



CHILDREN & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

7.30 pm

Thursday
14 June 2012

Town Hall

Members 14: Quorum 6

COUNCILLORS:

Sandra Binion (Chairman)
Gillian Ford (Vice-Chair)
Dennis Bull

Nic Dodin
Robby Misir
Pat Murray

Billy Taylor
Frederick Thompson
Linda Trew

CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

**Statutory Members
representing the Churches**

Phillip Grundy, Church of
England
Jack How, Roman Catholic
Church

**Statutory Members
representing parent
governors**

Julie Lamb, Special Schools
Anne Ling, Primary Schools
Keith Passingham, NASUWT
Garry Dennis, Secondary
Schools

Non-voting members representing local teacher unions and professional associations:
Margaret Cameron (NAHT), Keith Passingham (NASUWT), Bev Whitehead (NUT)

For information about the meeting please contact:

**Sean Cable 01708 432436
sean.cable@haverling.gov.uk**

What is Overview & Scrutiny?

Each local authority is required by law to establish an overview and scrutiny function to support and scrutinise the Council's executive arrangements. Each overview and scrutiny committee has its own remit as set out in the terms of reference but they each meet to consider issues of local importance.

They have a number of key roles:

1. Providing a critical friend challenge to policy and decision makers.
2. Driving improvement in public services.
3. Holding key local partners to account.
4. Enabling the voice and concerns of the public.

The committees consider issues by receiving information from, and questioning, Cabinet Members, officers and external partners to develop an understanding of proposals, policy and practices. They can then develop recommendations that they believe will improve performance, or as a response to public consultations.

Committees will often establish Topic Groups to examine specific areas in much greater detail. These groups consist of a number of Members and the review period can last for anything from a few weeks to a year or more to allow the Members to comprehensively examine an issue through interviewing expert witnesses, conducting research and site visits. Once the topic group has finished its work it will send a report to the Committee that created it and it will often suggest recommendations to the executive.

Terms of Reference

The areas scrutinised by the Committee are:

- School Improvement (BSF)
- Pupil and Student Services (including the Youth Service)
- Children's Social Services
- Safeguarding
- Adult Education
- 14-19 Diploma
- Scrutiny of relevant aspects of the LAA
- Councillor Calls for Action
- Social Inclusion

AGENDA ITEMS

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

(If any) - receive.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members are invited to declare any interests in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting. Members may still declare an interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.

3 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman will announce details of the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

4 MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 March 2012 and authorise the Chairman to sign them.

5 DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY (Pages 9 - 18)

6 ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12 (Pages 19 - 26)

7 FUTURE AGENDAS

Committee Members are invited to indicate to the Chairman, items within this Committee's terms of reference they would like to see discussed at a future meeting. Note: it is not considered appropriate for issues relating to individuals to be discussed under this provision.

8 URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any other item in respect of which the Chairman is of the opinion, by reason of special circumstances which shall be specified in the minutes, that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

**Ian Buckmaster
Committee Administration &
Member Support Manager**

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CHILDREN & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Town Hall
29 March 2012 (7.30 - 9.30 pm)**

Present: Councillors Sandra Binion (Chairman), Gillian Ford (Vice-Chair), Dennis Bull, Nic Dodin, Robby Misir and Linda Trew

Co-opted Members: Phillip Grundy, Julie Lamb, Anne Ling and Garry Dennis

Non-voting Member:

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pat Murray, Councillor Billy Taylor and Councillor Frederick Thompson, co-opted member Margaret Cameron, Jack How and Keith Passingham and Bev Whitehead

13 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Julie Lamb declared an interest in Item 5 as her son was attending Corbets Tey School.

14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15 POST 16 LEARNERS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES OR DISABILITIES

The Committee received a report from the 14-19 Manager on the areas of service and support being provided for post-16 education learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD) and the two pilot programmes delivered in 2011/12.

The Committee noted that the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (ASCL) placed new duties on Local Authorities, namely

the duty to secure enough suitable education and training to meet the reasonable needs of 16-19 years olds as well as for those aged 19-25 who were subject to a learning difficulty assessment.

Since the Act was passed in November 2009, Havering Local Authority commissioned a review of Post 16 SEN Education in early 2010. The review highlighted the need to develop additional provision due to the changing demand for specialist provision. There were more children with profound and complex disabilities as a result of improved medical support and care.

Currently there were three special schools providing provision up to the age of sixteen. Ravensbourne was the only special school with Post 16 provision and provides provision for severe and profound learning difficulties (SLD/PLD). The current accommodation was not entirely fit for purpose, and it was hoped that by developing a proposal further both the educational needs and accommodation needs to support these learners could be achieved.

In the absence of significant capital or revenue funding, any local development would have to tap into external funding sourced through the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA). Currently there were three main routes for funding learners aged 16 to 25 with LDD:

- The SEN block grant, which Local Authorities receive to discharge their statutory duties towards those with SEN in special schools (Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded).
- Additional Learning Support (ALS) funding allocated to colleges and independent providers for learners aged 16 to 25 in local provision.
- Provision funded for individual learners with LDD aged 16 to 25 as part of the specialist placement budget, which included provision at independent specialist providers where their needs could not be met locally. This budget was managed by the YPLA.

Whilst these funding streams would pass to Local Authority control in 2013-14, this did not help with the immediate pressure of securing Post-16 provision.

The Young People and Adult Learning Strategy Manager had worked with the Havering College of Further and Higher Education and Havering Sixth Form College to establish pilot schemes from September 2011 in which students were on the roll of the colleges and so able to access participation funding and Additional Learner Support funding through the YPLA, but receive their education through provision at Corbets Tey and Hall Mead respectively. The provision at Corbets Tey is for those students from Corbets Tey, Dycorts and similar schools who might otherwise have gone to or remained at out of borough day special schools' sixth forms and that at Hall Mead is for higher functioning students, who may have some problems engaging in an unsupported fashion at the Sixth Form College without a supported transition.

