



CHILDREN & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

7.30 pm

Thursday
13 June 2013

Committee Room 3A -
Town Hall

Members 14: Quorum 6

COUNCILLORS:

Sandra Binion (Chairman)
Wendy Brice-Thompson
Gillian Ford (Vice-Chair)

Nic Dodin
Robby Misir
Pat Murray

Billy Taylor
Frederick Thompson
Melvin Wallace

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
Garry Dennis, Secondary
Schools

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

**For information about the meeting please contact:
Lorraine Hunter-Brown tel 01708 432436
Email lorraine.hunter-brown@havering.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

4 MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2013 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them.

5 INSPECTION FRAMEWORK

Framework for the inspection of Local Authority arrangements for supporting school improvements and implications for Havering. **Report to follow.**

6 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (Pages 9 - 18)

Report attached.

7 ANNUAL REPORT 2012/2013 - CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL (Pages 19 - 22)

Report attached.

8 ANNUAL REPORT 2012/2013 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHILDREN AND LEARNING (Pages 23 - 32)

Report attached.

Ian Burns
Acting Assistant Chief Executive

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CHILDREN & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Town Hall
9 May 2013 (7.30 - 9.30 pm)**

Present: Councillors Sandra Binion (Chairman), Nic Dodin, Robby Misir, Pat Murray, Garry Pain, Frederick Thompson, Melvin Wallace, Keith Wells and Clarence Barrett

Co-opted Members: Phillip Grundy, Jack How, Julie Lamb and Anne Ling

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

24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Councillor Gillian Ford (Councillor Clarence Barrett substituting) and from Garry Dennis, co-opted Member.

Also present:

Mary Pattinson, Head of Service – Learning and Achievement
Mark Butler, Head of Asset Management
Martin Shipp, Acting Service Manager – Foundation Years and Independent Advice Service
Grahame Smith, HSIS

Joan Smith, coordinator, Healthwatch Havering was also present.

25 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Pat Murray disclosed an interest in item 6 (School Improvement Strategy) as he was a school governor.

26 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman gave details of the action to be taken in the event of fire or other event requiring evacuation of the meeting room.

27 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

It was noted that, on the minutes of the special meeting held on 6 March 2013, Jack How (co-opted member) had in fact voted against upholding of the requisition concerning the review of children's centres, rather than as stated. The minutes were otherwise agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

28 **MODULAR SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

Officers explained that modular buildings in schools had moved on significantly from the old style mobile classrooms. Current modular buildings could be drop-in modules and came from a growing range of suppliers. Such buildings were also now available with brick cladding.

Drop-in modular buildings had a number of advantages including that they could be delivered in one piece and quickly constructed. Depending on the specification, such buildings were expected to last 15-20 years. Disadvantages included high cooling and ventilation costs and the basic aesthetic qualities of these types of buildings.

Multiple drop-in modules were more economical as they consisted of a series of the same units. These were also constructed off site allowing better quality control. These types of buildings were often used for student accommodation or budget hotels.

Structural insulated panels (SIPS) consisted of modular components rather than an entire structure. This type of design was being used in the expansion of Branfil Primary School which was currently Havering's largest school expansion programme. Officers agreed that a high quality of construction control was needed when SIPS-based buildings were constructed on site and the Council in fact worked with an experienced partner to monitor conditions on school building sites. This had been seen at the current Branfil School construction site which was running one week ahead of schedule.

While modular buildings did have a longer durability, they could also be used if needed for a single year expansion in a school and then moved elsewhere. Officers were mindful of the situation should a school convert to Academy status as any capital investment would be lost should this happen. The head of service felt however that Heads and Governors of Academy Schools were likely to agree to expansions of their schools if asked.

The new build at Branfil would accommodate an extra 210 places at the school. Fourteen new classrooms would be built although the existing infant block at the school would be demolished. A transport assessment had been included as part of the planning application granted by the Regulatory

Services Committee in June 2012. The school's travel plan had also been scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a previous meeting. The officer agreed to circulate a copy of the travel plan to Councillor Dodin.

It was clarified that the cost of the Branfil expansion was quite similar to that of traditional construction methods but the use of modular buildings allowed construction to be much quicker.

The Committee **NOTED** the presentation.

29 **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY**

Officers explained that recent legislative and OFSTED framework changes had led to alterations in how schools were assessed and categorised with the School Improvement Strategy. The Strategy was shared with partners including Heads, Governors and chief inspectors. The categorisations themselves had been decided by the Schools Monitoring Group which took a wide range of views including from school improvement teams, HR specialist and SEN teams. This group met monthly and, while schools were formally categorised annually, categories could be altered in order to reflect current circumstances. It was emphasised that the Strategy was not a system of punitive categorisations.

The process was based around the OFSTED categorisation framework and all schools were required to work towards achieving good or excellent status. In Havering, 81% of primary and 72% of secondary schools had achieved this status. Any school that was not on track to reach this level was required to be regarded as causing concern.

In terms of support levels, schools at category 1 already had a good or outstanding rating and were expected to continue to retain this. This applied to 80% of Havering primary schools. Category 2 schools had a clear trajectory for improvement to good or outstanding level. Category 3A schools were likely to have been assessed as requiring improvement and this category could also include current good or outstanding schools but with a downward trajectory. A category 3B school had a Local Authority warning that it was at risk of failure while a category 3C school was on a formal warning notice or had already failed an inspection.

In Havering, forty-seven schools were currently at category 1, three at category 2, one at category 3A, seven at category 3B and one at category 3C. A total of nine Havering schools were therefore causing concern as not yet having reached the good categorisation.

For schools in categories 1 and 2, 'keeping in touch' meetings were held with the Council's quality assurance teams. These were also held with

category 3A schools but with additional progress review meetings at least once a term. For category 3B schools, as well as these measures, a school would also be expected to undertake measures such as recruiting new Governors or partnering with a more successful school. All the above steps also applied for category 3C schools but there would also be monthly monitoring board meetings that sought to ensure a rapid and sustainable improvement. A new Executive Head may also be appointed for a school in this position.

Statutory powers of intervention included the appointment of new Governors, a forced closure (although this was not used in reality) or conversion to Academy status. Warning notices, including on financial issues, could also be issued and concerns could also be raised with OFSTED. A school could also be compelled to partner or federate with a more successful local school. It was accepted that the system may need reviewing due to the increasing number of Academies but officers were keen to continue developing school partnerships in Havering.

