



Cabinet
12 February 2018

**Report from the Strategic Director
of Policy, Performance and
Partnerships**

**Recommendations to Cabinet from the Community and
Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	2
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet of recommendations made to the council's Cabinet or a Cabinet member by the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note the recommendations made at Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee as set out in Appendix A and Appendix B.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 On 22 November members of the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee discussed two separate reports. Firstly, the SEND Local Area inspection report followed by a report about the effectiveness of existing support for care leavers and the implications of recent legislative changes. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People attended for the discussion of both reports.
- 3.2 The report about the SEND Local Area inspection was presented by the Strategic Director for Children and Young People and the Interim Chief Operating Officer at Brent Clinical Commissioning Group. The committee heard that the inspection report had been complimentary of the strategic leadership at the local authority and its relationship with schools, which demonstrated the strong link between education and care outcomes.

However, there were some areas where the inspection team felt there had been reasons for concern, including concerns about a lack of strategic leadership within the CCG related to implementation of the SEND reforms and the fragmented approach to joint commissioning leading to gaps in services and separated commissioned services being delivered by the same provider.

- 3.3 A result of the inspection was that a Written Statement of Action, had been produced and agreed and it had been approved by Ofsted without comment. In addition, ways to integrate health and local authority commissioning had been examined and work had begun on all actions included in the Written Statement of Action. The Committee heard that a further priority for the CCG would be to make joint commissioning arrangements work to address the issue of fragmented commissioning.
- 3.4 Members asked questions about financing of SEND and were told that funding for education for children with additional needs and disabilities came through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and that the biggest impact on outcomes for children was and would be created by changes to the national funding formula and the high needs block, which combined with population growth, created additional pressure for funding special educational needs. The CCG said it was important to examine its resources currently available. On the basis of the discussion, members made the recommendations set out in Appendix A.
- 3.5 Brent Council's Operational Director for Integration and Improved Outcomes introduced the report about the effectiveness of current services for care leavers and the implications of recent legislative changes introduced by the Children and Social Work Act in April 2017. Committee members were told that one of the key changes of the legislation was that the duty and responsibility to all care leavers was extended to the age of 25, regardless of their education and employment status.
- 3.6 Members of the committee heard that said that although the precise budget implications of the new local offer were not yet clear, there was a need for demographic growth to be built in so a new cohort of teenagers, currently growing up, could be accounted for. Furthermore, that if the council had to support 200 additional care leavers and continue to provide the same level of service, it would have to recruit eight new personal advisers, costing approximately £328,000. There was also a discussion about partnership work to support care leavers within the local authority and also with the borough's private sector. On the basis of the discussions, members of the committee made the recommendations to Cabinet or for a Cabinet member as set out in Appendix B.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 There are no equality implications.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 Overview and scrutiny involves non-executive ward members of the council.

Report sign off:

PETER GADSDON

Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships