

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Monday 28 November 2011

7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G01B - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1
2QH

Supplemental Agenda

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Date: 22 November 2011



EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 19 October 2011 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 Sunil Chopra
Councillor Althea Smith
Councillor Cleo Soanes
Colin Elliott
Leticia Ojeda

**OTHER MEMBERS
PRESENT:** Colin Elliott
Leticia Ojeda
Nick Tilderley

**OFFICER
SUPPORT:** Gill Davis: Director of Environment and Leisure
Rory Patterson: Deputy Director specialist children's services
Rosie Dalton-Lucas: Health and Wellbeing Manager
Jin Lim: Public Health consultant
Julie Timbrell : Scrutiny project manager
Colin Gale: Free Healthy School Meals project lead
Sam Fowler: Schools for the Future project director

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adele Morris and Rosie Shimell. Councillor Nick Stanton attended as a reserve.

1.2 Nick Tilderley was welcomed as the new headteacher representative.

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

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

3.1 There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

4.1 The minutes of 28 June 2011 were agreed as an accurate record.

4.2 The chair reported that the cabinet has received the scrutiny report on School admissions reports positively and there will be a report by the lead member, Cllr McDonald in response. This report will also cover the scrutiny request to improve school admission information given to parents/carers with a child with special needs / a statement of special needs.

5. REVIEW OF PARENTING SUPPORT - PART 2 A : SUPPORT FOR PARENTS - PARENTS & CARERS OF DISABLED CHILDREN

5.1 The chair introduced the item by welcoming the parents, carers and organisational representatives who had come to give evidence for the review.

5.2 Naomi Gilbert, Manager of Contact a Family Southwark was invited to give evidence to the committee first. She referred to the written evidence circulated with the papers and asked members if they had any questions.

5.3 A member asked about the impact of funding cuts and how a fully funded service differed from the service now on offer. The manager explained that Contact a Family had experienced financial cuts of 25 %, and that they are waiting to hear what will happen after April 2012. She explained that it may be that funding will fall further. The work of Contact a Family is focused on working with families; often at a time of crisis. This is often before a diagnosis has been received; this is an often a time of uncertainty and stress for parents. Families often also need particular support around times of transition, for example moving into school or college.

5.4 The manager went on to explain that Contact a Family provide a listening ear, which is very important. They also help with income maximisation. There is a focus on helping families live the kind of lives they want to live, and this often means helping families access universal services, often in a group, as this helps with access and finance. Contact a Family also provides timely, accurate information so that families do not get overwhelmed with information, or isolated.

- 5.5 A member asked how many families the service worked with and the response was that there are 580 families on the database; some receive intensive support, others just the newsletter.
- 5.6 A member asked how she sees the future in times of reduction in resources. The manager recalled an uncomfortable meeting she had with Southwark Council commissioners. She reported that one good agreement was that all contracts would now be rolled into one. However there was an emphasis from officers on the under 5's, but in her experience there are just as many problems when a child enters puberty and becomes physically and sexually mature. Often services drop off during this challenging time. In her organisational view limiting services to under 5's is not a good idea.
- 5.7 A member asked the manager to comment on the reduction in funding that Contact a Family are receiving; particularly given that many families prefer accessing non statutory services such as Contact a Family. The manager commented on the importance of finding those families before they go into crisis to prevent further difficulties. The manager reported that officers are saying that unless there is a Common Assessment Framework in place we are being asked not to provide services. This creates difficulties as some people have had a bad experience of statutory services. She emphasised that it is very important that they can self refer so we can meet the needs of these families.
- 5.8 The manager was asked how she is coping with the cuts and she responded that they are employing fewer workers and work with less people. She explained they have moved to Cambridge House so the service is now co-located with other services. In addition to this she reported that they are being mean about who they provide a newsletter too and generally tightening their belts.
- 5.9 The chair welcomed Catriona Moore, a parent of a disabled child. She said she hoped everybody had had a chance to read the paper she produced [circulated with the papers]. She stated this reflects her own experience and she is not trying to speak for other parents. She went on to explain that the policy seems to be to say no the first time, then parents have to go back and make the case, then eventually you get what you need. This advantages more articulate and pushy parents. Services should be given to those who need them, not those who shout the loudest.
- 5.10 She spoke about her experience; explaining that her child was referred to social workers by a medical professional, but the social workers were not particularly uninterested in the medical diagnosis and this meant that, despite the referral, she did not receive the assessment she needed. There is a tension between the medial and social work teams, and they have no access to the records.

