

Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Wednesday 15 October 2014

7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G01C - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Membership

Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair)
Councillor Lisa Rajan (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Anne Kirby
Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Kieron Williams
Reverend Nicholas Elder
Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer
Abdul Raheem Musa
George Ogbonna

Reserves

Councillor Catherine Dale
Councillor Lucas Green
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Charlie Smith

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Contact Julie Timbrell on 020 7525 0514 or email: julie.timbrell@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Eleanor Kelly

Chief Executive

Date: 7 October 2014



Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Wednesday 15 October 2014
7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G01C - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

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PART A - OPEN BUSINESS

1. APOLOGIES

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

In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear working days of the meeting.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.

4. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 3 September 2014. Minutes to follow.

5. REVIEW: CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Officer report and presentation to follow.

6. EARLY HELP

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Officer report on Early Help attached.

7. MINI REVIEW: ADOPTION

Officer report on Adoption to follow.

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	Update report on Free Healthy School Meals.	
9.	WORK-PLAN	11

DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER OPEN ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING.

PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF ANY CLOSED ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.

Date: 7 October 2014

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 15 October 2014	Meeting Name: Education, Children's Services and Leisure Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Report title:		Early Help	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Education, Children's and Adults' Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Education, Children's Services and Leisure Scrutiny Sub-Committee notes the information within this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. A report was requested on early help focusing on what the council is doing to protect children where there is abuse and neglect through investing in early support for children, young people and families to keep young people safe at home and in our community.

National context

3. Research clearly demonstrates two key points related to early intervention and neglect. The first is that both families and practitioners want early intervention to prevent neglect (*'We should have been helped from day one': A unique perspective from children, families and practitioners*, LARC5). The second is that "early and effective interventions can stop child neglect in its tracks and successfully improve outcomes for children and their families" (*Evaluation of the Action for Children UK Neglect Project*, University of Salford). It has long been recognised that child neglect can have serious short-term and long-term effects for children. Early childhood neglect will have an impact on a child's future life chances and damage their educational, physical and mental health outcomes. It is imperative therefore that agencies work effectively together to support parents to give their children the best start, while at the same time intervening quickly when the signs of neglect are identified in children and young people.
4. *The Munro Review of Child Protection* (May 2011) outlines key messages around early help, emphasising that "preventative services will do more to reduce abuse and neglect than reactive services". Within these, there need to be "good mechanisms for helping people identify those children and young people who are suffering or likely to suffer harm from abuse or neglect and who need referral to children's social care".
5. *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (March 2013) provides statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It is clear in its definition of early help which means "providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years." It also advises that "professionals working in universal services have a responsibility to identify the symptoms and triggers of abuse and neglect, to share that information and work together to provide children and young people with the help they need."

6. Ofsted will seek evidence that thresholds between early help and statutory child protection work are appropriate, understood and operate effectively. They will also assess the impact of the local offer for early intervention on reducing risk, including reducing the need for statutory intervention.
7. The Troubled Families initiative is a national payment by results scheme focusing on “turning round” families who meet national agreed criteria. The criteria will be expanded from 2015 and will include children under 5 for the first time. This programme requires the commitment of coordinated early help in order to achieve its outcomes.

Local context

8. The Southwark Children and Young People’s Plan commits partners to helping every local child, young person and family to thrive, in particular through providing them with the right support at the right time, from early years to adolescence, and ensuring that our most vulnerable children and families receive timely, purposeful support that brings safe, lasting and positive change. The plan recognises that giving children, young people and families the best start in life is crucial to improving their outcomes in childhood and later life. It also identifies the lasting negative impact of neglectful parenting and sets out a need to gear the whole system, from universal and early help provision through to statutory services, towards spotting and acting on the signs of neglect.
9. The Southwark Safeguarding Children Board has a statutory responsibility to assess “the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families including early help”. Early help and neglect are key components of the SSCB work programme for 2014/15. The Board has a vital role to play in helping galvanise local agencies so that they can work effectively together to identify neglect and support parents in the development of more effective parenting.
10. Southwark has made significant progress in developing early help and currently has a range of excellent council services working directly with families around early help. There are four multi-disciplinary locality-based Early Help teams and a Specialist Family Focus team operating at the SSCB thresholds of Universal Plus (level 2a), Targeted (level 2b) and Children in Need (level 3) to prevent children and young people from escalating into a higher tier of need. These teams are closely linked with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and have a close working relationship with social work teams to ensure that cases are appropriately referred when their needs escalate.
11. Local partners are committed to ensuring that a system-wide approach to neglect encompasses aligning practice, interventions, pathways and resources around tackling the causes rather than the symptoms of neglect. At the heart of this will be further strengthening early intervention provision to reduce the legacy and impact of all levels of neglect. This will be underpinned by a commitment to assessing the impact of interventions on stemming the level of neglect, and reducing the need for statutory intervention in Southwark families.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Families Matter project