The Committee considered progress with the first programme, a partnership between Corbets Tey School and Havering College of Further & Higher Education, which consisted of:

- In the first year of the programme and six learners had been recruited onto the FE provision at Corbets Tey.
- Five days at the school was being offered.
- Shared expertise was being used to develop the curriculum and to deliver an Intensive Communication programme.
- Learners were following the Personal Progress Award.
- Corbets Tey graded 4 for overall effectiveness by Ofsted. Upon re-inspection some improvements were noted.
- Havering College had been able to claim £64,000 for the delivery of 720 guided learning hour programme.
- Corbets Tey delivery costs amounted to £119,829.
- LBH had provided £55,829 to deliver the funding of day five owing to a funding shortfall.

The Committee considered progress with the pilot developed in partnership between Hall Mead School and Havering Sixth Form College for a cohort of four learners, progress included:

- A five day timetable for learners at both sites.
- A summer programme to aid transition.
- LBH had provided £31,435 to Hall Mead to meet their costs.

To further develop the provision and strengthen learner transition Corbets Tey and the College would continue to work in partnership, and it was envisaged that a more integrated model of delivery will emerge. There were clear benefits of embedding more sessions within the college environment. This programme would continue with some modifications, however, it was not envisaged that the Hall Mead and Havering Sixth Form College pilot programme would continue into 2012/13 as this was a particular demand and need for this year group.

Members discussed issues arising from the report, particularly querying work done with Dycorts School; officers replied that the College was keen to work with partners, although Dycorts already had good transitional arrangements with the College. In response to questions, it was explained the funding for contracts was done on a year by year basis and that capital funding would be needed to allow the programme to be rolled-out for a three-year cohort. Further, officers explained that the admissions criteria for the programme had been modified to differentiate the provision between Corbets Tey and the College.

Members questioned whether the actions arising out of the full review of post-16 provision for learners with LLDD had been enacted. It was suggested that suggestions for an over-arching strategy group for post-16 had not been complied with as Positive Parents were struggling to get the Council to cooperate. Officers responded by saying that straight after the

review was completed much changed, with the publication of a new Green Paper and a shift in the overall strategic direction. Therefore arrangements considered before the change were not possible.

There were numerous groups working in tangent and considering the same general issues, the new strategic direction presented an opportunity to merge the existing groups together and to avoid duplication. Yet, until the national picture was finalised it was necessary for local strategy to remain fluid. The new arrangements presented a challenge to all and new funding guidance dramatically changes the way special educational need funding and delivery is conducted.

It was asked what happened to an SEN pupil now whilst there was a transition to new ways of working and new funding programmes. It was explained that current programmes were continuing for the time being. However, Members expressed concern that not all SEN learners were suitable for education at the College and these pupils had no choice but to seek provision out of borough, which was not fair. Officers stated that there was to be an intensive analysis of out of borough placements, though Havering had the lowest number of students out of the borough than its neighbours. There needed to be an assessment for future provision as it was difficult to model services for SEN around a broad range of needs.

Members asked what pupils on such course studied and were informed that there was a huge range of subjects taken and these were tailored to the learner's needs. Most obtained a Personal Progress Qualification, which was well-established and centred on teaching independent living skills. There was concern however, that the specialism offered by Corbets Tey had been narrowed too much with each institution receiving a core funding block for its specialism. There was inequality in the previous funding stream. It was explained that the pathways needed by a learner would be known long before they reached age 16 and the borough was seeking a variety of models with a range of partners.

The Committee noted the report.

16 **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2011-14 - UPDATE**

The Committee received a report from the Strategic Lead, Performance and Policy from Social Care and Learning, regarding the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14 (CYPP). Specifically, the report was updating the Committee on the progress made against the six priorities as determined by the Children's Trust.

The Committee noted that the six priorities of the CYPP and the work being undertaken under each priority, detailed as follows:

- 1. Ensuring children and young people are protected from abuse and neglect**

This first area worked to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of children and young people was embedded in multi-agency working. This would mean intervening early and at the right time as well as involving families in service design and delivery. Key activity included:

- Strengthened multi-agency working practices: the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was due to go live in 2012 with partners located in the same office to allow for better information sharing. A 'triage' service was in operation in the Duty and Assessment Team and a new referral form had been introduced in order to reduce unnecessary referrals and speed up the process.
- Improved Participation of Families.
- Professionals using the right tools and procedures for the specific needs of the child: the high standards imposed by the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) were being implemented across the sector, with working being led by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB).

2. Increase breastfeeding rates

The Committee was informed that evidence suggested that breastfeeding had many health benefits for children, including reducing child obesity. Havering had one of the highest rates of obesity and one of the lowest breastfeeding rates in London. To address the gap, significant work had been done to improve the reliability of breastfeeding data. Work underway included:

- Increasing awareness of breastfeeding to all cultures and age groups: this work included breastfeeding awareness sessions in schools and an extensive marketing campaign.
- Supporting mothers to feel confident to breastfeed in public.
- Improving access to breastfeeding support services.

3. Reduce child poverty

Members noted that nearly one in five children in Havering lived in poverty (this was defined as belonging to a family receiving 60% less than the median income). This number was lower than other London boroughs; the rate was higher than Havering's statistical neighbours. Current activity included:

- Developing a network of integrated services for families, focusing on the Foundation Years.

- Reducing barriers to employment
- Improving financial wellbeing
- Addressing health inequalities

4. Reducing teenage conceptions and termination rates

Teenage conception rates had been increasing, contrary to a national and London-wide downward trend. Latest data showed that the local rate was now falling and at a faster rate than for London and England, demonstrating the impact of local efforts, which included:

- Access to Contraceptive and Sexual Health (CASH) services: including a Condom Card scheme (C-Card) and a sexual health information booklet.
- Targeted work with vulnerable groups.
- Workforce development.

