



## Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Wednesday 20 March 2013 at 7.00 pm**

Committee Rooms 1 and 2, Brent Town Hall, Forty  
Lane, Wembley, HA9 9HD

### Membership:

#### Members

Councillors:

Mashari (Chair)  
Cheese (Vice-Chair)  
Aden  
Al-Ebadi  
Kansagra  
Matthews  
Mitchell Murray  
Pavey

#### First alternates

Councillors:

S Choudhary  
CJ Patel  
Oladapo  
Denselow  
Baker  
Leaman  
Daly  
Krupa Sheth

#### Second alternates

Councillors:

Hector  
Sneddon  
Harrison  
RS Patel  
HM Patel  
Lorber  
Ogunro  
Hossain

#### Statutory Co-optees

Alloysius Frederick  
Dr Nanda Kumar  
Elsie Points  
Vacancy

#### Non-statutory Co-optees

Mrs Hawra Imame  
Dr J Levison

#### Observers

Mr A Carter  
Ms J Cooper  
Mrs L Gouldbourne  
Ms C Jolinon  
Mr B Patel  
Brent Youth Parliament  
representatives

**For further information contact:** Bryony Gibbs, Democratic Services Officer  
020 937 1355 [bryony.gibbs@brent.gov.uk](mailto:bryony.gibbs@brent.gov.uk)

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**The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting**

# Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

Item	Page
<b>1 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests</b>	
Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting any relevant financial or other interest in the items on the agenda.	
<b>2 Deputations (if any)</b>	
<b>3 Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 February 2013</b>	1 - 8
<b>4 Brent Youth Parliament update</b>	
The committee will receive an oral update on the work of the Brent Youth Parliament.	
<b>5 Schools Finance Update - 2012/13</b>	9 - 14
This report provides an overview of the current situation regarding financial management in Brent Schools. It provides an update following a more detailed report that was presented to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 July 2012.	
<b>6 Academies and Free Schools</b>	15 - 24
This report updates the Committee on the changes in types of schools in the borough, including academies and free schools.	
<b>7 Special Educational Needs (SEN) Strategy</b>	
The Committee will have the opportunity to raise any issues and ask questions regarding the SEN Strategy document.	
<b>8 School Places Update</b>	
This is a standing agenda item to update the committee on the current situation regarding school places in the borough.	

## 9 Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 25 - 36

The work programme is attached.

## 10 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny meeting will be confirmed at the Annual Council Meeting scheduled for 15 May 2013.

## 11 Any other urgent business

Notice of items raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Democratic Services Manager or his representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 64.



- Please remember to *SWITCH OFF* your mobile phone during the meeting.
- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.
  - Toilets are available on the second floor.
  - Catering facilities can be found on the first floor near the Paul Daisley Hall.
  - A public telephone is located in the foyer on the ground floor, opposite the Porters' Lodge

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## MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday 12 February 2013 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Mashari (Chair), Councillor Cheese (Vice-Chair), Councillors Aden, Al-Ebadi, Matthews, Mitchell Murray, and Krupa Sheth and Mr A Frederick, Ms E Points, Dr Levison, Mrs L Gouldbourne and Brent Youth Parliament representatives

Also present: Councillors Arnold and Butt

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Pavey and Ms J Cooper and Ms C Jolinon

### 1. **Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests**

None declared.

### 2. **Deputations (if any)**

None

### 3. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 11 December 2012**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 11 December 2012 were approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

### 4. **Brent Youth Parliament update**

Thivya Jeyashanker (Chair of Brent Youth Parliament (BYP)) provided an update to the committee on the work of the BYP.

#### BYP Elections

Elections had just been held in December and a new Executive had been elected. Thivya Jeyashanker had been re-elected Chair of BYP whilst Chante had been re-elected as the Brent member of the UK Youth Parliament (MYP). New portfolio holders would be contacting the relevant lead members.

#### Curriculum for Life

Chante Joseph was currently leading on BYP's efforts towards the UK Youth Council's National campaign, 'Curriculum for Life'. This campaign sought a youth-led review and subsequent overhaul of the national curriculum to better equip young people for life by providing them with improved sex and relationship education and helping them to develop greater political knowledge, cultural awareness, community cohesion, finance skills and sustainable living.

#### 16-18 Bursaries

This campaign sought to inform young people of the financial support available to them. The deputy Brent MYP was leading on this campaign.

#### Working with London Boroughs

BYP was exploring opportunities to work with other London Boroughs to identify common objectives that could be achieved more effectively via joint working.

#### BYP Main Campaign

'Have your say' forms were being sent out to schools and youth groups across the borough to identify a key issue which would form the basis of BYP's annual campaign. The BYP was also seeking to identify a local charity to support in achieving its aims.

#### Roundwood Community Centre Update

The youth club was now open and members were welcomed to visit. A half term programme had been developed. In response to a query, Thivya Jeyashanker advised that there was IT equipment accessible at the venue. Members were also advised that there was a music studio provided at the youth centre.

#### Youth Strategic Plan

Work was currently underway on the Brent Youth Strategic Plan.

### **5. Bullying in Schools**

The committee received presentations from the Chair and Vice Chair of the Brent Anti-Bullying Council (ABC), representatives of Mosaic LGBT Youth Centre and from Stephen McMullan (Interim Strategic Lead for Behaviour).

The Chair and Vice Chair of ABC advised that ABC was principally formed of student members nominated by each of the 6 constituent schools and aimed to share best practice. They outlined the achievements of ABC and highlighted planned actions for the current year. The objective of ABC for this year was to spread awareness of the impact of bullying on education. It was emphasised that ABC supported a restorative approach to dealing with incidents between pupils. This approach focussed on helping the various parties understand each other's perspectives and avoided labelling of victims and perpetrators.

The representatives from Mosaic LGBT Youth Centre explained that the centre provided support to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual young people. The centre also offered a range of services aimed at addressing homophobic bullying. These services included conducting surveys of pupil views, assisting with campaigns in schools and the provision of workshops, conferences and staff training to schools and other related parties. Several key obstacles to the momentum of such work were highlighted. Of particular concern was staff turnover, where there had been one key member of staff leading on such work within the school. It was also considered that existing sex education did not sufficiently explore issues of homosexuality and gender identity and where these issues were addressed, it was only for older pupils. It was noted that anti-faith and racist bullying was dealt with very well in the borough and that it was important that homophobic bullying was considered an issue of similar significance.

Stephen McMullan concluded the presentation by noting that almost half (46%) of children and young people have said that they had been bullied at school at some point in their lives, and detailed several examples of good practice from Brent's Schools. A new Ofsted inspection framework had been established and this placed greater emphasis around behaviour and safety. It was now necessary for schools to have mechanisms in place to deal with bullying to achieve an outstanding rating. To receive an inadequate rating for this area bullying would be frequent and/or the pupils would have little confidence in the school's ability to deal with incidents of bullying. Thirteen schools had been inspected in 2012/13 under the new Ofsted Inspection framework, none of which had received an unsatisfactory rating.

