



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES

**CHILDREN, SPORTS AND LEISURE
POLICY & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21 APRIL 2015
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Children, Sports and Leisure Policy & Scrutiny Committee** held on Tuesday 21 April 2015 at 7pm at Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP.

Members Present: Councillors Brian Connell (Chairman), Iain Bott, Ruth Bush, Paul Church, Nick Evans, Barbara Grahame, Robert Rigby and Karen Scarborough.

Co-opted Members: Aki Turan, Smita Bora, Darren Guttridge and Brenda Morrison.

Also present: Councillor Danny Chalkley (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People).

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Steve Summers, Annie Ee and Louise McCullough.

1. MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 It was noted that there was no changes to the Membership.
- 1.2 The Chairman welcomed Danny Chalkley (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People) to the meeting.
- 1.3 The Chairman advised that Councillor Steve Summers (Cabinet Member for Sports, Leisure and Open Spaces) would not be attending the meeting. Any questions that Members had regarding his portfolio would be placed on the Committee's Action Tracker.
- 1.4 The Chairman welcomed Melissa Caslake the new Director of Family Services to the meeting.
- 1.5 The Chairman also welcomed Sanchia Lyon, Headteacher of Dorothy Gardner Nursery School, who was attending the meeting to take part in the 'Implementation of the Targeted Early Learning Offer for 2 Year Olds' item.

1.6 The Chairman congratulated Rebecka Stevens on her appointment as Policy Officer at Harrow Council and thanked her for all she had done at Westminster City Council.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

2.1 No further declarations of interests in respect of items to be discussed were made, other than those noted in the circulated schedule as set out below in paragraph 2.2.

2.2 Table of Member's interests tabled at the Committee Meeting was as follows:

Councillor/Member of the Children, Sports and Leisure P&S Committee	Organisation	Nature of Interest
Smita Bora	Westminster Academy	Principal
Iain Bott	Paddington Academy One Westminster	Governor Non-Voting Member of the Board
Ruth Bush	Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education Westminster Faith Exchange	Member Chair
Paul Church	King Solomon Academy	Governor
Darren Guttridge	Edward Wilson Primary School	Headteacher
Barbara Grahame	Quintin Kynaston Academy	Governor
Robert Rigby	St Josephs Primary School Our Lady's Secondary School, Hackney Local Authority Governor Appointment Panel	Governor Governor Member
Karen Scarborough	St Mary of the Angels Catholic School	Governor
Aki Turan	Quintin Kynaston Academy	Parent Governor

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2015 be approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings subject to the following amendments:

Item 7- Private Fostering – Add to paragraph 7.2 that Councillor Ruth advised that as Chair of the Westminster Faith Exchange she was happy for the Head of Assessment and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to contact the Faith Exchange regarding Private Fostering.

Correction of Typos in the minutes:

Paragraph 7.3 – Vacant should be vacate.

Paragraph 9.6(4) should read 'That the Committee noted that the relocation of St Marylebone Bridge Special School be managed by the Education Funding Agency in partnership with the GLA which may require some capital funding from the Council.

- 3.2 Members were given details of the Task Group being established to look at Active Communities.

4. ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TRACKERS AND COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

4.1 RESOLVED:

1. That the Action and Recommendation Trackers be noted.
2. That the Active Communities Task Group would commence during the summer term.
3. That the Committee would review the Sports and Leisure Service and receive an updated report on Looked After Children, Care Leavers and Corporate Parenting at its next meeting on 8 June 2015.

5. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION: CABINET MEMBER FOR SPORTS, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES

- 5.1 The Committee received a written update from the Cabinet Member which covered current and forthcoming issues in his Portfolio.

6. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION: CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 6.1 The Committee received an update from the Cabinet Member who responded to questions relating to:

- the educational attainment/standard in Westminster Primary Schools.
- domestic violence, prosecution of criminal behaviour and effective programmes to address the behaviour.
- the work carried out at the Kennet West Skills Centre Partnership between QEII/Westminster Kingsway College with people with learning difficulties.
- the building of the University Technical College in Westminster.
- the admission criteria of Westminster's Academies and the ability to ensure that local residents were successful in gaining a place at their preferred Westminster school.
- the mentoring of young people with Special Educational Needs and those involved in crime and the benefits of the Council's 'Boost Mentoring programme.
- the details and impact of adolescents arriving in the UK alone.

6.2 **ACTIONS:**

1. That a briefing note be sent to the Committee on the delivery of the building for the Sir Simon Milton University Technical College along with the admission criteria and any funding issues/difficulties.
2. That the details and impact of adolescents arriving in the UK alone and then being placed in the care system be included in the updated Looked After Children report being reviewed at the next meeting. Members further requested that the report should also include any work that the Voluntary Sector carries out with these lone adolescents.

7. **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TARGETED EARLY LEARNING OFFER FOR 2 YEAR OLDS**

- 7.1 The Committee received a report on the targeted early learning offer for 2 year olds which forms part of a wider strategy of early intervention and prevention for young children, targeting services where they were needed the most in order to improve outcomes for disadvantaged families.
- 7.2 Mike Potter, Head of Commissioning (Early Intervention), advised that free early education became a statutory entitlement for eligible two year olds from 1 September 2013 with the local authority having a duty to secure provision for those families who met the 20% eligibility criteria (Appendix 1 of the report set out the full eligibility criteria). The programme was then extended in September 2014 to include more low income families so that 40% of families nationally

became eligible. The Committee noted that there was a place available in Westminster for all eligible children, although building capacity to meet the expanded criteria had been a challenge and one shared with many other London boroughs.

7.3 The Committee heard that the benefits of accessing good quality early education would improve the life chances for these targeted children and that the offer would improve disadvantaged children's social and cognitive outcomes so that by the age of five they were as ready as their more advantaged peers to start and fully benefit from school. The Committee noted that research carried out showed that the key influences were:

- a good early years home environment
- a good quality pre-school
- a more effective primary school.

7.4 The Committee welcomed Sanchia Lyons, Headteacher of Dorothy Gardner Nursery School, who discussed with the Committee the opportunities and challenges of the 2 year old offer from the perspective of a maintained nursery school and how it linked in with the wider purpose of Children Centres in improving outcomes for disadvantaged families. She outlined some of the issues that the parents and children who take up the 2 year old offer encountered and the help that was available to them. The Committee heard that the majority of places were currently delivered through the private and voluntary early year's providers, including child minders, although three of the maintained nursery school also delivered places. The Committee noted the importance of good training for the nursery staff.

7.5 The following key issues emerged from the Committee's discussion:

- the challenge of identifying and funding adequate space for eligible children.
- the challenge for primary schools to expand physically in order to deliver the full 2 year old offer and whether they were the right setting to deliver this service.
- the important work carried out with Outreach Workers and Community Champions in encouraging parents to take up the offer.
- the benefits of receiving the names of eligible children and the marketing strategies that were used to encourage parents to take up the 2 year old offer and the 2 year old developmental review.

- the qualifications and training of nursery staff and child minders and the importance of speech and language services being available within the offer.
- the evidence base that there was a high risk of children from disadvantaged families ending up in care or failing education if early intervention was not accessible to them or their families.
- the possibility that the 2 year old offer be offered universally to parents and not to a small group of families.
- the possible detrimental effect of the offer, whether the offer should be made to the whole family and not just the child and the type of 'education' that the child was taught at the nursery.
- the presentation previously heard at the Committee advising that the 2 year old offer targeted at disadvantaged families had long term educational and social benefits for the child, family and community.

7.6 The Committee welcomed the work being carried out and noted that the two main risks for the Council not meeting their statutory deadline was insufficient places to meet demand and poor take up. The Committee noted that these two risk factors were being mitigated by the Council's Action Plan which included growing capacity within schools and carrying out a marketing campaign during the 2015 summer term.