5. Support complex families

The Committee was informed that there had been a lot of recent media attention on the Government's Troubled Families programme. Unlike many other boroughs, Havering had already begun to plan how it would address the complex and inter-related risk factors affecting a section of the population, to help them to break their negative and often inter-generational cycles of behaviour and deprivation. This work had been progressed through the Top 100 Families project currently underway. The aim was not to create a new service; rather, to re-design existing services and improve cooperation with partners to maximise the impact of interventions. Work consisted of:

- Troubled families/top 100 families: partners had suggested more than 800 individuals who they felt would benefit from involvement in this work; over 500 families had been suggested. There was a significant proportion for whom domestic violence, substance/alcohol abuse and mental health issues were commonly identified. Analysis continued to refine this list, to determine which families would ultimately be part of the programme.
- Community Budgets

6. Improve access to high-quality therapies

Access to effective therapies had been a concern for parents and professionals alike. The broad themes of activity for this priority were to

redesign services, to improve commissioning and collaboration with partners, and to ensure early interventions. Work in this area included:

- Speech and Language Therapy (SLT)
- Redesign Services
- Improve commissioning and collaboration
- Early targeted interventions to increase independence

The Committee discussed various aspects of the report; in particular Members sought more information regarding the Triage Team. Officers explained that the team received some 1200 calls per month and 65% of referrals did not meet the criteria for further investigation. This was a dedicated team of social workers assessing each referral. The Committee requested that more information regarding the work of Triage Team and the criteria used for assessing where to redirect referrals be brought to the Committee.

The Committee noted the report and requested further information on the work of the Triage Team, the MEND programme and more information on services for children in terms of drugs, alcohol and sexual health.

Chairman

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:

CMT Lead:

Report Author and contact details:

Policy context:

Teenage Pregnancy & Substance Misuse in Havering; an overview and update on local strategies and action plans

Lorna Payne, Group Director, Adults & Health

Daren Mulley, Young People at Risk Commissioner (x4280)

Commission services that work with young people at risk of teenage pregnancy and substance misuse

SUMMARY

This report is intended to update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the progress of the strategies, action plans that are in place to contribute to reducing teenage pregnancy and substance misuse among young people in Havering. The report is therefore divided into two sections which highlight and summarise the work that is currently being commissioned in the policy areas of teenage pregnancy and substance misuse.

Given the detailed work that is being delivered, this report refers to and has a number of key documents attached to help support and elucidate understanding of these crucial areas of work in Havering. In addition, at the meeting the report author will also present and share examples of communications material used to promote the services mentioned in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Teenage Pregnancy

1.1 The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy (2010-13)

1.1.1 By 2008, Havering's teenage pregnancy rate was stubbornly high (above the England and London average) with over 60% of conceptions leading to a termination. That was why the Children's Trust approved the development and launch of a local Teenage Pregnancy Reduction Strategy in 2010 which has a strong emphasis on preventing teenage conceptions. In addition, the Children's Trust adopted teenage pregnancy reduction as one of its key priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan (2011-14).

1.1.2 In 2010, the Teenage Pregnancy (TP) Board agreed that its overall Strategic aim is to work towards achieving a 15% reduction in the under 18 teenage conception rate by 2013 from

the 2008 average conception rate of 42.6 per 1000 females aged under 18 to achieving 35.0 per 1,000 by 2013.

- 1.1.3 Based on evidence¹ gathered from across the UK, the TP Board agreed focusing its planning on the following four strategic objectives:

Commissioning: Commissioning will take place within an integrated framework of good practice and based on evidence, local services will be commissioned and publicised to meet the contraception and sexual health needs of local young women and men.

Prevention: The strategy adopts a strong emphasis and focus on targeted youth support services to strengthen early identification and support for young people at greatest risk of teenage pregnancy in Havering.

Education: So that young people can make informed choices regarding their lives, a high priority will be given to supporting the development of sex and relationships (SRE) within PSHE in schools.

Workforce: A strong focus has been given to the availability and consistent take-up of SRE training for professionals across children and young people’s services, linked to promoting local Contraception and Sexual Health services.

1.2 Data Analysis: Teenage Pregnancy & Sexual Health in Havering

- 1.2.1 Led by the Teenage Pregnancy Board, since 2010 there has been steady progress to the point where Havering has the lowest under 18 conception rate for over 12 years.

- 1.2.2 Looking at the table below, it is very pleasing to note that Havering continues to experience a reduction in the number of teenage conceptions that contributes to and strengthens a consistent downward trend in our numbers and rate in Havering (a trend that began early 2009).

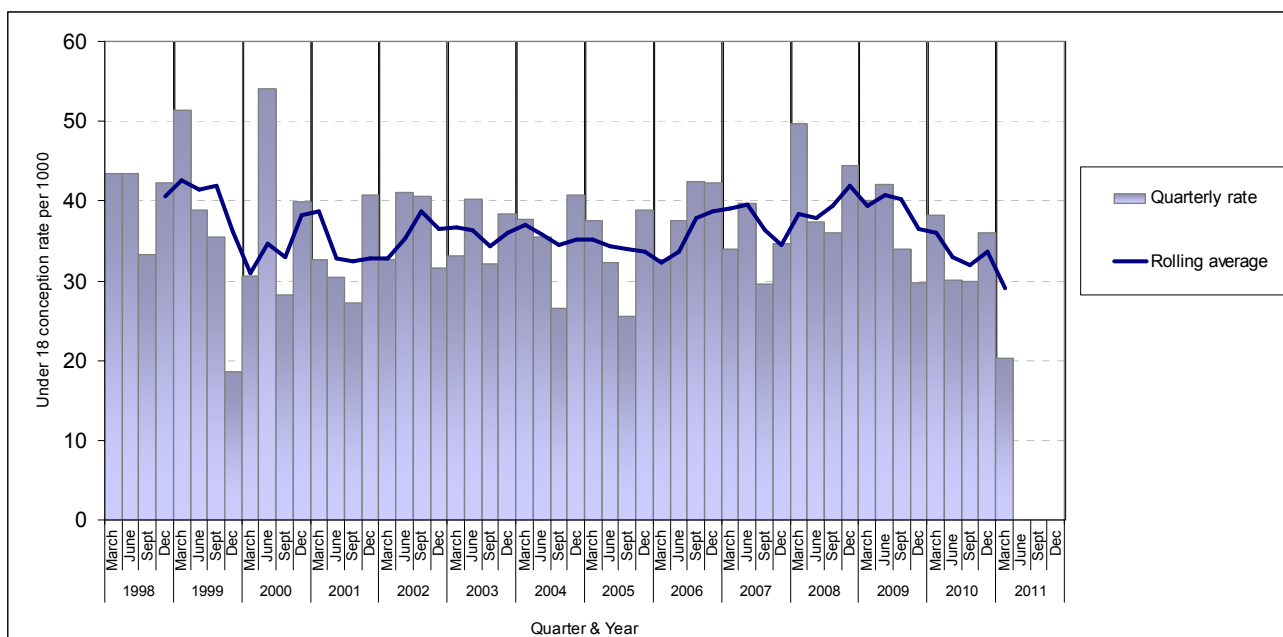


Figure 1: Under 18 Teenage Conception Figures

¹ Department for Education (2006) Teenage Pregnancy Next Steps: Guidance for Local Authorities & Primary Care Trusts on Effective Delivery of Local Strategies

1.2.3 Our most recent local data shows that since the Strategy started in 2010 the under 18 conception rate has fallen by 45 per cent. As a result, our current rate of 29.3 (per 1,000) means that Havering;

- a) has the lowest recorded quarterly number this since 1999
- b) has recorded its lowest ever rolling average rate
- c) has recorded its lowest ever average rate since 1999
- d) has had the greatest reduction in teenage conceptions over a 1yr period in London, of 46.9% (between Q1 in 2010 and 2011).
- e) Havering's downward trend is also shared and reflected across London where, for the first time, London's rate of under-18 conceptions was not higher than the national average.

1.2.4 In 2010, the Havering TP Board committed the YP Lead to undertake a consultation project with young people aged 13 – 19 years old. The TP Board was eager to conduct a research project so that young people's views can develop our local understanding of young people's sexual health needs. The survey had two main aims:

- o To seek the views of young people aged 13-19 years about their experience of the delivery of sexual health information and contraceptive services in Havering.
- o To learn from young people living in Havering what would help to improve access to sexual health information and contraceptive services.

The survey takes the form of a questionnaire and has been designed to elicit both quantitative and qualitative information on young people's views and experiences. The questions developed for the survey cover a number of themes, including:

- o Basic demographic information
- o Accessing sexual health information
- o Accessing sexual health services
- o Contraception
- o Sexual activity

In its second year, the Sexual Health Survey was completed between November 2011 and March 2012 and 123 local young people responded to the survey during this period. Some of the findings include;

- a) **Sources of Information:** Friends and websites are the two most popular sources of sexual health information followed by sexual partner, books/magazines and parents.
- b) **Access Confidence:** Respondents said that that they felt most confident approaching friends. Friends were followed (in order) by the internet, GPs, parents, health clinics, youth workers and teachers.
- c) **First Time Sex:** 4 out of 10 young people reported having sex for the first time under the age of 16. Almost 9 out of 10 respondents said that the legal age had **not** affected their decision to have sex.
- d) **Condom Use:** 1 in 2 young people report using condoms either, 'always' or, 'usually'. Using other contraception was cited as the main reason for not using condoms. This reason was followed by, "too drunk", "unplanned sexual encounter" and, "don't like using them".
- e) **Sex & Substance Use:** 7 out of 10 young people reported having sex under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs
- f) **Accessing Advice:** Respondents reported websites as most used for accessing sexual health advice. Websites were followed by schools, GPs, Romford Youth Zone and the GUM Clinic (based at Queens Hospital)
- g) **Ideal Location:** Respondents said (in order of preference) that GPs, clinics, youth centres, Romford Youth Zone, college, hospital and the internet would be their ideal locations for sexual health services and information.

- h) **Sex Education:** 6 out of 10 young people did not rate their sex education as either 'good' or 'excellent'

1.3 Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan (2012-13)

1.3.1 This is the third annual delivery plan that sets out a coherent framework of actions to contribute to achieving our local strategic objective to reduce under 18 conceptions by 15% by 2013. It is important that we continue to build upon the recent downward trend and ensure that teenage pregnancy remains a high priority for Havering to make further and sustained progress in driving down unintended teenage pregnancies.

1.3.2 The Plan is structured and its content organised into the following five action areas with progress in its implementation monitored by the TP Board on a regular basis:

- 1) Commissioning & Partnerships
- 2) Data & Information Sharing & Analysis
- 3) Marketing & Publicising Access to Services
- 4) Targeted SRE with vulnerable at risk groups
- 5) Workforce Training & Development

1.3.3 In order to deliver reductions that form the strategic objectives, the proposed 2012-13 action plan emphasizes four priority themes for the year ahead:

- 1) **Funding:** Building consensus and agreement for the need to identify and secure funding beyond 2013 for teenage pregnancy support services and programmes for young people.
- 2) **Consultation:** Consulting widely on the strategic direction and priorities for a new local TP strategy for 2014-17.
- 3) **Communications:** Using social media (e.g. Safer Sex Facebook campaign) to connect and engage with young people so that their views are listened to and their needs understood in the planning, commissioning and accountability of services.
- 4) **Technology:** Maximise the potential of technology (e.g. TXTM8 service, Application Software) to provide information, advice and support young people whilst promoting reliable on-line sources of accurate information for young people, parents and professionals.

