

Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Thursday 22 February 2018

7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1
2QH

Supplemental Agenda

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Date: 20 February 2018



Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on Monday 27 November 2017 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair)
Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Karl Eastham
Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Kath Whittam
Martin Brecknell
Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer

OTHER MEMBERS

PRESENT:

OFFICER SUPPORT: Nina Dohel, Director of Education
Terry Segarty, Head of Standards
Bridget Nichola, CCG Designated Clinical Officer for SEND
Kate Moriarty-Baker, CCG Director of Quality and Chief Nurse will be attending for representing health.
Yvonne Ely, Head of SEN & Inclusion, Children's and Adults' Services
Shirley Walker, Head of Service Children with Disabilities, Transitions, Out of Hours and National and Specialist CAMHS Social Workers
Julie Timbrell, scrutiny project manager
Sunil Chothi, Independent Sen advocate
Mrs Helen Poyton, Chair of Southwark primary Headteachers

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 There were apologies for absence from Councillor Samantha Jury – Dada.

1. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

2.1 There were no urgent items of business.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

3.1 There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

5. SCHOOLS PERFORMANCE

Nina Dohel, Director of Education, and Terry Segarty, Head of Standards, presented highlights from the draft 'Best start in life -Southwark School standards report 2016-17', circulated with the agenda.

The chair then invited comments and questions from the committee:

- It would be beneficial if we could track the number of care leavers on the Council apprenticeship program.
- How are the new arrangements for the virtual headteachers going? The Director responded that there will be a report by the virtual headteachers.
- Some groups of children and young people are under achieving; what are we doing to tackle this? The Head of Standards commented that Early Years is important and also ensuring there is a wide and broad curriculum so we are engaging all children from different backgrounds. It is also working out the barriers to progress for individual children. There can sometimes be a few and identifying what these are can best be addressed by schools through tracking progress.
- A member commented that the report very much focuses on a level and raised concerns that the council is not focusing on BTECs and more vocational courses post 16. The Director commented that this report is focusing on national benchmarks. The data set is harder to grasp for other qualifications – though the council could explore this. Presently officers are dependent on DFE data. To get other data officers would need to establish agreements with education providers and colleges.
- Members raised concerns about schools unfairly removing or encouraging young people to leave to keep the exam rate statistics high. The officers said that schools do have a range of practices at end of a year, such as interviews and advice. Members pressed the point and asked if concerns had been raised about young

people coming under pressure to leave. Officers said that they would follow that up, however they have not had to do that with any families. Members asked if it would be possible to compare data on admissions and completion rates. Officers confirmed that they could look at that.

- Do you share good practice between schools? Officers do have strand of work looking at this and there is good formal and informal sharing. One of Southwark's strengths is headteachers willingness to share. The council have also documented particular pieces of work on key stages, such as phonics.
- What about variations across Multi Academy Trusts? Trusts will look at these themselves. Members could invite them to attend.
- What about the more able? School do share good practice and Ofsted measure progress: all children are expected to progress and some are expected to make accelerated progress.
- What about the technical and other professions? The Director responded that the Secondary headteachers network, SASH, and the council are working on the Southwark Skills Strategy with headteachers. This issue does exercise our headteachers as they do want a range of options for young people post 16. This was a subject that a previous scrutiny review focused on helpfully.

6. UPDATE ON SCHOOL FUNDING

The Director of Education reported the picture is looking better than the original proposal but still a real term reduction. Members said this was significant. There is problem about transfers between high and low needs .Members commented that the small marginal increase provided post-consultation is not a good picture, particularly given the other pressures schools are facing and we ought not to be grateful.

The Director of Education was asked about the problem with recruitment. She responded that it is getting increasingly hard to recruit. There is a move to get younger, less experienced teachers. There are more freedoms on pay however these do not necessarily translate into an increased ability to retain and recruit, which is not all about pay: research shows that people can get paid a lot but still leave.

7. ADMISSIONS

This item was postponed.

