

Minutes

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

25 November 2015



Meeting held at Committee Room 5 - Civic Centre,
High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW

	<p>Committee Members Present: Councillors Jane Palmer (Chairman), Nick Denys (Vice-Chairman), Teji Barnes, Jem Duducu, Duncan Flynn, Tony Eginton, Becky Haggar (agenda items 1 - 4 and 6 only), Peter Money, Jan Sweeting (Labour Lead) and Mr Tony Little.</p> <p>LBH Officers Present: Claire Fry (Service Manager - Child and Family Development, agenda items 1 - 6 only), Dan Kennedy (Head of Business Performance, Policy & Standards), Deborah Mbofana (Health Promotion Manager, agenda items 1 - 6 only), Tom Murphy (Head of Early Intervention Services), Chris Scott (Service Manager - Targeted Programmes, agenda items 1 - 6 only), Jackie Wright (Head of Disability Services, agenda items 1 - 6 only) and Jon Pitt (Democratic Services Officer)</p> <p>Also Present Three young people who had participated in the 'Unique Swagga' programme and accompanying youth worker (items 1 - 6 only).</p>
43.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>There were no apologies for absence.</p>
44.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS COMING BEFORE THE MEETING (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>Cllr. Becky Haggar declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item number 5, the Major Review Witness Session. This was due to personal family circumstances. Cllr. Haggar left the room while the item was discussed.</p>
45.	<p>TO CONFIRM THAT ITEMS OF BUSINESS MARKED PART 1 WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC AND THAT THE ITEMS MARKED PART 2 WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>It was confirmed that all items were Part I and would be discussed in public.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that agenda item 6, the 'Update on the Previous Review of the Committee - Hillingdon's Implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reforms', would be considered before item 5, the Major Review Witness Session. The other agenda items would be considered in the order published.</p>
46.	<p>TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2015 (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>Officers were asked to circulate the Young People's Needs Assessment, as previously</p>

requested.

Resolved: That:

- 1. The minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2015 be agreed as a correct record.**
- 2. The Young People's Needs Assessment be circulated to the Committee Members.**

47. **MAJOR REVIEW - THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EARLY HELP TO PROMOTE POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES - WITNESS SESSION 3** (*Agenda Item 5*)

Tom Murphy, Head of Early Intervention Services, introduced his witness submission in relation to the major review. The key points raised included the following:

- The Council's Early Intervention and Prevention Service had been fully established in September 2015 following transformation activity undertaken within the overall Children's Pathway Transformation Programme.
- The Early Intervention and Prevention Services Plan had been included in the meeting papers. The Plan, which would help inform the review, contained a number of operational objectives. Its focus was on understanding impacts and outcomes for families of the work undertaken by Early Intervention and Prevention Services. Partnership working was a particularly important aspect of the work.

In response to questions from Members, officers explained and advised that:

- It was acknowledged that it was rather early to be undertaking a review of such a new service, but the review would still be a beneficial exercise as the new service involved the bringing together and refinement of existing services.
- Some of the targets set out in the Services Plan were specific, while others were quite broad. This was because data was not yet available to inform specific target setting in all areas. This ability would improve over time as services became more embedded. It was anticipated that it would be possible to set more precise outcomes and targets within the next year. Systems were being put in place to assist with these aspects of the Plan.
- The Services Plan had been launched in September 2015. Some training had been provided for staff. This would be developed as the services became established.
- It was acknowledged that further work was required in relation to the Early Intervention and Prevention Service Plan in order to more clearly define how outcomes would be delivered.
- Some Members were concerned that there appeared to be currently a low level of awareness of the services available. Work would be required to promote the range of Early Intervention Services. This would include a dialogue with universal service providers to understand how they could help to promote Early Intervention Services.
- It was noted that the Early Intervention and Prevention Services Plan 2015-18 had been effective from September 2015.
- The Hillingdon Safeguarding Children Board Threshold's Guidance and Children and Young People's Social Care Assessment Protocols had been published in March 2014. In response to Member suggestions that this document should be updated, officers advised that this would be passed to the Independent Chairman

and Board Manager of Safeguarding Children Board for consideration.

- It was noted that the Early Intervention and Prevention Services Performance Web had only been published in October 2015. It was suggested that this could make it rather premature for an assessment of its effectiveness to be made.