The committee congratulated the young representatives of ABC and Mosaic LGBT centre on their presentations and commended the work undertaken by their respective bodies. With reference to the updated ABC leaflet which had been circulated to the committee, Councillor Cheese noted the importance of ensuring that the intended messages were clearly imparted to the target audience. The committee sought further details about the support systems in schools and Councillor Arnold (Lead Member for Children and Families) queried whether it was common for schools in Brent to have mentoring support and student counsellors. A further query was raised regarding ABC and whether any additional channels of support were required to realise any improvements. The committee noted that the take up of the free services to schools offered by the Mosaic LGBT centre was low and queried what prevented schools from making use of these resources. It was also queried what support systems were in place to help parents navigate issues of bullying.

The Chair and Vice Chair of ABC advised that in their school there were lots of mentoring tutors, a mentoring department and school counsellors who offered support. The Chair of BYP added that her school had similar arrangements in place. The main issue remained lines of communication and supporting pupils as they transition from primary school to secondary school. With regard to support for ABC, it was confirmed that attendance at the meetings by all of the schools was perhaps the only area that required attention. Steven McMullan explained that information for parents was set out in schools' anti-bullying policies which detail how such issues should be approached.

The representatives of Mosaic LGBT youth centre explained that the underlying issue to the take up of their services was the independence of schools. Many schools were facing significant challenges at the present time and there was no requirement for them to address such issues. Steven McMullan added that there were also an issue of confidence amongst staff in schools about tackling these issues.

RESOLVED:

that the presentation be noted.

**6. Update on progressing recommendations of Youth Offending Task Group/Early Years Intervention Task Group**

Sara Williams (Assistant Director, Early Help and Education) presented a report to the committee, updating members on the work undertaken with regard to the recommendations of the Youth Offending / Early Years Intervention Task Group. The task group had produced its final report in September 2011 and a detailed commentary had been produced by Children and Families officers at this time on each of the recommendations. The recommendations of the task group were set out at appendix A to the report.

The committee was advised that prevention now assumed centre stage in the working of the Children and Families Department and in the Plan for Children and Young People in Brent which had been adopted at the end of 2012. The importance of prevention would also be reflected in the Borough Plan which was currently being refreshed by the Interim Chief Executive. The most significant development in the creation of a more coherent approach to prevention was the Working with Families Programme, on which the committee had received a report in December 2012. There were a series of detailed project plans for the programme, including timelines and performance indicators, which effectively constituted a comprehensive preventative strategy. This Working with Families strategy incorporated the development of a 'team around the family' approach underpinned by the coordinating role of Family Support Workers. There would be improved data sharing through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and greater involvement of schools in identifying and referring families. The development of a financial model demonstrating the savings and cost-avoidance to be achieved from a preventative approach also formed a key aspect of the Working with Families strategy.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

## 7. **Short breaks provision**

Neil Macdonald (Interim Head of Service Children's Commissioning) delivered a presentation to the committee on short breaks provision for Children with Disabilities in Brent. The committee was advised that the new Village short breaks centre was now open and had received its first children for respite care on 8 February 2013. The centre replaced the service previously provided at Clement Close and delivered services for children and young people with a range of needs including those on the autistic spectrum, those with complex or specific health needs, those with a physical disability and/or learning disability and children with sensory impairments. The centre was registered to provide short breaks for up to 8 children, double the capacity of Clement Close. The council was currently exploring how best to use this additional capacity. It was intended that a bed would be made available to provide emergency respite care and consideration was currently being given to selling bed space to neighbouring boroughs. In order to ensure that the service was meeting the needs of the children, a parent and professionals advisory group had been established and would meet quarterly to provide feedback and contribute to service planning and delivery. There would also be statutory monthly monitoring visits conducted.

In the subsequent discussion the committee raised several issues. Clarification was sought regarding the purpose and benefits of short break provision. It was noted



that both parents and children might find separation, even for a short period, distressing and a query was raised on how such issues might be dealt with. Further details were sought regarding the additional bed capacity, the potential income that this might generate and whether any consideration was being given to making the after school and day care facilities available to other boroughs. The committee also queried whether any Brent children were receiving out of borough short break provision.

Neil Macdonald advised that short break services provided respite to parents and a break for the children where they were able to socialise with peers and take part in activities that wouldn't be open to them at home. Short break provision enabled children to have periods of independence from their families in a safe enjoyable environment and at the same time helped to relieve pressure on families. It was a voluntary resource and families could choose whether to make use of it. Day care and after school facilities were also offered at the centre and these might be more appropriate for children or families anxious about overnight separation. The amount of hours allotted to a child was dependent on their assessed need. Most children receive between 2 and 3 nights per month which would often be taken as a weekend session at regular intervals so that families could plan for them.

Turning to the queries regarding the additional capacity, Neil Macdonald explained that this issue was currently being explored. It was likely that there would be at least one bed that could be made available to other authorities. It was not intended to open up the day care or after school club to other authorities as it was not convenient for families to access such services at a considerable distance to their homes. The charge that could be made to other local authorities for one bed was between £400 and £450 per night; however, a relationship could be established with one authority with a charge being made for reserving a bed. It was highlighted that no respite centre would run at full capacity. The committee was further advised that there had been 6 children accessing short break provision out of the borough within the current financial year. Those cases would be reviewed to explore whether it would be appropriate to transfer them to in-borough provision; however the impact on the child would be the primary consideration.

The committee requested that a report regarding actions taken with respect to the additional capacity of the centre be brought to a meeting of the committee in six months' time.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

## 8. **Strategy for Special Educational Needs and Disability**

A report was presented to the committee by Sara Williams (Assistant Director, Early Help and Education) on the work currently being undertaken to improve the council's approach to meeting the needs of pupils and students with special educational needs (SEN). The committee was advised that the Executive at its meeting on 11 February 2013 had approved a new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy for 2013-2016. The strategy formed part of the One Council SEN Phase 1 and 2 projects and linked into the Children and Young People's Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It was a high-level document

which set out the challenges and the principles underpinning the council's approach to SEND provision and included an action plan for delivery. There had been a two stage consultation on the strategy with all partners including schools, governing bodies, health services, voluntary agencies and parents. The committee attention was drawn to the three broad principles that had been developed through the consultation process and which underpinned the strategy. These focussed on promoting inclusion and independence, making the best possible use of available resources, and effective partnership working to ensure that the right support was received by families at the right time. The overarching aim of the work around SEN provision was to enhance the quality and quantity of SEN services within the borough and to reduce costs.

Sara Williams explained that the new strategy had been developed amid increasing challenges for the provision of SEND services, which principally related to a rapid increase in demand. These challenges had led to a significant overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and central service expenditure. In meeting these challenges the council had made a number of significant achievements. These included a reduction in the number of Statements of SEN produced and an improvement in the efficiency of the process. This had partially been achieved by robustly applying the thresholds for Statements of SEN. There had also been a reduction in placements out of the borough, and an increase in SEN school places in the borough. In addition to these local challenges, government reforms of the legislative framework for SEND were scheduled to be implemented during the period covered by the new strategy. Suggested flexibility had therefore been built into the strategy to accommodate these changes.

