

**Southwark Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Executive Interview - January 19 2010**

Questions to Councillor Rajan, Executive member for Children's Services:

1. Have you got the latest figures for teenage pregnancy levels and obesity for Southwark? How do these figures compare with previous statistics on these two issues?
2. Could the Executive member give an update on the restructuring of the Youth Service? How is the service ensuring that the voluntary sector and Tenants and Residents Associations, also providing youth services, are involved in stakeholder meetings taking place at this time?
3. Could the Executive member give an update on the Connexions Service? What numerical impact is the service making on the numbers of NEET young people in Southwark?
4. Following the publication of the Ofsted Report on the Adult Learning Service judged to be satisfactory, what key headings in the Action Plan will ensure that services which prepare people for employment and the teaching of English as a second language will be improved? How will the Action Plan be funded given the comments by the Finance Director?
5. Could the Executive member for Children's Services give the sub-committee an update on Youth Council development and the election of representatives onto Community Councils? How will Youth Council representatives input into Community Councils to ensure a significant impact?
6. What steps have been taken by the Executive members in response to the recommendations in the sub-committee's report on Youth provision in Southwark.
7. How does the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) perform its quality assurance role? What evidence is there to show service improvement at system and frontline practitioner level?
8. Is the LSCB gathering and using the experience of children, young people and families to inform improvements to safeguarding arrangements?
9. What safeguards are in place to protect children and families from inappropriate child protection interventions?
10. Do all Child Protection Plans contain specific, achievable, child focussed outcomes intended to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child? Are these measurable and are those protection plans independently reviewed?

11. Please provide recruitment and retention figures for the last three years for Southwark Social Workers?
12. What progress is being made with Southwark Youth Councils and do you have any views on how they might interface with scrutiny?
13. To what extent has counselling been provide to children affected by the Sumner Road fire? Please set out counselling arrangements for both those families displaced as well as those who have been allowed to return to their homes.

Questions to Councillor Stanton, Council Leader:

14. How is the Council ensuring a smooth transfer of all post 16 education from the Learning and Skills Council to Southwark Education?
15. How is the Council coordinating all the many agencies offering post 16 work experience and placements; and how is the Council ensuring good quality placements and teaching?
16. Is the Leader satisfied with the progress of the Southwark BSF programme? Have any financial problems arisen due to the current economic climate?
17. What remedial measures are now in place to ensure that KS 2 English and Maths results improve in those Primary Schools where results have not been as good as the previous year?
18. What does the Executive member see as the biggest challenges to the department over the next 24 months for Southwark primary schools?
19. In light of the continuing financial crisis and the number of homes being repossessed, can the Executive member/s:
 - i. Advise what impact this has had on the education of children whose families have had their homes repossessed?
 - ii. Advise what safeguards are in place particularly for those children who have had to be withdrawn or transferred to other schools within or outside of the borough to ensure that any detrimental effects on their education are minimised?
 - iii. Confirm that every effort is being made to ensure that any necessary advice and assistance is being offered for these families? – and confirm what advice and assistance is being offered.
 - iv. Advise how families access this advice/assistance, - i.e. are they contacted independently after repossession, or do families have to find out about such assistance themselves?

20. Though very welcome, please explain what contribution the expansion of St Anthony's RC Primary School will make towards helping address under-capacity in the East Dulwich area?
21. Do you think there is a need to address the incongruity of children living just outside that year's catchment area of their nearest school, who end up because of distance from their remaining choices, only being accepted into the 4th, 5th or sometimes even 6th choice?
22. Do you have any views about the inconsistent level of Sports Provision across Southwark Schools?