As regards academies that were failing, officers still had access to Academy data and 'keeping in touch' meetings could also be used. The head of service added that it was a challenge to maintain strong partnerships with Academies but this was generally done well in Havering. The Council retained statutory responsibility for children in Academies. Havering Academies were not holding back information and officers would be concerned if a school was not prepared to share information.

A co-opted member who was a Governor of a former category 3C school had found the improvement process to be very supportive and the school had been judged as Good in its most recent inspection. It was suggested that the Chair of Governors at a school that had improved from category 3 could address a future meeting of the Committee on how their school had improved.

The Data Dashboard school information produced by OFSTED was used by officers but there was also more detailed data available for judging a school. National or Local Leaders in Education (NLEs/LLEs) could also be attached to struggling schools and this was currently used at two schools in Havering. Some Havering Heads also fulfilled this role in other areas. As regards self-evaluation, schools were still advised to follow the OFSTED format for this but were able to choose their own format.

The Council would take budgetary control of a failing school if necessary and it was confirmed that the Education Services Grant would commence in April 2013. Children's Services also worked closely with audit in the process of appraising schools. School auditors worked on site although in the case of an Academy, powers may be limited to raising concerns with the Governing Body. The Department for Education could also be involved if necessary.

Officers explained that it was not the case that failing schools tended to be in deprived areas of Havering with failing schools often being located in more mixed areas such as Elm Park or Romford.

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

30 **CHILD CARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT**

Officers explained that the Council was required to publish a detailed Childcare Sufficiency Assessment every three years. This was published on the Council website and an annual update produced for Members. This duty was due to be repealed in the Children and Families Bill that was currently before Parliament and this would be replaced with a duty to produce an annual report for Members similar to that already produced in Havering.

A priority was to make the early education entitlement offer in Havering more flexible than simply three hours a day, five days a week across a 38 week year and 95% of Havering providers did alter the hours their services were offered. Access to the early years entitlement in Havering had risen by 3.4% compared to the previous year and 86% of Havering nurseries (71% for child minders) had been rated good by OFSTED which was above the national average.

Entitlements for two year olds would become statutory from September 2013 and this entitlement would extend to disabled children or those with special educational needs from September 2014. The current offer of early education entitlement was mainly for families on benefits etc.

Publicity for early years education had increased recently with advertisements on local buses and in cinemas. Extra funding had been made available in order to build up place numbers. Officers were confident that there were sufficient places at present but primary rolls were increasing with the number of under 5s in Havering expected to rise 22% between 2010 and 2019.

The shortage of places referred to in the report in the Cranham, Hylands and Mawney wards would only take place if every entitled child in those areas took up their places. The figures for Mawney ward were a 2011 total of 174 places and a population of eligible 2 year olds of 300. The officer agreed to supply Councillor Barrett with figures for the three wards.

Officers clarified that children were placed with both child minders and in other settings but only with providers rated good or exceptional by OFSTED.

Although section 106 type funding from developers could be used to provide further child care, the Council did not have the power to specifically insist on infrastructure of this kind being included within developments. It was also clarified that all 3-4 year olds were entitled to the 15 hours of early education provision.

Research had shown there to be a positive correlation between 0-5 provision and later educational achievement up to university level. The Chairman asked if data on this could be brought to a future meeting.

It was clarified that if a child would qualify for free school meals at a later age, the child would receive the two year old offer even if their circumstances later changed.

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

31 **CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2012-13**

It was noted that child protection indicators were classified under Individuals and the Committee felt that perhaps this should say Children and Learning rather than Individuals. These figures and areas would also be discussed further at meetings of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Officers clarified that the percentage of Child Protection Plans lasting more than 24 hours should in fact read 3.7% rather than 8% as stayed in the report and they were pleased at this improvement. Figures for placements lasting at least two years had also improved.

The Government had changed the way in which it recorded numbers of 16-19 year olds not in education, employment or training. The figures for this dropped after September once all the data had been collected. Members expressed disappointment that the quarter 3 corporate performance report had not been included with the agenda papers and the Committee Officer would forward this to Members outside of the meeting.

The Chairman agreed to raise a co-opted Member's question re the classification of flytipping with the chairman of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

32 **FUTURE AGENDAS**

Items for future agendas included special educational needs issues, troubled families and a review of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Members were invited to suggest other work programme items.

It was also agreed to take at the September meeting of the Committee a report on the recent OFSTED inspection of safeguarding in Havering and the annual report of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

33 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

Chairman

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:

Children and Young People’s Plan 2011-14:
an update on progress and achievements

CMT Lead:

Joy Hollister – Group Director, Children, Adults and Housing
Simon Jolley, Strategic Lead – Performance and Policy,

Report Author and contact details:

Children, Adults and Housing (x3886)

Policy context:

Ensure safety and promote wellbeing of children and young people

SUMMARY

This report is intended to update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the progress made against the six priorities in the Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP), which sets out the strategic aims of the Children’s Trust.

The six priorities are:

- | | |
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| 1. Ensure children and young people are protected from abuse and neglect | 4. Reduce teenage conceptions and terminations rates |
| 2. Increase breastfeeding | 5. Support complex families |
| 3. Reduce child poverty | 6. Improve access to the most effective therapies |

These priorities fall into three broad themes:

1. Support families to be at the heart of strong, safe and prosperous communities
2. Break negative cycles
3. Improve healthy lifestyles

The themes and priorities were defined in collaboration with a range of partners, through detailed assessment of local needs, consultation with professionals and the public, priorities of related bodies (e.g. Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB)), with the final decision on inclusion made by members of the Children’s Trust.

There is significant progress to report against all priorities, which are delivered in line with the council Transformation Programmes, predominantly the Children and Families Transformation Programme (CFTP). There is also explicit crossover between the outcomes defined in the CYPP and those of the CFTP.

Partner agencies, including those from the Police, and the Health, Education and voluntary sectors, are collaborating well to deliver against these shared priorities.

This document highlights particular successes and areas of progress / challenge; the breadth of work underway is such that it cannot be articulated in full in this report.

For sake of brevity, “children and young people” is shortened to “CYP” in this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Ensure all children and young people are protected from abuse and neglect

It is paramount that all agencies ensure the safety and promote the wellbeing of our children and young people. Activity areas are based on agencies working together effectively, intervening in the right way at the earliest opportunity, achieving lasting positive outcomes, and ensuring that processes enable the positive participation of families in service design and delivery.