Councillor Arnold (Lead Member for Children and Families) reiterated the significance of the challenges around SEND provision and the achievements that had been made. She noted that the council was now on target to meet the overspend on the Schools' budget.

Several issues were raised in the subsequent discussion. Mrs Gouldbourne congratulated the council on the consultation conducted on the new SEND strategy and commented that the strategy would involve a heightened role for staff. The committee queried why a joined up approach had not been pursued previously. Further details were sought regarding the phase 2 SEN project workstreams, with particular reference to the workstream regarding culture change. Additional information was also sought regarding the changes in relation to the Statements of SEN.

Sara Williams advised that there had been a considerable amount of work conducted to achieve a joined up approach. In the past it had been particularly difficult to navigate the issue of separate funding streams and it was an underlying goal of a number of government initiatives to enable funding to be brought together. With regard to the workstreams which had been agreed as part of the Strategy by the Executive, Sara Williams reiterated some of the successes that had been achieved and outlined some of the areas planned for development. The committee was advised that additional SEN school places had been provided and the council was now on track to have sufficient SEN school places. The council was currently looking at the process of commissioning post 16 SEN places to develop a more coherent offer by working directly with local colleges. It was considered that there was considerable potential to create an attractive offer which would help promote

independence for young people with SEN. The council was also examining how SEN was funded in schools and was developing a financial model to explore the impact of national changes to the funding regime. The reference to cultural change was one common to all One Council projects. The key cultural change implicit in the work around SEN was the focus on inclusion.

In response to the queries regarding the SEN Statement process, Sara Williams explained that Brent had previously had one of the worst performances in the country regarding the production of SEN Statements; it now completed 100 per cent of Statements on time. There were less children being put through the SEN Statement process as the associated thresholds were being more robustly applied. This enabled funding to be appropriately directed to supporting children with less complex needs, rather than being spent on taking them through a process designed to accommodate children with highly complex SEN needs. More cases were being taken to tribunal to appeal the council's choice to not pursue a Statement of SEN for particular children and the council was doing well in winning these tribunals and demonstrating that the thresholds had been applied in a fair and transparent manner.

Priya Mistry (Policy and Performance Officer) explained that a copy of the approved SEND Strategy for 2013-16 would be circulated to the committee in advance of its next meeting. It was agreed that some time would be allotted at the next meeting to consider the strategy document.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

#### 9. **Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

Councillor Mashari listed the items scheduled for the next meeting and the committee agreed the following two additions to the existing work programme:

- Achievement in Schools by ethnicity
- SEN Strategy.

#### 10. **Date of next meeting**

The committee noted that the next meeting would be held on 20 March 2013.


#### 11. **Any other urgent business**

##### School Places Update

Sara Williams (Assistant Director Early Help and Education) explained that as of 8 February 2013 there were 13 pupils without an offer. These 13 children had not yet been placed as they were very recent applications. The rate at which applications continued to be made remained very high. There had recently been 53 casual applications for school places within one week. In response to a query, Sara Williams advised that the applications were mostly for primary school places but there was also significant pressure on year 10 places.

The meeting closed at 9.22 pm

CLLR MASHARI  
Chair

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b> 20 March 2013</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report from the Director of Children &amp; Families</b></p>
For Information	Wards Affected: ALL
<b>Schools Finance Update – 2012/13</b>	

## 1. Background

- 1.1. This report provides an overview of the current situation regarding financial management in Brent Schools. It provides an update following a more detailed report that was presented to this Scrutiny Committee on 19 July 2012. At that meeting a small number of key issues were identified as being the most significant areas for improvement in terms of financial management practices in schools. These issues were as follows:
- Leasing arrangements
  - The School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document
  - Outcomes of internal audit reviews
- 1.2. This report provides an update on those key areas and provides more general assurance that financial management in Brent Schools is improving and is in the vast majority of cases performed at the expected level.
- 1.3. As day to day financial management is a function that is delegated to Schools this report reflects a strategic view of some of the issues that have been identified and the support and controls that are in place to ensure good financial management in schools.
- 1.4. Although day to day financial management is a responsibility delegated to governing bodies the Council maintains an important role in ensuring public funds passed onto schools are spent appropriately. The Director of Finance has section 151 responsibilities to ensure sound financial systems and controls are in place across the council and in its schools.

1.5. The areas covered in this report should be considered in conjunction with the large number of systems and practices in place to allow the Director of Finance to discharge his responsibilities regarding schools, which include:

- Regular internal audit reviews
- Key documents and guidance including: Schools Financial Regulations, Scheme of Financial Management, and Schools Standards Value Statements.
- Guidance and information updates via the schools intranet
- Regular seminars for school bursars
- Regular meetings with Headteachers
- Training sessions for Headteachers, Bursars and Governors

## 2. Update on Outcomes of Audit Reviews

2.1. The Audit and Investigations Team have issued reports on fifteen schools as part of their audit plan coverage for 2012/13. At its meeting on 19 July 2012 the Committee was provided with an analysis of assurance ratings given to schools over 2010/11 and 2011/12. The position in 2012/13 is much improved with far fewer schools having received a limited or nil assurance rating. The proportion of schools receiving substantial assurance has increased from 35% to 80%. Whilst this may drop slightly when all reports have been completed, there will be an overall improvement in ratings. A summary of the assurance levels over the current and previous two years is shown below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Limited</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>2010/11</b>	46%	54%	0%
<b>2011/12</b>	35%	45%	20%
<b>2012/13</b>	80%	13%	7%

2.2. In practice, what this means is that there are far fewer recommendations for improvement being made which are considered to be of high priority, meaning that the control environment is better, generally, in those schools being visited in 2012/13. These are, of course, different schools than those which were visited in the previous years and, therefore, a direct conclusion about improvement can not necessarily be made. However, there is no reason to believe that the schools visited are not representative of the whole school group.

2.3. The problems identified last year in relation to leadership pay and leasing have not been a significant feature of the school audits in the current year.

### **3. Update on Compliance with the School Teachers Pay and conditions document**

- 3.1. In September 2011, changes were made to the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) (a statutory document that is reviewed and published annually).
- 3.2. A key issue that had been identified through the audit process related to schools complying with the statutory requirements of the STPCD regarding the setting of pay levels for Headteachers and other Senior Leadership posts. The regulations are complex but nevertheless compliance with them is a statutory requirement and a comprehensive action plan was put in place by the Council to both support and challenge schools to ensure compliance
- 3.3. In October 2011, Brent wrote to all schools, requesting details of their headteacher salary arrangements. Schools were also advised of the new pay arrangements and that they should ensure that the headteacher salary was compliant with the school teachers' pay and conditions document.
- 3.4. In 2012, other than schools that became academies all schools had provided the requested information.
- 3.5. A number of schools also sought advice from the HR Services Manager, who was invited to governing body meetings to advise them on setting the headteacher's pay.
- 3.6. The majority of schools are now compliant with the provisions of the STPCD. A small number of schools are being asked to provide further supporting documentation setting out the rationale and processes used to set pay levels to ensure full compliance with the STPCD.
- 3.7. Brent continues to carry out school audits and where it identifies any issues regarding compliance with the STPCD, the school is asked to contact the HR Services Manager for advice. Schools have been acting promptly and seeking advice, to ensure compliance.
- 3.8. Brent has also delivered training on the pay provisions of the STPCD (with particular focus on senior leadership pay) to governors, clerks, bursars and school business managers.
- 3.9. Brent will continue to support and inform schools appropriately of their statutory obligations and ensure any actions necessary for compliance are undertaken.

