

# Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

Wednesday 4 September 2024

7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

## Membership

Councillor Cassandra Brown (Chair)  
Councillor Rachel Bentley (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Sunil Chopra  
Councillor Renata Hamvas  
Councillor Jon Hartley  
Councillor Youcef Hassaine  
Councillor Irina Von Wiese  
Martin Brecknell (Co-opted member)  
Jonathan Clay (Co-opted member)  
Marcin Jagodzinski (Co-opted member)

## Reserves

Councillor Gavin Edwards  
Councillor Ketzia Harper  
Councillor Sunny Lambe  
Councillor Jason Ochere  
Councillor Victor Chamberlain  
Councillor Adam Hood

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### Contact

Amit Alva on email: [amit.alva@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:amit.alva@southwark.gov.uk)

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Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

**Althea Loderick**

Chief Executive

Date: 27 August 2024



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## Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

Wednesday 4 September 2024  
7.00 pm  
Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

### Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
	<b>PART A OPEN BUSINESS</b>	
1.	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	<b>NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT</b>	
	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear working days of the meeting.	
3.	<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS.</b>	
	Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
4.	<b>MINUTES</b>	1 - 6
	To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2024.	
5.	<b>PARENT CARER FORUM REPRESENTATIVE (SEND)</b>	
	To hear from the Nicky Rolfe, Chair of the Parent Carer Forum on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).	

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>EARLY INTERVENTION AND SEND INCLUDING EHCPs'</b>	<b>7 - 37</b>
	To receive a presentation on Early Intervention in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND); and Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) backlogs and processing timelines from Anna Chiva, Asst. Director SEND and Michael Crowe, Strategic Programme Lead	
<b>7.</b>	<b>CABINET MEMBER INTERVIEW- CHILDREN, EDUCATION &amp; REFUGEES</b>	
	To interview Councillor Jasmine Ali, Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Refugees covering a holistic overview of key strategies and projects under the Cabinet member portfolio for Children, Education and Refugees with a focus on key aspects.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025</b>	<b>38 - 43</b>
	To consider the proposed work programme for the 2024-2025 year.	
	<b>DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER OPEN ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING.</b>	

Date: 27 August 2024



## Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission held on Thursday 14 March 2024 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Chloe Tomlinson (Chair)  
Councillor Jason Ochere  
Councillor Joseph Vambe  
Councillor John Batteson  
Councillor Renata Hamvas  
Councillor Irina Von Wiese  
Jonathan Clay (Co- opted member)  
Marcin Jagodzinski (Co- opted member)

**OTHER  
MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

**OFFICER  
SUPPORT:** Amit Alva, Scrutiny Officer

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rachel Bentley (Vice-Chair).

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

There were no items of business which the Chair deemed urgent.

### 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS.

There were no disclosures of interests and dispensations.

#### 4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2024 were approved as a correct record.

#### 5. SOUTHWARK SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (SSCP)

The commission first heard from Alasdair Smith, Director of Children & Families, Children's and Adults' Services on the following points.

- 3 Statutory partners- Council, Health & Police; Update to statutory guidance on working with children- Partnership required to have fourth partner as education
- Instead of independent Chair, rotating Chairing by partners; Current Chair Vanessa Briton (Police); Aim to keep children safe from harm and abuse, wider stakeholder meeting with schools and hospitals
- Multi agency safeguarding hub owned by the council but referrals from all partners including police, most significant referral is child abuse, child neglect is also growing as a factor.
- Families need to get help early, parents are under immense pressures at times. Early help system- children and family centres; higher number of case referrals in Black British, underlying causes of higher deprivation, service looking at tackling the root causes. (Peckham and Newington)
- During Covid over 400 child protection plans in Southwark compared 265 cases currently; Private fostering work after Ofsted review- more awareness and learning messaging, challenges in recruiting social working staff, 9 vacancies for council and agency staff
- Southwark working with London Innovation and Improvement Alliance to improve conditions within the social worker market, where-in agencies exploit vacancies in competing boroughs by increasing hourly-charges.
- Strategy for child neglect needed and being developed, especially due to Covid and Cost-of-Living crisis and the immense pressure on families; working with families to put in place appropriate child protection measures; understanding parents and pressure, exploring core issues.
- Care- leavers are given support by personal advisers who are not social workers, as ages 18 and above don't receive the support given by Children's Safeguarding Legislation, although care-leavers are still quite vulnerable. Most care leavers feel safe at their existing housing, however some concerns on the quality of housing.
- Sub-groups in partnerships- Equality and Effectiveness- looking at the

different pathways to tackle Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), National review of children with disabilities not in care.

- Disproportionality in child protection services and discrimination and need for more work in child neglect.
- Child safeguarding practice review- experienced leaders in sub-groups, looking at national safeguarding issues such as adolescent peer to peer violence cases.
- Local learning review are reviewed nationally and resulting actions are implemented; Issues of mother's mental health affecting child welfare, Trans children struggling with sexuality and gender identity issues; review good practices to support young trans children. Supporting practitioners to help trans children and parents
- Multi agency child exploitation panel- includes social care, health and police agencies; Working together initiative- new statutory guidance- incorporating education as a partner; Council approach to combine Children and Adult Safeguarding partnership under Alasdair; Small grant from government for this initiative used in schools for education.

The commission then asked questions on the following themes

- Council role working with the police on young people in custody, BAME young people affected more.
- Baroness Casey Review findings of racism in the MET police and their involvement in safe guarding.
- Reduction in child protection plans post Covid in Southwark compared to other borough; Impact of the reduction in child protection plans on the child in need plans; Case workloads monitoring for Social workers given the high number of vacancies.

Alasdair explained to the commission that there are 3 groups of children in custody: Children in custody overnight who are arrested, children remanded in custody for longer periods and children in custody serving prison sentences. Furthermore youth justice service produces a monthly report which is reviewed by multi agency groups questioning the need for less serious offences to be relocated to alternative accommodations, however some of them have serious offences and are kept in police custody. In Southwark there is one children's centre and the council are opening another one, however placing a child in children's centre is a police decision. Youth Justice Management is reviewed annually, youth remanded in custody during Covid have been remanded longer and it's unfair to the young person. Statutory requirements dictate that remanded children are looked after by the council.