Strengthened multi-agency working practices
Attendance at Core Groups and Child Protection Conferences has improved, with 75% of those invited attending. Further work is underway to ensure that GP and Probation representatives attend or provide timely high quality documentation to inform planning.
<p>The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) went live in 2012, with colleagues from the Metropolitan Police and Health representatives co-located with specialist social care staff in Mercury House. Havering is in the vanguard for MASH, both nationally and across London, having adopted more than the traditional safeguarding triage service which is in place in some other boroughs.</p> <p>With closer partnership and improved information, MASH enables better-informed decision-making and more sophisticated harm identification and reduction. A detailed evaluation in 2013 will establish whether it has achieved these objectives but it is already apparent that a level of previously unidentified need is now known, and MASH is enabling those CYP most at risk to be supported and protected in an efficient and effective way.</p>
<p>Early Help, i.e. services provided or made available to CYP (and their families) who have some form of presenting need but who are not at risk of harm (where a child protection plan would apply) is undergoing significant development, building on the established successes of the borough's children's centres and implementing innovative developments.</p> <p>Children's centres have long been hubs for delivery of Tier 2 services, with a critical role to play in supporting vulnerable families, particularly where there are children living in or at risk of living in poverty (see Reducing Child Poverty priority later in document).</p> <p>In terms of multi-agency working, Havering is setting up multi-agency teams to work in children's centres localities, to deliver a coordinated service to families whose children may not be at immediate risk of harm but who still require some form of support. That support will span a range of intensity, depending on a family's circumstances, but focusing on Tier 3 support. Such provision will reduce the risk of the needs of these families increasing to a point at which they are in crisis and social care needs to intervene in a more robust and legally-based manner.</p>
The Troubled Families programme is making significant progress in drawing agencies together to work in a new and more effective ways. This is an integral part of the CYPP priority to Support Complex Families and is thus elaborated upon later in this document.

Improved participation of families
<p>A range of mechanisms already exist to ensure that the views of CYP and families are taken into account in assessments and reviews. This area of CYPP work has sought to develop mechanisms to enable CYP and their families to co-design operational improvements and the strategic direction of the Local Authority and its partners, as it relates to children's social care.</p>
<p>There are several strands to this work: developing culture and capacity, building service user views into work to evaluate service quality, building the right structures to enable increased participation and embedding all of this into practice.</p>
<p>LB Havering has implemented Strengthening Families, a new way of running child protection conferences to improve participation of young people and their families in those critical meetings. Co-created child protection plans, based on constructive relationships and innovative use of words, pictures and child-friendly tools, have been proven to be more effective and lead to improved outcomes for that family.</p>
<p>The Children in Care Council (CiCC) is essential in meeting Council, Government and OFSTED priorities around the involvement of Looked After Children (LAC). A new CiCC was launched at MyPlace in November 2012 and will in future have greater strategic influence, be representative of all LAC, play a part in recruitment, training and commissioning, and contribute to ongoing learning and service improvement.</p>
<p>Viewpoint, a new web-based tool for LAC or subject to a child protection plan, to contribute their views to the review of their plan, was launched in 2012. As well as providing a more interactive and engaging way for CYP to contribute their views, it will allow the Council (once there is sufficient data to do so) to monitor how the perceptions of these vulnerable CYP compare to those of the wider CYP population, e.g. in terms of their perceptions of safety, future prospects and (specifically to those children in receipt of services) how effectively they feel that those services have helped them.</p>
<p>The tenders for the Short Breaks (aka Respite) provider contracts were evaluated with CYP, their views contributing to 10% of the overall score. There was also the opportunity for parents to influence final decision making. For the tender for Advocacy Services, CYP designed case study scenarios for bidders to work through. The direct involvement of CYP in commissioning of sizeable contracts is an excellent example of CYP views impacting on service design, and can be replicated in future commissioning activity.</p>
<p>To help develop the services available to LAC and care leavers, the local Authority commissioned ESRO who undertook detailed interviews with LAC. There was also a survey designed and coordinated by a care leaver working directly in the Performance and Policy section of Commissioning. The views gathered have fed directly into work to improve LAC services in the borough.</p>
Professionals use the right tools and procedures for the specific needs of the child
<p>The Common Assessment Framework is a critical early intervention tool, through which the needs of a given individual can be clearly understood. CAF gold standards have been applied to similar early intervention tools in use across other agencies, to ensure that all such assessments are of the necessary level of quality. The LSCB leads and monitors CAF implementation, to reinforce that CAF is a partnership endeavour rather than Council-led. The (proj.) 181 CAFs completed in 2012-13, although still lower than desired, is an improvement on previous years. CAF is most embedded in children's centres (54% of 2012-13 total, followed by schools (39%)), with all newly-referred families receiving at least a pre-CAF assessment.</p>

Evaluation shows that % of CAFs where needs are met as a result of actions arising is increasing, with 68% in 2012-13 vs. a three-year average of 64%. Behavioural development is the most common need identified.
Social workers are now equipped with updated practice guides and toolkits, which have helped them to support CYP to achieve sustained positive outcomes. This is evidenced in a range of indicators, not least that only one CYP de-registered from a child protection plan has become subject of a plan again within two years (a nationally-adopted indicator) in 2012-13.
The most significant development to the tools available to social care staff is the implementation of the new improved social care IT system. In the final stages of implementation, the new system will deliver a host of benefits to social workers, managers and others responsible for overseeing and evaluating the achievement of outcomes for the boroughs most vulnerable CYP and families.

2. Increase breastfeeding rates

Evidence indicates that breastfeeding may have a protective effect against obesity in children, when compared to babies who are bottle fed. Havering had one of the highest rates of childhood obesity in London, coupled with the lowest breastfeeding rates in London. However, designing appropriate interventions was hindered by the lack of reliable data on breastfeeding. To address this gap, significant work has been undertaken to improve the reliability and completeness of breastfeeding data and this means that Havering now has a solid baseline on which to benchmark the impact of future activity.

Although Havering's initiation and continuation rates remain below London and national averages, they are now in line with statistical neighbours. At 6-8 week check (continuation), rates have increased since work began on this priority, from 39% to 43%. It is hoped that continued effort in this area will result in progress towards reaching the national average of approximately 47%.

