

EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEISURE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Education, Children's Services and Leisure Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 10 July 2012 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G01C - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor David Hubber (Chair)
Councillor the Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Columba Blango
Councillor Sunil Chopra
Councillor Rowenna Davis
Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Cleo Soanes
Colin Elliott
Leticia Ojeda

OTHER MEMBERS

PRESENT:

OFFICER

SUPPORT:

Kerry Crichlow, Assistant director; strategy and support.
Jackie Cook, Head of social work improvement and quality assurance
Deborah Collins, Director of Environment
Adrian Whittle, Head of Culture, Libraries, Learning and Leisure
Claire Webb, Head of Policy
Shelley Burke, Head of Scrutiny
Julie Timbrell, Project manager

1. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Headteacher representative Nick Tildesley

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

- 2.1 There were none.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

3.1 There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

The minutes of last year's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting held on 23 April 2012 were agreed as an accurate record.

5. REVIEW INTO UNIVERSAL FREE HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS

5.1 The chair reported that the sub-committee had recently visited Comber Grove school to look at the delivery of Free Healthy School Meals (FHSM). The chair remarked that the school was doing amazing work in quite cramped conditions; furthermore, the children were very confident and charming.

5.2 A member remarked that the uptake of school meals was on the lower end. Kerry Crichlow, assistant director of strategy and support, commented that she would welcome the opportunity to give the sub-committee more detailed information on the uptake of meals since the introduction of FHSM.

5.3 The chair suggested that a visit to a school in the south of the borough would be good.

RESOLVED

Officers will update the draft report circulated internally on the visit to Comber Grove with additional information.

A visit will be scheduled to a primary school in the south of the borough.

6. ADULT LEARNING

6.1 The chair welcomed the adult education students, stakeholders and officers to the meeting. He noted that the issue had been first raised at Council Assembly and that everybody present would have had an opportunity to read the report submitted by Save Southwark Adult Learning (SSAL) and the officers' reports, which were all circulated in the meeting papers.

- 6.2 The chair invited Dr Vince Brown, SSAL, to introduce their report. Dr Brown started by noting that a new fee structure had been introduced in 2010 and that this added a repeat fee for art and leisure courses. He reported that this meant that for a typical three-hour class taken over 10 weeks, learners who paid the standard fee of £108 had to find £165 to repeat the course. Those entitled to a concessionary fee of £46.50 also had to pay the 'repeat fee' of £165. Dr Brown said that this had deterred people from coming back to do repeat courses.
- 6.3 Dr Brown then referred to two graphs in the report that he said illustrated the effect of repeat fees on cancelled classes. He held up two diagrams from Autumn 2009 and Spring 2011.
- 6.4 Dr Brown said that in his view the repeat fees should be the same as the initial fees, and not rise. He noted that Southwark's fees for classes were reasonable in comparison with other Adult Education providers and it was only the repeat fees that were problematic. He went on to say that the repeat fees had led to a collapse in the service and that SSAL had anticipated this and instead continued to campaign for a business model with low repeat fees and increased investment in marketing. He said this would enable the service to attract a high number of learners who would in turn generate sufficient revenue to sustain the service. Dr Brown praised the excellent quality of the courses, as highlighted by the recent good Ofsted reports. He ended by reiterating that repeat fees needed to go.
- 6.5 The chair invited other members of SSAL and users of the service to comment. A student commented that the whole principle of life long learning and access was at stake, because the courses had become so expensive they were now unaffordable and inaccessible.
- 6.6 The student noted that there had been major investment in Thomas Carlton but it was underused. She explained that participation in adult learning was also about being part of a community of learning, being active and enhancing well-being; she was concerned that this aspect was being lost.
- 6.7 A student commented that adult learning was often perceived as being fluffy and as merely a hobby, however she said that many of the participants were now practising artisans and artists, working professionally. She went on to note that Peckham was now a thriving artistic community and that there was an opportunity for Thomas Carlton to play an active role in this.
- 6.8 There was a comment by a service user that speaking as a disabled person it was not possible to just use another centre.
- 6.9 A student commented that her uncle was a tutor of the Pitmen

Painters and that she thought it important that people had an opportunity to develop. She reported that she left school at 16 and that these classes provided an opportunity for her to return to education and develop her artistic skills.