In addition, 6-7 years ago care-leavers report indicated that care – leavers end up in prison at age 18 and above and mainly between 25-30 ages. The council have since developed good practice guides in supporting care- leavers. Some work has been done in engaging with children serving custodial sentences, because they have not been part of the care system before and do not get the money for expenses, which often leads to criminal acts. The council now provides some monetary allowance for children with custodial sentences. Prisons like Cookham Wood for young offenders does not meet the desired standards for young offenders' institutions.

Alasdair informed the commission that involvement of the police in safeguarding is critical to the success of the partnership. Child protection plans rose during Covid, decisions of child protection plans are based on judgements and on the neglect and poverty areas within the strategy. Southwark child protection plans which used to be approximately 300 plans few years ago and been down to under 200 plans earlier this year, however this month it's at 265 plans. A lot of work is being done through the early intervention and help for children and families to reduce this number. Parental peer advocacy is an initiative by the council to connect with parents to get a holistic overview of the family situation, rather than a box ticking exercise which may or may not meet thresholds for a Child protection plan.

The commission heard from Alasdair that social worker caseloads data can be provided to the commission at a later date, families are first offered early help or family help to try and mitigate circumstances .The most time consuming aspect of social work is the bureaucratic process of courts and child protection plans, the council is endeavouring to ensure that only children who absolutely need a protection plan are in that category. The council has been using funds from innovation fund for social work costs, in addition the council has setup separate assessment teams to help lighten the workload of social workers. Social worker caseloads can be high and there is some pressure on the social workers, the council is closely monitoring workloads to try and mitigate the pressure by hiring 25 case workers internationally.

The commission then asked further questions on the following themes

- Role of partnership in reducing the number of young women at risk from FGM; Clarification of data calculation metrics in child protection; recruiting locally from community for social work; support for young people dealing with gender identity cases
- Areas of focus for the Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership; refugee families in safeguarding; pathways through which families come under child protection
- Education and training for parents post child birth to reception on managing stress in parenting; Early family help and intervention

Alasdair explained to the commission that there is a separate working group for FGM which involves health and safety and schools, specifically on attendance. The



council is working continually to spread awareness among the public and caseworkers to have wider outlook on cases when dealing with child protection. The council has a response training for social workers tied into the Working Together and Care-leavers service. The council currently has 4 social apprenticeships providing education and training to help grow the local pool of social workers.

The commission learnt from Alasdair that providing the work force for social work and a fairer system that focuses especially on disadvantaged families are key areas for the partnership. Furthermore, more work is needed around the adolescents and teenagers who are more at risk due to external factors outside the family environment, which the current legislation and framework for child protection does not account for. In Southwark refugee families do not show in child protection and/or child in need systems, however there are some cases of low level child protection in the Latin or Eastern European communities plainly due to lack of understanding by such families of UK's child protection framework and legislation. Pathways to child protection is assessed on both areas of child behaviour and harm to the child, a holistic approach is used to assess family circumstances.

Alasdair informed the commission that Southwark has 4 children and family centres that are run through 16 sites that provide help parents need, care quality commission has approved these centres as they are providing culturally diverse support to families from all communities. Early family intervention and help is a needs based assessment, ranging from parenting programmes in family centres to child protection services.

## **6. DRAFT SCRUTINY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS 2023-2024**

### Education Recommendations

The commission clarified the process of receiving responses back from the Cabinet on recommendations in eight weeks and that the scrutiny team endeavours to actively track recommendations from the previous years.

On recommendation 6 (Kintore Way), the commission discussed the need for the recommendation to cover more LA maintained nurseries and not just Kintore Way (KW) nursery. However the commission also agreed that the rationale for KW to be mentioned in the nursery is due to the large proportion of nursery pupils and provisions at KW. The commission then agreed to include KW 'but not limited' to in the recommendation.

On recommendation 7, the commission discussed the need to revise the time frame in the recommendation of May 2024.

On recommendation 4, the commission discussed the need to include thorough communication of process with schools with regards to tracking pupil numbers; and further communication with schools when decisions are being taken on closures

and amalgamations as a part of the Keeping Education Strong Strategy.

#### Local Economy Recommendations

On recommendation 5, the commission discussed the need to review the recommendation noting that Southwark Works relies on partner organisations to provide entry level jobs and the council's limited role in it.

On recommendation 3, the commission agreed to review and rephrase the wording around the timing of the internships and provide more context in the body of the report.

### **7. WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024**

The commission noted the work programme for the year 2023-2024.