12. In April 2014 partners were invited to commit to a programmed approach to

redesign early intervention services to give the best start to every child, young person and family. Following initial meetings of the Families Matter Board and a multi-agency Families Matter workshop on 24 July 2014 a Families Matter Operational Group, chaired by the Director of Education, was established and held its first meeting on 23 September 2014. The operational group will meet monthly and will be governed by a chief officer group led by the Strategic Director for Children's and Adults' Services.

13. Families Matter is Southwark's strategy for ensuring that children, young people and families receive the right early support at the right time to improve outcomes for children across a range of domains including emotional, educational, physical health and mental health. It is designed to prevent their needs from escalating to higher tiers of support and reduce the need for statutory intervention through child protection and care proceedings. It aims to build upon the strengths of existing services, clarify which service needs to intervene and when, and reduce needless overlap and duplication of effort.
14. The Families Matter framework is attached at Appendix A. Families Matter is focused on early intervention, targeted and edge of care support. This equates to levels 2a (Universal Plus), 2b (Targeted) and 3 (Children in Need) of the SSCB Thresholds Framework. Currently the Early Help and Family Focus teams provide support at these levels alongside Southwark's response to the national Troubled Families initiative. These services are all within the scope of the project which will ensure both that services are aligned with the appropriate teams and that the early help offer clearly identifies which services are operating at which levels of the framework. This ensures that they are targeted where they have the best chance of addressing need and improving outcomes with sufficient focus on children who have "low level additional needs which are likely to be short term" (level 2a), children with more complex "additional needs requiring multi-agency intervention" and a "lead professional team around the child" approach (level 2b) and children with "complex needs likely to require longer term intervention" or "at risk of moving to a high level of risk if they do not receive early intervention" (level 3). To inform this, threshold case moderation and service mapping will be undertaken to understand how the thresholds are being applied in practice and which services are operating at each of the threshold levels.
15. The Families Matter model features:
 - a) Effective universal services which prevent problems from arising in the first place. Further strengthening links with early years' providers and schools as evidence demonstrates that early support and education are strong protective factors.
 - b) Services which provide prompt support when problems first emerge in order to prevent them from escalating to a more serious level and/or becoming entrenched and difficult to change.
 - c) More intensive services which reduce the number of children and young people who are at risk of significant harm enabling children and young people to live at home with their families.
16. Other key areas of the project include the development of a Families Matter (Early Help) Strategy to effectively coordinate the councils' early help offer and align with Ofsted requirements, a coherent Early Help Offer for partners and families to enable a clear understanding of the referral process and what services are available at each level of need and an Outcomes Framework to monitor progress. These will all be informed by the SSCB work programme,

statutory guidance, good practice from local authorities, learning from Ofsted inspections and consultation with staff, stakeholders and service users.

Links with other programmes and initiatives

17. The project will draw upon innovation and learning from other programmes and initiatives and make links where appropriate. This includes, but is not limited to, the Early Intervention Foundation, the Early Action Commission, the council's Strategic Budget Savings Programme, the transfer of public health commissioning for 0-5s to the local authority, health and mental health strategies, the Evelina Child Health Partnership work and the DfE Innovation Fund bid.