Increase awareness of breastfeeding to all cultures and age groups
Breastfeeding awareness sessions were delivered in ten secondary schools, with positive feedback from teachers and pupils.
There has been an extensive marketing campaign, focused around Breastfeeding Awareness Weeks in 2011 and 2012. The most recent promotion was through Billboard campaigns and bus-signage campaign for high-risk locations.
Support mothers to feel confident to breastfeed in public
The Breastfeeding Friendly Scheme is proving highly successful with over 100 venues signed up, including GP surgeries, libraries, children's centres, early years education providers and local businesses. The Scheme benefitted from national television publicity in 2011. The Scheme sets out a range of criteria to which members must adhere, so that their specific service location is a welcoming and supportive environment for mothers who choose to breastfeed. An evaluation of the scheme, comprising over 900 people, shows that confidence and tolerance of breastfeeding in public has increased. The scheme received national recognition in 2012, being recognised as an example of innovative practice by the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes (C4EO).
Improve access to breastfeeding support services
Breastfeeding Cafes and peer support services in Children's Centres and maternity units remain popular.

3. Reduce child poverty

Nearly one in five Havering children (<16 years) live in poverty. Although this is lower than many London boroughs, it is higher than for our statistical neighbours (range is 16-18%). Child poverty has fallen in the last year (latest available data is from 2010-11) but this is due to the median wage decreasing (a child is living in poverty if household income is < 60% of median wage). A broad range of activity is underway, in close collaboration with partners, to address the causes of poverty.

Develop a network of integrated services for families, focusing on the Foundation Years
Children's Centres are hubs for multi-agency working and all new registrants are offered benefits advice. Health Visitors work directly out of a range of Children's Centres across the borough.
Children's Centres developed as hubs for multi-agency integrated teams, focused on support for Tier 3 families, as part of Early Help developments (see Priority 1.).
Reduce barriers to employment
Uptake of high-quality formal childcare continues to increase, average 3,648 in 2012, giving children's development a good start and enabling parents to attend work and generate household income.
The offer of free childcare places for two year-olds from disadvantaged families remains popular, projected to hit 200 by end of March 2013, up from 71 children in 2009 . Evidence shows that these children are consequently more likely to access early years education. Funding for this offer is increasing and it is projected that 1,100 children will be able to access a place in 2014.
The new Havering Apprentice Training Agency is increasing opportunities across the borough and targeted work in colleges is focused on reducing the risk of young people moving into long-term unemployment. More than 500 young people have entered into an apprenticeship in Havering, exceeding our targets.
4.9% of Havering 16-19 year-olds are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), lower than national, London and statistical neighbour averages. A targeting toolkit, which identifies 13-15 year old pupils at risk of becoming NEET, has been implemented in all schools, following a successful pilot.
Improve financial wellbeing
The Financial Inclusion Strategy was approved in June 2012 with an embedded action plan. The six themes are Banking & saving; access to credit; increasing financial capability; home and contents insurance; addressing fuel poverty, and income maximisation.
To advance these themes, the follow actions have taken place or are underway: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- a Banking Liaison Officer appointed and leading discussions with banking sector- Front line staff are being trained to identify and support people who are victims of loan sharks- Discussions underway with local businesses in relation to expanding the reach of the Liberty Credit Union to their employees- Residents are being supported to safely release equity from their homes to pay for refurbishments / repairs, avoiding loan sharks, so that older and vulnerable residents are able to stay in their homes for longer and avoid costly residential care- Care Point (through its shop in Romford High Street) offers support with money management

- All new Council home residents receive a welcome pack detailing how to access home and contents insurance
- Welfare Rights Unit (Social Care and Learning) supporting residents to maximise their benefits take-up

Address health inequalities

Health inequalities are intertwined with deprivation levels. A key influence on health outcomes is education. Access to services is also a major influence on health equality. All partners are working together to identify and address health inequalities.

Examples include delivering an influenza vaccination programme to children with complex health conditions, delivering MEND programmes in schools to tackle childhood obesity (by improving eating habits and increasing physical activity), and contracting smoking cessation services.

4. Reduce teenage conceptions and terminations rates

When this was chosen as a priority for the Children's Trust, teenage conception rates had been increasing, contrary to a national and London-wide downward trend. Before the introduction of the current prevention strategy in 2010, Havering's local conception figures were worryingly high with 190 conceptions in 2009 – a rate of over 40 per 1,000 girls. In 2011, this had fallen to 131 conceptions – a rate of just 28 per 1,000 girls (below the national and regional rates). This is the lowest ever rate of teenage conceptions in this borough and is testament to the effectiveness of the well-coordinated partnership working which has been central to the work to achieve this priority.

Access to Contraceptive and Sexual Health (CASH) services

Condom Card (C-Card) registrations continue to increase, with a high number of repeat visits. The Havering C-Card scheme is the highest performing in London. Over 4,000 young people are registered, 63% of whom are male.

The most commonly-used outlets are local colleges and Youth Zone. New schemes are in place with Lloyds Pharmacy (it is hoped that more of their premises will adopt it) and the Lead Nurse Specialist for Looked After Children (LAC) Team provides C-Cards at each LAC's annual review. Two GP practices are part of the scheme, in Harold Hill and central Romford (TP hotspots). Work is underway to convince other GP practices of its merits. In local sexual health surveys, young people cite GPs as a prime source of information and advice so linking provision of C-Cards to these locations will be beneficial for young people.

Six schools based in three TP hotspots (Harold Hill, Rainham, and Romford) have joined the C-Card scheme; a first for Havering.

15,000 foldout wallet-sized young persons' sexual health information booklets have been distributed through C-Card centres, NHS walk-in centres and other key locations. Initial print-run was 5,000 but demand far outstripped this initial supply.

Further information and advice is available through a Facebook campaign, teenage pregnancy pages on the LB Havering website and the TXTM8 free 24hr text service. The Facebook page has been visited 4,700 times since its launch in May 2012.

Targeted work with vulnerable groups
<p>The targeted sexual health service, Youngaddaction, and Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) have collaborated in the development of effective referral pathways for at-risk teenagers and make tailored interventions. Youngaddaction is the current provider of the young people's substance misuse service; there are proven links between teenage conceptions and young people's use of drugs and alcohol.</p> <p>The referral pathways include six secondary schools / academies in TP hotspots, the Youth Offending Service, the Phoenix Counselling Service and the CYPS 12+ team.</p>
<p>Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) has been targeted at six schools in high-risk areas. Each school has received £2k for teacher development and delivery of improved SRE lessons. In the most recent Sexual Health Survey of young people, 90% of respondents stated they had received SRE, with two-thirds rating the education positively.</p>
Workforce development
<p>Since April 2012, three providers have delivered specialist courses to 280 staff who work with children and young people. The most popular course covers sex, drugs and alcohol, which aims to raise awareness of causal links and how to provide effective interventions and achieve lasting outcomes.</p>

5. Support complex families

There has 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. The aim is not to create a new service; rather, to re-design our existing services and improve cooperation with partners to maximise the impact of our interventions. The step change is to ensure that the needs of the whole family, rather than individual members, are considered together and that agencies collaborate to deliver services which are in line with the whole family assessment.