- 6.10 A student commented that service users loved their courses, but that the repeat fees meant they could now only do one term. She went on to say that you needed to build on a skill and that they were all fans of life long learning, and this meant continuity. She reported that she had wanted to do a course this autumn, but none were available at times that she could do.
- 6.11 A student showed a piece of art and said that he wanted to complete his sculpture, meet people and continue with his studies. Another student said that she had completed CLAiT 1 and 2.
- 6.12 Cllr Rowenna Davis, member of the sub-committee, commented that Thomas Calton was in her ward and that she was a fan of its provision. She explained that as a backbencher she would need to make representations to the cabinet member and that a request for extra money would be very difficult to meet given the current economic situation. She asked if there was a way forward. Dr Vince Brown replied that using the figures supplied by officers he estimated that if courses could attract fourteen students then they would make money, and 10 -12 would cover costs. He said that in his view the way forward was to promote the courses, and this meant, for example, that the website was updated and made more accessible. He reported that other colleges accepted payment online. Students involved in the campaign had offered to assist with going out and helping to spread the word and he had belief that this method would work. Dr Brown said that Southwark took a different course of high repeat fees that had the opposite effect and led to the closure of courses. He ended by saying that City Lit and Morley maintained their courses by investing in marketing, rather than high repeat fees.
- 6.13 A member of the audience said that she was a professor at Goldsmiths and that she had written to Thomas Calton explaining that they could be on a par with Morley College. She said that in her view the repeat fee was not the way forward. She noted that the quality of the teaching was excellent and that the college need to develop a proper recruitment and marketing strategy, and then the repeat fee would become redundant.
- 6.14 A student commented that enrolment on courses was incredibly complex with unnecessary barriers. She went on to say that students had offered to help promote the courses with stalls and to be ambassadors of the services, however they were told that they were not allowed to do this. A member asked who said this and the student responded that this was a tutor. She went on to say that when they had met with Cllr Ward, the former cabinet member for

adult education, they had offered to help with promotion. Students noted that a banner had recently gone up, and this was appreciated, however in their view just a beginning.

- 6.15 A member of the audience commented that the budgets of places such as Morley College and City Lit were not comparable with a place like Thomas Calton and he went on to comment that Thomas Calton was a learning centre not a college. He said that most of the people he represented were users of the ESOL service, which was very good. A student responded that ESOL is another part of the service, not the arts and leisure course, and is unaffected by the repeat fees. He responded that while he supported the campaign to abolish repeat fees Thomas Calton did not have the same capacity as Morley College.
- 6.16 A member of the sub-committee noted that students had reported that the timings of the course did not meet their needs, and wondered if better scheduling might help with increasing course numbers and thus help resolve the difficulties. Another member commented that he had first raised this, and there was a need for to look at delivery of adult education across the system and to work with officers on the financial structuring of the services. He said that he thought there should be an emphasis on the overarching review.
- 6.17 A member commented that the key issue seemed to be the need for more promotion and the repeat fee. She went on to say while Thomas Calton might not be a Morley or City Lit there still appeared to be an awful lot that could be done.
- 6.18 The chair invited officers to introduce themselves and respond to the comments received. Deborah Collins explained that she had recently been appointed as strategic director of environment, taking over from Gill Davies. She explained that she had lead responsibility for delivering this service with delivery being led by Adrian Whittle, head of culture, libraries, learning and leisure and strategy being led by Claire Webb, head of policy.
- 6.19 The strategic director commented that this review had been going on for nearly two years and generated a considerable number of reports and considered arguments, and that she looked forward to scrutiny's recommendations.
- 6.20 The head of culture, libraries, learning and leisure commented that the service had undertaken two workshops with service users, and at the request of the sub-committee, the service had run an additional workshop for students. The officer said that reports on all three workshops had been circulated with the papers.
- 6.21 He went on to draw members' attention to a few financial issues. Firstly, the officer reported that funding came externally from the

Skills Funding Agency, and this subsidised one course for one learner for one year. He explained that this meant if the service got 1000 learners and they took 6000 courses then the service only received funding for 1000 courses. He reported that there was no additional funding for courses given by the council, and that none was available, and this was the crux of the problem.