Meeting ended at 9:38 pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**

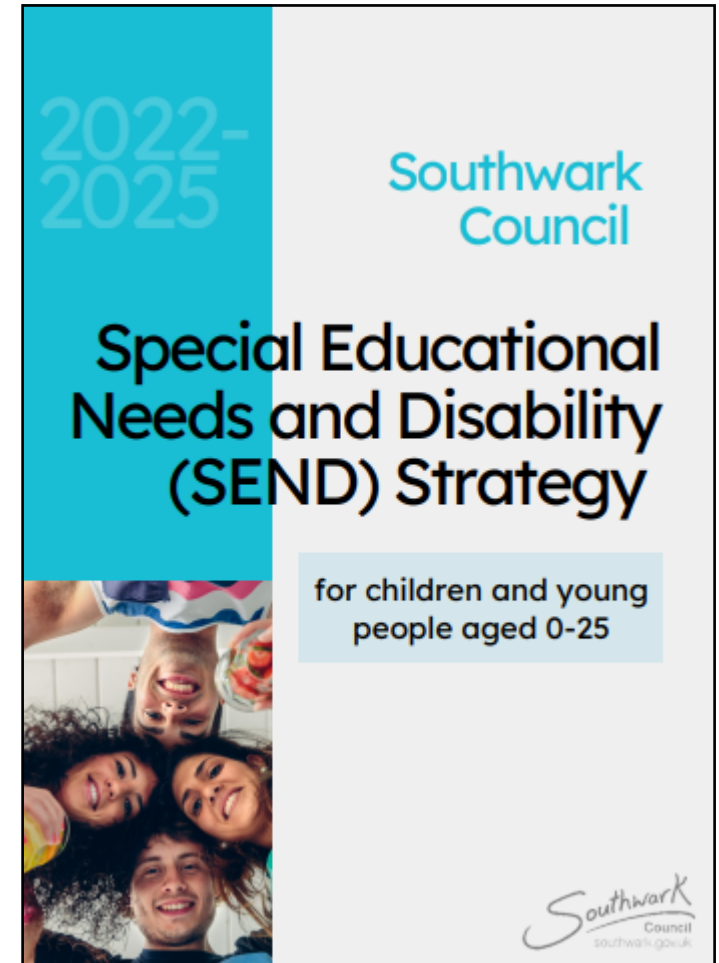
# Early Intervention in SEND Update

Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission –  
4 September 2024



# Early Intervention in SEND

- Research evidence tells us very clearly that early intervention to support young children with special educational needs and disabilities **can fundamentally alter their developmental trajectory and reduce the gap in outcomes** between them and their peers without additional needs.
- Early intervention for children with SEND and their parents and carers can be delivered across many areas including, early years settings, schools, health services and directly with parents and carers. Delivering early identification, and evidence-based interventions that help improve outcomes, including behavioural and emotional skills, social-emotional skills (such as the ability to socialise with peers) as well as cognitive skills (such as reading skills).
- Southwark Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy sets out four priorities for improving outcomes for our children and young people with SEND. The second priority of the strategy is the **provision of more timely, high-quality identification and provision.**



# Our developing approaches

Our families have told us that our early intervention offer in SEND needs to be multifaceted and responsive to the dynamic nature of needs in our Borough. To meet that challenge from our families we are mobilising a range of initiatives to increase our offer locally, this includes:

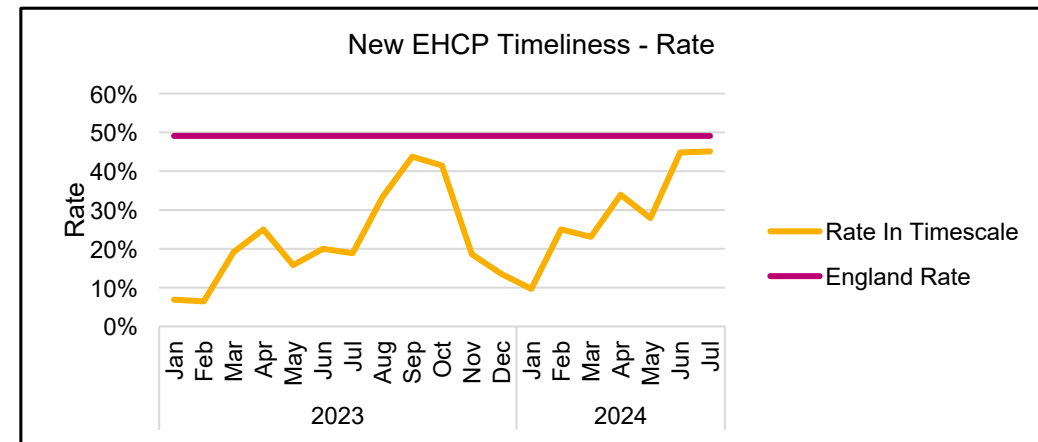
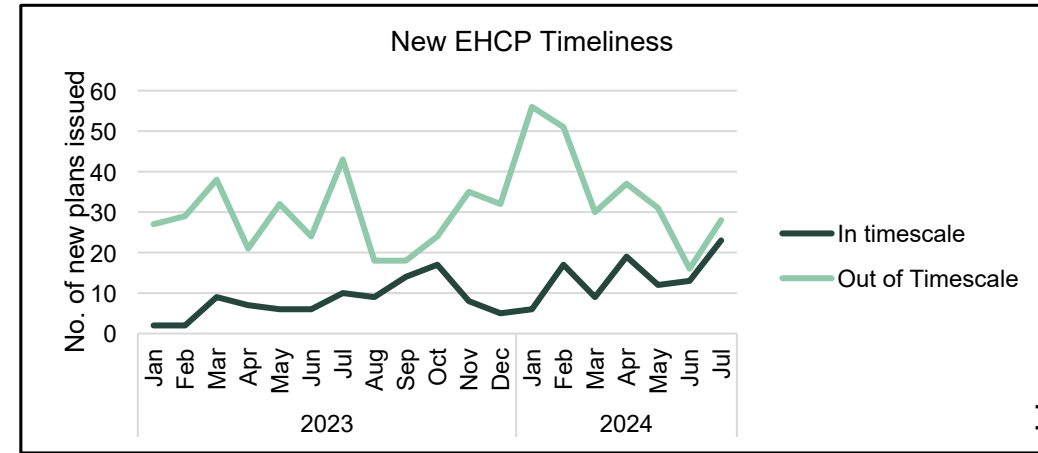
- Our **Communication and Social Interaction Pilot**. Up to 15 group and individual programmes of support to work with young people in KS1 who have identified speech and language and communication and require additional and targeted intervention to support access to mainstream education and reduce escalation to an EHC plan.
- A **Specialist Resources Provision at The Grove Nursery**. 12 part time places and 4 supported places for children with significant and complex social communication needs and or significant learning needs. Which means children's needs can be supported sooner and appropriate pathways identified.
- Creating a new **multi-agency transition panel** to promote even earlier planning and wraparound support for children with additional needs moving from primary to secondary.
- Building a truly **whole system approach** that recognises the importance of early language and communication development, and investing in support to parents to create a home environment that helps stimulate their children's critical early development.

# SENDIF Funding

- The Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund (SENDIF) is a provision for 3 and 4 years olds with SEND whose parents/carers are taking up the free entitlement to a pre-school place.
- The fund is to support providers to put in place specialist resources or enhanced staffing so that those children with additional support needs can be successfully included in settings. SENDIF is a key part of meeting the early needs of children with SEND and getting inclusive provision right for them to prevent escalation of their needs.
- For the Summer Term 2023-24 there were approximately 140 children being provided additional support through SENDIF at 59 different nurseries and child care settings.
- For the academic year 2024-25 the Council has increased the overall SENDIF budget by 147% from £250k to £680k. With the average annual SENDIF support contribution being approximately £3,000k per child, the additional budget allocation should be able to support an extra 140 children per year to be included in child care settings.

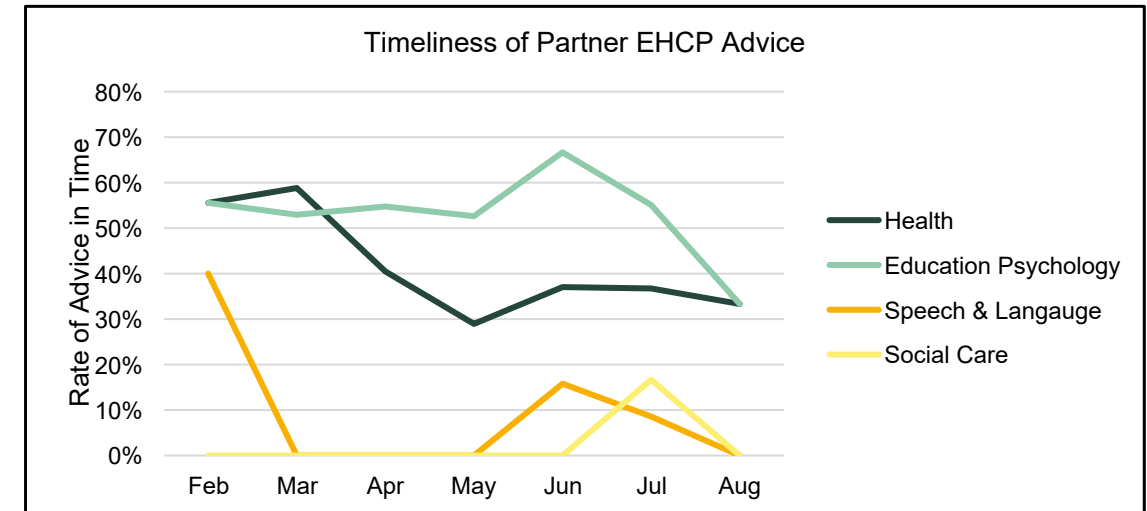
# EHCP Timeliness

- Over the past year significant efforts and investment has been delivered to clear a backlog of Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments the bulk of the backlog was cleared between November to February.
- Due to the efforts to clear the backlog the average timeliness of plans being issue dropped significantly reaching a low of 10% in January 2024.
- Subsequent to the work to clear the backlog timeliness in plans being issued within the statutory 20-week period has consistently increased. As at the end of July 2024 the rate of plans issued within the expected timescales has reached 45%, marginally below the national average of 49%.
- Reporting as of July 2024 shows a small continuing backlog in assessments (8%) down from over 30% in previous months. Close performance monitoring and management oversight is in place to ensure timely resolution and progress of completion of all overdue assessments



# EHCP Process Improvement

- A major contributory factor in delivering timely EHCPs continues to be the timeliness of partnership advice to contribute to needs assessments. The new SEND Strategic Partnership Board has taken the resolution of multi-agency timeliness issues as a key priority and will be receiving routine performance reporting on this issue and offering challenge to partners to ensure improvements are delivered.
- Within the service new data visualisation performance tools have been created using the Power BI tool, and are due to go live from September. These will give managers live oversight of EHCP performance at a child and worker level and increase the capacity for proactive performance management to drive necessary improvement.
- In the last quarter work has also been undertaken to mobilise stronger co-production of better working practices for the delivery of EHCPs with our schools and parents and carers. 6 in-person workshops, supported by an online consultation, were completed to review all of our EHCP documentation and ensure they are fit for purpose and meet best practice requirements. Initial recommendations from these development sessions are being drafted and will be further reviewed by a second round of participation and co-production with parents and also young people in the autumn term before implementation of process changes in commenced.





# Early Intervention in SEND – Speech, Language & Communication

# Early Language & Home Learning Environment

Wendy Heller - Service  
Development Manager: Early  
Years & Childcare



14

The home is the single most significant environmental factor in enabling children to develop the trust, attitude and skills that will help them to learn and engage positively with the world. A good home learning environment provides the love, security, stimulation, encouragement and opportunities that help children to flourish - a process that begins at birth, if not before.

Roberts, 2009



# Early Words Together at 3 and 4

The National Literacy Trust's programme 'Early Words Together' brings early years practitioners, parents and their young children together to engage in lots of fun learning activities based around story books which can be shared in the home to support their child's speech, language and communication (SLC) development.



# The delivery

**Session 1:** Supporting talk through imaginative play

**Session 2:** Singing songs and rhymes

**Session 3:** Sharing books and stories

**Session 4:** Mark-making

**Session 5:** Getting out and about

**Session 6:** Visiting the library and celebration

▪



# The impact



**A Big red bus**



**'Just a scribble'**

# Making it REAL

Making it REAL (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy) is an award-winning intervention programme that develops children's early literacy by helping parents create a positive early 'Home Learning Environment'.



# The training

Making it REAL training and projects are designed to enable practitioners to use the REAL evidence-based approach to support the **early Home Learning Environment**: This has been shown to have a powerful impact on children's outcomes and on family literacy practice





# The delivery

REAL: The **ORIM Framework**, home visits and family literacy events

		EARLY LITERACY STRANDS			
		Env. Print	Books	Writing	Oral language
<b>FAMILIES PROVIDE</b>	<u>O</u> pportunities				
	<u>R</u> ecognition				
	<u>I</u> nteraction				
	<u>M</u> odel				



# Wellcomm

- As part of our **SLC pathway of support**, the early identification of any speech and language difficulty or delay for our young children is key to their overall development. It is therefore essential to ensure that all early years practitioners have a good awareness of what represents appropriate development and have access to programmes that assist them to support children's language.
- **Wellcomm is a speech and language toolkit** that is designed to assess children's speech and language skills. It is available to early years practitioners working with children from 6 months to 6 years (Early years), and 6 years to 11 years (Primary).