The direction from central government usefully aligns with the approach we were already taking; the council will receive £700 for every family with whom lasting positive outcomes are achieved. These outcomes fall into three areas: reduction in unemployment, improved attendance at school, reduced anti-social behaviour and youth crime.

In January 2013, representatives from the Department for Communities and Local government, who sponsor the Troubled Families work nationally, visited Havering and were delighted with the progress made, particularly in relation to the relationships forged with partners and teams which are helping to develop new systems and processes for achieving sustained outcome improvements for families.

Identifying families
The Troubled Families (TF) Programme is on track to identify 166 families with multiple complex risk factors in its first year (415 is target over three years). The Programme, through close work with partners and detailed research, has identified myriad very vulnerable families who are currently supported by a plethora of agencies.
Some families identified by partners do not meet the government criteria even though current circumstances are complex. Although they cannot be brought into the Programme and be subject to the payment-by-results system, these families do already receive services and, as the TF Programme develops, agencies who had previously worked in isolation are exploring ways to collaborate and align their services.
Redesigning services
Families, some of whom have been part of Family Intervention Projects (FIPs), are assisting with journey mapping to help inform the best approach to take.
TF Programme is assisting the development of the Tier 3 multi-agency teams working out of children's centres (mentioned in Priority 1, above). This includes funding a CAMHS worker, a Domestic Violence worker, and training and development for the teams.
The Programme is joint funding a volunteer coordinator post with Action For Children, who are implementing a new Family Partners project (similar to FIP) in Harold Hill, with neglect as the target issue. This will assist in development of Family Graduates and Family Advocates, who will be critical to success of TF Programme. Family Graduates are former service users; Family Advocates are former professionals.
The Programme is working alongside Job Centre + to explore opportunities to use the Flexible Support Fund to access employment for the TF cohort.

5. Improve access to high-quality therapies

Access to effective therapies has been a concern for parents and professionals alike. The broad themes of activity for this priority are to redesign services, to improve commissioning and collaboration with partners, and to ensure that we are able to intervene early and enable maximum independence.

Speech and Language Therapy (SLT)
Investment in 2010-11 (£270k into Health, £85k into Education) has delivered tangible improvements to provision of this essential service. Limitations remain in some areas of service, e.g. Hearing Impairment; work is underway to train Teaching Assistants to provide a degree of support and allow the qualified SLT therapists and technicians to support children with more complex needs.
Work is underway Priorities over the next 12 months include improved provision in Secondary schools and improved provision for Hearing Impairment.

Redesign services
Work is ongoing to redesign CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service), based on a clear understanding of local needs and customer requirements.
A strategic Health review is underway concurrently across ONEL (Outer North East London), in which the council's Children's Commissioner is involved. The aim is to develop more integrated commissioning and provision of services across ONEL, with greater collaboration between Health, social care and education agencies.
A priority for the redesigned service is to ensure that the voice of the service user and the family is involved in Commissioning and decision making.
Children's Social Care are also working closely with Health on this review; a joint working group has been established to ensure that flexibilities are built into the contract, particularly in light of the new ways of working required to meet the Troubled Families agenda.
The CAMHS Partnership Board is re-established and is consistently well-attended by partners. This group plays an integral role in ensuring that mental health services for CYP in Havering meets identified needs.
Improve commissioning and collaboration
The council will continue its work to develop more robust commissioning frameworks, to deliver improved value for money through consistent standards from multiple providers and strengthened monitoring arrangements. Substantial commissioned areas so far addressed include Domiciliary Care provision and Respite Care provision (ref. the Short Breaks tender in Priority 1).
The Transitions project continues to progress well, with the aim of improving clients' transition between care as a child to care as an adult. The work has been subsumed into wider work to prepare for the impact of the forthcoming SEN Bill.
There is now improved information passing between to the two care services, and established governance arrangements for planning for young people's transition. In many cases, the aim is to provide sufficient support at an early stage, as young as 13 or 14, to improve the young person's independence, particularly if they are unlikely to be eligible for Adult Social Care services.
There is a dedicated workstream which identifies young people with disabilities who need significant levels of support and who are within a year of their 18 th birthday. 21 young people have thus been identified and work is underway to analyse their medical history and ascertain the level of support they will receive as an adult.
As well as improving the independence for these young people, the Transitions work will deliver cost avoidance savings for the Council, with £39k identified so far in 2012-13.
Early targeted interventions to increase independence
29 CYP have successfully completed the travel training programme with the Disability Association of B&D to help them to use public transport independently. A four-year travel training contract is in place to continue this service.
The most important benefit of the scheme is to the CYP involved and their families, although the work has also contributed to transport savings through reducing the number of CYP who use taxis or Council / external contractor bus transport.

The Children's Trust will continue to oversee and drive achievement against the CYPP priorities. Its bi-monthly meetings focus on one priority area, which allows more thorough discussion on progress, challenges and how to ensure that the priority objectives are achieved.

The changes to commissioning structures in light of the Health and Social Care reforms, including creation of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the development of the Health and Wellbeing Board, affect how each of the six priorities are to be progressed in the longer-term. The CYPP priorities are integrated into the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, so the priorities for the Children's Trust and the Health and Wellbeing Board are shared.

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 no background papers.



Haverling

L O N D O N B O R O U G H

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

4 June 2013

Subject Heading:

Draft Annual Report 2012/2013

CMT Lead:

Ian Burns
Acting Assistant Chief Executive
01708 432442

Report Author and contact details:

Lorraine Hunter-Brown
Committee Officer
01708 432436

Policy context:

Under the Council's Constitution, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to submit an annual report of its activities to full Council. As a Sub-Committee of the Children & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee, practice has been for the Corporate Parenting Panel's Annual Report to also be referred.

Financial summary:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

SUMMARY

This report is the annual report of the Panel, summarising the Panel'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.

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

The Corporate Parenting Panel is a sub-committee of the Children and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is constituted from the elected members of the Committee. The role of the Panel is to monitor services and care provided to Looked After Children in the care of the authority.