#### **4. Update on School Leasing Issues**

- 4.1. In 2010, the Council identified that a number of schools had entered into very unfavourable leasing arrangements with large finance companies for the hire of equipment such as photocopiers. The Council is of the view that these leases should be treated as being void from the outset, as the schools in question did not have the legal power (*'vires'*) to enter into them. If the leases were enforceable, they would have a negative impact on the schools' financial positions. There are various grounds as to why the Council argues the leases should be considered void. The Council put in place an action plan in order to protect the public funds exposed to these purported leases, which had the following key actions:
- Sent a number of letters and uploaded intranet postings clarifying the importance of complying with the leasing requirements set out in the Council's Financial Regulations.
  - Arranged for Council officers to meet with school officers where appropriate in order to discuss leasing issues.
  - Hosted a number of presentations at Governor, Headteacher and Bursar meetings, clarifying the requirements of a lawful lease and offering support to schools that may have ostensibly entered into leases which are void in law, in order to encourage schools to obtain legal advice.
  - Referred schools to the Council's internal and external solicitors who are able to advise the schools (the content of the advice is confidential and subject to legal privilege).
  - Obtained advice from a QC (the content of which is confidential and subject to legal privilege).
  - Released guidance to all schools setting out the framework agreements available, in order to help schools purchase or lease equipment at favourable rates.
  - Hosted regular leasing / procurement training sessions with school bursars.
- 4.2. Since initiating that action plan, Legal Services, Children & Families and Audit & Investigation are continuing to help extricate the worst affected schools from their costly finance leases (leases in respect of photocopiers and other IT equipment). The legal position of the schools and Council remains that the leases should be considered void, essentially because the schools did not have the power to enter into such agreements.
- 4.3. After receiving legal advice as well as guidance from Children & Families, five schools stopped paying the sums purportedly due under their leases (with a further school which is about to stop paying). The schools' refusal to pay attracted



legal action on the part of seven finance companies, all of which had entered into purported leases with at least one of the five schools.

- 4.4. There is currently one live case on-going before the High Court, the trial of which is likely to be heard early next year. There are at least four more prospective cases still being threatened.
- 4.5. The Council/ affected schools have, however, so far successfully reached negotiated settlements in relation to seven high value cases. The Council/ affected schools are extremely satisfied with the outcomes of those cases. The details of the settlements are subject to confidentiality agreements: it is not, therefore, possible for the details to be released into the public domain.
- 4.6. The Council will continue with its approach of taking a robust overt position regarding any legal action, whilst at the same time negotiating behind the scenes where appropriate. The Council, however, is prepared to contest any finance lease case at court if necessary.

## **5. Other New Measures taken to Support Improved Financial management in Schools**

- 5.1. As reported at the Scrutiny Meeting of 19 July 2012, a Brent Schools Finance Conference was organised which took place on 31 January 2013. The aim of the conference was to provide School leaders with up to date briefings and information on key school finance and funding matters.
- 5.2. Around 200 delegates from Brent schools attended and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive regarding the conference.
- 5.3. A number of high profile speakers gave key note speeches including Russell Hobby the President of the National Association of Headteachers and Bill Simmonds the Chief Executive of the National Association of School Business managers.
- 5.4. Headteachers and governors also had the opportunity to attend a number of workshops covering in detail key aspects of financial management including preparing for an audit, VAT regulations and procurement.
- 5.5. Alongside this major one-day event regular on going training courses for Governors and Headteachers continue to be available for all Brent Schools.

## **6.0 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report. Clearly the work described in report aims to safeguard the stewardship of public money and ensure good value for money.

## **7.0 Legal Implications**

7.1 The legal issues around leasing are dealt with in the body of the report.

## **8.0 Diversity Implications**

8.1 There are no diversity implications

## **9.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

9.1 There are no direct staffing implications from this report.

### **Contact Officers**

Mustafa Salih, Assistant Director, Strategic Finance



## Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee 20 March 2013

### Report from the Director of Children & Families

For discussion

Wards Affected:  
ALL

## Update on Academies and Free Schools

### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report updates the Committee on the changes in types of schools in the borough, including academies and free schools.

### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and discuss the report.

### 3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Education provision across the country is changing dramatically with the rising number of Academies and Free Schools creating an autonomous schools sector. While this does continue a process since the 1980s of increasing school autonomy, it finally points to the end of the traditional role of the local authority in being a large scale provider of direct support to schools. Despite these changes, the Council retains a large number of legal duties in relation to education and the wider needs of children.

- 3.2 The government has not issued any detailed guidance on the duties of the local authority in relation to schools but the Statutory Guidance on the roles of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services issued in 2012 defines their role in relation to educational excellence as:

"Working with headteachers, school governors and academy sponsors and principals, local authorities should promote educational excellence for all children and young people and be ambitious in tackling underperformance.

More specifically, the DCS and LMCS should in their respective roles:

- take rapid and decisive action in relation to poorly performing schools, including using their intervention powers with regard to maintained schools and considering alternative structural and operational solutions;
- develop robust school improvement strategies, including choosing whether to offer such services in a competitive and open school improvement market, working beyond local authority boundaries;
- promote high standards in education by supporting effective school to school collaboration and providing local leadership for tackling issues needing attention which cut across more than one school, such as poor performance in a particular subject area across a cluster of schools;
- support maintained schools in delivering an appropriate National Curriculum and early years providers in meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (as outlined in the EYFS Statutory Framework)

#### 4.0 School organization

4.1 The schools in Brent are organised as follows:

3 to 18	Primary				Secondary	Special
	3-11	Nursery	Infants	Juniors		
1	44	4	8	8	14	4

4.2 In terms of their status, this breaks down as follows:

Status	Community	Voluntary aided	Foundation	Academy
Primary	42	20	1	1
Secondary 11-18	0	3	1	10
3 to 18				1
Special	4			

4.3 This shows that the majority of secondary schools are academies whereas the majority of primary schools are community and voluntary aided. On current form, the number of academies will increase but incrementally rather than rapidly. While the council is not held accountable for the performance of academies, the attainment and progress of pupils in those schools is as much a matter of interest in terms of the life chances of Brent's young people and the borough's prosperity.

4.4 There are currently no Free Schools in the borough. This is addressed further in paragraph 8 below.

4.5 Secondary academies are a mixture of:

- schools which converted by choice: Preston Manor, Kingsbury High, Wembley High, Alperton Community School, Convent of Jesus and Mary, Claremont High and Queens Park Community School

- Academies taking over from 'failing schools' – Capital City Academy, Crest Boys Academy, Crest Girls Academy.