- 5.11 Catriona stated that she thought it was really important that the disability register was kept updated, even if families do not receive services. Early help is much better. She explained that telling services the same thing again and again is frustrating and dehumanising. She asked the committee to think about how we can do data sharing better and more sensitively. For example Sunshine House has different professional from different services using different computer systems
- 5.12 Harry Opoku introduced himself and explained that his boy is now 12, and when he was diagnosed 2 years ago when his family was under terrible strain. He explained that Contact a Family supported him through the referral process and helped him negotiate the system. He explained how important that is as most parents do not understand what services are available or the laws surrounding access. He went on to explain that if parents are not forceful statements will not be issued.
- 5.13 Harry said that he knows many parents who have broken down, been through hell; they are bouncing off the walls. He explained that the initial shock is very profound and this is the time when you need support, which is often morale support to come to terms with the diagnosis. Family support at that time is very important.
- 5.14 He went on to talk about the importance of communication and the difficulties his child has had at mainstream school. Often his child would be distressed because the support worker was not available, but the school had not informed him.
- 5.15 A family with a young child next came to give evidence. The father explained that his daughter needs help and he has been to both the school and the hospital but has been unable to access support. The chair of the committee asked the Contact a Family to help the family and they swapped contact details.
- 5.16 Alison Miles, from Southwark Parent Carer Council (SPCC), introduced herself by explaining she is a parent of a disabled child and used to work for the SPCC until recently. The organisation recently has given lots of evidence to a consultant working on the Short Breaks [reports were circulated with the papers].
- 5.17 Alison explained that she wanted to draw the committee's attention to a number of areas. Firstly there is a massive prevalence of autism. This is very misunderstood and families experience lots of intolerance when accessing universal services. She went on to explain that families understand that specialised services are under pressure so the recommendation was to improve universal services. Alison explained only a small proportion; around 180 out of 2500 children with disabilities, receive a service. Fair access to universal services is crucial; too often families are met with an

attitude that it not helpful. Isolation is a big issue.

- 5.18 She recommended that this wider groups needs are addressed; for example when considering the short breaks, is it the 180 or the 2500?
- 5.19 Alison said that parents and carers need clear accessible information. This cannot just be on the website. She went on to explain that there needs to be more transparency, particularly on how decisions are made so that parents can be clear on the process. When it comes to assessment the needs of the entire family need to be taken in to account; particularly the needs of the siblings.
- 5.20 She explained that parents and carers want to work in partnership with professionals; we are a resource and feel underused. A member asked how representative the group is and Alison explained they have good representation, but they have identified gaps and these are Asian families and travellers.
- 5.21 A member asked Alison about health and emergencies and she explained they have looked into a health passport which describes the child's needs and what they like and don't like.
- 5.22 There was a question about siblings from a member. Alison responded that siblings do often take on a caring role and the needs of siblings are real issue.
- 5.23 A mother next gave evidence and explained that she has 15 year old son with complex needs. The younger brother shares a room and sometimes he has difficulty sleeping. It can be a difficult relationship. She went on to say that one issue that particularly needs highlighting is that we cannot name an Academy school for our children, if a statement is received.
- 5.24 The chair invited Rory Patterson, Deputy Director, and specialist children's services, to comment on the evidence received. He began by saying that some very powerful evidence had been received here and in the recent Short Breaks consultation. He hoped parents and carers valued the in-depth consultation that had been done.
- 5.25 The Deputy Director went on to explain that Common Assessment is supposed to be a tool to build up information, and is based on the concept of the team around the child. The green paper has lots of recommendations.
- 5.26 He went to note that families value good resources. The council is facing challenging times, however we do think we can reach out to more families, by simplifying services such as transport.