- 6.22 The head of culture, libraries, learning and leisure clarified that officers did not set fees and charges; this was a decision taken by the lead cabinet member based on officer advice. The officer reported that this decision could be called in by scrutiny.
- 6.23 The head of culture, libraries, learning and leisure reported that Ofsted also inspected the arts and leisure courses. He explained that the service was required to supply a huge amount of data and that he wanted everybody to be assured that this part of the service was rigorously inspected. The officer commented that the service now had 4500 learners, and this had been doubled through improved marketing.
- 6.24 The chair asked officers to clarify whether his understanding was correct that the funding from the Skill Funding Agency was there to subsidise the fees, but was otherwise not restricted. The head of culture, libraries, learning and leisure explained that other colleges had other sources of funding; for example, alumni contributed to funding pots. The chair asked the officer to clarify if Lewisham and Lambeth had extra funding sources and the officer replied that he thought that they did.
- 6.25 Dr Vincent Brown commented that when Dr Hans Meir, from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) gave evidence to the sub-committee he had made it clear that the service held flexibility in its charging decisions. Dr Brown commented that there was an alternative to funding pots and that this was funding. He said that he thought this was a viable alternative for these courses and that this rested on getting more people to do the courses; however the repeat fees undermined this course of action. Dr Brown then read from the Ofsted report, which noted students' aspirations to do more repeat courses.
- 6.26 The head of culture, libraries, learning and leisure said that if the council were to subsidize courses it would cost thousands of pounds. The strategic director of environment commented that the hypothesis was that this could be done; that it was a chicken and egg situation, because of the repeat fees. If the council were to take this route there would be a level of financial risk that the council would need to ensure that it had contingencies available if the business strategy failed to break even. In that event, there would need to be a subsidy. The strategic director also noted that the business approach advocated would need some up front investment in marketing to pump prime.

- 6.27 Claire Webb, head of policy, spoke about the wider vision she was developing. This would be looking at learning for young people and adults, and both courses for skills and employment. Corporate strategy were scoping the review now and when this was completed, she would bring it to the sub-committee.
- 6.28 The chair asked the head of culture, libraries, learning and leisure when the cabinet member would be taking her decision on fees and charges for adult learning, and he replied that this would happen in December or January. The chair requested that she take into account the discussions that had taken place in the scrutiny sub-committee. A member suggested recommending that the service consider underwriting the service so that it could become self-sustaining, and in any event, the website should be updated.
- 6.29 Dr Brown commented that unless repeat fees were abolished the service would collapse, and requested that the sub-committee make this recommendation to the Leader, Councillor Peter John. The chair emphasised that scrutiny was not a decision making body and could only make suggestions and recommendations to the cabinet member. He said that the sub-committee was sympathetic to SSAL's campaign and would ask the cabinet member to take into account all the submissions and discussions that had taken place at the sub-committee. Dr Brown announced that he would lobby Cllr Claire Hickson, cabinet member for adult learning, and explain that SSAL had the full sympathy of the sub-committee.

RESOLVED

The cabinet member will be given a record of the committee's submissions discussions and asked to take these into account when making the decision on fees and charges for Adult Learning.

The minutes of the relevant scrutiny committees will be consulted to ascertain if officers made any statements concerning conditions attached to SFA funding and use of the Thomas Calton building, and about consultation with voluntary groups delivering services at the centre.

7. DOMESTIC ABUSE - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 7.1 The chair invited Jackie Cook, head of social work improvement and quality assurance, to present. The officer explained that the initiative was jointly commissioned by the Safer Southwark Partnership, and worked on research and promoting good practice. A scrutiny review on Domestic Abuse was being produced by the Housing, Environment, and Transport & Community Safety

Scrutiny Sub-Committee and was nearing completion.