4.6 Sudbury Primary School is the only converter primary academy. In September 2013 Salusbury Primary School will become a sponsored academy (sponsored by Park Federation based in Hillingdon) as will Kensal Rise Primary School (to be sponsored by ARK). These follow intervention from the DfE, both schools having been judged as inadequate by Ofsted. This is now a non-negotiable part of the DfE's approach to tackling underperformance of schools. Gladstone Park Primary School is due to have a sponsor nominated by DfE but a parental campaign has resulted in a slowing of the process.

#### 4.7 **Financing of academies and impact on local authorities**

Up until now the DfE has operated a complex fluctuating calculation (called LA Block Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG)) to determine funding for academies which it had wanted to radically overhaul for some time. LACSEG funding is passed onto Academies to enable them to cover costs of functions which would previously have been undertaken by the local authority. The DfE launched a consultation document setting out new proposals on 17 July 2012. It published the Government's response to the consultation on 19 December 2012, setting out the decisions it had taken following consideration of the responses it received.

From 2013-14, new funding arrangements for education services will apply for local authorities and academies. LA Block LACSEG for academies, and the corresponding element of local government revenue funding, will be replaced by the new Education Services Grant (ESG). The ESG (non-ring-fenced) will be allocated on a simple per-pupil basis to local authorities and academies according to the number of pupils for whom they are responsible.

- The amount transferred from local government revenue funding in 2013-14 is £1.04 billion. This is £180 million less than the Government proposed in July 2012 as a result of the responses it received during the consultation.
- Funding will be transferred from local authorities on a simple per-pupil basis. The ESG will be allocated using the same per-pupil rates.
- Local authorities will receive £15 for all pupils for the statutory duties that do not transfer to academies.
- The per-pupil rate for pupils in mainstream settings is £116. Local authorities will receive £116 for all pupils in the schools they maintain.
- Weightings for pupils in PRUs/AP academies and special schools/special academies will apply (3.75 and 4.25 respectively).

Local authority ESG allocations for 2013-14 are still awaited; they were due to be confirmed in early March 2013, based on the number of pupils in maintained schools and academies at that time. Without the final allocation and calculations from the DfE it is difficult to calculate the exact amount of ESG for Brent, however indicative projections suggest that around £6.2m will transfer out of Brent's overall funding with around £3.9m coming back to the

Council as ESG for its maintained schools and £2.3m being used to provide funding for Brent's Academies. That level of funding adjustments has been incorporated in developing the appropriate budgets for 2013/14.

As the new national rate of £116 is significantly less than Academies have been receiving thus far, the DfE has agreed transitional protection, and has set the ESG rate for academies at £150 in 2013/14 and £140 in 2014/15. This protection is to be funded from the Department for Education's budget and not from the funding transferred from local government. The transitional protections for academies will be removed from the system over a limited period of time so that the rates for local authorities and academies are brought together.

## **5.0 The role of the local authority in improving education, including academies**

### **5.1 Enabling continued school improvement**

5.1.1 Research commissioned by the LGA and by the Association of Directors of Children's Services has identified that the key to future school improvement is the development of a schools-led partnership working with the local authority which enables schools to support each other as well as jointly commissioning external support. This is well-developed in some London boroughs and is under development in Brent albeit at an earlier stage. An update on the development of the Brent Schools Partnership is set out in paragraph 6 below.

5.1.2 Monitoring and tracking of school performance in terms of data and both hard and soft intelligence is also important. While the government and Ofsted are players in this, only the council operates at a level where it can protect the interests of pupils and parents in the borough, in particular through spotting early warning signs that a school is declining or approaching a crisis. The council also has important equality objectives so there is a continuing role in ensuring that the needs of groups at risk of underachievement are met. This includes minority ethnic groups, economically disadvantaged groups (especially with the impact of welfare reform) and of course pupils with special educational needs. It is too early to judge the effect of academy status on the results of our schools. As it stands at secondary level, academies are represented among both the most high performing and the lowest performing schools.

### **5.2 Ensuring transparency to parents and local communities, including good stewardship of public money**

Transparent data and information about schools is important as is the ability to conduct financial audits where issues require scrutiny, to support public accountability for value for money. London Councils is lobbying for Academies to have to share data in the same way as maintained schools and for local authorities to have audit investigation powers. While access to performance data is attainable on a voluntary basis locally, it is highly unlikely that the DfE would grant audit investigation powers in respect of academies. Rather the council would need to be content with a whistle-blowing role.

### 5.3 **Accountability through community governors**

The council already ensures appointments to all the posts of community governors on maintained schools and also seeks to have community governors boards of trustees of academies. The LA is represented on all the academies in Brent. It is therefore more important that the council communicates effectively with community governors, appoints high quality governors from across the community and gives training and development opportunities.

### 5.4 **Supporting vulnerable children to achieve positive outcomes**

The council continues to deliver a broad range of children's services in line with our statutory duties: support for special educational needs, safeguarding, looked after children etc. In order to fulfil these duties effectively, it is vital that the council works closely with schools to find school places children who are harder to place, to prevent exclusions and to place excluded pupils in appropriate schooling. Academies need to be as much part of this system as maintained schools, and this is achieved through a robust 'Fair Access' process. Services to vulnerable pupils, including the Pupil Referral Units and the Education Welfare Service are being reviewed with a view to them operating as a coherent whole and in a way that aligns with the council's approach to early intervention being established through the Working with Families Programme

## 6.0 **The development of the Brent Schools Partnership**

6.1 Brent has a strong tradition of some schools working together in successful clusters. In addition to this, the headteachers of secondary, primary and special schools meet together regularly in their phases. However, up until this year, this has not yet led to the formation of an overarching borough-wide partnership to support school improvement. From spring 2012, however, a steering group of headteachers has been working to develop a new 'Brent Schools Partnership' which was launched as a serious proposition to all schools in Brent in October 2012.

6.2 The Brent Schools Partnership (BSP) sets out to bring the schools together as a 'family of schools' with an overall objective as follows:

"The Partnership will support all members schools to ensure Brent children achieve highly, regardless of specific needs or starting point. The Partnership will work collaboratively to identify key areas of development, which will make a difference to children's lives and provide successful educational experiences".

6.3 The emphasis on the needs of individual pupils and on the equality objectives of schools in this statement, as well as the high aspirations for achievement are in line with the objectives of the council in its Children and Young People's Plan and other strategy statements.

6.4 The BSP sets out, that it will:

- Provide professional support and challenge to member schools through self-evaluation and mutual collaboration
- Build leadership capacity and effective succession planning by identifying and supporting emerging, developing and established leaders
- Share innovation and knowledge to improve practice and provision
- Enable schools to maximise their capacity and resources by helping them save time and money in procuring services, support, supplies and services.

6.5 The Partnership is being established, open to all schools regardless of status, on a subscription model with participating schools paying £4 per pupil per year. The majority of schools have signed up and a secondary headteacher and primary deputy have been seconded part time to work on the development of the partnership. It is early days in this development but it signals a recognition from schools that they need to work together, that even successful schools need considerable support to remain so and that where schools do experience challenges, their fellow schools are often in the best position to provide this support. Unsurprisingly there is a thriving commercial market in many areas of support to schools. Of course it makes sense that where schools go to the market, a collective approach is likely to lead to better purchasing decisions in terms of both quality and value for money.