ACTION

Draft recommendations will be drawn up based on all the evidence received, and this will then go to officers for comment.

The final report will go to cabinet.

Everybody who has given evidence will be kept informed.

6. REVIEW OF PARENTING SUPPORT - PART 2 B : SUPPORT FOR PARENTS - VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

- 6.1 Sarah Armstrong and a colleague from CSV referred to the paper circulated and the new initiative they have started in partnership with Southwark Council; supporting parents and families. They explained that CSV is UK's leading volunteering and learning organisation providing a range of opportunities for almost fifty years. They work closely with partners, including local authority partners, to help deliver services and provide support for people who need it most. They support children in care, young people leaving care, and families with parenting issues
- 6.2 CSV explained that they initiated two pilots recently in Bromley and Sunderland. Bromley continued, but Sunderland faced difficulties because of social work staff sickness. They reported that they had received lots of evidence of good outcomes; including many cases of children coming off the Child Protection register.
- 6.3 She reported that CSV provide parent mentoring, particularly with parents facing difficulties, such as single parents. This is the model they will be implementing in Southwark.
- 6.4 A member asked if CSV thought they could expand and they responded that they could; they are inundated with volunteers. There was a follow on question about training costs, and CSV agreed that there is a cost in training volunteers. In Southwark they are contracted to work with 25 families. CSV explained that they offer a rigorous programme of training which is highly valued by the volunteers. This is an investment but if it works it will save money.
- 6.5 CSV explained that volunteers are there to support, as an outside service, and give reassurance and guidance. They are independent. CSV explained that safeguarding and confidentiality still applies and that means that if there is a discovery that could lead to harm then volunteers would need to be open about that and inform professionals. They are very clear about that and all the volunteers are trained in safeguarding and confidentiality, and this

is applied.

- 6.6 A member asked how long the programme works for and what it consists of. CSV explained that they do not want to create a dependency culture, this is about enabling parents. Support focuses on two themes in particular: practical and emotional support. The practical support includes things such as going to meetings and building links, with schools for example. Emotional support is just as important and consists of empathetic listening and building parents morale.
- 6.7 A member asked about the management structure and the role of more experienced volunteers. CSV explained that they have a coordinator and management structure to offer support to volunteers. More experienced volunteers mentoring new volunteers will be our next step.
- 6.8 There was a question about building links with schools and ensuring consistency of advice to parents. The Deputy Director mentioned the Common Assessment programme. CSV explained the programme is complimentary and the volunteers will often support parents to send children to school regularly and attend meetings. They will help parents access and attend parent programmes run by school.
- 6.9 A member asked if they had sufficient volunteers and CSV assured members they did. The chair remarked that following the riots many people had blamed parents and his response had been that we should asking what we can do to help parents rather than apportioning blame. The chair said he has been championing this initiative over the past year as this programme gives society an opportunity to support parents in challenging situations; he is very pleased to see it being established in Southwark. The chair thanked CSV for attending and asked them to return in 6 months time to report back on the programme.

ACTION

CVS will come back in 6 months time to report on progress.

7. CHILDHOOD OBESITY AND SPORTS - DRAFT INTERIM REPORT

- 7.1 The chair asked colleagues from Public Health to comment on the draft Childhood obesity and sports report. Rosie Dalton-Lucas, Health and Wellbeing Manager and Jin Lim, Public Health consultant, said the report was very good and they would welcome the recommendations. They commented

that there is quite a lot about the environment and this is a way of going upstream to be more preventative.