1.3.4 In summary, the key priorities for 2012-13 are;

- 1) Commission the Integrated Youth Service to deliver the Phoenix Teenage Pregnancy Counselling Service and coordinate the delivery of the free Condom Card Scheme.
- 2) Commission Youngaddaction, the young people's substance misuse service provider, to deliver the targeted Sexual Health Support Service
- 3) Provide a SRE Grant Scheme targeting and inviting 6 schools in Havering that are located in TP hotspots (Harold Hill, Rainham & North Romford) to apply for a grant to support and enrich their Sex and Relationships Education.
- 4) Commission Living Well to provide the "TXTM8" service, the free 24hr sexual health information and advice text service for young people.
- 5) Commission a new Z Card information mini booklet ensuring that is available and accessible to young people through a range of young people services borough-wide.
- 6) Commission a sexual health training programme for staff who works across a range of children and young people services addressing subjects including skills to speak with young people about sex, supporting young people within the law, contraception & sexually transmitted infection courses.
- 7) Conduct the annual Condom Card Scheme's User Satisfaction Survey with registered users to evaluate the service and measure its impact and outcomes on scheme users.

- 8) Review and update the “Only Way is Safer Sex” Facebook campaign and Teenage Pregnancy & Contraception pages on the LBH website.

2. Young People & Substance Misuse

2.1 The National (2010) & Local Drugs Strategy (2012-13)

2.1.1 The Government recognises that substance misuse can prevent children and young people from achieving positive outcomes - of living in a safe society and leading healthy, enjoyable and rewarding lives. The National Drugs Strategy *Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery* (HO, 2010) includes commitments to reducing alcohol and drug consumption that puts young people at risk of harm. The government is also clear that it expects local authorities to maintain its investment in specialist substance misuse services and targeted early interventions for young people who are experimenting or experiencing harm from misusing substances;

‘For those young people whose drug or alcohol misuse has already started to cause harm, or who are at risk of becoming dependent, they will have rapid access to specialist support [...] The focus for all activity with young drug or alcohol misusers should be preventing the escalation of use and harm, including stopping young people from becoming drug or alcohol dependent adults. Drug and alcohol interventions need to respond incrementally to the risks in terms of drug use, vulnerability and, particularly, age’.
(Home Office, 2010, 11/12)

2.1.2 There should be no surprise that the new government has continued a strategic drugs policy that maintains its interest and commitment to investing in young people’s services. There is clear and compelling evidence that young people’s substance use is associated with a wide range of other serious problems experienced by teenagers, such as failing or falling behind at school, involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour, becoming a victim of crime, teenage pregnancy, mental health problems as well as risks of overdose and future drug dependency (National Treatment Agency, 2008).

2.1.3 Within this context of continued support for services, the London Borough of Havering’s strategic priorities for 2012-13 focus on four key areas:

1. Commissioning: We are committed to exploring additional commissioning to grow and widen young people’s substance misuse services, investing monies in innovative services with a proven track record that address needs that are identified in the needs assessment. In addition, the CUIT is committed to investing in substance misuse awareness training for professionals from all sectors that are working with young people in Havering.

2. Improving Services: The local partnership will develop and improve upon its current evaluation practices, introducing on-line professional, parent and user satisfaction surveys so that all customers have an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the service. This data is also expected to feed into the annual needs assessment process which will inform and shape the development of the priorities for the next action plan.

3. Partnerships: We will maintain and widen our key local relationships with stakeholders in 2012-13, in particular the YPSMG and Champions groups. In addition, the local commissioned service will join the YPSMG to support the review of performance and progress on the implementation of this action plan. Against the backdrop of continuing national and

local reforms and budgetary pressures², it is crucial that we demonstrate service effectiveness and value for money in order to draw on local support to invest in the future delivery of services.

4. Digital Worlds: We will respond to and explore new digital opportunities and maximise current technology to provide information, advice and support young people, parents and professionals whilst recognising the need for reliable on-line sources of accurate information which young people can trust.

2.2 Data Analysis: Young People's Substance Misuse in Havering

2.2.1 The data presented in this section are from the annual needs assessment. This exercise involves investigating the existing sources of information available at local, regional and national level and about drug and alcohol use and deciding the key questions that are to be asked to meet needs and improve services. The findings presented in each report contribute to the development of the young people's specialist substance misuse action plans which are approved by the YPSMG before its submission to the National Treatment Agency.

2.2.2 Based on the data from the annual survey *Drugs, Smoking and Drinking in England in 2010 (NHS, 2010)*, the estimated numbers of secondary school aged pupils (ages 11 to 15) in Havering experimenting and using substances are below:

- a) In Havering, it is estimated that 1,068 young people aged 15 years old would have ever used a drug with 815 young people using a drug in the last year.
- b) It is estimated that 450 young people would have used a drug in the last month with an estimated 197 young people aged 15 using drugs at least once a month. For young people aged 15, it is estimated that 140 are using every day.
- c) The general trend across all the reported categories for frequency of use below show that use increases as young people get older, for example from 11yrs of age (4%) to 15 yrs of age (29%).
- d) For pupils reporting using drugs in the last year and pupils reporting cannabis use in the last year, it is estimated that this rises from 0.9% (Year 7) to 21.8% (Year 10).
- e) However, as the frequency of reported use increases, the difference between age groups becomes less, for example from 11yrs of age (3%) to 15 years of age (7%) for pupils reporting using drugs in the last week.
- f) Cannabis (9%), solvents (5%) and amphetamines (0.9%), are estimated as the three most used drugs.
- g) The age of 13 marks the beginning of a steep increase in the use of alcohol across all frequencies of use with a significant percentage of young people aged 15 reporting drinking during the last week (38% or circa 900 pupils) and month (24% or circa 600 pupils).

