

Annual Report of the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee 2011/12

Reason for Report

This Annual Report on Policy Development and Scrutiny actions by the above Committee will be considered by the Executive and Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on the 14th June 2012, before submission of the said report to full Council on 25th June 2012. The PDS Committee is asked to consider and approve the Annual Report for Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny as a reflection of the work carried out throughout the 2011/12 municipal year.

Recommendation

The PDS Committee is asked to consider and approve the attached draft Annual Report, which is a reflection of the work programme carried out by the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee throughout the 2011/12 municipal year, for inclusion in the Annual Report of the Council's Policy Development and Scrutiny activity.

Commentary

It is a requirement of the LBB Council's Constitution that an Annual Report on Policy Development and Scrutiny activity is presented at full Council. Such an overarching report is being prepared for the Council meeting of 25th June 2012. Prior to this Report being presented, the Executive and Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee will consider the report including the work of each Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 14th June 2012.

The Chairman has prepared a draft Annual Report which reflects the work done by the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee set against the Committee's work programme. The Report also reflects the pre-decision scrutiny of reports to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People during the 2011/12 municipal year.

Policy Implications

Currently each Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee is a mirror to one Council Portfolio; this includes that portfolio associated with Children and Young People. It should be noted that Policy Development and Scrutiny Committees have no decision making capacity within their constitutional framework, however the Committees play a significant role in scrutinizing the work of the Executive and the individual portfolio

holders actions. The Committee should be seen to advise the Portfolio Holder, the Executive as a whole and the Council on issues such as service delivery, budgets and policy.

Legal Implications

The Policy Development and Scrutiny Committees fulfil the functions conferred by Sections 21 and 32 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Children and Young People
Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee,
Draft Annual Report 2011/12

Chairman - Councillor Stephen Wells

Vice Chairman – Councillor Diana MacMull

Introduction

The services provided by the CYP Portfolio and Department have implications for all of the Borough's some 73,000 children, young people and their families. It also has implications for children who attend Bromley schools and colleges, but who live outside of the Borough. The range of often directly targeted and universal services provided is extensive, complex in nature and highly diverse. Specific support is offered in the areas of Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, disabled children, children's social care and in particular Children in Care, school improvement and services for children in danger of becoming disengaged and disaffected.

The Children and Young People PDS Committee is designed to reflect as many of the above aspects of the Department/Portfolio's work as possible, including the wider community interests. In addition to the Members of the Committee, various co-opted representatives from a wide spectrum of interests in young people ensure there is a strong experience base to influence the PDS role for the Portfolio.

Policy Development and Scrutiny

In all some eight scheduled formal meetings of the Committee took place during the municipal year May 2011 to April 2012. No additional meetings were held. These formal meetings as well as considering its own agenda also included the pre-scrutiny of CYP Portfolio Holder reports. The Committee was focused on the ongoing priorities set for the Portfolio as a whole in the committee Work Programme.

The CYP PDS Committee fulfils its function as a PDS by:

A consideration of the CYP priorities (above) which are included in the Council's Building a Better Bromley performance plan and the CYP Partnerships Strategic Plan, with the progress of the work being measured against this plan. In response to these priorities the CYP PDS Committee considered the issues in Appendix A (attached) during the Municipal year 2011-12.

CYP Budget

In order to ensure that funding levels within CYP are continually aligned with Policy and with Departmental and Council Strategy, the CYP PDS Committee received regular Budget Monitoring Reports. Particular note was made of variations in budget areas of both the Schools and the Non-School expenditure and the reasons for the variations and any remedial actions necessary by the Department to bring spending back in line with the approved Budget spend limitations. Particular areas continually monitored were in relation to increasing pressure on the budget as well as the demands of children with SEN and Social Care. This pressure is unlikely to be reduced in the short term; however every effort is being made to reduce the growth impact on the CYP budget of these two areas of provision.

The CYP PDS Committee continued to monitor throughout the year the impact of Government decisions and announcements regarding reductions in funding and efforts to mitigate the impact of same.

Those schools with deficits and deficit recovery plans were monitored throughout the year.

The impact of changes to the Area Based Grants continued to be seen.

Continued efforts at cost reductions within the Department were monitored both in response to Government funding changes and the needs of LBB to reduce its costs. (See 2010/11 PDS Annual Report)

Commissioning

All whole life contracts in excess of £50K were examined by the PDS. The PDS also looked at an annual report at the broad commissioning intentions of the CYP service. Note this year was particularly made of the continuing rise in costs of spot purchasing of placements of Looked after Children and Children with SEN.

Recruitment and Retention of Children's Social Work Staff Strategy

This strategy was put in place in 2010 and reviewed in 2011. It was intended to secure a stable children's care workforce and reduce costs by reducing numbers of agency staff as well as manage increasing referral numbers and overall caseloads. The strategy has begun to deliver, as seen in better recruitment success, better retention and overall service costs. The 'Grow your Own' scheme continues to flourish.