6.6 The Partnership has recognised that this cannot be a partnership for headteachers alone and that governors have an important role to play. They are also at pains to emphasise that they are not wishing to compete with or negate the role of the council and its services. They wish to play a complementary role, recognising that the scope for the council to provide direct support to schools is inevitably reducing. Heads do recognise that it can be difficult for them to provide challenge to each other and understand as well that the council's statutory roles continue.

6.7 If the partnership structures in other boroughs are used as a model, then the BSP can be a means for schools and the council to work together to support improvement. Officers are working to support the development of the BSP and intend to establish joint commissioning arrangements for support for schools causing concern and other targeted support for schools.

## **7.0 Council traded services with schools**

7.1 The Council provides an extensive offer of traded services to schools. These services are provided not just by Children and Families Directorate but by services across the Council. Some services are being provided with LB Harrow to enhance the range of services and make our services more cost efficient. The brochure is posted on the Brent Schools' Extranet at [www.brent.gov.uk/tradedservices](http://www.brent.gov.uk/tradedservices)

The benefits of providing traded services are as follows:

- It helps maintain common standards in important areas such as HR and finance, where the stewardship of public money is at stake
- It maintains links with the schools and provides soft intelligence on emerging problems or issues



- It fills gaps in what is available through the commercial sector and provides services very closely tailored to local need in Brent
- It makes statutory services more cost effective and flexible by having a trading component. For the Education Welfare Service for example, having a trading component enables the team to be larger and to reach a critical mass which improves its overall resilience and viability.

Over the past 3 years the approach to Traded Services has developed into a more coordinated and “professional” annual process. This has revolved around the development of a brochure and annual “Trade Fairs”. Over that period income received from Schools did increase as follows:

- 2010/11 £2.0m
- 2011/12 £2.8m
- 2012/13 £2.7m (forecast)

Further improvements and developments in the range of services offered are planned for 2013/14 with the aim of trying to maintain income levels despite school budgets getting tighter and more challenging.

## **8.0 The development of new schools in the borough**

- 8.1 As Members are aware, Brent has rapidly increasing school rolls. The extent of this was fully explored in reports to Executive in August 2012 and January 2013. These reports identified that 21 additional primary school forms of entry are required by 2020/21. Executive agreed to a three phase programme of expansions adding 19 forms of entry. It also noted that two sites for new schools are likely to come on line from developments at Oriental City and Fulton Road (Quintain). In terms of secondary provision, the increase in rolls moves through the age range to create the need for 19 additional forms of entry by 2020/21. The Executive in January 2013 on the detailed implications of this secondary need proposed how this need could be met initially through expanding existing schools.
- 8.2 The August Executive report also summarised the need for additional special school places (192 by 2020/21) and how these are to be delivered.
- 8.3 At the Executive meeting in August 2012, Members recognised that given the current legislative framework, new schools could only be delivered through the free schools route. If the council wishes to establish a school, it must advertise via the DfE for a free school provider. The Executive decided that it would be in the best interests of the council to identify preferred free school partners when deciding to go ahead with a new school. To this end, the Executive agreed a set of criteria to enable such partners to be identified (attached as appendix A). While work has been undertaken to consider potential partners, there are as yet no council-led new school proposals.
- 8.4 Up to this point no free schools have been approved by the DfE for Brent. During October 2012, however, the DfE announced another window for free schools to apply under the national scheme to open schools in September 2014. This application window ran to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2013. To be successful a

free school applicant has to submit a paper application to the DfE, be shortlisted and undergo an interview at the DfE. The council is not consulted by the DfE on the applications or called on to comment on their appropriateness to the local area. All those showing an interest in applying to open a free school have been provided with the council's 'criteria' so they are aware of our expectations of schools but there is no way of enforcing these with free schools.

8.5 A free school already approved by DfE is currently being relocated into Brent. Michaela Community School was approved as a free school to open in Lambeth in a previous round of DfE approvals but their site fell through in that borough and the DfE has purchased a site in Brent from the College of North West London. It plans to open as a 11 to 18 secondary school with four forms of entry in September 2014. It will be required to follow the admissions code and plans to be part of the council's admissions booklet etc. The school plans to offer a place to the local authority on its governing body and states its wish to work with the local authority and other schools in the borough. The School has begun a consultation which ends on 22nd April but its opening is effectively a 'done deal'.

8.6 A further free school application is going through the DfE's process. This is another secondary school in central Wembley, to be operated by a local independent school chain. Again the local authority is not consulted on these developments. Further information will be given to Members when available.

## **9.0 Financial Implications**

9.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report and the financial aspects of academisation are covered in the body of the report.

## **10.0 Legal Implications**

10.1 The main body of this report deals with the Council's reaction to the Government's legislation which fundamentally affects the relationship between the Local Authority and Maintained Schools.

## **11.0 Diversity Implications**

11.1 The schools in Brent are among the most diverse in the country. In our schools there are some underachieving groups and we analyse the attainment data by ethnicity, gender and poverty (eligibility for free school meals is used as a proxy) to identify issues in specific groups, patterns of achievement and any emerging issues since the population changes so rapidly. The dialogue with schools that results from this work is increasingly important.

## **12.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

12.1 There are no direct staffing implications from this report. Clearly staff in schools are affected by the change in status of schools and staff in the local authority are affected as the role of the local authority changes.

## Background Papers

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## **Partnership commitment for academies and free school providers working in collaboration with the council**

Academies and free school providers working with the Council will be expected to demonstrate:

1. An absolute commitment to the ethos and values of inclusive education for all Brent's children and recognition of the positive role schools should play in the wider community.
2. A commitment to a close working relationship with the local authority in order to maintain an appropriate focus on borough-wide priorities, including local authority nomination of a member of the governing body and a commitment to sharing performance information.
3. The ability to deliver school improvement in an urban context.
4. That the establishment of the proposed education provision would be supported by demonstrable parental demand and with a genuine commitment to providing school places for local children.
5. Appropriate staffing arrangements to ensure high quality teaching and learning from qualified staff and good employment practices, including in relation to support and contracted staff.
6. A commitment to meeting the needs of Brent's diverse community.
7. A commitment to ensuring the future employability of young people (in particular in secondary and 16 to 19) through links with business, industry and higher education.
8. A commitment to community access and use of facilities through agreed extended opening and lettings policy.
9. A commitment to good pupil nutrition and healthy eating.
10. A commitment to ensuring health and safety of pupils and staff through use of best practice as well as following legislative requirements.
11. A commitment to inclusive practice and fair access to the school for all pupils as governed by the Admission Code of Practice and the Authority's Fair Access Protocols.

## Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – 2012/13

Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome	Recommendations
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 25</p>	<p><b>Brent Youth Parliament</b></p>	<p>The members of the Brent Youth Parliament will be invited to provide an update on their work since the committee last met, as well as to raise any issues of concern they would like the committee to consider.</p>	<p>No representation from BYP at this meeting.</p>	
	<p><b>Achievement at KS5 and destinations</b></p>	<p>Committee will be presented with a short report on KS5, A level results analysis for individual schools in Brent. Report will also include the Destinations report, which is a report on school leavers and progression after leaving school. Report will be presented by John Galligan.</p>	<p>Report was noted by members of the committee. Breakdown of the type of “other courses” started in 2011 in the table in section 3.7 requested. This information is not available as yet as students have not completed their courses. To be followed up later in the year.</p>	
	<p><b>Expansion of Brent Schools</b></p>	<p>Progress Report on Brent being allocated the best Capital Settlement in the country and an update on the 2 application bids under the ‘Priority Schools Building Programme’ for Alperton and Copland. Committee will consider the plans on expanding Brent schools. Report will be presented by Rik Boxer.</p>	<p>Report was noted by members of the committee.</p>	

	<b>Analysis of educational achievement by ethnicity</b>	Report focussing in particular on attainment levels of under achieving groups in the borough.	Report was noted by members of the committee. Copy of the work programme mentioned in 4.7 of the report was requested. Query about why the 'White other' group was not filtered down into further groups and why was there no analysis on the individual groups that fall into this category. Naureen to feedback and provide information requested	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Issue for committee to consider</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	
<b>19 July 2012</b>	<b>Brent Youth Parliament</b>	The members of the Brent Youth Parliament will be invited to provide an update on their work since the committee last met, as well as to raise any issues of concern they would like the committee to consider.	BYP to be invited to contribute ideas to the committee's work programme.	
	<b>Background of Auditing Practices in Brent</b>	The chair has requested for a report on the auditing procedures and findings for Brent schools. In addition to this information regarding governing practices and support to governors has also been requested. Report will also include an outline of procedures with C&F to ensure probity and correct auditing procedures and policies are in place. Report will be presented by Mustafa Salih, AD Strategic Finance CF and Simon Lane, Head of Audit & Investigations.	Report was noted and an update report is submitted to committee in six months' time.	

	<b>Safeguarding and LAC action plan/Adoption inspection and Adoption Scorecard update</b>	Committee will be presented with an update on the action plan and an opportunity to scrutinise progress in its implementation. Report on the latest inspection of Adoption services will also be provided with an update on new Adoption scorecards. Report will be presented by Graham Genoni.	<p>The committee received an update from Hilary Brooks on the Adoption inspection and Adoption Scorecards and the report was noted. Members requested to know how many trans racial adoptions have taken place in Brent in the last 2 years.</p> <p>The Safeguarding and LAC action plan item was deferred to the October committee meeting.</p>	
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Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome	
11 October 2012 Page 27	<b>Brent Youth Parliament</b>  <b>Safeguarding and LAC action plan</b>	<p>The members of the Brent Youth Parliament will be invited to provide an update on their work since the committee last met, as well as to raise any issues of concern they would like the committee to consider.</p> <p>Committee will be presented with an update on the action plan and an opportunity to scrutinise progress in its implementation. Report will be presented by Graham Genoni. This item was deferred at the last meeting.</p>	<p>Thivya Jeyashankar, chair of BYP provided an update on what the BYP have been doing. BYP elections are on 17.11.12. Visits to schools have been very successful and recommend that members also take the time to visit schools to give children a real insight.</p> <p>Plan was noted and members raised questions relating to social workers and requested the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of permanent social workers</li> <li>• Number of newly qualified social workers</li> </ul>	BYP would like see the subjects of bullying and work experience on the agenda. Members also requested information about what is being done to tackle Gangs in Brent.

	<b>Child Poverty Strategy</b>	Anna Janes & Tony Hirsch will present the report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of interim social workers</li> </ul> <p>Members noted the report and strategy, however expressed their concerns about the delivery of the action plan.</p>	It was recommended that this should be a regular item for the committee. It was also recommended that poverty implications should be considered in all reports to committee.
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Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome	
11 December 2012 Page 28	<b>Brent Youth Parliament</b>	The members of the Brent Youth Parliament will be invited to provide an update on their work since the committee last met, as well as to raise any issues of concern they would like the committee to consider.	Members noted the recent activity of BYP and commended their commitment and enthusiasm.	
	<b>Working with Families Initiative</b>	Members to receive an update on how this is being progressed. This presentation will outline what is being done to align services to work together for the family as a whole and how this encompasses partnership working. This includes looking at how to bring partners together to create a Multi Agency Service Hub in the new civic centre. This will be presented by Sara Williams.	Members noted the presentation and requested further information on the financial savings to be made from the initiative.	



	<p><b>Implementing the Children &amp; Young Peoples Plan</b></p> <p>Members will be presented with the plan and a covering report outlining the partnership structure and proposed outcomes of the plan.</p> <p><b>Corporate Parenting</b></p> <p>Members will receive a report on Brent's model of corporate parenting in comparison to other local authorities. Including reasons for our approach and details of member involvement in the process. Examples of Best Practice models will be presented to members for discussion. An update on the LAC virtual school will also be included.</p>	<p>Members noted the report and requested that regular updates be provided to committee on the plans priorities.</p> <p>Members noted the report and requested for figures on how many LAC attend university and information on the care action plan and meetings to be provided.</p>	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Issue for committee to consider</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>12 February 2013</b>	<p><b>Brent Youth Parliament</b></p> <p>The members of the Brent Youth Parliament will provide an update on their work since the committee last met, as well as to raise any issues of concern they would like the committee to consider.</p> <p><b>Bullying in Schools</b></p> <p>Request from BYP for the committee to request a report on how this is being tackled in Brent schools. A best practice presentation from a Brent school would be beneficial. Presentation</p>		

	<p><b>Youth Offending Task Group/Early Years Intervention Task Group</b></p> <p><b>Short breaks provision</b></p> <p><b>Services for SEN</b></p>	<p>by Stephen McMullan and BYP highlighting what is currently being done to tackle bullying to be presented to members.</p> <p>Members will receive a verbal update by Sara Williams on the progress of the recommendations made by the task group and how this is being developed.</p> <p>Committee to be presented with a verbal update by Sara Williams on how the provision for respite centres has been tackled and resolved.</p> <p>Committee to receive an update report by Sara Williams following the changes that have been made to the service. How are we addressing the issue of placing children outside of the borough?</p>		<p><b>It was agreed that all task group work should be followed up and reviewed after 6-8 months of being approved.</b></p> <p><b>Members requested to see development of this project in 6-8 months time.</b></p> <p><b>The chair will allow for some time to go through the strategy at the next meeting.</b></p>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Issue for committee to consider</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	
<b>20 March 2013</b>	<b>Brent Youth Parliament</b>	The members of the Brent Youth Parliament will be invited to provide an update on their work since the committee last met, as well as to raise any issues of concern they would like the committee to consider.		

