

Date:	Tuesday 12 July 2022
Portfolio:	Young People, Learning and Leisure
The report of:	Cllr Tim Roca, Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure
Report Author and Contact Details:	Patrick Ryan, Portfolio Advisor pryan@westminster.gov.uk

The following serves as a brief outline key priorities and the work undertaken since Cllr Tim Roca has held the position of Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure

1. Children's Services

- 1.1** School uniform funding: to address the cost-of-living crisis, Westminster Children's Services has looked at how other Councils have implemented a school uniform support scheme. Initial costed options have been developed and a Westminster scheme has been agreed to start in September at a cost of £85,550 with an additional £5,000 reserve included for the first year only. Funding will be allocated to schools based on the numbers of children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and paid in one lump sum. Schools would use this money to support eligible families of reception and year 6 children resident in Westminster. Schools would communicate the offer to parents and administer the scheme and payments. Our interest is in making this light touch for schools in terms of accounting to us for expenditure of the support scheme allocation. The first year [2022/23 financial year] of budget will be taken from general fund reserves and no pressure is expected to arise in Children's Services as a result. In line with the process for all funding growth requests subsequent annual budgets will align with the Council's annual Medium-Term Financial Plan process as laid out in the July Cabinet paper.
- 1.2** Additional summer holiday food and activity provision: there is concern around the effect of the cost-of-living crisis on holiday hunger experienced by children and young people in the borough. During summer 2021, the Holiday and Activity Food Fund (HAF) programme funded 2,346 places for Free School Meals (FSM) eligible pupils - 30% of the total FSM eligible cohort. Further, many low-income families, currently experiencing hardship, may not be eligible for Free School Meals. The criteria for the Holiday Activity Fund is very specific and excludes many children and young people from accessing the provision and also excludes smaller organisations from running provision. We have recently agreed that an additional £200,000 will be made available to run a rapid grant funding programme in partnership with the Young Westminster Foundation. The funding will support local voluntary and community sector organisations (offering services to children and young people in Westminster) to develop a fully flexible offer consisting of activities and food over the summer holiday period 2022.
- 1.3** Bayswater Children's Centre: the Bayswater Children's Centre was closed in 2016 when the Council reviewed its under-fives offer. The building is currently used by the Hospital School, whose lease is due in September 2022. We want to bring back the benefits that the children's centre used to offer for families and children in the area. We have been exploring options to reopen the centre to deliver services such as a core Family Hub offer and additional stay and play services by September.
- 1.4** Ofsted inspection: in the week commencing 13 June, Ofsted completed a focus visit under the inspection framework for Children's Services, looking at how we support vulnerable children at risk of extra familial abuse. The inspection was successful, and Ofsted were particularly

impressed with the approaches to missing, exploitation, risk of gang affiliation, trafficking, modern slavery and PREVENT. The inspection letter will be published on 20 July.

1.5 Proposed Federation of Essendine and Hallfield Schools

Essendine and Hallfield Primary Schools have completed a consultation exercise with their communities on the proposed federation of the two governing bodies. The proposal is intended to further strengthen the capacity of the partnership between the schools and support the quality of education in both schools. The Council response was supportive of the proposal and was pleased to hear that the new federation would look to extend working with other neighbouring schools. We await the outcome of the consultation, and if agreed, the federation will be implemented in September. It would mean that the schools remain separate entities in law and with separate budgets but are managed together by a single Governing Board and unified leadership team.

1.6 Passenger Transport (Taxis) & Travel Care Framework for Vulnerable Children, Young people & Adults: the Bi-Borough Executive Director for Children's Services made a decision to appoint Taxi providers to a Framework which is planned to commence on 1st August 2022 for a period of 4 years. At the core of this provision is travel care. It aims to offer high standards of consistent and relationship-based services to some of our most vulnerable residents.

1.7 Alternative Provision and Behaviour Outreach Contract Extension: a Cabinet Member decision was made to approve the three-year permissible contract extension for the delivery of Alternative Provision (AP) education from Beachcroft AP academy by Ormiston Academy Trust (OAT). The extension period runs from September 2022 through to August 2025. Behaviour outreach services include the delivery of in-school interventions for Primary Schools, and offsite interventions for Secondary pupils, delivered from the Westminster Education Centre. The decision can be implemented on 8 July, after the call-in period ends.

2. Leisure

2.1 Everyone Active Contract: the Council's current agreement with Sports Leisure Management (SLM) is based on a profit share model with surpluses being split 75:25 in favour of Westminster City Council. The Council has been in discussions with SLM over the last few months regarding a further variation to the contract which would see SLM continue to deliver the portfolio over the period February 2023 to June 2026 under adjusted terms. The details of the variation are being finalised with Legal colleagues ahead of sharing with the cabinet member for a decision in advance of formal agreement with SLM.

3. Culture

3.1 Culture Fund: a £2.4m Culture Fund proposal (over four years) is being developed to address a gap in provision. This would seek to widen access to culture and creative enterprise, support wellbeing activities in community settings, and provide a commissioning budget to enable the Council to directly fund content to ensure culture is at the heart of enlivening high streets and public spaces. The Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure is consulting with relevant Cabinet Members and officers to agree the proposal.

3.2 West End LIVE: West End LIVE successfully returned to Trafalgar Square on 25-26 June, produced by the Council in partnership with the Society of London Theatre. Over 40 performances took place over the event weekend. West End LIVE is funded through sponsorship, with a small amount of Council budget committed to the event.

4. Westminster Adult Education Service

4.1 Ofsted inspection: an Ofsted inspection took place from 21 to 24 June 2022. This was a full four-day inspection in line with the current change of policy by Ofsted, which states that all providers who have not had a full inspection since April 2021 (regardless of previous grade) will be subject to a full inspection. The following areas were subject to a 'deep dive':

- Community ESOL
- ESOL (Main site)
- Learners with learning difficulties or disabilities

- Graphic Design
- Childcare
- Apprenticeships (Library, Information and Archive Services)

Our work with learners from a wide range of backgrounds was commended for the comprehensive support that we provide to enable them to successfully gain the knowledge, skills and behaviours that enable them to progress. Inspectors were impressed with our approach to delivering an inclusive service, which had a number of complexities due to the range of offer, learner starting points, the delivery from multiple sites and with partners. Many strengths were identified, including the extensive enrichment activities, which are appreciated by learners. The high levels of attendance were also commended, particularly as there was significant travel disruption during the week of the inspection. The inspection was successful, and the provisional grades have been shared internally, but these are still subject to Ofsted quality assurance processes and will be officially published within the next five weeks.

- 4.1** Mayor's Skills Academies Quality Mark: we have been successful in being awarded the Mayor's Skills Academies Quality Mark for Digital and Construction. The Quality Mark will recognise high-quality training in London that is responding to the needs of employers in priority sectors. This accreditation will be a boost to our offer and supports the Mayoral commitment to help Londoners into good work in sectors key to London's recovery and long-term economic growth. It will also support our local mission to build a fairer Westminster for residents by enabling access to key jobs in Digital and Construction.