2.2.3 Replacing the Tell Us Survey in 2011, the new local schools survey asks pupils their views about their health, education, leisure and personal safety. The survey was carried out in the autumn 2011 and a total of 4 local secondary schools in Havering participated in the survey. Overall, 411 pupils completed the survey. Some of the key findings include:

- a) In the past 12 months, 24% of pupils reported that people drinking or being drunk had made them feel unsafe "all of the time" or "most of the time". Also, 24% of pupils reported that they "sometimes" felt unsafe as a result of other drinking or being drunk. 29% reported that they had never felt unsafe.

² Though there has been an increase in Havering's young people's treatment monies for 2011-12, this has been off set by reductions in previous ABG substance misuse monies leaving the young people's substance misuse system's level of delivery very vulnerable to any further reductions in the future.

- b) In the past 12 months, 34% of pupils reported that people dealing or using drugs had made them feel unsafe “all of the time” or “most of the time”. 31% of pupils reported that they had never felt unsafe.
- c) 76% of pupils reported that they were satisfied with the information about drugs and alcohol at school.
- d) 48% of pupils reported drinking alcohol within the last 12 months while 52% reported that they had never drunk alcohol.
- e) 14% of pupils reported to have been drunk at least once or more in the last 4 weeks; this equates to circa 2,100 secondary school aged pupils.
- f) 7% of pupils reported drinking alcohol “1 or 2 times a week”; this equates to circa 1,050 pupils. 3% reporting drinking “most days” which equates to 450 pupils.
- g) 10% of pupils reported using drugs within the last 12 months which equates to 1,500 pupils.
- h) 4% of pupils reported using drugs “every day” which equates to 600 pupils.

2.2.4 In 2007, a quarterly monitoring data set was developed in advance of the newly commissioned young people’s substance misuse service. Since 2008, this service has been operated by Addaction, the national drugs charity. In Havering, it is known as “Youngaddaction Havering”. The data set is an important means by which the substance misuse services can evidence and demonstrate to the DAAT and local stakeholders how they meet their targets and how their interventions contribute to supporting and improving young people’s lives in Havering. Findings for this needs assessment period (2010-11) showed that:

- a) **Referrals:** Young Addaction received 128 referrals (in 2010, the figure was 122), assessing 128 young people and retaining 93 young people on caseloads.
- b) **Ages:** Highest proportion of young people referred to the service were between the ages of 13-16 (64%), though there was a significant minority of 17-18 year olds (36%; in 2010 this figure was 16%).
- c) **Referral Sources:** Highest proportion of referrals into the service came from Schools (27%; in 2009-10 the figure was 24%) followed by the YOS (17%; in 2009-10, the figure was 8%), Children’s Services (16%; in 2009-10, the figure was 26%) and Self-referrals (11%; in 2009-10, the figure was 10%). Service received lower referrals from parents (9%) and local agencies such as CAMHS, Sexual Health Service, YISP, Tuiton Centre, CAF and Connexions in Havering.
- d) **Postcode Data:** reveals that referrals are continuing to come from the key local areas of social deprivation and child poverty, namely in order Harold Hill (22%), Romford (18%), South Hornchurch (16%) and Rainham (12%). Together, these four postcode areas account for 66% of young people referred into the service. Combined, Collier Row, Hornchurch and Upminster accounted for 22% of referrals.
- e) **Types of substances used:** types of drugs used are closely aligned with national data set trends, namely that clients are using alcohol and cannabis/skunk with stimulants such as solvents, powder cocaine and crack forming a smaller proportion of usage.
- f) **Outcomes:** a significant proportion of clients (83%) reported reducing (55%) or stopping (45%) their use on leaving the service, with better outcomes for the targeted early intervention clients. A small proportion of young people were either declining or dropping out of the service but this proportion increased for the clients in the specialist service.
- g) **Partnerships:** the service undertook onward referrals and joint casework with 14 other children and young people services across Havering during 2010-11.
- h) **ETE Status:** a significant proportion (57%) of young people were in full-time education followed by young people not in education, employment or training (17%) and young people in further education (13%).

2.3 Substance Misuse Action Plan 2012-13

2.3.1 Now in its sixth planning cycle, the annual action plan outlines the key priorities for improving the local young people's services with progress monitored by the Young People's Substance Misuse Group (chaired by the Head of Children's Services). The key and over-riding purpose of the annual action plan is to ensure that both the commissioned and youth offending services are accountable to working towards developing consistently high quality standards and arrangements for professionals, young people and their families.

2.3.2 Over the last six years there have been a number of enduring themes that have shaped the action plans including;

- an emphasis in maintaining and strengthening local referral and care pathways with services and professionals across universal, targeted and specialist services.
- developing and maintaining the quality of care and treatment in line with both local and national policies, plans, guidance and targets
- improving the detection of young people's substance misuse needs by all professionals working across universal, targeted and specialist young people's services.

Combined, these composite themes that focus on access, integration and quality ensure that Havering's services will continue to grow and develop in order to improve young people's outcomes and meet their substance-related needs effectively.

