

Southwark Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee  
Executive Interview – March 02 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.
14. In light of the absence of records showing how many children are removed from school as a result of having their family home repossessed, how does the council monitor the effectiveness of aftercare and support given to such children, in terms of maintaining their academic performance and any special educational requirements a child may have previously enjoyed, prior to the involuntary move?