Dan Kennedy, Head of Business Performance, Policy and Standards introduced his witness submission in relation to the major review. The key points raised included the following:

- The data presented to the Committee represented a headline analysis of the current and future needs for children in Hillingdon, drawing upon the Hillingdon Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This analysis included ward level data that had been previously requested by the Committee.
- The data contained information in relation to a number of areas, such as demographics, deprivation, health and benefit claimants.
- The number of persons aged 0-19 in Hillingdon as a percentage of the overall population was higher in Hillingdon than the London average. The proportion was particularly high for Pinkwell and Botwell wards. These wards were also expected to see the largest increase in births over the next five years, with the overall number of young people in the Borough expected to increase. There was significant variation between wards in terms of the proportion of young people living there, with Harefield having the smallest percentage of persons aged 0-19.
- Levels of obesity increased significantly between reception and year 6, which demonstrated the importance of healthy eating and providing information about healthy eating.
- Average GCSE results in most wards were better than the London average.
- Townfield and Botwell wards had the highest percentage of housing benefit claimants, while West Drayton and Yiewsley had the highest number of dependent children in out-of-work households. Townfield and Botwell also had the highest levels of deprivation in the Borough.
- There was significant variation across the Borough in terms of the ethnic minority population of each ward and in terms of the percentage of the school age population was from an ethnic minority group. There were also significant variations between wards with regard to the proportion of residents born in the UK and the percentage of residents whose main language was English.

Committee Members thanked officers for the comprehensive information provided, noting that the report had matched their expectations. It was noted that it would have been a useful addition if the information provided had included percentages of young people as a percentage of the total population.

Some Members felt that the provision of Early Intervention Services should positively discriminate to specifically target the parts of the Borough where there was the highest need. Other Members felt that provision should be more universal. Officers said that there was a need to consider how service delivery should be focused, bearing in mind the available data and information contained within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Concerns were expressed about the increased levels of obesity of year six pupils, compared to pupils in reception. Barnhill was noted as having the largest percentage increase of any ward. Other wards with relatively large increases did not appear to have particularly similar characteristics to Barnhill and it was questioned if any work was being undertaken to understand why these wards had the highest levels of obesity for year six pupils. Officers advised that the issue of obesity was being addressed

through an obesity strategy

In response to questions from Members, officers explained and advised that:

- Statistical Information was disseminated and used by service providers in a variety of ways, although it was the responsibility of frontline providers to understand specific needs.
- The data could be used to enable specific targeting of services. This was an iterative, ongoing process, which involved engagement with frontline staff. An existing example of such targeting was joint working by the NHS and youth services where young people were admitted to accident and emergency due to alcohol.

Claire Fry, Service Manager, Child and Family Development, introduced her witness submission in relation to the major review. The key points raised included the following:

- The core purpose of Children's Centres was to improve outcomes for young children and their families and to reduce inequalities between families in the greatest need and their peers in relation to three areas. These were:
 - Child development and school readiness;
 - Parenting aspirations and parenting skills; and
 - Child and family health and life chances.
- There were a total of 18 Children's Centres in the Borough. These were grouped into three localities to support and enable service delivery and to facilitate better collaborative working and better value for money. The three localities were north, south east and south west.
- Service provision was based upon aiming to deliver the four strands of the Early Intervention vision to ensure that Hillingdon families are safe, healthy, prosperous and self reliant.
- The Children's Centres worked closely with a number of partners, such as Children's Social Care, the Key Working Service, midwives, health visitors and adult education. It was noted that a number of case studies highlighting the work undertaken had been included with the officer's report.
- Children's Centres had a complex role, with central government setting the broad expectations in terms of the type of services that should be provided. The current trend was towards the provision of targeted, rather than universal services. However, the Children's Centres within the Borough did provide some more universal services and these could play an important role in helping to identify families who would benefit from more targeted provision.

In response to questions from Members, officers explained and advised that:

- The work of the Children's Centres was promoted in a variety of ways but consideration could be given as to how this could be enhanced, particularly the availability of online information.
- Children's Centre funding was determined by a Locality Board, with each Board covering a number of centres. The Boards had terms of reference. An annual plan and budget for each centre was agreed by the Locality Board and approved by the Council. The use of Locality Boards was considered to improve cost effectiveness. The Boards comprised both experts and independent members in order to provide both support and challenge. Board Plans were reviewed each quarter and progress RAG rated.
- It was anticipated that there would be Government consultation on the future role of Children's Centres. Therefore, it may be necessary to adapt service provision accordingly.

