

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CHILDREN & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE
Committee Room 3A - Town Hall
26 September 2019 (7.00 - 8.35 pm)**

Present: Councillors Judith Holt (Chairman), Christine Vickery (Vice-Chair), Sally Miller, Tele Lawal, Christine Smith and Maggie Themistocli.

Co-opted Members:
Julie Lamb – Special Schools

Church Representatives:
Lynne Bennett and Jack How

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gillian Ford, Dilip Patel, Carol Smith and Reg Whitney, Ian Rusha and Kathy Freeman.

+Substitute members: Councillor Christine Smith (for Dilip Patel and Councillor Maggie Themistocli for Carol Smith).

The Chairman advised those present of action to be taken in the event of an emergency evacuation of the building becoming necessary

7 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

8 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman congratulated Robert South on his recent appointment as Interim Director of Children Services.

The Chairman informed the Sub-Committee of a recent visit to the offices of the Youth Offending Services.

9 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10 PERFORMANCE REPORT UPDATE - QUARTER ONE

The Sub-Committee received the Quarter One performance indicators (PIs) update. The PIs are the standards by which performance of services are measured within the Council.

The update provided an overview of performance against the eight performance indicators selected for monitoring by the Sub-Committee in 2019/20.

The report outlined that seven of the indicators have been given a RAG status; one had a status of Green and six indicators have a Red.

The report provided the following highlights and potential areas for improvement.

- The number of children missing from education had reduced to an average of 3 in the first quarter of the year, which is an improvement on both the previous quarter and the same point last year.
- There was a continued strong performance in the percentage of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), or not known. This was attributed to the services to support 'at risk of NEET' learners; and the robust tracking and recording of young Havering residents.
- There was a decline in the number of apprentices recruited in the borough in line with national and regional trends. There was an increased focus on apprenticeships for 2019/20 through the National Apprenticeship Week activities such as Havering School roadshows, an Apprenticeship Pop-Up Shop in the Town Centre and a parent & learner apprenticeship event.
- The percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences held within 15 days dipped slightly during the first quarter of the year, having been an area of very strong performance in 2018/19. It was explained that cases were been referred for conference late by the social work teams, these instances were been followed up with group managers to review the reasons and address any issues.
- The percentage of looked-after children who ceased to be looked after as a result of permanency was below target for this point in the year. In light of the number of cases currently in progress, it was anticipated that by year-end there will have been an increase in adoption orders being granted compared to recent years.

- The recruitment of Foster carer across London and nationwide remain a challenge. Although there have not been any new in-house foster carers approved during the first quarter, Havering continues to outperform neighbouring boroughs in terms of recruitment. A review of Fostering Service had provided a focus on assessment and recruitment from a staffing perspective and web-based content used for recruitment.
- The percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training (EET) dropped during this quarter. There was seasonal variation with the PI linked to the academic year and the implementation of the new recording system in March had a slight impact which made it difficult to track performance during the first few weeks of the year.

The Sub-Committee noted the report.

11 PRIMARY SCHOOL SATS RESULT - UPDATE REPORT

The Sub-Committee received an update report on the provisional outcomes of the 2019 statutory assessments within the Primary School sector. The report included headline figures for:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS);
- Year 1 Phonics Check;
- Key Stage 1 results;
- Key Stage 2 results.

The report informed the Sub-Committee that standards in the Early Years Foundation Stage were broadly at the national average. The proportion of children achieving a Good Level of Development in Havering remained at 72% in 2019 – exactly the same as the national average.

It was noted that although the percentage of Year 1 pupils assessed for the Phonics Check standard fell by 2% in 2019, standards in Havering remain just above the national average and are generally in line with our neighbouring London boroughs and statistical neighbours.

The Sub-Committee was informed that the overall standards at Key Stage 1 were just above the national average.

In Reading, the outcomes remained broadly average, which were 2 percentage points above the national figure. In Writing, the outcomes indicated Havering children were above the national average and likely to be in line with other London neighbours and higher than statistical neighbours. The percentage of pupils meeting the Expected Standard or above in Mathematics improved by 1 percentage point to 79%; this was 3% above the national average.

It was stated that Havering attainment in Key Stage 2 in all subjects were well above the national average, and better than the outcomes achieved by other London boroughs and the statistical neighbours.

The proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined increased by 1 percentage point in 2019, Havering was 6% above the national average, which is classified as 'well above average' in the Performance Tables.

The report indicated that in Havering, progress scores for the whole cohort were as follows:

Reading	-	+0.2	(above average)
Writing	-	+0.5	(significantly above average)
Maths	-	+0.6	(significantly above average)

The report also detailed that while progress was lower than in 2018, it was still positive in all three subjects as the rating was significantly above the national average in Writing and Mathematics, and expected to be better than its statistical neighbours. It was mentioned that Havering was likely to be in the top 40% of all Local Authorities nationally, when results are finally validated.

The Sub-Committee **noted** the report.