2.3.3 In summary, the key priorities for the 2012-13 action plan are;

- 1) Commission a service to identify and build resilience with schools pupils with substance misusing parents.
- 2) Commission a workforce training programme in 2012-13 for professionals working with children and young people in Havering, ensuring that all sectors are invited to attend the training programme.
- 3) Establish a volunteering scheme to ensure that young people engaged with the commissioned substance misuse service have their wider health and social needs identified and supported to access local services.
- 4) To strengthen the annual needs assessment, design and launch a young people's drugs and alcohol survey encouraging schools and youth support services to support young people complete the survey.
- 5) Design, consult on and implement on-line user satisfaction surveys that invites professionals, young people and parents to comment on their experience of using the commissioned substance misuse service.
- 6) Consult on and design a Quality Assurance Charter outlining a set of standards that professionals can expect from the commissioned service, promoting this Charter through the on-line and paper referral pathways.
- 7) Consult on the development of the local authority website pages for substance misuse related to young people, promoting new pages to the community through the website, professional groups and social media pathways.
- 8) Consult on the development, design and implementation of social media products, in particular developing Facebook and Application software (known as "Apps") in order to maximise new technology to signpost young people and parents to the local commissioned services.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks: None for Members to consider

Legal implications and risks: None for Members to consider

Human Resources implications and risks: None for Members to consider

Equalities implications and risks: None for Members to consider

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are a number of background papers:

- a) Teenage Pregnancy Strategy (2010-13)
- b) Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan (2012-13)
- c) Annual Sexual Health Survey (2012)
- d) Condom Card Scheme Briefing Paper (2012)
- e) Substance Misuse Action Plan (2012-13)
- f) Needs Assessment Report (2011)

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CHILDREN & LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT, 2011/2012

SUMMARY

This report is the annual report of the Committee, summarising the Committee's activities during the year ended May 2012.

It is planned for this report to stand as a public record of achievement for the year and enable Members and others to compare performance year on year.

There are no direct equalities or environmental implications attached to this covering report. Any financial implications & risks from reviews and work undertaken will be advised as part of the specific reviews.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Committee agree the report be referred to full Council.

Staff Contact: Sean Cable
Committee Officer

Telephone: 01708 432436

**Cheryl Coppell
Chief Executive**

Background Papers - None



CHILDREN & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:

CMT Lead:

Report Author and contact details:

Policy context:

Annual Report
2011/2012
Ian Burns
Acting Assistant Chief
Executive
01708 432442
Sean Cable,
Committee Officer
01708 432436
To summarise the
work of the Council's
Children & Learning
Overview & Scrutiny
Committee.

SUMMARY

This report is the annual report of the Committee, summarising the Committee's activities during the past Council year.

It is planned for this report to stand as a public record of achievement for the year and enable members and others to compare performance year to year.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee agree the report be referred to full Council.

REPORT DETAILS

During the year under review, the Committee met on 6 occasions and dealt with the following issues:

1. REQUISITION

- 1.1 The Committee held a special meeting on 5 July 2011 to consider a requisition of an executive decision regarding the changes to the transport provision provided for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- 1.2 Broadly, the decision meant that the door to door collection bus service would be replaced by a series of collection or 'pick-up points' where children would be both collected and dropped-off. Parents would be required to apply for travel assistance for each academic year and new children requesting assistance would undergo a full needs assessment. The changes would allow the Council to make £600,000 of savings as well as creating a climate that reduced dependence on Council services.
- 1.3 The Committee principally questioned the fairness of the assessments that would be undertaken, wishing to ensure that children in need to door to door transport were not disadvantaged. Further, the Committee sought reassurance that the new emphasis on travel training would not pressure or force children who were not ready for certain levels of independence to make that step.
- 1.4 Officers emphasised firstly that the drop-off points had been carefully considered and would be under review to ensure that children did not face a journey that they would not be able to make. Children would not be forced into travel training where they were not ready. The Committee also noted that similar changes had been made in other boroughs and these had been largely successful.
- 1.5 The Committee voted not to uphold the requisitions by 8 votes to 3 with 2 abstentions.

2. CHILDREN'S CENTRES

- 2.1 On 7th June 2011, the Committee considered a report updating members of progress to date with recommendations submitted by a topic group of the Committee's predecessor, the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The Topic Group, which considered the roll out of Sure Start Children's Centres in the borough, reported to the Committee on the 21st April 2009 and the approved recommendations were considered by Cabinet on 24th June 2009.
- 2.2 The Committee noted that the report only provided an update on those recommendations that had been endorsed by Cabinet. Of those that were being progressed, members noted the various outcomes.

3. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AND DISABILITIES

- 3.1 Throughout the year, the Committee considered numerous reports relating to the services and support provided with children with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD). A report considered by the Committee on 7th June 2011 highlighted the legal requirement on the Council to provide for such children.
- 3.2 The Committee considered the various ways in which the Council met its responsibility, including the under-5 provision, the transition for SEN pupils at crucial stages of education and measures to enable inclusion of SEN and LDD pupils in mainstream education. Although there was an emphasis on inclusion, a specialist SEN provision was available and very effective in the borough.
- 3.3 The Committee was informed that the Local Authority commissioned an independent review of Post-16 Special Education in Havering, which reported in July 2010. It recommended development of special sixth forms at both Corbets Tey and Dycorts as a matter of urgency. However the report contained no detail as to funding and its completion coincided with the Government's withdrawal of funding for Havering's Building Schools for the Future Programme and the arrival of the current period of financial constraint.
- 3.4 There were two pilot programmes to deliver the required service for post-16 learners. The Committee received information about these schemes at its meeting on 7th June 2011; the Committee received an update on the success of the schemes at its meeting later in the academic year on 29th March 2012.
- 3.5 The Committee had discussions around the future of the programmes, the first scheme, a partnership between Havering College of Further and Higher Education and Corbets Tey Special School, which catered for six learners and which had cost rough £240,000 from various funding streams, would continue with modifications. The second scheme, which was a partnership between Hall Mead School and Havering Sixth Form College and which catered for four learners, would not be continued as it was specific to the 2011/12 SEN needs.
- 3.6 Throughout the year, at its meetings in September, November and January, the Committee received updates regarding the roll-out of the SEN Transport changes, the same decision that the Committee had considered as a requisition in July. The last update, at its meeting on 26th January 2012, demonstrated that the projected saving of the changes was on track, with the depot for the buses having been moved to allow for new start times, culminating in 10 less buses which translated to a saving of £40,000 per bus.

4. SOCIAL CARE & LEARNING ANNUAL COMPLAINTS/COMPLIMENTS REPORT

- 4.1 At its meeting in November 2011, the Committee received a report, presented by the Head of Children & Young People's Services, regarding the complaints received by Children and Young People's Services in the previous council year.