8. EDUCATION HEALTH AND CARE PLANS (EHC)

This session will look at the process for developing EHC plans in Southwark, bringing together representatives from education, health and social care to see how this important joint working benefits children and young people with EHC plans. The following contributed to the discussions:

- Bridget Nichola, CCG Designated Clinical Officer for SEND
- Kate Moriarty-Baker, CCG Director of Quality and Chief Nurse will be attending for representing health.
- Yvonne Ely, Head of SEN & Inclusion, Children's and Adults' Services
- Shirley Walker Head of Service Children with Disabilities, Transitions, Out of Hours and National and Specialist CAMHS Social Workers, Children's and Adults' Services
- Nina Dohel, Director of Education
- Sunil Chothi, Independent Sen advocate
- Mrs Helen Poyton – Headteacher, Chair of Southwark primary Headteachers

The following issues, comments and questions were raised in the roundtable:

- The Head of SEN & Inclusion said that the service had formally been working with the Parent & Carers Forum, and now they have a parent consortium guiding the work.
- The service is focusing on one page plan, and has received good feedback on this approach.
- It is harder to transfer plans from the old SEN format to the new ECHP as they are difficult to move well.
- We have a good Local Offer that is easy to find on a smartphone - (with a youth offer sitting alongside that).
- Previously the Local Offer was for 0-19, now 0-25. The 16 to 25 segment has been most challenging: colleges have found it befuddling but are getting on board.
- The volume of work has gone up.

- Developing outcomes is one thing but delivering them is another.
- The Headteacher commented that the council is doing great work, however the problem is the funding gap to do this work well as we have many children with high needs and expectations. Resources are not keeping pace with demands.
- Independent Sen advocate commented that the e partnership work and also pace of doing transfers is very good in Southwark.
- Do we have sufficient provision in mainstream and specialist provision? The short answer is no; we do not have enough in borough places. We do have a capital plan which will enable a rebuild of Cherry Gardens School and an autistic free school. Both will have a nursery. Our local authority and academy school do an excellent job and do very well.
- Do we have plans in place for advocacy? This is a tricky issue particularly when young people hit 16 as then they have ownership of their plan, but not always mental capacity and parents are often much invested in caring role. We do have advocate for young people.
- How do you evaluate the plans with children and parents? Officers said an independent expert contacts people every year. It has showed increased satisfaction. An online survey is there but we found ringing people works well
- What happens when a plan is agreed? The plan is costed and then officers look at the funding band. Southwark puts this down so it is clear. The Headteacher this is good and we break down our provision further in school. The school puts in £6,000 per child.
- What about the therapeutic support for Looked After children that might come up? There is a lower threshold for CAMHS. If needed officers would fund this.
- Independent Sen advocate noted Southwark quantified plans in bands. He asked if there are challenges over the hours required as this can be a disputed area. Officers said these are often detailed in the plan. Officers said that they do sometimes go though mediation (a formal process) as a prelude to a possible tribunal. This does sometime look at this issues and usually finds a resolution.

- There was a comment that the e-learning course for professional was useful. Officers were asked if they had thought about opening this up to families.

9. WORK-PLAN

The work-plan was noted.



Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 6 February 2018 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair)
Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Samantha Jury-Dada
Martin Brecknell

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Victoria Mills

OFFICER SUPPORT: David Quirke -Thornton, Strategic Director of Children's and Adults' Services
Alasdair Smith, Director, Children's , Families and Adults' Services
Nina Dohel, Director of Education
Andrew Fowler, Head of Service, Children's and Adults' Services

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 There were apologies for absence from Councillors Eastham and Rose.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

2.1 There were no urgent items of business.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

3.1 Cllr Ali disclosed she worked for TACT in a policy role advocating for fosters carers and Looked After children and young people.

4. MINUTES

Minutes for the 27 November 2017 will be taken at the following meeting.

VIDEO - OPENING THE MEETING

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZB6uP-ZNYY&list=PL_maFEOk7e9hOujaLtoqNRoLJhT_nGuCw&index=1

5. INTERVIEW WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

The committee interviewed the lead cabinet member for Children and Schools, Councillor Victoria Mills, on her role.

The cabinet member recommended the committee ask Southwark Lewisham College to attend in May.

She also suggested that Southwark Change makers attend the planned scrutiny knife crime event to get a diversity of young people's voices.

The discussion identified that scrutiny of a planned refresh of the Domestic Abuse strategy may be a good use of committee time next year.

RESOLVED

There have been a number of constituent enquires regarding Dog Kennel Hill, some under FOI. Officers will get back to the chair on timelines and an update.

A follow up paper will be provided on Apprenticeships, addressing:

- How is the apprenticeship levy effecting SMEs
- Numbers of Care Leavers in apprenticeship – with data reasons for difficulties in providing this information

Next meeting will address the Fostering Stocktake report with a focus on commissioning.

VIDEO - CABINET MEMBER INTERVIEW

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UESa0yBocXs&list=PL_maFEOk7e9hOujaLtoqNRoLJhT_nGuCw&index=2

6. CATCH 22

Alasdair Smith, Director, Children & Families, and Andrew Fowler, Head of Service gave a short presentation that will be circulated following the meeting.

Members asked what the governance looks like. Officers said that so far this is simple project management. There is also a shadow board of young people. They are now looking at how longer term how these will link up with Corporate Parenting and other governance structures. The council will only create a separate vehicle if needed and justified.

Officers were asked about the impact of the Children and Social Work Act, which extended the rights of Care Leavers to support up until 25. Members asked if the council have told people of the extra support due. Officers said they have always helped people coming back. They are thinking about communication with young people up to 25 and a pilot. They anticipate that people with more complex needs will come back first. The additional duties start April 1 and officers are yet to hear about funding. The council are particularly looking are developing networks that last a lifetime.

VIDEO - CATCH 22

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnBL4yRxmTM&list=PL_maFEOk7e9hOujaLtoqNRoLJhT_nGuCw&index=3

7. EHCP MINI REVIEW

A visit to BOSCO took place in December.

8. WORKPLAN

The knife crime event will be moved to Wednesday 21 March, and an additional meeting on the 22 February added to particularly accommodate a visit by the Regional Schools Commissioner.

VIDEO - WORKPLAN

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQS7D8sbeRI&list=PL_maFEOk7e9hOujaLtoqNRoLJhT_nGuCw&index=4

Meeting notes with BOSCO, 21 December 2017.

Present: Cllr Cath Whittam, Darren Coghlan, Julie Timbrell

BOSCO work with about 70 students, 11 of whom have EHC Plans.

BOSCO is focused on meeting the needs of young people who are not served by other provision. A significant number are on the autistic spectrum, some are unaccompanied minors – who may be Looked After and /or have Right to Remain.

Darren commented that students can have varying degrees of need according to their EHC plans. Funding was previously agreed by the Learning Skills Council and then the Young People Learning Agency before being transferred to the local authority. Budgets allocated to the Local Authority were based on historic costing and not current needs. In the past very high funding levels were allocated to high needs students and this does cause issues currently.

He said that BOSCO has a Supported Intern's scheme that is working really well, and keeping young people in the borough. It is aimed at 18 – 25 year olds. They have supported employment for up to a year and the aim is to move them into sustained employment. They are looking to expand this programme. They are placing a much greater emphasis on employment opportunities.

The ECH plans do facilitate this. They can be over long though. They could benefit from simplifying.

One problem is there are different plans and forms for each authority and getting the same format across different boroughs would be helpful; this could be something that London Councils might be able to help with. Differentiating by different levels and the right focus might help so keeping just an education focus if that is the relevant issue. What about health and social care? Our plans are more focused on education as not such a high level of needs. Sometimes social care is included.

It would also be good to be more forensic and specific about what college and schools are providing. It could be beneficial to be more rigorous in assessing the quality of provision and if it is right for the young people and has appropriate values.

Local is very important. Historically some young people have been sent out of borough which is not beneficial long term. Post 17 – 18 years it is important to move students into employment and for young people to start to find an adult role in society. It can not just be a hamster wheel of provision. This can be difficult and time consuming - but that needs to be the aim.

BOSCO offered to send a case study of 'Alex' working in hotel. His is now part of the team and described his experiences as 'joyful'. The very slow introduction and steady work with the employer has produced an excellent outcome

EHC Plans are helpful. They provide a baseline. They do need to be underpinned by good relationships and communication with the young people.

Asked about problems Darren recommended a protocol around communication: officers can be quick to demand information but very slow to respond. He also recommended training around writing plans. BOSCO also need to be linked into the South Thames consortium/ partnership.

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**EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017-18**

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Updated: June 2017