- 7.2 The officer referred to the presentation and explained that domestic abuse was defined as, "any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality". The officer explained that the main characteristic of domestic violence was that the behaviour was intentional and calculated to exercise power and control within a relationship.
- 7.3 The officer explained that the majority of perpetrators were male and heterosexual. Domestic abuse accounted for approximately 6.5 - 7% of all recorded crime in Southwark. About 20% of recorded crime in Southwark was classified as violence against the person. One in every four of these violent crimes was linked to domestic abuse. Research suggested that a victim would experience thirty-five incidents until the first report.
- 7.4 In Southwark, 40% of Merlin referrals were domestic abuse related. A Merlin referral takes place from the police to social services. These referrals represented a massive proportion of Southwark Council's overall referrals. 30% of these referrals triggered initial assessments. The council did not have the capacity to look at all the referrals. Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) looked at the most serious cases; there were 254 children and young people that the council was extremely concerned about.
- 7.5 The officer referred to research that indicated that domestic abuse was linked with poor outcomes, and the longer the abuse continued the more this impacted on the children.
- 7.6 The officer spoke about the people involved and explained that the majority of perpetrators were men, and where men were victims, or women were perpetrators, this was usually in a homosexual relationship. There were only usually about two incidents a year of women acting as perpetrators in heterosexual relationships. African Caribbeans were over represented in recent Southwark figures as both victims and perpetrators of abuse. However the new domestic abuse service was carrying out careful monitoring and would eventually give the council a more precise measure of this.
- 7.7 Research indicated that around 52% of children on child protection plans had experienced domestic abuse. Domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental ill health were the 'toxic trio' and the three key factors most likely to feature in child deaths and serious injuries. Domestic abuse was the single most common factor.
- 7.8 The Safer Southwark Partnership, the local community safety

partnership, had a duty to tackle crime and disorder in the local area, including domestic violence (Crime and Disorder Act 1998).

- 7.9 The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act and the Children's Act (2004) placed a duty of care on local authorities to provide services to victims of domestic abuse, including children. Duties had recently increased to include a duty to conduct domestic violence homicide reviews. The officer commented that they were doing a review now of a death and the woman involved was highly mobile - moving every three months. The officer explained that the Housing Act 1996 allowed local authorities to prevent domestic violence in the context of housing management functions and it also placed duties on the council which could be extremely expensive for councils.
- 7.10 The officer outlined the new service. Southwark Advocacy and Support Services (SASS) – run by Solace Women's Aid provides the Domestic Abuse service from April 1 2012. This included:
- A borough wide service, with a new centre for domestic violence and a single point of entry – one phone number, one email
 - 24/7 access to the service
 - Improved response time to high risk victims
 - Improved outcomes in reducing victimisation and risk
 - A perpetrator programme
 - Specialist support programmes for children and young people
 - Other benefits including a service user forum and a volunteer programme
- 7.11 The chair asked the officer if children could use the telephone service. The head of social work improvement and quality assurance responded that young people aged 16 – 18 might well use the service and that there was growing concern about violence in relationships between young people.
- 7.12 Shelley Burke, head of scrutiny, commented that work was done with mothers and the officer explained that this was to get knowledge from survivors to improve outcomes. The officer explained that around 10% of the budget went on this. She went on to explain that there was a perpetrator programme involving fathers in child protection plans more effectively.
- 7.13 The officer explained that that they were seeking champions from each department to champion the service and monitoring the

outcomes monthly. She reported that initially they had received a high number of referrals but this appeared to be calming down a little. The project was aiming to improve the quality of MARAC decision making and improve the Merlin referral and assessment process. The service was aiming to refer perpetrators to programmes.

- 7.14 The officer referred to two programmes started through successful bidding for Daphne funding: Safe Healthy and Equal Relationships (SHER) and the Hedgehogs Project. The projects supported young people in preventing domestic/dating abuse and sexual exploitation respectively. The Hedgehogs Project has had a very positive evaluation and the service intended to roll this out.
- 7.15 The officer said that the Domestic Abuse programme was also working on the 'troubled families' initiative' which was particularly aimed at families not in work. Eric Pickles had reported that 'troubled families' cost the tax payer 9 billion pounds a year. There was also a small grant to support work with Youth Clubs to raise awareness around domestic abuse.
- 7.16 The chair invited members to ask questions. A member asked about early intervention and the officer responded that the service worked with teenagers to encourage good relationships. She commented that 20% of all women experience abuse and that the service worked with those cases that were referred to social workers or the police.
- 7.17 A member asked if the service was working with faith groups and commented that economic pressures were raising the likelihood of violence. The officer responded that the initiative was looking to involve more faith community representatives in the working group.
- 7.18 A member noted that raising awareness was very important, particularly of the psychological impact within ethnic minority communities, as domestic abuse could be a hidden problem inside the home. The officer commented that domestic abuse was spread evenly, however some groups were particularly vulnerable, for example women who had no leave to remain in the country.
- 7.19 The officer was asked if the service tracked children removed from school and he was assured that they did, and that there was an active group looking at this. The vast majority were tracked down, however around 10% were not and these were put on a central schools' list.
- 7.20 A member requested that the officer return to the slide with the definition of domestic abuse. He said that he accepted that this was a Home Office definition but asked for a clarification of the term "economic abuse". The head of social work improvement and quality assurance explained this was about the withholding of

money and one of the reasons child benefit was paid to women.

