

APPENDIX 1

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY)

WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 2014

PUBLIC QUESTION

1. QUESTION FROM SHAILA RAVINDRANATH TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

Would the cabinet member be willing to promote and actualise policies and practices related to children's supportive needs of secure, loving caringness including their emotional development, with a holistic approach together with parents and carers and not perpetuate divisive models, instead uniting us all in one human global family?

RESPONSE

All those who work in children's services are committed to delivering the best possible service to children and families and with this in mind the service has fundamentally changed the way that practitioners work, in order to improve outcomes for families.

An example can be found in *Social Work Matters*, the new practice model which ensures that social workers work holistically with families to ensure children are safe and parents have the skills and tools to manage family life effectively. The service is putting the new structure and culture in place to ensure staff have the skill and confidence to help families to improve their lives. Similar models have been highly successful in other authorities and *Social Work Matters* was received very positively by Ofsted inspectors following a recent thematic study in Southwark.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM SHAILA RAVINDRANATH TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

Thank you. How and when will we experience the reality of the delivery and change in culture that you have responded to?

RESPONSE

Thank you very much for your answer. This gives me an opportunity to talk about the very pleasing and excellent response we have had from Ofsted just this last Friday who came in to do a thematic study of our children's social care and actually what is clear in what they said to us is in the change in practices that we are bringing forward with our social care already happening so I really hope that, I don't know what your specific issue might be and I'm very happy to meet with you after the meeting to discuss that further, but I think we should be seeing those changes already.