- 7.2 A member noted the links to the Food Strategy in the report, and then the officer update report that this is not being progressed. The member asked what happened to this. Officers undertook to get more information.
- 7.3 A member asked about supermarket offers; such as buy one get one free. Public Health officers reported that they have done work with supermarkets such as Tesco's and said that they we can raise this issue when they meet again, however often they are driven by economic needs.
- 7.4 Clarification was sought by members on the fast food outlet planning policy and commented that they would have liked these powers to have been available for recent planning applications. Public Health officers said there are some strategic plans, and local initiatives, but not a general policy. They would welcome a borough policy.
- 7.5 A member commented that the report was very wide ranging and had expanded beyond its original scope. In addition there was a lot of recommendations that could benefit from more focus.
- 7.6 A member commented on the evidence that exercise is very important for health, whatever your weight. There are cultural issues around healthy weight. There was comment on the importance at looking at other studies showing indicators of health.
- 7.7 Members noted the strong evidence that mothers who are overweight or obese are 10 times more likely to have overweight or obese children. There was a comment that the under 5's are also an important group to target. Public Health officers responded that they have recently been focusing on childminders and nutrition, as well as maternal obesity.
- 7.8 Public Health officers were asked what happens when a child is identified as overweight or obese through the child weighing programme. Public Health officers explained that there are a number of interventions including vouchers, referral to the MEND programme and doctors. Members asked if medical conditions are detected and an officer commented that it takes time for conditions to manifest , most of the work at this stage is about prevention of later disease.

ACTION

Clarification will be sought on Southwark's Food Strategy and fast food planning policy.

The report will be refined and slimmed down. It will then be circulated to the committee.

8. UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL HEALTHY MEALS PROGRAMME

8.1 Colin Gale, Free Healthy School Meals Project Lead, was invited by the chair to present the paper circulated with the minutes. He reported that the initial pilot was done order in to gather learning. The council has produced a nutrition tool kit on the website and this contains nutritional standards.

8.2 Clarification was sought from a member on the need for forms. The project lead explained that the pilot helped streamlined the paperwork and this has led to an increase in pupils claiming free school meals; which is good for increasing income and the pupil premium. The project lead explained that the forms capture evidence and are needed to ensure a good audit trail. The need for good statistical data was endorsed by a member. There was a question about children with no recourse to public funds and concern that many may be unwilling to fill out forms. The project lead explained that the forms are very simple and can be filled out with only name and date, and there is no obligation to fill out the remainder if there are eligibility concerns.

8.3 The project lead explained that the Council is working with Public Health to develop an evaluation framework. This is a whole school approach. While the initiative will not be able to singularly tackle childhood obesity it is a step.

8.4 A member commented that he is cannot see how free school meals will help tackle obesity, moreover there seems to be a lack of clear outcomes for a large financial investment of several million pounds. The project lead commented that this was a decision taken by cabinet. He went on to mention the Hull report on universal school meals, which he said makes interesting reading. A member asked if this demonstrates a positive impact on childhood obesity and the project lead said that it did show this impact, however we cannot be sure that it was a direct result of the universal free school meal programme.

- 8.5 A member commented that while we do not seem to know for sure if it will impact on obesity he hopes that the initiative will improve nutritional standards in schools. The project lead said the council has been encouraging schools to get the Food for Life Bronze award.

ACTION

A report on progress will be received in 6 months time.

9. ADULT EDUCATION UPDATE

- 9.1 Gill Davies, Director of Environment and Leisure , introduce the report on Adult Education. The Director explained that they are planning a review of the Adult Learning Service. There are a number of key questions they have been set in order to evaluate the service including what the Council brings to this service; is this a service that the Council should provide or would other providers be better placed. There will be a consultation with stakeholders and an analysis of the data. Scrutiny is invited to contribute. A report will go to cabinet in February in 2012.
- 9.2 The director commented that the service was pleased with the recent OFSTED evaluation, which showed improvement. The service now rated as 'satisfactory' with several 'good' features.
- 9.3 There was discussion about how scrutiny could be involved and a comment was made that what started as an argument over fees in developing into a visioning process. A member commented that there is a need for the service to develop clear outcomes. The member went on the say that it might be right for the service to wind up. The director commented that ESOL teaching has clear outcomes and this is the stronger part of the service. There was agreement that the committee should consider the results of the consultation and contribute to the process.