Local evidence base

18. To accompany the Children and Young People's Plan 2013-16 a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) was produced on early intervention and the best start in life for the 0-4 age group. The council's Public Health team are currently producing a Neglect JSNA which comprises a comprehensive literature review, data analysis and stakeholder interviews. Data and feedback from the early help service will feed into this and the results will be used to inform early help priorities and identify any additional services that need to feed in to the early help offer. It is anticipated that this will be completed in early 2015 as the literature review has been completed, data analysis is currently in progress and stakeholder interviews will be aligned with the Families Matter Strategy consultation process between December 2014 and February 2015.
19. The SSCB Outcomes Framework includes a number of early help measures. Comparisons between 2012/13 and 2013/14 demonstrate that the number of early help assessments increased by 25% (from 2276 to 2830) and the number of referrals to social care decreased by 8% (from 3450 to 3165). The number of cases received by early help as a step down from social care increased from 15 in Q1 2013/14 to 50 in Q4 (+233%). Work is being undertaken to understand these figures and the relationship between increased early help referrals and lower referrals into social care.
20. The Early Help Service produces a quarterly performance report and data for 2013/14 demonstrates that the largest proportion of assessments come from primary schools followed by the health visiting service. 45% of assessments were for children in the pre-school age range (0-4), 43% for the primary school age range (5-11) and the remaining 12% for children in the secondary school children age range (12-19). Validated attendance data for 2012/13 shows that Southwark attendance is exceeding national attendance by 0.2%, while provisional figures for September 2013 - May 2014 show that both absence and persistent absence in Southwark have fallen by 0.5% since 2012/13. There have been no primary permanent exclusions in Southwark since 2008 and the number of fixed term exclusions has fallen steadily since 2007, with a marked improvement from 1% in 2011/12 to 0.43% in 2012/13 coinciding with the introduction of the Early Help Service. The number of exclusions in secondary schools supported by the Early Help Service has also steadily reduced from 231 in 2010/11 to 68 in 2012/13, a 71% reduction. The take up of free early learning by 3 and 4 year olds has improved from 83% in 2012 to 88% in 2013 narrowing the gap with Inner London and national take up.
21. While currently there is an emphasis on younger children, work is underway to

develop an early help approach to older children who may be in need as a result of the long-term effects of childhood neglect. This can manifest itself in crime and anti-social behaviour, poor school attendance and behavioural and mental health difficulties. Given that the majority of children enter care in their adolescence, there is a clear imperative to strengthen support to young people and enable them to remain safely in their families and communities.

Timescales

22. Development of a Families Matter Strategy and work on the redesign of processes and services will take place concurrently. The service mapping and a draft strategy will be in place by the end of November 2014 with consultation on the strategy will take place between December 2014 and February 2015. The Families Matter Strategy, service redesign and early help offer will all be fully implemented by 1 April 2015. The timeline is outlined in the table below.

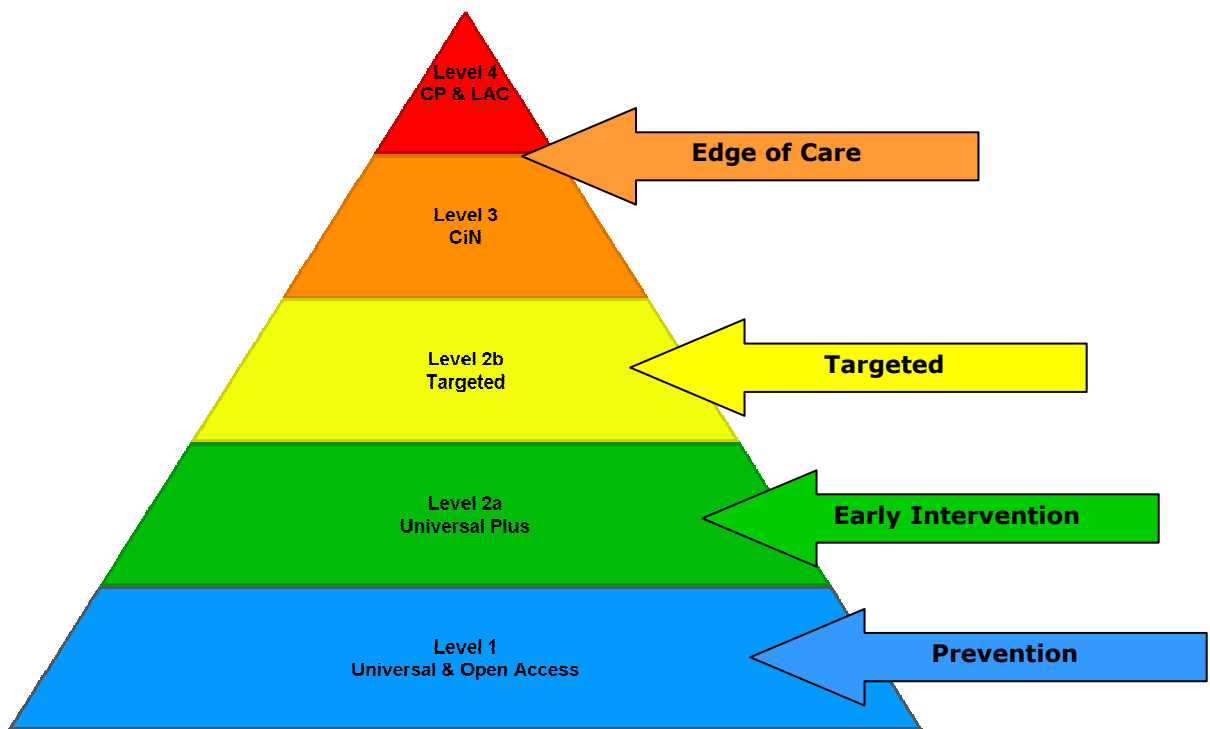
Deliverable	Indicative delivery date
Hold Families Matter Operational Group meetings monthly – currently planned to the end of the year	23 rd September 2014 23 rd October 2014 27 th November 2014
Complete case moderation work and feedback to SSCB on any implications from this work for the multi-agency thresholds	By end October 2014
Map early help services against the framework	By end November 2014
Draft Families Matter Strategy for consultation	By end November 2014
Consult on Families Matter Strategy including data set on activity, quality and outcomes	December 2014 and January, February 2015
Implement the Council re-design of services	By 1 April 2015
SSCB to agree Families Matter strategy	By end March 2015
Deliver coherent early help offer available to partners and families	From 1 April 2015