Government Policy Changes

The Committee received regular reports on changes to Government Policy with regard to education and children's services as they impacted Bromley, including the 2011 Education Bill, the Munro Review of Child Protection and the Academies program

External Inspections of CYP Services

A number of external inspections of the CYP services were carried out during the year including an Ofsted inspection which concluded that Children's Services were performing well. A similar inspection by the Youth Justice Board on the Youth Offending Team came to a very pleasing similar conclusion.

Member Working Parties

The CYP PDS held a series of meetings of the Executive and PDS Member Working Parties focusing on operational issues and detailed scrutiny of key issues.

Executive Working Party – Special Educational Needs (SEN)

This working party meet some 4 times during the year and considered SEN strategy, in particular looking at ways to offset the high costs of out-Borough SEN placements and associated transport. In this the working party looked at the development of provision for target groups and the initiation of Invest to Save schemes; improving the provision of respite care and supporting families in a more holistic way. In 2011, new contracts were put in place for SEN Transport resulting in modest costs savings. Some 850 children are entitled to statutory SEN Home to School Transport.

The working party discussed provision within the Borough for secondary school pupils with ASD including discussions around a new provision in Borough as well as provision within the mainstream school sector. Numbers of children with high order ASD are continuing to rise at the Phoenix Centre.

The working party monitored the impact of rising numbers of children with statements via the SEN and Disability Service budgets, and their adverse impact on that budget; also the increasing complex needs of many children contained within the statements. These few increasing complex needs statements have a disproportional impact on this budget line, but was addressed via Dedicated Schools Grant and central contingency funds.

Executive Working Party – Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting.

This working party met five times during the year in order to oversee key areas of Children's Safeguarding and Looked After Children via the Children's Social Care Charging Policy, the Social Care and Safeguarding Improvement Plan, various post

Ofsted inspection Action Plans and the Recruitment and Retention Implementation Strategy.

The working party noted the continuing pressure on Children's Social Care Services, part of a long term trend impacting initial contacts, referrals, initial and core assessments, Child Protection Orders and admissions to care - numbers all continuing to rise. It was noted that these processes timescales stubbornly remained above expected though often arbitrary norms. The complexity of need seen in many of these children also increased. Numbers of Foster Placements, Residential Care Placements and children subject to Child Protection Orders all rose sharply. The working party noted the success of policies put in place to address and manage these workloads.

The working party continued to work with the Children in Care Council and look at issues directly related to the needs of Children in Care. This relationship continues to grow and the Council continues to expand its activities.

Foster care and payments to foster carers was discussed by the working party, in particular recruitment of foster carers and the reduction of dependency on expensive, agency foster carers. The new payment scheme to foster carers was examined and a number of options discussed to increase the emphasis on payments being made to experienced foster carers who take on the more challenging children.

Primary School Development Plan Working Party

This working party met twice in the year to scrutinize the initial and the subsequent Primary School Development Plan. The working party looked at strategic planning for primary school provision across the Borough. The working party noted the continuing increase in the demand for Reception class places through at least 2015 and noted that as well as the need for some schools to permanently increase their PAN numbers, other schools would continue to be asked to accommodate 'bulge years'. In addition some 8 forms of entry would be required (240 places) concentrated in the northern strategic planning areas. Proposals were made in respect of each of the nine strategic planning areas, resulting in increases in numbers, or standstill.

Performance Monitoring working Party

This working party has met twice in the year and determined those performance monitoring targets that would continue to be presented. It was also determined frequency Performance data would be presented. Subsequently the working party met again to discuss the continued monitoring and presentation of National targets as Local targets and to better determine the desired specific and percentage target criteria of reported performance targets.

Call-Ins. One call-in was made during the municipal year regarding the allocation of Seed Challenge funding. This call-in was withdrawn before it was considered by the PDS Committee.

Audit. Three items refereeing to Burnt Ash Primary School, Tubbenden School and to the Highway School have been referred from the Audit Sub Committee. All three matters are Part Two items and those related to Burnt Ash and Highway School's have yet to be resolved.

Presentations. The Committee has received no presentations this municipal year.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

PROPOSED SET OF PERFORMANCE MONITORING INFORMATION 2011/2012
AND REPORTING FREQUENCY

SCRUTINY OF THE AGENDAS FOR THE MEETINGS OF BROMLEY CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

UPDATES ON COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2012/13 TO 2015/16

CAPITAL MONITORING

CONSULTATION: DRAFT BROMLEY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
PARTNERSHIP CHILDREN'S STRATEGY FOR 2012-15

FOSTER CARER PAYMENTS: INITIAL CONSULTATION WITH THE CYP PDS
COMMITTEE

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FORWARD ROLLING WORK PROGRAMME
2011-12

YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM: CORE CASE INSPECTION OF YOUTH OFFENDING
WORK BY HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF PROBATION

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE:
TACKLING TROUBLED FAMILIES

The CYP-PDS Committee also considered the following Items under Part 2

EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR CATERING AT THE BROMLEY EDUCATION
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