ACTION

Officers undertook to provide the results of the consultation with stakeholders; including services users and adult education providers. Officers will provide data before analysis.

10. ROTHERHITHE FREE SCHOOL UPDATE

- 10.1 Sam Fowler, Schools for the Future project director, went through the report. He explained that two schools have now reached the next stage; Compass and University Technical College (UTC). He

reported that on 10 October 2011 the DfE advised that a 700 place UTC for 14-19 year olds based at Southwark College's Bermondsey site will proceed to the next stage.

- 10.2 A member asked about how much the council knew and the officer explained they were aware of the proposal, but not the detail. A member asked what are the councils duties in respect of free schools and the officer said the council needed to engage with a proposed free school; put our views through and consider its impact on people and place.
- 10.3 Members are asked if we will supply free school meals and what our obligations are. The officer responded that clarification on these issues is being sought.
- 10.4 A member commented that schools need information as soon as possible to enable them to plan ahead, and asked about information timescales. The officer responded that Southwark had made an application to provide a school, but the funding situation remained unclear. The council had continued to make representations and seek clarification but this was not forthcoming. He went on to say that the council's first notification received was that these two free schools would be developed. The officer explained that while the funding has now become available, it is not accessible to the council. Prior to this announcement local discussions had considered the possibility of popular local schools expanding to provide more places. There was a comment about the site in Bermondsey and if that might be problem.

ACTION

The officer will update members on development at the next meeting on 28 November

11. WORK PROGRAMME

Review of Support for Parents and Carers of Disabled children with SEN

My experiences as a service user (I am a parent of a disabled child) is not favourable.

I have a son who is now 13 and was diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome (a form of Autism) in October 2010.

The support I have received from the local authority is minimal to say the least.

After the diagnosis I received some support from a Contact a Family Worker Blagoye Vucinic at Sunshine House.

As a family we also attended a workshop called the 'Help' programme facilitated by NAS (National Autistic Society) and in January 2011 attended a series of workshops facilitated by Parent Partnership called 'Earlybird'.

But my main criticism stems from the SEN team when it comes to issuing a statement of special need, it is only now that my son is receiving a statement, and yet I am still dissatisfied with the process as it takes too long and my son has since been permanently excluded from secondary school. I am sure that if the correct support mechanisms were in place in the first place this would not have been the case.

I also have a major concern as the statement was issued without his diagnosis this is just not good enough and shows the general lack of consistency and professionalism that is shortcoming within this department; it simply is not good enough.

The practical and financial resources available to me consist of benefits like DLA and Carer's allowance, I receive no financial aid from the borough and I am unsure what I am entitled to.

The knowledge and skill that I have up to know has been acquired from being a member of National Austistic Society, I receive their newsletter which keeps me informed and up to date. I am also a trustee and active member of Southwark Parent Carers.

My experiences of parenting a disabled child has been fraught difficulty and blatant discrimination especially with regards to my son's education. As I mentioned previously he was diagnosed a year ago, but once he was diagnosed everything changed. The school did not know how to deal with his behaviour and more or less labelled him as a difficult child. And since he did not have a statement of special needs was regularly excluded from school or had to endure internal exclusion in an 'isolation' room.

We have been to the school numerous times with Blagoye and he has even offered to train staff at the school but this has not been acted upon.

I have my suspicions also that my son has been bullied, but he will stick up for himself and is very often seen as the aggressor. Things have broken down irretrievably between us and the school and are looking for another school. Which is tricky because no one within the SEN team at Southwark can advise us on a 'suitable school with a good SEN and appreciates and has adequate provision for an autistic child'. It has been a logistical minefield to find information and advice about the best thing to do. It is very frustrating.

What has also hampered our progress is my son now has a statement with 15 hours of support yet his proposed statement came without his diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome.

I am presently in the process of meeting with Yvonne Ely to rectify this, as it simply is not good enough.

Caring for my son is very difficult he has certain peculiarities and finds new situations very daunting, he is now more challenging as he is now a teenager and going through his own transition. This has been a very emotionally charged time for us all.