- Our **early years practitioners, in both maintained and PVI settings** play a crucial role in identifying children with potential language difficulties and to offer a range of customised intervention activities to help support their language development.
- To date, we have purchased **30 Wellcomm toolkits** and worked with our partners in SLT to train 30 Early Years practitioners from different early years settings to use the toolkits and monitor children's progress.
- The majority of these settings have either been training in **EWT and / or Making it REAL.**

# Identifying Early Communication Needs - The Evelina London targeted nursery offer

Lindsay McLelland -  
Head of Therapies &  
Joint Head of Speech & Language  
Therapy

Cathy Johnston - Speech &  
Language Therapist - Early Years &  
Community



24

# Darcie's Story: A Video about Developmental Language Disorder



# Speech, language and communication needs: The scale of the problem

## Prevalence of SLCN in the UK:



**In some areas of deprivation, more than 50% of children start school with SLCN**



**10% of all children have long-term SLCN.**

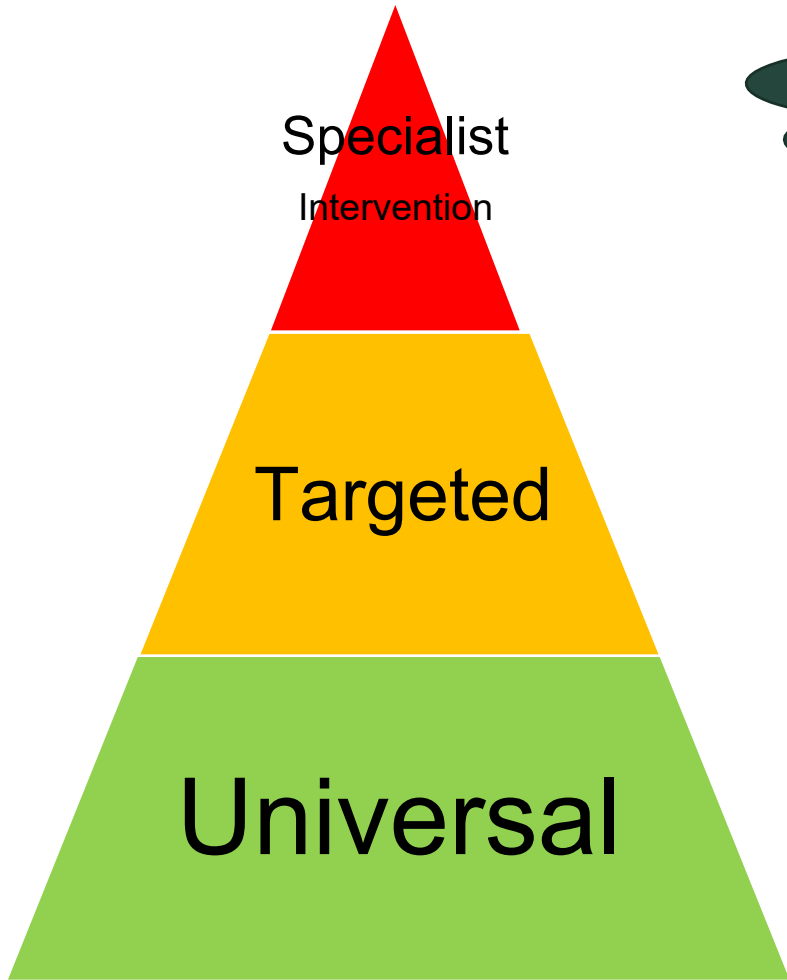


**7.56% of all children have a Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)**



**1% of all children have severe and complex SLCN**

# Context of Evelina SLT universal & targeted offer 0-5 years



Partnership working between health and local authorities to support SLCN pathway development for the early years

Increase **earlier identification of SLCN**  
referred to specialist SLT or signposted to targeted SLT support

Children's workforce are **skilled & confident to support SLCN**  
needs for all children in their setting to ensure inclusive practice

**Parents & practitioners** know key messages about supporting  
Speech Language & Communication development.

# Why is an additional screening tool needed?

- Screening has been recommended by PHE & DfE:
  - Detect delays
  - Improve child outcomes
  - Encourage parental involvement
- Children with mild-moderate language delay can easily be missed by parents, EYs practitioners (e.g. nursery staff) and health professionals unless a robust, evidence-based screening tool is used.
- Consistent identification of children who requiring either targeted or specialist SLT support needs practitioners across education (e.g. CC's / nurseries) and health (e.g. HV's) be using a consistent & sensitive, universal screening tool.

**The WellComm allows us to do exactly that!**



# The WellComm: What is it?

Screening tool - developed by Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Hospital Trust's SLTs service in 2010

- Split into 9 age stages: 6 months to 6 years
- 10 questions plus narrative at each stage
- Quick & easy to administer (10-20 minutes)
- Provides a RAG rating of child's language skills & thus clear pathway for practitioners to follow
- Resources and activities to specifically target areas of need and share with parents or practitioners



# The WellComm: RAG rating



GREEN - Language skills are age appropriate:

- Share appropriate universal health promotion advice and activities

AMBER - Language skills are delayed:

Continue the screening using the score sheet from the age band below until the child receives a GREEN score.