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Victoria Mills	
Lead Officer	Merril Haeusler, Director of Education	
Report Authors	Beckie Bowler, Principal Strategy Officer	
Version	Final 1.0	
Dated	6 October 2014	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Director of Strategy and Commissioning, Children's and Adults'	Yes	Yes
Director of Children's Social Care	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team	7 October 2014	

Appendix A - Families Matter Framework

Families Matter is focused on early intervention, targeted and edge of care support. This equates to levels 2a (Universal Plus), 2b (Targeted) and 3 (Children in Need) of the SSCB Thresholds Framework.



Item No.	Classification: Open		MEETING NAME: Education and Children's Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Report title:		Free Healthy School Meals Programme – Progress Report	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Kerry Crichlow, Director Strategy and Commissioning, Children's & Adults' Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the committee note the report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Council took a decision to introduce free healthy school meals to all pupils attending primary schools in Southwark as part of its commitment to tackle the high levels of obesity and to tackle poverty and inequality.
3. A decision was taken to phase the roll out. In September 2011 reception and year one pupils started to receive the free meals. In September 2012, this was extended to years two – four. The final phase commenced in September 2013 with years five & six joining the programme.
4. The programme has now been operating in all Southwark primary school settings for a complete school year.
5. Members have received a number of previous reports concerning this programme.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. During the first year of the programme the take up reached 91% of reception and year one pupils. In the second year of the programme the take up reached 92%. The take up for the school year 2013/14 reached 93%
7. During the summer term 2013, as previously reported, we carried out an additional weighing and measuring programme with year one pupils. The height and weights of pupils were measured to look at comparisons between reception and year 1. The results did not show statistically significant changes in weight. However, it became clear from the exercise that a number of children were not weighed at reception but were then weighed at year 1 and vice versa. This made it difficult to evidence any changes in weight. However, focus groups with schools highlighted that some pupils and parents reported changes in attitudes to food with more children eating fruit and salad items.