REPORT DETAILS

During the year under review, the Panel met on three occasions and dealt with the following issues:

1. Placement Stability

- 1.1 One of the key areas that the Panel investigated during the period of this report was the stability of placements for Looked After Children. Stability had given cause for concern in 2011/12, when statistics showed that 20% of children underwent a placement move, compared with a national average of 10.7% (statistics correct as at December 2011). In one case, a young person had been moved 15 times whilst in care. As a result, an improvement plan and stability audit was instigated within the service.
- 1.2 In order to monitor the efficacy of the new arrangements, the Panel agreed to follow the progress of three children that came into care in March 2013 to gauge the robustness of the new arrangements for placement stability. The panel receives updates on these cases at each meeting, and will continue to do so throughout the year.
- 1.3 The adoption diagnostic carried out by the DFE was discussed and the reasons why adoption can be difficult to achieve in a timely manner, it was noticed that the situation had improved greatly in 2012/13. There are currently 4 children awaiting adoption and the panel acknowledged that this was a complex area they want to monitor.
- 1.4 The local Authority is now part of a court pilot, to improve timescales for cases which reduces the uncertainty for children about what is to happen for the future.

- 1.5 The East London court project was formed as care proceedings at Stratford Court took longer than elsewhere and there had been particular difficulty proving threshold in neglect cases. The proposal is for courts now to make decisions in 26 weeks rather than the current 40-50.
- 1.5 Panel Members were concerned that the threshold for proving neglect was very stringent. A Family Law Review was undertaken to consider how children might be subjected to fewer re-assessments and avoid unnecessary delays.
- 1.6 The appointment of an in-house lawyer to support social workers in the preparation of court cases is expected to ameliorate the situation, and the plan is for the panel to be advised by the project manager of progress of the project.

2. Private Fostering Ofsted Inspection

- 2.1 Havering's private fostering provision was inspected by Ofsted, and was judged to be performing inadequately across the board. This situation has been discussed by Corporate Parenting Panel and the action plan scrutinised. The Panel has requested a full report on private fostering outcomes and an action plan.

3 Virtual Head Teacher - Annual Report 2012/13

- 3.1 At the meeting in March 2013, the Panel received the Annual Report of Havering's Virtual Head Teacher.
- 3.2 The Virtual School for Looked After Children was set up as a direct consequence of The Children and Young Person's Act 2008. As the title implies, the Virtual School does not exist in real terms, but is rather an organisation that co-ordinates educational services for Looked After Children at a strategic level.
- 3.3 The Panel noted that the Virtual School monitored the attendance and punctuality of all Looked After Children on its school register until the end of Year 11. Where there were concerns, the Virtual School worked with the school, social workers, the children and foster carers to remedy the situation.
- 3.4 Each young person receiving education in care has a Personal Educational Plan (PEP) devised in conjunction with the school, carers and social workers to support the young person in achieving educational success. The PEP is assessed every three months and has proved to be very successful in meeting regulations and supporting both social care and schools.
- 3.5 The challenges for the forthcoming year were to:
 - Narrow the gap in attainment between Looked After Children and their peers.
 - Act as an advocate for Looked After Children ensuring that they benefit from the best possible educational and learning opportunities and monitor the use of PPA.

- To work alongside agents and other professionals who support all Havering Looked After Children both within and outside the borough in either providing or commissioning additional learning.

4 Future Work Plan

4.1 The panel's future work programme will seek to build on the success of the past twelve months in holding officers to account. Plans include :

- Meeting with the Looked After Children Nurse and receiving the Health report.
- Looking at the type of accommodation provided for independent living once a young person leaves care and in particular the need to establish supportive landlords.
- Meeting children who have left care to hear of their experiences and see how this can improve the service for others.
- Meeting with the foster carers.
- Meeting with the children in council care and consider childrens views by receiving reports from Viewpoint the online survey of LAC.
- Meeting with the Childrens Society on the risk of children running away from care, sexual exploitation of children in care and children's advocacy.
- Members will attend the Total Respect training where possible delivered by young people.
- Meet with and receive the Annual Report of the Virtual Head and data on education of Looked After Children.
- Receive a report on private fostering updating the position post inspection.
- Consider the new responsibility of the Local Authority in providing LAC services to young people on remand in custodial establishments.
- Track the court project.



CHILDREN & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:

Draft Annual Report 2012/2013

CMT Lead:

Ian Burns
Acting Assistant Chief Executive
01708 432442

Report Author and contact details:

Lorraine Hunter-Brown
Committee Officer
01708 432436

Policy context:

To summarise the work of the
Council's Children & Learning
Overview and 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.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council note the 2012/2013 Children & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report and the 2012/2013 Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report.

REPORT DETAILS

During the year under review, the Committee met on 8 occasions and dealt with the following issues:

1. REQUISITIONS

- 1.1 The Committee held several special meetings during 2012/2013 to consider a number of requisitions relating to decisions made by Cabinet.

A special meeting was held on 9 August 2012 to consider two requisitions, the first relating to the Future Shape of Education Service on a decision made by Cabinet so as to ensure that the Council is able to meet its statutory obligations to support children, families and schools, but within a reduced funding envelope, thereby ensuring the provision of high quality schooling to local residents and protecting the most vulnerable children and families.

1.2 Future Shape of Education Services

The requisition was sought in order to clarify the following issues:

- a. There is no option identified to work with the existing model. Our services have a high buy in rate so what consideration has been given to expanding and growing these services even further into other boroughs?
- b. In recommendation 2 (b), who will be making the final decision?
- c. All of the options need to be discussed by the Children & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee voted not to uphold the requisition by 7 votes to 1 with 1 abstention.

1.3 Commissioning School Places Strategy

The second requisition related to Commissioning School Places Strategy for 2012/13-2015/16. The decision of the Cabinet was:

- a. To approve the draft Commissioning School Places Strategy 2012/13-2016/17 (CSPS).
- b. To approve the circulation of the draft CSPS for consultation to all stake holders in school place planning.

- c. To delegate the determination of the final CSPA, to the Cabinet Member for Children Service's and the Group Director for Children's Services.
- d. To note that a further report will be going to Cabinet in September 2012, which will set out the details of each expansion scheme, the consultation process and indicative costs and funding for each scheme.