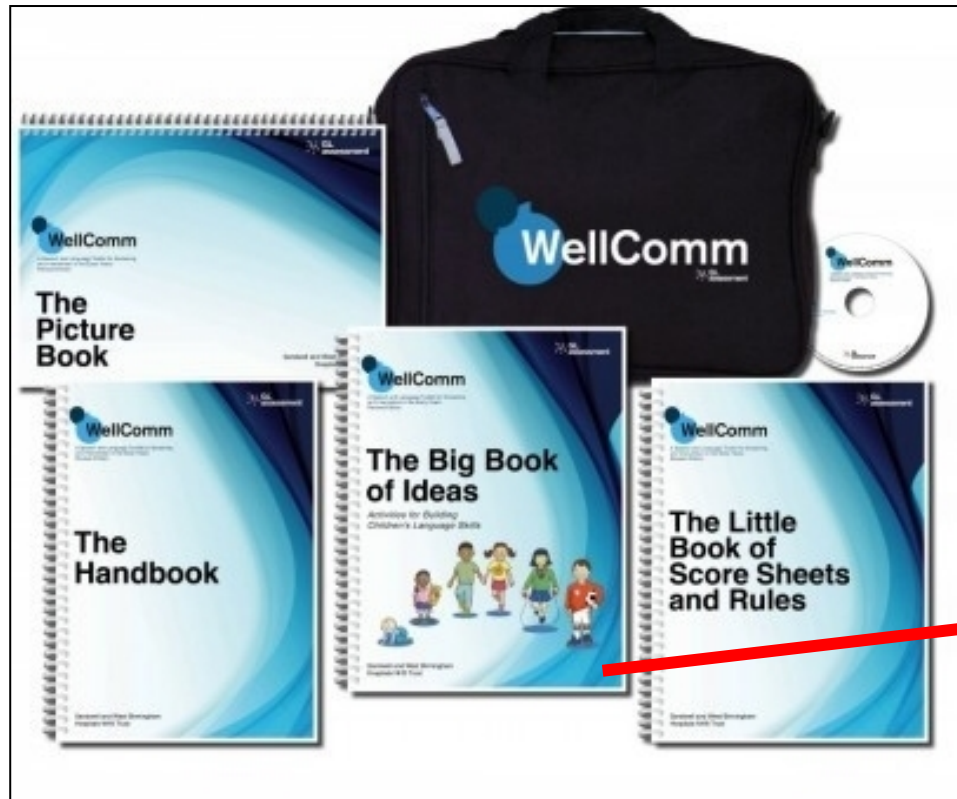
- Set up targeted support using activities/advice from The Big Book of Ideas (start with the section immediately above the section where a child scored green)
- Repeat screen in 3 months
- Signpost to targeted activities in SLC service/ EY setting (e.g. Chattertime)

RED - Language skills are significantly delayed:

**\*Complete immediate referral to SLT team\***

- Set up support as above for Amber + appropriate targeted/ SEN support local offer

# The WellComm: Big Book of Ideas



## Section 4.2

### Understanding simple describing words (adjectives) in sentences



#### Why is this important?

Adjectives are describing words that tell us a bit more about the object or item referred to (e.g. 'wet hands', 'dirty shoes').

#### What to do

- Gather together some pairs of pictures. One of the pictures should show the item in a different state (e.g. 'dirty', 'happy', 'wet', 'broken', 'big'). The other picture should show the object in its 'normal' state.
- Put out two pairs (e.g. 'happy' girl and 'normal' girl; 'broken' cup and 'normal' cup).
- Ask the child to point to 'broken cup'.
- If this is successful, move onto other picture sets.



#### Step up

- Look through early story books. Ask the child to point to things (such as the 'broken chair' in Goldilocks). Remember to make sure there is always a second item in the pictures that is not 'broken'/'dirty'/'happy' because if there is only one object, for example, one chair in 'Goldilocks', then the child may not have understood the adjective 'broken' but just the object 'chair'.
- Encourage the child to use some adjectives to describe everyday activities (e.g. when washing – 'wet hands/face'; when playing in the garden 'dirty shoes/ball').
- Introduce the 'opposite' adjective as being 'not happy', 'not wet'. Can the child find the object that is 'wet' and the object that is 'not wet'?

#### Step down

- Use real objects (e.g. 'big' teddy and 'normal-sized' teddy; 'dirty' glove and 'not dirty' glove).
- Use gestures/signs alongside the describing word (adjective) and object name.
- Concentrate on one adjective to begin with (e.g. find lots of things that are 'wet'

- or 'dirty').
- Don't refer to the other item as being 'not dirty' or 'clean' as we are not expecting the child to differentiate between the adjectives at this stage (you can try this when 'stepping up').



# WellComm: Our experience & use in early years

## LEAP – Lambeth Early Action Partnership

- Supporting EY PVI/Maintained settings to identify need to then give specific & targeted support to staff in the settings

## Children's Centres as part of U&T input

- CC staff trained across both boroughs to screen families as they are accessing support and then signpost to sessions available in the boroughs (e.g SLT supported Chattertimes or referral)

## Training for nurseries involved in the Early Words Together (EWT) programme in Southwark

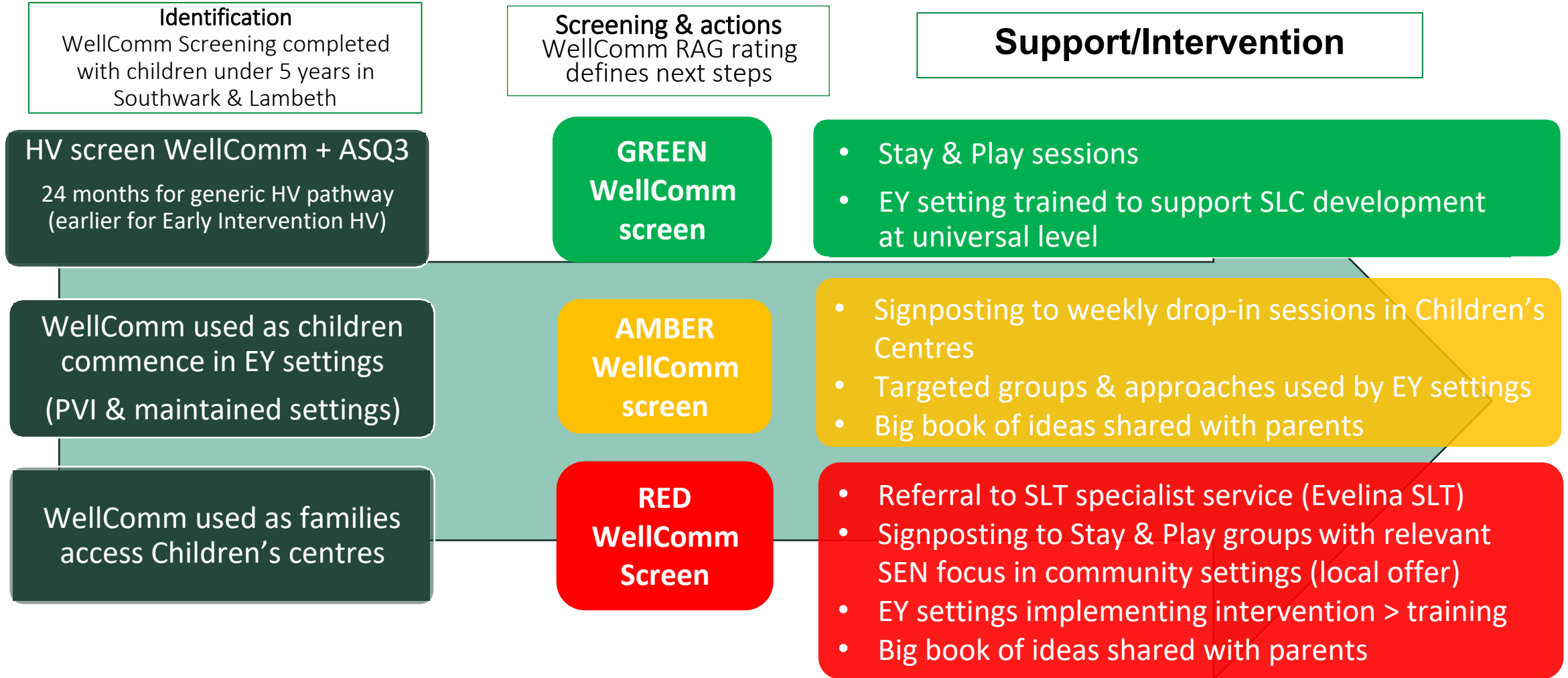
Introduction of the WellComm alongside ASQ-3 by Child development workers (CDWs) & HVs at the 2 year developmental check to support early identification of language needs

