supporting schools to set up a Business Managers Forum. We are urging schools to engage with this process and are making sessions as accessible as possible with details communicated to all Westminster schools.

St Georges School Expansion

- 2.9 I have approved a decision to provide funding for the construction of a new extension at George's School. I have authorised the award of a contract to this effect to ARJ Construction Limited for an amount not exceeding £5,892,577.80. This expansion will allow us to better meet the increased demand for secondary school places in Westminster and meet the Department for Education's recommended 5% surplus in school places. In order to fully meet our secondary school place needs we also intend to further increase the capacity of other Westminster schools over the next five years, as set out in our School Organisation and Investment Strategy.

3. Children's Commissioning

Young Westminster Foundation

- 3.1 At the previous P&S Committee in March I brought an update on developments with the Foundation, primarily this focused on the undertaking of a borough wide 'needs analysis' of young people. Funded by Children Services Commissioning, Economic development, Leisure services and Public health it will both meet a range of departmental agendas, and allow the Foundation to better understand the needs and preferences of young people across Westminster. This will then inform the Foundation's fundraising strategy and allow it to focus resources in service areas and on funding opportunities that are most relevant to young people.
- 3.2 A young intern is undertaking a 10 week placement with the foundation, who has recruited 16 young people aged 14-18 who have been trained as peer researchers by the consultancy partner Rocket Science. To date over 120 interviews have been carried out with their peers. These surveys will be complemented by three focus groups in September: one with school practitioners, one with youth practitioners and one with businesses. The primary research will be complete by the end of September.
- 3.3 In addition to this work, the Foundation is in the process of broadening its Trustee base and thereby bringing in additional expertise and capacity. Recruitment for

additional trustees is underway currently and at the date of this update Cllr Karen Scarborough and Neil Daily from EDF Energy have been co-opted onto the board. It is envisaged further appointments will be made in the coming weeks.

- 3.4 The Foundation has appointed a Development Manager, starting in early September to focus on a range of key priorities including the development of a Big Lottery consortium bid and a wider fundraising strategy. In the meantime however, the Foundation has participated in an Expression of Interest, part of a £1million consortium Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime fund across 7 boroughs and led by the Young Harrow Foundation.
- 3.5 An Events Working Group has been formed to oversee the delivery of a fundraising event and a formal launch for the foundation. Representation on this group includes Councillor Scarborough, the Head of Events for the Broadgate Estates and Aziz Saiq, the Westminster Youth MP.
- 3.6 The marketing and communications workstream has also been started with a creative agency called Regency Creative being commissioned to deliver a marketing and branding package at 50% market rate. Initial branding designs are out for consultation and filming and photography has taken place coinciding with a summer party at Fourth Feathers. A Marketing & Communications Working Group has also been formed.