Family life is very chaotic I am not working at present, but most of my time is spent pacifying my son, coaxing and pleading with him to get up and be ready to go to the centre where he is receiving school support from 10-3 at Salmon Centre. As he is high functioning he needs a lot of stimulation, fortunately he loves reading which is a bonus, especially in the initial first weeks of his inclusion he did not mind going to the library.

I had to give up my part time job last year January after six months, simply because I could not cope with the school constantly phoning me telling me about my son's behaviour. I was making lots of mistakes due to lack of concentration and the simple fear of foreboding expecting the phone to ring with some more bad news about my child, It left me feeling pretty distraught and emotional.

I try to remain upbeat and positive, and I try to maintain some form of physical exercise when I can.

I walk most places or use the bus, I have a driving licence but cannot afford to buy a car. The exclusion has really stressed me out, as I cannot sleep for thinking of the worse case scenarios for the Governors meeting on 31 October, I just want that day to be over with.

Further report to Scrutiny Committee on support to families with a child with a disability

Summary and clarification of previous evidence

Contact a Family gave evidence at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 19 October 2011. In addition to the written evidence previously submitted, Contact a Family informed the Committee that changes were proposed to their service which would have a significant impact support to families. A draft service specification from council commissioners included a move towards supporting those with a child under 5 only, allowing referrals into the service from social care only and refusing support to those who did not want to share their details with statutory services.

Contact a Family gave evidence to the Committee that these changes would not be welcome to families and that they were not in keeping with the council's stated aims and objectives, most notably in the Children and Young People's Plan.

Attention had been drawn to work done previously by Contact a Family and the Parent Carer Council to identify children and young people with a disability and/or additional need and their parent carers.

To summarise here:

We estimate that there are closer to 2500 children and young people with a disability and/or additional need in the borough (not 5000 as often quoted). Of these,

- Approximately 1500 children have a statement of special educational need
- Approximately 450 children are on the disability register
- Approximately 180 children receive a service through social care
- There are approximately 590 families registered with Contact a Family in the borough
- There are approximately 240 families registered with the PCC

Of the families registered with Contact a Family:

- About half have a child on the autistic spectrum
- About half consider their ethnicity to be Black British, Black African, Black Other
- About one third have a child under 5, another third have a child aged 6 – 11 and the remainder have a child aged 12 – 19

The Committee heard, in response to a question from a member, that families often self-refer. This would be most sensible for those who are not in receipt of a statutory service. The Committee was also informed that those who are not in receipt of a statutory service are often reluctant to become known to the state for a number of reasons. It is also well documented that the 'need to reach' groups in our community are much more comfortable making a connection with a community or voluntary group and

can then be signposted appropriately and with support if appropriate. The Children's Services Assessment unit has been keen to reduce the number of unnecessary referrals it receives and so it seems odd to require families to have to go down this route when it is clear that they will not be eligible for a statutory service, in order to access a service from agencies such as Contact a Family.

Referral by the Committee

A family of Mum, Dad and child also gave evidence to the Committee meeting on 19 October. This was a Vietnamese family with an eight year old daughter with multiple health issues and learning disabilities. Dad described his efforts to get a diagnosis and appropriate support for his daughter. He spoke about the fact that he felt she would not be able to achieve in secondary school as she is unable to speak or read. Having heard the evidence which was actually a request for help, the Chair of the Committee informally referred the family to Contact a Family.

Update

Contact a Family accepted the referral of this family who can be seen to be in need of support. Through an interpreter, we met with the family to find out what they would like support with. At the family's own pace, we will support them to manage multiple appointments with seven different statutory services, to apply for Disability Living Allowance and Carer's Allowance to maximise their income and in reapplying for a statement of educational need which had previously been refused. Despite their connection with seven statutory services and with the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator in the school, no one had referred this family for this 'softer' support. Nor, as far as we can ascertain, has anyone completed a Common Assessment (CAF) allowing services to share information and the family to only need to tell their story once. This would obviously be of particular benefit to this family as Dad has limited English and Mum apparently none. Contact a Family will ensure that the CAF is initiated. We will also support Dad to ask for a six month exemption from signing on whilst he attends multiple appointments with his daughter as he is her main carer because of the language difficulties.