8. Over the summer term, we carried out a further survey with children to test their views and attitudes to school meals. This was carried out at a number of schools with year three pupils. This was a follow on survey from the previous two years when the children were in year one and year 2 respectively. The results are at appendix one.
9. We are working together with our colleagues in public health to develop a health and wellbeing programme with schools. These strategic meetings are chaired by the Director of Education and bring together a range of partners to support schools.
10. Once again, during the summer term we organised a gardening competition for primary schools with the theme of 'how children learn to grow'. This was entered by sixteen of our schools. The judging took place during the summer term and the winning school was John Ruskin.
11. With the roll out complete and the programme having successfully operated for a full school year. We have been looking at how to further reduce the administration requirements. Following discussions with headteachers and finance, from the start of the school year in 2014, we will be paying the schools termly based upon the previous years take up levels.
12. As Members will be aware, the Government has introduced a programme of Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) from September 2014. This will reduce the cost of the Councils programme accordingly.
13. As Members will be aware, the level of pupil premium a school receives is based upon the level of entitled free school meal pupils at the school. To ensure we are able to record accurate numbers, we redesigned the application form with input from schools. The new system means that in the future the parent should only need to complete the form once when their child joins a school. The new system should mean we are able to recheck the eligibility annually through an electronic checking system. As part of the Governments introduction of the UIFSM programme, they have issued a new form that local authorities might use if they wish. The form is identical to the one we sent to the DFE for information.
14. Following the decision to provide a free fruit snack to primary school pupils and building on the Government funded programme for infant pupils, all primary school settings have been asked to extend the scheme to junior pupils. At this time 30 out of 73 schools are now providing the fruit to all of their pupils. Further schools are joining the scheme on a staged basis with the intention that all schools will be offering the fruit by the summer term 2015.

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Kerry Crichlow, Director Strategy and Commissioning, Children and Adults' Services
Report Author	Colin Gale, FHSM Project Lead
Version	

Dated		
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director for Legal and Democratic Services	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team		Month/date/year

Appendix One

Free Healthy School Meals (FHSM) Children's Survey Outcomes 2014

- 1 The evaluation framework for the FHSM programme set out a number of aims.
- 2 As part of the evaluation, we were looking for changed attitudes to food and nutrition by children, as well as positive child feedback on the impact of the FHSM programme on children's eating habits.
- 3 There were 142 year three (school year 2013/14) children surveyed, of these 134 children had a school lunch (94%).
- 4 The children were asked to rate the lunch, 76% rated the meal as okay, good or very good.
- 5 62% of children confirmed, that they had been encouraged to try new foods at school.
- 6 80% of children confirmed that they eat different food at school than at home.
- 7 As part of the survey, food likes and dislikes were recorded, as this group of children continue through the school, this continues to present opportunities to measure children's changes in attitude to types of food.
- 8 There was a large range of foods identified by the children the most popular food items were chips at 46% (62% last year), burgers at 48% (36% last year) and roast dinners at 46% (36% last year). Vegetables as an unpopular food have dropped from 48% to 37%.
- 9 The likes and dislikes of foods were split by gender, but in fact the results showed there was no difference between girls and boys in their choices of liked and disliked foods.

Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee work-plan 2014/15
15 October 2014
<p>Adoption (mini review)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - officer report on process <p>Early Help - report & presentation</p> <p>Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) report and presentation</p> <p>Free school meal : update report (for information only – no presentation)</p>
24 November 2014
<p>Autism mini review : receive draft consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact families' & carers' voluntary & community groups to give evidence (TBC) <p>Attainment Gap evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - invite LeSoCo (Lewisham & Southwark College) to give evidence <p>Free School Meal – summary of evidence</p>
December / January (date TBC) Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) scrutiny in a day
14 January 2015
<p>Independent Chair & safeguarding report</p> <p>CSE evidence</p> <p>Adoption (mini review)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - report back from adopters focus groups/ interviews <p>Attainment Gap draft report</p> <p>Childcare commission</p>
23 February 2015
<p>CSE evidence</p> <p>Cabinet member interview</p>
29 April 2015
<p>CSE draft report</p> <p>Autism – mini review : receive and comment on draft strategy and action plan.</p>

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**EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014-15**

AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)

NOTE: Original held by Scrutiny Team; all amendments/queries to Julie Timbrell Tel: 020 7525 0514

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Councillor Evelyn Akoto	1	Sarah Feasey, Legal Services	1
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Councillor Kieron Williams	1	Elaine Allegretti, Head of Strategy, Planning and Performance, Children's & Adults' Services	1
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Councillor Rosie Shimell	1	William Summers, Liberal Democrat Political Assistant	1
Councillor Charlie Smith (Two vacancies)	1	Julie Timbrell, Scrutiny Team SPARES	10
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Revd Nicholas Elder	1		
Lynette Murphy O'Dwyer	1		
Abdul Raheem Musa	1		
George Ogbonna	1		
Other Members			
Councillor Victoria Mills	1	Total:	39
		Dated: June 2014	