- 4.2 The report outlined information around the numbers and types of complaints handled by Children & Young People's Services and how they dealt with these to minimise the impact of justifiable concerns and to reduce the likelihood of future complaints.
- 4.3 The Committee noted that the overall number of complaints was around 146 (46 matters raised by MPs and Councillors), which was relatively low given the nature of the services involved and against a backdrop of a significant increase in referrals to social care in 2009/10. In addition, the Pre-Stage 1 process (40 matters raised) had been very successful in resolving many initial concerns, with both more handled through that process and with none moving from that stage to the formal stage 1 process.
- 4.4 Members noted that the overall number of Stage 1 complaints had increased from the previous year by 6. The Committee noted that following a major restructure within Social Care & Learning Directorate, there would be new arrangements whereby Children's and Adult complaints had now merged. It was envisaged that the annual report of 2011/12 would include combined data and more effective comparisons about performance in managing and dealing with complaints across all services. Proposals were being considered to bring complaints services within Social Care and Learning (Learning and Achievement, Adult Social Care and Children and Young People's Services) together in the future and as part of that change consideration would be given to how a wider service report can be provided.

5. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY

- 5.1 At its meeting in September 2011, the Committee considered a report on Havering's New School Improvement Strategy, presented by the Principal Inspector of the Havering School Improvement Service.
- 5.2 In light of the forthcoming Education Bill, 2011, (now the Education Act 2011) and the wide-ranging and significant changes to both funding and policy in relation to schools and school improvement, the Department for Education (DfE) directed all Local Authorities to submit detailed plans on their strategy to support all schools, and especially those that were failing to provide a satisfactory standard of education for its pupils/students, or those schools that were performing below the new government floor standards.
- 5.3 The Committee considered the various categories for school improvement as well as those schools in need of more robust support from the service. The different categories of support would equate to greater or smaller periods that the team would spend in the school, ranging from 0.5 to 6 days.
- 5.4 The Committee also considered the specific and general guiding principles underlying the Strategy before looking at the work that Havering Improvement and Advisory Service undertook in schools in the borough. The Committee was informed that as an education community, Havering was using all its resources collectively to enhance pupils' learning and improve the overall quality of provision. There was a collective commitment to open, transparent communication and honest and frank debate. The LA regularly reviewed its practice in relation to its key activities with representative groups of schools

and governors, particularly in relation to the nature of the monitoring, challenge, intervention and any core elements of the support provided.

6. 14-19 LEARNING PATHWAYS

- 6.1 At its meeting in November 2011, the Committee received a report, presented by the 14-19 Strategy Manager, regarding the 14-19 programme.
- 6.2 The Committee noted that on 13 April 2011, the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning made an announcement giving detail about proposals for a new all-age careers service in England by April 2012. The Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) would continue to fund careers services for adults both online and through helpline services from September 2011 these would be linked to similar services for young people so there would be a single point of access for all users of each service. The department would also fund a network of public, private and voluntary organisations to provide careers guidance to adults. From April 2012 these services would be known as the National Careers Service.
- 6.3 In terms of access to Higher Education the latest information available from UCAS showed that an increasing number of young people were making applications to University, and whilst the acceptance rate was staying relatively static, the total number of young people being accepted was increasing from 964 in 2003 to 1,233 in 2009.

7. BUDGET SCRUTINY

- 7.1 In both July 2011 and January 2012, the Committee met jointly with the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees in order to scrutinise aspects of the Council's proposed budget for the coming year. The meetings scrutinised several issues of relevance to the Committee.

8. SCHOOL'S PERFORMANCE

- 8.1 The Committee received a report from the Principal Inspector of Havering's Inspection & Advisory Service (HIAS) for schools, on the performance improvements in primary and secondary schools supported by the service.
- 8.2 The Committee noted that the core purpose of HIAS was to challenge and support all schools to improve. Overall attainment at all Key Stages in 2011 remained above the national average for each of the main national attainment measures in each Key Stage and was higher than the performance of Havering's statistical neighbours.
- 8.3 There was a particularly pleasing improvement in Key Stage 4, where Havering's improvement was greater than that of other local authorities and using the measure 5+A*-C GCSE grades with English and maths Havering was performing within the top 20% of all 150 Local Authorities for the first time for four years. In Key Stage 1 Havering's performance in reading, writing and maths remained within the top 20% of all Local Authorities. During 2010-11 primary and secondary schools receiving support improved in all cases more

quickly than those schools not in receipt of support. Improvements were particularly significant in supported secondary schools.

9. CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

9.1 The Committee received a report, in January 2012, presented by the Service Manager of the Foundation Years & Independent Advice Service, regarding the borough's second Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, which was required to be completed and published by April 2011.

9.2 The report detailed the progress towards meeting those actions as published. It also provided an opportunity to inform Councillors of the recently published consultation document which called for significant changes in the way the Local Authority must ensure sufficiency in the childcare market and the Local Authority's statutory role on the delivery of free Early Education for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

10. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2011-14

10.1 At its meeting in March 2012, the Committee considered a report from the Strategic Lead, Performance and Policy from Social Care and Learning, regarding the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14 (CYPP). Specifically, the report was updating the Committee on the progress made against the six priorities as determined by the Children's Trust.

10.2 The Committee had regard to the six priority areas of the Plan, as determined by the Children's Trust, and the progress made against each of the priority areas.

The following comments have been submitted by members of staff:

Financial implications and risks:

There are no financial implications or risks arising directly from this report.

Human Resources implications and risks:

There are no human resources implications or risks arising directly from this report.

Legal implications and risks:

There are no legal implications or risks arising directly from this report.

Equalities and Social Inclusion Implications and Risks:

There are no equalities or social inclusion implications or risks arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

None.

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