1.4 The decision had been called in on grounds which included:

- a. To examine the availability of spare accommodation which would meet some of the increased demand.
- b. To examine the implications of the proposed strategy for home to school travel particularly relating to primary schools.
- c. To consider the financial difficulties those schools will face as a consequence of the increase in pupil numbers in the current funding arrangements.
- d. A perceived lack of consideration of options for the development of Academies or Free Schools.

The Committee voted not to uphold the requisition by 7 votes to 1 with 1 abstention.

1.5 Primary School Expansion

1.6 The Committee held a further special meeting on 11 October 2012 to consider a requisition relating to Primary School Expansion for 2012-2013.

1.7 The decision of Cabinet concerned a report on the proposals for primary school expansions in the borough for 2012-13, owing to a projected shortage of primary school places for September 2013. Based on the report (which was circulated to members of the Committee) made the following decisions:

- a. There are 15 schools listed for proposed permanent expansion from September 2013 to meet the projected deficit of primary places;
- b. The statutory processes are initiated to permanently expand the capacity of eight of those 15 schools by September 2013: Harold Court Primary; Harold Wood Primary; Pyrgo Priory Primary; St Patrick's Primary; Rise Park Infant and Junior schools; and Towers Infant and Junior schools;
- c. The proposal to expand Branfil Primary School from 1 September 2013 is commenced, following the Representation Period which ended on 31 August 2012;
- d. That officers take all necessary steps in order to deliver the expansion programme, including the submission of planning applications;
- e. That the commencement of a tendering process for construction/refurbishment works at issue of tenders for Harold Court Primary, Harold Wood Primary, Mead Primary, Parsonage Farm Primary, Rise Park Infant and Junior schools, Towers Infant and Junior schools, together with all associated investigations e.g. soil survey, and;
- f. That the final allocation of available Capital funding as detailed within the Cabinet report was to be delegated to the Lead Members for Children and

Learning and Value, and the Group Directors of Children's Services and Finance and Commerce.

1.8 The reasons for the requisition were noted on the formal notification and were detailed as follows:

- a. To review the selection of 15 schools and Branfil School set out in the Report to Cabinet for permanent expansion;
- b. to consider the capital and revenue financial risks predicted for the cost of expansion of the schools;
- c. to review the timetable to deliver the proposed expansions.

The Committee voted not to uphold the requisition by 8 votes to 4 with one abstention.

1.9 Merger of Children's Centre Activities

1.9 1 A further special meeting was called by the Committee on 6 March 2013 to consider a decision made by Cabinet regarding proposals for the merger of Children Centre activities around 6 hub sites. Alternative operators (such as Schools and Libraries) would run and maintain the other smaller and less-used sites, which would be decommissioned as Children Centres, but continue to provide early years services such as pre-school provision.

1.9 2 The reasons for the requisition were detailed on the formal notification and were detailed as follows:

- a. The decision appears to be counter to Central Government and the Councils policies on early intervention
- b. The decision does not appear to have taken due consideration to the rise in the birth rate
- c. To allow Overview & Scrutiny Committees to consider the impact of the Council taking responsibility for Public Health Policy before the closure of Children's Centres.

1.9 3 The Committee voted not to uphold the requisition by 9 votes to 3 with one abstention.

2 DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY

2.1 The Committee was informed about progress made to date from a report from the Young People at Risk Commissioner in reducing teenage pregnancy and substance misuse among young people in Havering. The rate of teenage pregnancy in Havering was above the England and London average with over 60% of conceptions terminated. In 2010, The Children's Trust Board approved the development and launch of a local Teenage Pregnancy (TP) Board with an overall strategic aim to reduce the under 18 years teenage conception rate in the borough by 15%.

2.2 Evidence gathered in the consultation survey in 2010 amongst young people aged 13 years to 19 years by the Havering Teenage Pregnancy Board was used to formulate the Action Plan for 2012-13 whose key priorities were:

- Commission the Integrated Youth Service to deliver the Phoenix teenage Pregnancy Counselling Service and coordinate the delivery of the free Condom Card Scheme
- Commission Young add action, the young people's substance misuse service provider to deliver the targeted Sexual Health Support Service
- 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.
- Commission Living Well to provide the "TXTM8" service, the free 24hr sexual health information and advice text service for young people.
- 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.
- 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 and sexually transmitted infection courses.
- 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.

Review and update the "Only Way is Safer Sex" Facebook campaign and Teenage Pregnancy & Contraception pages on the LBH website.

- 2.3 The Committee are pleased to report that Havering continues to experience a reduction in the number of teenage conceptions that contributed to and strengthened a consistent downward trend in numbers and pregnancy rates in Havering (a trend that began in early 2009).
- 2.4 The Committee also considered progress and actions taken to tackle substance misuse of drugs and alcohol amongst young people.
- 2.5 Havering's strategic priorities in this area were commissioning, improving services, partnerships and digital worlds. The latter of these was about responding to and exploring new digital opportunities and maximising current technology to provide information, advice and support to young people, parents and professionals whilst recognising the need for reliable on-line sources of accurate information which young people could trust.
- 2.6 A local schools survey asked 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 included:
- 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 others drinking or being drunk. 29% reported that they had never felt unsafe.

- 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.
- 76% of pupils reported that they were satisfied with the information about drugs and alcohol at school.
- 48% of pupils reported drinking alcohol within the last 12 months while 52% reported that they had never drunk alcohol.
- 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.
- 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.
- 10% of pupils reported using drugs within the last 12 months which equates to 1,500 pupils.
- 4% of pupils reported using drugs “every day” which equates to 600 pupils.

2.7 The data above had informed the Substance Misuse Action Plan 2012-13 which had an over-riding purpose of ensuring that both the commissioned and youth offending services would be accountable to and working towards developing consistently high quality standards and arrangements for professionals, young people and their families. The Committee noted the key priorities for the 2012-13 action plan were:

- Commission a service to identify and build resilience with schools pupils with substance misusing parents.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Design, consult on and implement on-line user satisfaction surveys that invited professionals, young people and parents to comment on their experience of using the commissioned substance misuse service.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