- 7.21 The member went on to comment that while he thought some 'outbursts' could be calculated, did the officer agree that sometimes an outburst might be an angry response to provocation? Another member said that she would certainly challenge that. The officer responded that evidence, such as the DVIP research, indicated that people did have control over their actions; for example, the vast majority of domestic abuse incidents occurred in the home, and this suggested that the perpetrator had a degree of control. The member commented that some perpetrators might not be able to prevent themselves – it might be a spur of the moment reaction as part of a row between a couple; for example a slap or similar. He then asked how the officer would distinguish between domestic violence and bullying and asked if the term bullying might be better applied in some cases. The officer responded that domestic abuse was about power and reminded the sub-committee of the different types of abuse: physical, economic, emotional, financial and psychological.
- 7.22 The member went on to ask about violence that happened outside the home. Another member commented that she did not think it mattered if the violence was a one off issue or a pattern of abuse; if someone is not in control they should be in a mental institution. She felt that the member should apologise to the officer.
- 7.23 The member then said that she wanted to pose a question about the likelihood of childhood victims becoming perpetrators. The officer said that there was no firm evidence of a correlation. There was some research and anecdotal evidence that if there was violence in the family then there was more likelihood of a victim becoming a perpetrator, however it could also have the opposite effect.
- 7.24 A member of the public said that he had not expected to hear such comments in a council meeting. He added that if abuse was defined like this was then it went on in every home. He then said that on the estate where he worked, economic power was shifting to women and this could make men angry
- 7.25 A member asked whether the Safer Southwark Partnership put out literature advising victims on how to spot the signs of possible domestic abuse and avoid it and giving step-by-step instructions to take action.
- 7.26 The officer said it was not that simple. She also noted that women in vulnerable situations were most likely to be abused and that it was when women decided to seek help that they were most at risk and therefore most in need of support .
- 7.27 The chair thanked the head of social work improvement and quality

assurance for her presentation and invited her to return in six months time.

RESOLVED

There will be an update on Domestic Abuse in 6 months. The scrutiny report on Domestic Abuse, produced by the Housing, Environment, Transport & Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee, will be circulated, alongside the cabinet response.

8. WORK PLAN

- 8.1 The chair opened the discussion on the work plan by recommending that the sub committee continue the practice of annually interviewing the independent chair of the children's safeguarding board. He reported that he had recently spoken with Ofsted as part of the inspection of Southwark safeguarding. Kerry Crichlow, Assistant Director Strategy & Support, informed the committee that the council has received back the results of the inspection, which had been good, with Southwark was graded as having an outstanding 'capacity for improvement'.
- 8.2 Sub committee members indicated that cabinet member interviews and attendance to cover aspects of their portfolios should take place, and that March would be a good time for the interview of Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle, cabinet lead for Children's Services.
- 8.3 The chair commented that it would be useful to continue to look at families in difficulty and facing challenging situations; recent reviews had focused on this theme and the CSV pilot programme is particularly relevant to this area.
- 8.4 The sub committee discussed undertaking a review on the role of local authorities in education. The chair commented that he had recently read an excellent report on this subject and requested a copy be circulated to the sub committee.
- 8.5 Members indicated that a review on bullying , considering both school and council policy in supporting vulnerable children and reducing abusive and poor peer relations would be worthwhile.
- 8.6 A member indicated that a report on the Olympic legacy would be useful.
- 8.7 Swimming pools in Southwark and their efficient provision was raised by a member and it was agreed that a report would be requested on this.
- 8.8 A member commented that young people from Southwark Youth Council and Speaker Box have raised concerns about the

transition from school into training and employment and that a report on this would be helpful.