- There were no plans to increase the overall budget for Children's Centres, but existing resources could be allocated according to specific need.

Chris Scott, Service Manager, Targeted Programmes introduced his witness submission in relation to the major review. The key points raised included the following:

- Targeted Programmes consisted of ten direct-delivery units and a commissioning budget, primarily used to procure specialist parenting support and development programmes. These programmes were thematically structured and based upon the level of strategic risk. There were also programmes that focussed on specific issues, such as sexual health or substance abuse. A range of issues were covered by programmes, including contraception, consent, teenage pregnancy ethics, media / new media. The programmes were about informing young people of key issues to enable them to make better, more informed choices.
- Supporting the transition from primary to secondary school was an area of focus as it was felt that a smooth transition was likely to reduce the risk of problems developing.
- The focus of programmes had been exclusively on adolescents but steps were now being taken to work with parents.
- Recruitment was being undertaken to fill vacant posts and it was anticipated that these would be filled by the end of the year.
- The programmes provided aimed to enable families to progress towards positive life outcomes, described by the Children's Pathway as 'Safe, Strong, Healthy and Prosperous Families.'
- There were currently three specific programmes for girls and three programmes for boys. Demand was growing over time, with an Emotional Health Programme now operating a waiting list. It was noted that a bus regularly visited Yiewsley Library to provide information about anti-social behaviour to up to 50 people. A Peer Leadership was newly available. Current demand for this was relatively low because it was a new programme.
- It was difficult to ascertain the exact demand for programmes provided but the number of young people participating was steadily increasing. Young people were referred to programmes by a range of services and organisations and the service was seeking to improve engagement with these organisations.

In response to questions from Members, officers explained and advised that:

- The two main needs addressed by Targeted Programmes were general emotional health and wellbeing needs and more specific issues, such as sexual health.
- Those offered help could not be compelled to accept it, but where specific concerns had been identified, these would be followed up and partner organisations involved as appropriate. It was also possible for self referrals to be made to the services provided. As programmes were not statutory, it was even more important to ensure that they were engaging and aspirational.
- Work was undertaken with schools to enable the identification of young people who might benefit from participating in one of the programmes. Schools were encouraged to share information and concerns with the Council.

Three young people who had experienced the Unique Swagga Programme for adolescent girls spoke to the Committee, along with the Programme Co-ordinator. The key points raised included the following:

- Participation in the programme had provided invaluable information in relation to a diverse range of issues such as body image, sex related issues, peer pressure and smoking.
- The programme participants felt that they were listened to by the programme staff and that they were not judged. Without participation in the programme then they may not have considered the consequences of their actions as fully.
- Unique Swagga was able to cover important issues in a lot more depth than school lessons could.
- The girls had found out about the programme through youth clubs and school assemblies.
- There was some promotion of the programme on social media, particularly on Facebook, but it was felt that it could be better promoted on other platforms. It was suggested that central Twitter and Instagram accounts could be created for this purpose.
- While it was appropriate for some groups and activities to be mixed sex, it was felt that there was a need for female only programmes to be available.

Deborah Mbofana, Health Promotion Manager, introduced the witness statement that had been submitted by Nicola Brown, Clinical Service Manager and Professional Lead for Children's Nursing Services / Health Visitor Lead. The key points raised included the following:

- The Health visiting service in Hillingdon, which offered a wide range of medical and health interventions, followed the 4-5-6 model. This included:
 - Four tiers of health visiting practice - building community capacity; the universal elements of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP); targeted interventions to meet identified need and partnership working to meet complex needs.
 - Five universal Health Care Profession contacts.
 - Six high impact areas - maternal mental health; transition to parenthood; breastfeeding; healthy weight; child development and managing minor illness / accident prevention.
- The service provided 20 Child Health Clinics across Hillingdon, all of which were available on a walk in basis.
- Training was provided for all new health visitors.
- Health visitor visits were available for all 4,500 newborn babies each year in the Borough. In addition, visits were undertaken at six to eight weeks, which also included a mood assessment for the mother, after one year and after two to two and a half years. Other services were offered between these visits, such as immunisations and baby weighing. Uptake rates stood at 90% for the newborn visits, 94% for maternal mood assessments, 70% for one year visits and 62% for the two / two and a half year visits.
- Breastfeeding rates at six to eight weeks were improving, with 45% exclusively using breastfeeding and 64% using mixed feeding.
- A number of case studies were attached to the witness statement. These demonstrated the breadth of services provided.