12 **SCHOOL ADMISSION PLACES - UPDATE REPORT**

The Sub-Committee received a report that informed Members of the School Admissions process and its application in Havering, as well as an overview of performance.

The report detailed that the School Admissions Code was the statutory guidance for Admission Authorities, Governing Bodies, Local Authorities, Schools Adjudicators and Admission Appeals Panels.

The Code has the force of law and imposes mandatory requirements and includes guidelines setting out aims, objectives and other matters in relation to the discharge of functions relating to admissions.

The Local Authority, acting as the Admission Authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in the borough, was required to determine its admission arrangements to these schools for each school year.

The Sub-Committee noted that children in the borough secured 77.11% of first preferences at secondary level for the current academic year 2018/19; (the highest in London based on Department for Education data), and 88.52% of primary first preferences.

The report outlined that the trends within the raw data suggested that the reduction over time links to schools improving their Ofsted grade thus becoming more attractive to families, but without always having scope to increase the Published Admission Number.

The Sub-Committee **noted** the report.

13 SCHOOL EXPANSION - UPDATE REPORT

The Sub-Committee received an update report on the progress of the school expansion programme since the last report in August 2017. The report stated that the Local Authority had a statutory duty to plan and secure sufficient school places to meet the needs of its children and families.

It was noted that under Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the school expansion programme, a total of 19 schools have been expanded which created an additional 3106 permanent primary and secondary school places in the borough.

The report informed the Sub-Committee that many London Boroughs and urban areas were currently experiencing a decrease in demand for primary school places, but Havering was still forecasting significant growth in the coming years. The increase in demand could be attributed to a rise in birth rates, increase in the number of families moving into the borough and continuing growth in housing development. There was likely to be a large increase in the projected reception intake for 2020/21.

In March 2019, Cabinet approved the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2019-2023 that contained detailed pupil projections across Early Years, Primary, Secondary, Post 16 and SEND phases and also setting out the likely demand for school places as a result of the two housing zones planned for Rainham and Romford.

The Sub-Committee noted that subject to Cabinet approval, the School Expansion Programme would be updated for the Phase 4 and Phase 5 expansion programme.

The report detailed that there were plans to increase the Early Years provision in key wards, including Elm Park, Harold Wood, Hacton, Hylands, Pettits, Romford Town and South Hornchurch to meet the growing demand for places for 3 and 4year olds.

The Sub-Committee noted the following proposal to deliver primary school places subject to consultation and statutory processes where necessary for 2023/24 dependent on whether growth is sustained:

Collier Row

1FE bulge class at Oasis Pinewood Primary School for 2021/22

Elm Park

1FE bulge class at Suttons Primary School/Scargill Infants School for 2020/21

1FE permanent expansion of RJ Mitchell Primary School for 2021/22

1FE bulge class at Suttons Primary School/Scargill Infants School for 2022/23

Harold Hill

3 x 1FE bulge classes at Drapers' Pyrgo Priory School, Drapers' Maylands and Mead Primary School for 2020/21

1FE permanent expansion of Drapers' Pyrgo Priory School and 1FE bulge class Broadford Primary School for 2022/23

1FE permanent expansion of Broadford Primary School for 2023/24

Hornchurch

1FE bulge class at Langtons Infants School, 1FE bulge class at Harrow Lodge Primary School for 2020/21

1FE bulge class at Langtons Infants School for 2021/22

1FE bulge class at Langtons Infants School for 2023/24

Rainham and South Hornchurch

A new 3FE school delivered as part of Beam Park development for 2021/22

Romford

1FE bulge class at Concordia Primary Academy for 2021/22

1FE bulge class at Concordia Primary Academy for 2022/23

A new 3FE school delivered as part of Bridge Close development for 2023/24

Upminster and Cranham

1FE bulge class at James Oglethorpe Primary School for 2020/21

1FE bulge class at James Oglethorpe Primary School for 2021/22

1FE permanent expansion (school TBC) for 2023/24

There were proposal for two new primary schools to open in 2023/24 on the 2 housing developments sites in Beam Park, Rainham and Bridge Close, Romford, both start-up would be closely linked to the delivery of the new housing.

The report also outlined proposals to meet the increasing needs for Special Educational Needs and Disability places by providing more alternative Resources Provision "ARP" that focus on supporting children who have Autistic Spectrum Disorder "ASD" and Social Emotional and Mental Health "SEMH", particularly in early years and primary schools.

The following ARPs are proposed:

- 1 ARP at Nemes Primary School 12 places for ASD
- 1 ARP at Scotts Primary School 12 places for ASD

- 1 ARP at Suttons Primary School 12 places for SEMH
- 1 ARP at a secondary school for ASD needs.

The Sub-Committee noted that the annual statutory returns to the Department for Education regarding projected school place demand completion of a School Capacity Collection “SCAP” return followed by a report to Cabinet providing updates to the pupil projections, and identify plans to meet the expected demand for school places beyond what has already been identified in the September 2019 report:

During discussion, it was noted that a sponsor had been identified for the primary school provision in Beam Park.

The Sub-Committee **noted** the update report.

Chairman