	<p><b>Update on Auditing Practices in Brent</b></p> <p><b>Academies and Free Schools</b></p> <p><b>SEN Strategy</b></p> <p><b>School Places update</b></p>	<p>Update requested from the report presented to the committee in July 2012. Chair has requested for an update on the financial situation and information related to the uptake from schools on the traded services offered by Brent.</p> <p>Members have requested a report clarifying the current situation in Brent in relation to which schools are academies. What is the current policy on this and what are the future plans for Brent schools.</p> <p>Members will have the opportunity to discuss document and raise any concerns.</p> <p>Standing item – verbal update on school places</p>		
<p><b>Items from the Forward Plan and Work Programme to be timetabled.</b></p> <p>The committee will be presented with a list of items related to children and young people's services on the Forward Plan, to decide whether there are any they wish to scrutinise. The committee's work programme will also be included on the meeting agenda</p>				
<p><b>Item</b></p>	<p><b>Issue for the committee to consider</b></p>			
<p><b>Impact and Service Improvement Report</b></p>	<p>Anna Janes to provide information and will present the report.</p>			

<b>Short Breaks Provision</b>	Members to receive an update on the progress of this new service and how the various options have progressed. Add to agenda for November/December 2013.	
<b>Domestic Violence – Children’s Partnership Project</b>	The committee will consider the Children’s Partnership report on domestic violence in Brent, following up previous presentations to the committee on this issue.	
<b>Youth service review update</b>	As requested by the committee in October 2010, the committee will receive an update on the progress of the on going youth services review, being carried out by the Children’s Trust Sub Group.	
<b>Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB) Annual report April 2012</b>	Update report against the LSCB action plan goes to executive on 19 September 2012.	
<b>Early Years</b>	Committee to be presented with a report on how the provision for early years has changed and what these changes mean for Brent. Report will be from a policy perspective.	
<b>Educational Benefits of all through Schools</b>	Suggestion for a report covering the benefits and disadvantages of all through schools for members to consider.	
<b>Adoption and Fostering annual report April 2011 to March 2012</b>	Report goes to Executive on 19 September 2012. Main action of report is to increase recruitment and to move children out of Independent Fostering Agencies (IFS’s)	
<b>A plan for Children and Families in Brent (PSCFB) 2012-2015</b>	Report on how Brent is will provide the support to ensure that children and young people in Brent are healthy and safe. The aim is to narrow the gap between those children who do well and those who need extra support to thrive. Report goes to Executive on 19 September 2012.	
<b>Travel Plans and Parking Permits for schools</b>	Report on the progress made on school travel planning, the process for school parking permits and future priorities.	
<b>Child Poverty Strategy</b>	It was agreed by members at the October meeting that this should be a regular item on the agenda and that members should receive regular	

	updates on the work being done around this. This area links into various other projects and strategies and therefore will be presented to the committee as part of those.	
<b>Payment by Results in Early Years</b>	This initiative is aimed at children's centres and is a project to identify families with children in the 0-5 year age group. Sue Gates is the project manager.	
<b>Youth Service Review</b>	Not yet complete. Lead officer is Cathy Tyson.	
<b>Review of young people's services</b>	Committee to receive a report on the proposed restructure and how this will bring the different strands together.	
<b>Items on the Forward Plan 07 2012-13, relevant to committee</b>		
Decision will be taken by Executive between 1 Dec 2012 and 31 Jan 2013. Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk	Authority to invite tenders for a Speech and Language Therapy service from June 2013. To approve a one year extension to the current contract with the incumbent for the Key Stage 1&2 and Key Stage 3&4 speech and language therapy service in mainstream Brent schools, on the basis that there is a proposed review of services to determine whether there are merits and savings/efficiencies to be made by commissioning the service jointly with health.	
Expected date of decision by Executive on 7 Feb 2013 Head of Transportation Tel: 020 8937 5151 paul.chandler@brent.gov.uk	School parking arrangements. To consider the report from Head of Safer Streets outlining the results of parking compliance surveys at schools, an examination of potential equalities issues and recommendation for future enforcement prioritization.	
Expected date of decision by Executive on 11 Feb 2013 Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126	Authority for exemption to award up to a three year contract for Special Educational Needs Independent School Revision.  To agree an exemption to the competitive requirements of Standing Orders to allow the direct award of a contract to an independent school for moderate learning difficulties to secure cost efficiencies for the	

krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk	council and on going provision for Brent children.	
<p>Expected date of decision by Executive on 11 Feb 2013</p> <p>Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</p>	<p>Authority for exemption to award contracts to selected Academies for specific SEN services formerly delivered to Brent Council via Service Level Agreement.</p> <p>To grant an exemption to the competitive requirements of Standing Orders to allow the direct award of contracts to Alperton Academy, Kingsbury High School, Queens Park Community School and Claremont Academy for SEN Services including a moderate learning difficulties unit, services to children with significant hearing impairment, and children new to Brent with English as an additional language.</p>	
<p>Expected date of decision by Executive on 11 Feb 2013</p> <p>Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</p>	<p>SEN and Disability Strategy 2013-2016 To note the progress to date on development priorities for SEN and to approve the priorities contained within the SEN and Disability Strategy document for 2013-2016. Brent Council's strategy for children and young people aged 0-25 years with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) will replace the previous SEND strategy produced in 2007 which was supplemented by the Education Accessibility Strategy published in 2010. The strategy contributes to our commitments outlined in our high level plan for Children and Families and has been developed from the One Council project review of SEND services and provision which is a two year review due for completion in 2013. Whilst the project review is designed to provide better services, increase our performance and reduce costs, it will also ensure that through this strategy our policy and practice will reflect the many changes and recommendations made at national level. These include the Equality Act (2010) and the government Green Paper Support and Aspiration: a new approach to special educational a new approach to special educational needs and disability (2011).</p>	
Expected date of decision by Executive	Renewal of existing contracts relating to services at Children's Centres for the delivery of Speech and Language Therapy and Independent	

<p>on 11 Feb 2013</p> <p>Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</p>	<p>Advice and Guidance to Brent Families with children aged under 5 years To agree an exemption from the tendering requirements of Contract Standing Orders to allow the renewal of the current Speech and Language Therapy contract for children aged under five years and contract for Independent advice and guidance from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 to allow officers to carry out a competitive procurement of both services with a view to achieving cost efficiencies.</p>	
<p>Expected date of decision by Executive on 11 Feb 2013</p> <p>Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</p>	<p>Outcome of Safeguarding Inspection report and Action Plan To note the outcome of the recent Safeguarding Children's inspection; the recommendations made for improvement and agree the action plan to address these.</p>	
<p>Expected date of decision by Executive not before 1 March 2013</p> <p>Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</p>	<p>Children and Young People - eligibility for assisted travel To note the report and agree to implementation of the new policy from April 2013. The council has worked with the West London alliance (WLA) to develop a common policy for deciding when assistance with transport to school will be provided. The purpose of the policy is to have parity with neighbouring boroughs in determining assistance with transport. The policy also focuses on developing independence and independent travel skills, and making best use of resources available to the council.</p>	
<p>Expected date of decision by Executive on 11 March 2013</p> <p>Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</p>	<p>Annual School Standards report To note current school standards in the borough and agree the approach to improving standards and narrowing attainment gaps.</p>	
<p>Expected date of decision by Executive on 20 May 2013</p>	<p>WLA/IFA Framework: outcome of procurement To agree Children's Services to be able to 'call off' (access) the West London Alliance Independent Fostering Framework. Tendering of the framework is being</p>	

Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk	led by the London Borough of Hillingdon on behalf of the West London Alliance.	
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