REFERENCE FROM THE IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY SUB-COMMITTEE:
BROMLEY CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE AND SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS
AND DISABILITY

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR AND BUDGET MONITORING

Decisions of the Portfolio Holder and the Executive being pre-decision
scrutinized by the committee. The Portfolio-Holder following scrutiny by the CYP
PDS made decisions on the following issues during the municipal year 2011-12:

UPDATES ON THE RECENT GOVERNMENT REFORM DEVELOPMENTS
INCLUDING THE ACADEMY PROGRAMME

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES PORTFOLIO PLAN FOR 2011/12

BRIEFING AND ACTION PLAN FOLLOWING THE OFSTED UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES IN BROMLEY - APRIL 2011

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE POLICY - OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION.

CONSULTATION ON THE CHANGES TO THE ADMISSIONS CODE OF PRACTICE: BROMLEY'S RESPONSE

SPENDING BY PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS IN 2010/2011

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS ON FUTURE FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS & ACADEMIES

FINAL ACCOUNTS 2010/2011

MEMBERSHIP OF SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

CONSULTATION OUTCOMES: FUTURE USE OF YOUTH CENTRES

BRIEFING AND ACTION PLAN FOLLOWING THE OFSTED ANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF THE FOSTERING SERVICE IN BROMLEY - MAY 2011

PROPOSED FUNDING CHANGES RELATING TO CHANGES TO ADMISSIONS

UPDATE TO SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS

CYP BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2011/2012

CAPITAL MONITORING 2011/12

REVISED INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT - CLARE HOUSE PRIMARY

CYP FORWARD ROLLING WORK PROGRAMME 2011/2012

CONSULTATION OUTCOMES: FUTURE USE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY CENTRES CYP BEHAVIOUR SERVICE RESPITE PROVISION

INTEGRATED TRANSITION STRATEGY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AND/OR DISABILITIES

SCHOOLS FORUM CONSTITUTION

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES: STAFFING BUSINESS FUNCTIONS AND FUNDING

DRAFT 2012/2013 BUDGET

PERFORMANCE MONITORING: QUARTER 2 2011/12

THE SCHOOL FUNDING SETTLEMENT FOR 2012/13 - THE PUPIL PREMIUM AND DEDICATED SCHOOLS' GRANT: CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

RENEWAL OF LONG TERM SICKNESS SCHEME

CHANGES TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS

CAPITAL MONITORING Q3 2011/12 AND ANNUAL CAPITAL REVIEW 2012 TO 2016

PROPOSAL FOR APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS TO: A) ACADEMY GOVERNING BODIES; AND,

B) LOCAL AUTHORITY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS RECONSTITUTING UNDER NEW REGULATIONS - SEPTEMBER 2012

OFSTED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT RATING OF BROMLEY'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES 2011: IMPROVEMENT PLAN

REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS' DEVELOPMENT PLAN: OUTCOMES

REVIEW OF THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORK STAFF

YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM: CORE CASE INSPECTION OF YOUTH OFFENDING WORK BY HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF PROBATION

STANDARDS OF ATTAINMENT IN BROMLEY SCHOOLS

THE SCHOOL FUNDING SETTLEMENT FOR 2012/13 - DEDICATED SCHOOLS' GRANT

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANNING: SCHOOLS PLANNED MAINTENANCE AND SUITABILITY PROGRAMME 2012-13

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANNING - POST COMPLETION REVIEW REPORTS

BASIC NEED PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT 3

REVISED INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT - MARIAN VIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHILDREN AND FAMILY CENTRES: PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE USE OF THE
CENTRES

ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2013-14

WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY SHORT BREAK PROVISION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE: GATEWAY REVIEW

The Portfolio-Holder also made the following decisions following discussion in
Part 2 of the CYP PDS Meetings

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: CONTRACTS 2011-12 (2)

THE HIGHWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL CAPITAL SCHEME: UPDATE REPORT

BROMLEY SCHOOLS IDENTIFIED AS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

UPDATE 2: CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION ADVICE AND
GUIDANCE TO YOUNG PEOPLE

OUTCOME OF TENDERING FOR ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLE SUBSTANCE
MISUSE SERVICES

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES CONTRACTS REVIEW

THE PRIORY SCHOOL REQUEST FOR FUNDING TO SUPPORT COSTS IN
RESPECT OF SUPPORT STAFF REDUNDANCIES ARISING FROM A SCHOOL
BASED RESTRUCTURING

THE HIGHWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL CAPITAL SCHEME: UPDATE REPORT

ALIGNING POLICY AND FINANCE REVIEWS

EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR CATERING AT THE BROMLEY EDUCATION
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

REFERENCE FROM THE IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY SUB-COMMITTEE:
BROMLEY CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE AND SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS
AND DISABILITY

INTERIM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION - CONTRACT EXTENSION

BROMLEY WELCARE