## **Next Steps:**

Funding to support use of WellComm & modelling/co-delivering identified targeted interventions through an SLT delivered, targeted nursery service into early years settings across both boroughs

# WellComm: Our experience & use in early years

Child Under 5



# The WellComm in Action: Local examples

“Initially the WellComm tool was daunting but over time the programme has shown to be very helpful with identifying children who may need support. I have seen children score in the white area of the ASQ scoring 50-60/60 but scoring amber on the WellComm. These children would have potentially been missed without the WellComm tool. The time it takes to complete this section of our reviews have also been manageable. It takes less than 10 minutes if the child scores within the green but slightly longer for amber/red. The more I have been practicing this, the more confident and quicker I have felt the process has been with the exception of children who require more time/support. Finally, liaising with the SALT team has been very helpful with understanding the new tool and I am very grateful for the support we have been given with our new addition to the health reviews.”

**Child development worker in the HV team**

# The WellComm



1. Evidenced robust screening tool – identifying the children who are currently ‘missing’ from our caseloads & referrals
2. Ease of delivery & concrete actions and ‘next steps’ for practitioners to follow
3. Guided the training and support that we could then offer into the settings we were supporting
4. Clear rationale to support referral to the service to share with families
5. Can then monitor progress and changes at an individual and cohort level
6. Supports early identification & intervention

# Evelina Community SLT EY&C specialist, targeted & universal service

<b>Specialist</b>	<b>Assessment &amp; Intervention</b>	Children Referred to SLT - Receive specialist assessment and intervention, as clinically indicated, in their local 'cluster'/via central offer: 6 geographical 'clusters':1) Elephant & Castle, 2) Bermondsey & Rotherhithe, 3) Camberwell & Peckham, 4) Clapham & Brixton, 5) Streatham, 6) West Norwood & Dulwich 1;1 & group – some delivered through the local cluster and others in a central offer* (*PACT; MTW; ITTT)
<b>Targeted</b>	<b>Drop-In Advice Sessions</b> (virtual/ F2F)	<b>Drop-in sessions</b> (F2F) in Children's Centres/community groups/libraries – 10 sessions per month <b>Virtual Drop ins</b> - scheduled as requested by parents
	<b>Chattertimes</b> (Face-to-face)	<b>Chattertimes</b> in Children's Centres – 11 sessions a week Stay & Play with focus on SLC development through adult-child interaction strategies
	<b>SENdsational/ Chattertime Plus Groups</b>	Supporting CC/EY staff to deliver stay & play sessions with a SEND and communication focus (largely social comm), <b>led by Children's Centre staff and supported by SLT</b> – 3 sessions a week
	<b>Targeted Nursery offer</b>	<b>New targeted service commencing 2024-25 Support EY settings (PVI/maintained) in early identification and delivery of quality targeted interventions</b> to support SLC development Training and on-site co-delivery /coaching
<b>Universal</b>	<b>Workforce Development:</b>	<b>Evelina Communication Friendly Award:</b> Use of an audit tool to identify strengths and gaps in setting as a starting place for helping EY settings/Children's centres to demonstrate the impact of SLT training and how they are supporting SLCN  <b>WellComm training:</b> to support early identification/input– in funded settings and to HV team
	<b>Health Promotion with users:</b> Talk & Play Every Day key messages Tiny Happy People BBC campaign	<b>SLT attendance at community groups or settings – as requested/agreed, dependent on capacity</b> Resources to share with parents at health and educational settings: <b>Talk &amp; Play Everyday:</b> <a href="#">Community speech and language therapy advice   Evelina London</a>  <b>BBC:</b> <a href="#">Children's language development and parenting advice - BBC Tiny Happy People</a>



Questions?



<b>Item No.</b> 8	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 4 September 2024	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission
<b>Report title:</b>		Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2024-25	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		N/A	
<b>From:</b>		Scrutiny Officer	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the education and local economy scrutiny commission note the work programme as at 4 September 2024 attached as Appendix 1.
2. That the education and local economy scrutiny commission consider the addition of new items or allocation of previously identified items to specific meeting dates of the commission.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The general terms of reference of the scrutiny commissions are set out in the council's constitution (overview and scrutiny procedure rules - paragraph 5). The constitution states that:

Within their terms of reference, all scrutiny committees/commissions will:

- a) review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the council's functions
- b) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the cabinet and council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time in areas covered by its terms of reference
- c) review and scrutinise the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas
- d) question members of the cabinet and officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and

targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects and about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area

- e) assist council assembly and the cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues
  - f) make reports and recommendations to the cabinet and or council assembly arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process
  - g) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants
  - h) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working
  - i) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance
  - j) conduct research and consultation on the analysis of policy issues and possible options
  - k) question and gather evidence from any other person (with their consent)
  - l) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the scrutiny process and in the development of policy options
  - m) conclude inquiries promptly and normally within six months
4. The work programme document lists those items which have been or are to be considered in line with the commission's terms of reference.