- 8.9 The chair thanked the sub - committee for their contributions and invited members to make any further suggestions for review items via email.
- 8.10 A member of the public, Mr Junior McDonald, asked the chair if he could make a comment about the previous item on Adult Education, as he had been unable to attend earlier in the evening. The chair invited him to comment and Mr McDonald explained that he was from CYPA and represented voluntary organisations that delivered services from Thomas Calton centre. He went on to say that he thought that council officers had wrongly stated at previous scrutiny committee meetings that the £750,000 received from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) had a condition attached which stated that if adult services did not have 100% use of Thomas Calton then these funds would need to be repaid. He also stated that he thought council officers had suggested at a scrutiny meeting that all voluntary sector organisations at Thomas Calton had been consulted prior to refurbishment plans.
- 8.11 He said that he believed that these statements had been made, and they were inaccurate. In particular he said that it would have been inaccurate for officers to state that there were conditions attached to the grant funding by SFA. He alleged that because of this inaccurate information many voluntary organisations had been displaced from the centre.
- 8.12 The senior legal officer, Sarah Feasey, advised the chair, on behalf of the Monitoring Officer, that there are legal proceedings between the CYPA and the council in relation to Thomas Calton centre. She advised that it would therefore not be appropriate for the the sub-committee to consider matters which are before the court. Mr McDonald responded by stating that although a Section 25 Notice is the subject of litigation the issue of inaccurate submissions made to this committee is something which should be addressed by this committee.
- 8.13 The chair requested that the minutes of the relevant scrutiny committees be consulted to ascertain if officers had indeed made these statements. [This resolution is recorded under the relevant Adult Education item].

RESOLVED

Work Programme 2012/13

Set piece interviews

Safeguarding – annual report and interview of Independent chair - April

Cabinet member interviews:

Cllr Veronica Ward: Olympics and Leisure – 12 September

Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle: Children – 12 March

Cabinet member invited to participate:

Cllr Claire Hickson: 26 November

- Adult Education (invite officers, SSAL, and other service users).
- Economic development & young people, see below presentation and report request.*

Regular items

Rotherhithe School and Southwark Free Schools – update reports each meeting.

Twice yearly attendance at 26 November and 12 March by Southwark Youth Council & Speakerbox, alongside review of Children's and Young People's Plan (CYPP)
(Coinciding with cabinet members' attendance/ interviews with Cllr Hickson and Cllr Dixon-Fyle).

Monitoring of cabinet members reports in response to the following reviews: Obesity and Sports Provision (February), and Support for parents and carers of disabled children and young people (November).

Presentations and reports

Olympics - measuring the impact (September).

Swimming pools - is our provision efficient and meeting community needs (September).

*The work of the council in supporting young people transition from school to collage and work. How do we promote and support young people to access jobs, training and work qualifications (November)

Supporting parents in challenging situations: update report on the work being done by CSV to support parents (January)

Learning and improvement in local safeguarding
Safeguarding report (September).

Update on Domestic Abuse including cabinet response to the scrutiny report produced by Housing, Environment, Transport & Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee (January).

Reviews

1. Review of universal Free Healthy School Meals
2. Bullying - school and council policy in supporting vulnerable children and reducing abusive and poor peer relations.

Request introductory report from officers (September)

3. The council's role with maintained, academy and free schools - exploring what our governance and influencing levers are in a changing context, and how the council can promote good performance, and tackle poor performance.

Request introductory report from officers (November)

9. UPDATE REPORT ON ROTHERHITHE SCHOOL AND SOUTHWARK FREE SCHOOL

- 9.1 The chair noted the report on Rotherhithe School and Southwark Free School and commented that the situation had not changed significantly since the last report. Kerry Crichlow, Assistant Director Strategy & Support, assured the sub committee that progress is being made, at a slow and measured pace.

RESOLVED

The sub-committee will continue to receive regular updates.

10. CABINET RESPONSE TO THE REVIEW OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY AND SPORTS PROVISION

- 10.1 The chair reported that he had attended the last cabinet meeting where a response had been tabled to the scrutiny review report on childhood obesity and sports provision. He commented that this had been encouraging and the recommendations had been accepted on the whole.

RESOLVED

The sub committee resolved to monitor the implementation of the report's recommendations and requested an update report in 6 months time from officers.