In response to questions from Members, officers explained and advised that:

- New mothers were provided with a variety of information when they were first visited, including details of Children's Centres. Care was taken not to inundate families with information.

Resolved: That:

1. That the evidence provided be noted.
2. That the request for the Hillingdon Safeguarding Children Board Threshold's Guidance and Children and Young People's Social Care Assessment Protocols to be updated be passed to the Independent Chairman and Board Manager of Safeguarding Children Board for consideration.
3. Ward level usage statistics in relation to Children's Centres be provided to the Committee.
4. The Committee to be regularly updated on the delivery of the Early Intervention and Prevention Services Plan.

48. **UPDATE ON PREVIOUS REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE - HILLINGDON'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) REFORMS** (*Agenda Item 6*)

The Committee was presented a paper to provide an update on a previous review of the Committee, the title of which was 'Hillingdon's Implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reforms.'

The SEND Local Offer had been redesigned to improve design and layout and consultation had been undertaken with a representative group of parents / carers and with other stakeholders. The revised Local Offer had been launched shortly before the Committee meeting.

It had been determined that the consultation should be kept open on an ongoing basis to enable interested parties to provide feedback at any time. This had been facilitated through the use of a 'Have Your Say' button within the Local Offer online information. Details of the feedback received and the action taken as a result was also published on the website. Regular surveys would be undertaken in order to obtain feedback from service users. Work was also taking place to obtain feedback from young people. The Customer Engagement Team was supporting the engagement work. The next step would be to distribute promotional material to external organisations, such as general practitioners and libraries.

A number of training events had been held for relevant school staff in the previous 18 months. These had provided specific training in relation to the SEND reforms. The Inclusion Team, within the Disability Service, would be coordinating further training opportunities in order to take implementation forward. Guidance would be produced for relevant professionals, with multi-agency training to be rolled out during 2016 specifically in relation to 'outcomes'.

In response to a Member question about the strength of relationships with local schools, officers advised that some schools were more actively engaged with the reforms than others. Regular visits to schools were being used to engage with them regarding the SEND reforms and to help embed new ways of working.

The Committee commended the work undertaken to date and congratulated officers on the progress made.

Resolved: That:

1. The report be noted.

49.	<p>REVIEW TOPIC FOR SINGLE MEETING REVIEW (<i>Agenda Item 7</i>)</p> <p>The Committee was asked to identify and agree a topic for the undertaking of a single meeting review. This would enable officers to research suggestions further ahead of a full scoping report being developed.</p> <p>Officers proposed two related topics for the Committee to consider. The first suggestion was in relation to the recruitment and retention of school staff and whether it could be approached in a more targeted and focused way. The second suggestion was the support of educational aspiration for disadvantaged children.</p> <p>The Committee requested that a review should focus on the second proposal, educational aspiration for disadvantaged children. This would consider work undertaken to date and what action could be considered in the future, bearing in mind that the vast majority of schools in the Borough were independent of local authority control.</p> <p>It was further suggested that the Council's relationship with academies and faith schools and also the National Funding Formula could be topics for the Committee to consider in the future.</p> <p>Resolved: That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Officers develop a scoping report for agreement by the Committee in relation to a review topic of supporting educational aspiration for disadvantage children. 2. The following topics be considered as possible future review topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Council's relationship with academies and faith schools. b. The National Funding Formula.
50.	<p>WORK PROGRAMME 2015 / 16 (<i>Agenda Item 8</i>)</p> <p>Resolved: That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Work Programme be noted.
51.	<p>FORWARD PLAN (<i>Agenda Item 9</i>)</p> <p>Resolved: That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Forward Plan be noted.
	<p>The meeting, which commenced at 7.00 pm, closed at 9.35 pm.</p>

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Jon Pitt 01895 277655. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.