Contact a Family has identified this family as in need of support. There is no other family in this country and no connection with the Vietnamese community locally. We will offer to facilitate links with another family and we will offer opportunities to make a connection with the local community generally. From what we have been told, it is likely that the child will be assessed as having significant educational need and be eligible for a place in a special secondary school. If the child is unable to live independently as an adult, her future must be planned for by the state and her family, with obvious cost implications.

Lessons learned

This family was not known to Contact a Family despite many opportunities for statutory agencies to have given information about us. We believe there are many more families like this in the borough as evidenced by the numbers quoted above.

This is a family which should not be forgotten. They are in need. Support can be offered as the family requires and when they are ready for it. In this way, the child's needs can be met within a stable family unit which is not only best for the child and her family but will also be the cheaper option.

Please note that:

- The child is over 5 years old
- The family can be said to have self referred through the Committee

In conclusion

It is Contact a Family's practice to update referees with information about the families referred to us. We would like to submit this update as a response to your referral and also to further inform the Committee about the needs of parents of children with a disability for timely, relevant and accurate information and support. We believe this should not be limited to those with a child under 5, or those who are eligible for a statutory service, or that referrals should only be possible from a statutory service.

This family is an excellent example of how hard it is to manage caring for a child with additional needs and it is striking that the family would present itself to the Scrutiny Committee for help.

Contact a Family is pleased that it has been able to support this family and will continue to do so. We would like to ask the Scrutiny Committee to consider the immediate and long term impact of withdrawing support to families such as this. We recognize the need to make savings and that this will affect even the most needy, however, we believe that supporting families to cope and to develop the skills and knowledge which will enable them to become self-reliant and build resilience including in the child or young person, will be cost effective. Abandoning families will result in some failing and the cost of then caring for those children outweighs the cost of a service such as ours.

Appendix

The Social Policy Research Unit at York University published a report which is an easy introduction to the range of outcomes that carers would like to achieve from social care services.

These include:

- A life/identity of their own, over and above their role as parents/carers
- Having control over their life
- Spending 'quality' time with the person receiving support, over and above care-giving activities
- Maintaining physical and emotional well-being
- Having adequate resources
- Feeling skilled and informed
- Maintaining family life
- Service process outcomes relating to positive relationships with professionals and working in partnership with services

The full report can be found at: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/pdf/Outcomes.pdf>

Outcomes for parents with disabled children and carers of disabled or older adults: Similarities, differences and the implications for assessment practice, Arksey, H. et al, SPRU, 2007

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**Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee 2010/2011
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Councillor Rosie Shimell	1	Elaine Allegretti, Head of Strategy, Planning and Performance, Children's Services	1
Councillor Althea Smith	1	Pauline Armour, Assistant Director 5-11 Services and Inclusion, Children's Services	1
		Eleanor Parkin, Policy Officer, Children's Services	1
Councillor Darren Merrill (Reserve)	1	Merril Haeusler, Deputy Director of Children's Services - Education	1
Councillor Victoria Mills (Reserve)	1	Sarah Feasey, Principal Lawyer, Strategic Services	1
Councillor Lisa Rajan (Reserve)	1	John Bibby, Principal Cabinet Assistant	1
Councillor Nick Stanton (Reserve)	1	Alex Doel, Cabinet Office	1
Councillor Mark Williams (Reserve)	1	Paul Green, Opposition Group Office	1
		Kerry Crichlow, Assistant Director Strategy and Support, Children's Services	1
<u>Education Representatives</u>			
Revd Nicholas Elder	1		
Colin Elliott	1		
Leticia Ojeda	1		
Nick Tildesley			
<u>Other Members</u>			
Councillor Catherine McDonald	1		
Councillor Catherine Bowman	1		
Local History Library	1		
		TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	38