7.7 **RESOLVED:**

1. That the presentation heard at a previous meeting be circulated to Members.
2. That a briefing note be sent to the Committee on the number and qualifications of child minders delivering the 2 year old offer.
3. That a progress report on the 2 year old offer be added to the Committee's Work Programme.

8. YEAR 6-7 TRANSITION

8.1 The Committee received a report on how the Westminster's Early Help (locality) Service supported Westminster pupils going through Year 6 -7 transition and the interventions that were delivered after identifying the children who were likely to struggle with transition and prioritising these children into three levels of support depending on their need.

8.2 Jayne Verkin, Head of Early Help Services, outlined the interventions delivered to each area of need, including the delivery of the summer activity programme. The Committee heard that it was not only disadvantaged children that needed help but also highly intelligent children found Year 6-7 transition difficult. She further highlighted that there was still the issue of children attending Westminster schools who lived out of borough who might not have received a similar level of Year 6-7 Transitional support.

8.3 The following key issues emerged from the Committee's discussion:

- the different approaches that primary and secondary schools could introduce to help children during this difficult period.
- the benefits of engaging the parents in supporting their child during transition.
- the importance of developing a tracking tool to better understand outcomes and the interventions that made the most impact to a child during transition.
- the benefits of tracking a child's progress throughout the whole of Year 7.
- the importance of cross borough working due to the difficulties schools encountered with children from out of borough attending Westminster schools. The schools usually received very little or no information about the child's education and/or their special needs.
- the issues of a significant minority of children could affect a whole year group of children.

8.4 The Committee welcomed the progress being made against each of the three areas (identification, intervention and evaluation) and the work being undertaken in the wider context of the new 'on track' project. The Committee noted that there was still considerable work to be undertaken in 2015 to fine-tune the approach.

8.5 **RESOLVED:**

1. The Committee agreed that a follow up report be added to the Committee's Work Programme for January 2016.

9. Annual Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers Report 2014

- 9.1 The Committee received a report highlighting the significant responsibilities the local authority has in relation to Looked After Children (LAC) and how it discharges these.
- 9.2 Glen Peache, Tri Borough Assistant Director for Looked after Children and Care Leavers, outlined the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel which monitored how the Council discharged its corporate parenting responsibilities and how Looked After Children were able to give feedback on the services provided for them. The Committee noted how the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) was looking into how Looked After Children with poor mental health could be supported until the age of 21 as the support provided to them by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) ceased at the age of 18.
- 9.3 The Committee noted that at their next meeting they would be reviewing the outcomes and life chances of Westminster's Looked After Children and Care Leavers and requested that their educational attainment, especially their secondary school attainment, be included in the report and compared to children not in care. Members further asked that information on how Westminster compared to other authorities be included in the report.
- 9.4 The Committee requested that they be invited to attend the Children in Care Council (CICC) so that they might work with the young people. The Committee further requested that the report setting out the possibilities of supporting Looked After Children with poor mental health until they are 21 years of age be forwarded to the Committee when available.
- 9.5 **RESOLVED:**
1. That the requests at paragraph 6.2(2), paragraph 9.3 and paragraph 9.4 be included in the report being reviewed at the next meeting.
 2. That the Committee invite Mathew Blood, Virtual Head of Looked After Children, to attend the next meeting.
 3. That Committee Members be invited to attend the next Children in Care Council (CICC).
 4. That the Committee congratulate the care leaver who achieved a distinction in a Master's Degree in Astrophysics.
 5. That a report setting out the possibilities of supporting Looked After Children with poor mental health until they are 21 years of age be sent to the Committee when available.

10. UPDATE ON SAFEGUARDING ISSUES (verbal update – see agenda item 10)

10.1 **RESOLVED:** The Committee noted that there was nothing to report.

11. TERMINATION OF MEETING

11 .1 The meeting ended at 9.16pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____