#### **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 5. Set out in Appendix 1 (Work Programme) are the issues the education and local economy scrutiny commission is due to consider in 2024-25.
- 6. The work programme is a standing item on the education and local economy scrutiny commission agenda and enables the commission to consider, monitor and plan issues for consideration at each meeting.

7. As of 22 May 2024 the commission also now has within in its remit the cabinet portfolio elements listed below:

**Children, Education & Refugees (Councillor Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member)**

- **Early years and childcare** – including children and family centres, early years education, childminders and nurseries
- **Schools** – including school standards, inclusion, places and admissions; special education needs; free healthy school and nursery meals and fruit; healthy schools and Southwark’s Let’s Go Zero schools network
- **Further, higher and adult education** – including English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), adult literacy and numeracy; and scholarships
- **Children’s social care** – including children in care and care leavers, fostering and adoption, support for children with disabilities and their families; and child safeguarding
- **Family support** – including parenting programmes, the council’s sure-start for teenagers service and support for families who are providing unpaid care for a child with a disability or health condition, including respite care
- **Youth offending services.**

**Climate Emergency (green economy), Jobs & Business (Councillor John Batteson)**

- **Greening our local economy** - engaging local people, businesses and organisations in action to reduce carbon emissions; delivering more green jobs, promoting climate justice; and reducing the council’s own emissions
- **Increasing employment** - support to find a job or start a new carer; careers advice and work experience; paid internships; supporting young people and care leavers’ into employment, education and training; relationship with Jobcentre Plus; supporting businesses to engage with schools and colleges (including the Education Business Alliance)
- **Vocational Skills** - including apprenticeships, vocational training and skills centres
- **Businesses support** - for local businesses, cooperatives, social enterprises and entrepreneurs; increasing procurement from local businesses; and relationships with local business groups and Business Improvement Districts.
- **High streets** – including town centre action plans, Thriving Highstreets Fund, markets
- **Commercial property** – management, leasing and rent setting of the council’s retail and commercial units, office accommodation and related property

- **Industrial strategy** - growing industries that generate good jobs and wider value for our community, including green industries, life sciences and creative and cultural industries
- **Living Wage** - promoting the London Living Wage employers
- **Workers' rights** - promoting good employment practices and equality and diversity at work and trade union membership.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission agenda and minutes	Southwark Council Website	Amit Alva <a href="mailto:Amit.alva@southwark.gov.uk">Amit.alva@southwark.gov.uk</a>
Link: <a href="https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CIId=550&amp;Year=0">https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CIId=550&amp;Year=0</a>		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Work Programme 2024-25

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Amit Alva, Scrutiny Officer	
<b>Report Author</b>	Amit Alva, Scrutiny Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	27 August 2024	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team</b>	27 August 2024	

## Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission Work Programme – 2024/25

Meeting	Agenda items	Comment
4 September 2024	Parent Carer Forum Representative (SEND)	To hear from a Parent Carer Forum representative on Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
	Early Intervention and SEND including EHCPs' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEND IF Formula</li> <li>• EHCP backlog, timelines for processing</li> <li>• No. of Early interventions carried out</li> <li>• Improvements for EHCP Process in Southwark</li> </ul>	To receive a presentation on Early Intervention in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND); and Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) backlogs and processing timelines from Anna Chiva, Asst. Director SEND and Michael Crowe, Strategic Programme Lead
	Cabinet Member Interview- Children, Education & Refugees	To interview Councillor Jasmine Ali covering a holistic overview of key strategies and projects under the Cabinet member portfolio for Children, Education and Refugees with a focus on key aspects.

Meeting	Agenda items	Comment
<b>26 September 2024</b>	Draft Town Centre Action Plan	To receive the Draft Town Centre Action Plan from Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Jobs & Business, Councillor John Batteson, Danny Edwards, Head of Economy and Libby Dunstan, Principal Strategy Officer.
	Cabinet Member Interview- Climate Emergency, Jobs & Business	To interview Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Jobs & Business, Councillor John Batteson covering a holistic overview of key strategies and projects under the cabinet member portfolio.
Upcoming Meetings	Agenda items yet to be scheduled	Comment
<b>18 November 2024</b> <b>4 February 2025</b> <b>8 April 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviewing representatives from charities on SEND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Council for Disabled Children</li> <li>➤ Mencap</li> <li>➤ Scope</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP)</li> </ul>	To be confirmed





## Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024-25**

### AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)

**NOTE:** Original held by Scrutiny Team; all amendments/queries to Amit Alva Tel: 020 7525 0496

Name	No of copies	Name	No of copies
<p><b>Electronic Copy</b></p> <p><b>Members:</b></p> <p>Councillor Cassandra Brown (Chair)  Councillor Rachel Bentley (Vice-Chair)  Councillor Sunil Chopra  Councillor Renata Hamvas  Councillor Jon Hartley  Councillor Youcef Hassaine  Councillor Irina Von Wiese</p> <p><b>Education Representatives</b>  Martin Brecknell</p> <p><b>Parent Governor Representatives</b>  Marcin Jagodzinski  Jonathan Clay</p> <p><b>Reserves Members</b></p> <p>Councillor Gavin Edwards  Councillor Ketzia Harper  Councillor Sunny Lambe  Councillor Jason Ochere  Councillor Victor Chamberlain  Councillor Adam Hood</p>		<p>Joseph Brown – Senior Cabinet Officer</p> <p>Euan Cadzow-Webb - Liberal Democrat Group Office</p> <p>Sarauniya Shehu- Cabinet Office Manager</p> <p><b>Dated: September 2024</b></p>	