3. MULTI –AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH)

- 3.1 The London Safeguarding Children Board, the Metropolitan Police, London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) and the Greater London Authority agreed in 2011 to take forward a London wide project bringing together partner agencies to work more closely together on information sharing. Poor information sharing has been a feature of many inquiries into child death tragedies including Peter Connelly in Haringey.
- 3.2 In Havering, agencies had been working closely together to establish a MASH in Mercury House. Progress had been very good. Although, Havering was not in the original first wave of MASH programmes, the police were now in Mercury House and health partners were recruiting to their post in the multi-agency team.
- 3.3 The Committee was informed that the priority areas that MASH sought to address were as follows:
- placement moves;
 - transfers to social care and the Youth Offending Service;
 - service planning not being informed by young people;
 - poor use of performance data, and;
 - the pace of change being too slow.
- 3.4 With a view to achieving the overarching themes, the triage/MASH 'pod' had been located in a refitted 4th floor of the North Wing of Mercury House. A police server had been installed along with a new IT system specially designed for MASH. Within MASH, there were three 'assessment pods', comprising:
- four social workers (including three senior practitioners);
 - two advanced practitioners;
 - a practice manager, and;
 - two administrative staff.
- 3.5 There was a single assessment framework that was being used to assist staff in dealing with cases that had increased complexity and to analyse cases in line with the Suffolk judgement.
- 3.6 There had been some improvements of referrals overall as a result of the MASH, although timescales remained a challenge. The next step was to re-launch and extend the hospital social care role in Queens and St Georges and to improve structures by utilising new technologies.
- 3.7 The Committee asked for more information around the specific time delays in the referral process and queried who coordinated the work between MASH and the Police.

4. TROUBLED FAMILIES

- 4.1 The Committee considered a report from the coordinator of Havering's Troubled Families programme.

- 4.2 In October 2011, the Department of Communities and Local Government announced the national Troubled Families Programme, whereby Government funding would be available to local authorities based on the likely prevalence of families with specific characteristics.
- 4.3 The Committee was informed that Havering's Troubled Families Programme was a merger of national and local initiatives. The programme had begun by plotting the areas of deprivation to identify the top 100 families.
- 4.4 The Committee was taken through the process by which the troubled families would be identified. The Government had established national thresholds that included education, crime and anti-social behaviour and work. To these three criteria Havering had added its own local, discretionary criteria.
- 4.5 So far, Havering had identified 170 families, with a further 415 target families. One family had 37 teams of agencies visit them, which demonstrated the importance of streamlining services and the ways in which the Troubled Families programme would tie-in with the MASH.

5. ACCESS TO FREE SCHOOL PROVIDERS

- 5.1 During 2012/13, the Committee also received a document outlining the criteria by which potential Free School Providers seeking to establish a Free School in the borough would be assessed.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES – COMPLAINTS & COMPLEMENTS

- 6.1 The Committee received the report on Complaints and Compliments for Children and Young Peoples Services where the Committee noted that this was reported separately owing to specific regulations.
- 6.2 It was noted that there were around 133 complaints during 2011/12 with 36 matters raised by MPs and Councillors. For 2011.12, 34 compliments were received in relation to the good work Children and Young People's Services had carried out. The Committee also noted that most complaints were initiated by parents and that the majority related to quality of services, alleged staff behaviour and disputed decisions.

7. CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE & GUIDANCE

- 7.1 The Committee noted that the education Act 2011 had inserted a new duty requiring schools to secure access to independent careers guidance for pupils in years 9-11as well as including options available in respect of 16-18 year olds with regards to education, training and apprenticeships. Schools would be able to work individually or in partnership to secure impartial careers guidance services. The Committee were also informed of the responsibilities of local authorities which were to encourage, enable and assist the participation of young people in education or training and to assist the most vulnerable or those at risk of disengaging with education or work.

7.2 The Committee established a topic group to investigate the new careers education, information, advice and guidance service that was to replace the old Connexions Careers Service.

8. SCHOOL TRANSPORT

8.1 At the February 2013 meeting, the Committee received a presentation from the Assistant Group Director (Commissioning) from Social Care and Learning regarding progress made with changes to the SEN Transport provision and also went on to discuss the School Travel Plans. Further to a request by the Committee in 2012, members considered a presentation from Havering's Smarter Travel Officer regarding school travel plans in the borough.

8.2 The Committee noted that a School Travel Plan (STP) was a document written by a school in consultation with its pupils, parents, staff, and local residents, which sought to address travel and transport issues in and around the school

8.3 The STP looked at how pupils and staff currently travelled to school, how they would prefer to travel and how the school could encourage more sustainable travel habits. An effective STP would be kept up to date, reviewed annually, and re-written every three years. School Travel Plans were usually voluntary and relied on the schools willingness to participate.

An STP was said to help schools by:

- Reducing traffic congestion and air pollution in and around the school site
- Improving personal and road safety skills
- Improving the health and fitness of pupils and staff - linked to improved academic results
- Establishing safer walking and cycling routes to school
- Enhancing relations with the local community

9. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

9.1 The Committee considered a report from the Manager, Additional Educational Needs regarding attendance data for schools/academies for the school years 2009-10 to 2011-12 and the work being undertaken by the Local Authority to support attendance in maintained schools and academies in the London Borough of Havering.

9.2 The Committee noted that the Government was placing high importance currently to improving school attendance and reducing the number of children with high levels of absences from schools/academies. The Committee also had regard to information concerning the overall rates of attendance and the rates of "persistent absence" for schools/ academies in the borough for the three school years from 2009-10 to 2011-12, providing comparisons with figures both national and for outer London boroughs.

- 9.3 The Committee noted that School staff, both teaching and non-teaching, were in the front line of the drive to improve attendance. While Local Authority staff could make a valuable contribution, teachers and others who worked in schools were in daily contact with pupils and could forge effective links with parents at a local level. It was essential that the promotion of good attendance was recognised at every school.

10. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

- 10.1 The Committee considered a report from the Principle Inspector, Havering School Improvement Services (HSIS) regarding the performance of all schools in the borough over the previous academic year.
- 10.2 The report summarised the 2012 performance of Havering primary and secondary schools/academies in key stage assessments, tests and examinations.
- 10.3 The Committee noted that 2012 was another successful year for Havering schools. Although early years results were mixed, Havering enjoyed its best ever results at Key Stages 1 and 2. There was a fall for the first time at GCSE, due to the outcomes of the English results, which were a national phenomenon. For the second year running, Havering had no schools or academies below the government floor standard (60% L4 joint En/Ma at Key Stage 2, and 40% A*-C (inc En/Ma) at GCSE).

11. MODULAR SCHOOL BUILDINGS/SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT/CHILD CARE

In the final meeting of the Municipal year, the Committee received a presentation regarding the use of Modular School buildings in local schools as well as updates on the Havering School Improvement Strategy and the Child Care Sufficiency Assessment.

12. CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee approved the Annual Report for the Corporate Parenting Panel 2012/2013.