

# Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Date: September 4th 2012**

Agenda item: **6**

Wards:

**Subject: Update on Developments Affecting Children, Schools and Families Department**

Lead officer: Yvette Stanley

Lead member: Cllr Maxi Martin, Cllr Martin Whelton

Forward Plan reference number: N/A

Contact officer: Paul Ballatt

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## **Recommendations:**

A. Members of the panel note the contents of the report.

B.

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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1. The report provides members with information on key developments affecting Children, Schools and Families Department since the panel's last update report in July 2012.

## **2 DETAILS**

2.1 Panel members will no doubt be aware of the recent sad death of Tia S, a 12 year old resident of Merton and pupil at one of the borough's secondary schools. As is normal in these circumstances an independent Serious Case Review has been commissioned by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the council and other agencies will be assisting with this review. At the time of writing it is expected that a report on findings of the review will be produced by February 2013. As is required by regulation, this report will be published.

2.2 At the panel meeting in July 2012, members were informed of the publication of a national comparative scorecard setting out performance of local authorities against a set of indicators relating to adoption of children from care. Merton's performance in a number of the indicators was below thresholds set by government. An improvement plan was quickly established and BAAF (British Association for Adoption and Fostering) was engaged to support the implementation of this plan. Senior officers subsequently met with officials from DfE in line with other councils whose performance was lagging in this area of practice. Officials were presented with more recent data showing improving performance, a diagnostic report from BAAF as well as our improvement action plan. The Director recently received a letter from the Under Secretary of State which acknowledged that decisive action has

already been taken by CSF Department and that although our ongoing performance in this area of practice will be considered following the next scorecard publication, no specific intervention from the DfE was considered necessary.

- 2.3 A level results were provided to students on 16<sup>th</sup> August, including to the first cohort of students in Merton's new 6<sup>th</sup> forms. Provisional school level data is attached at Appendix One
- 2.4 GCSE results were published on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Provisional school level data was not available at the time of writing this report but will be tabled for information.
- 2.5 Since the last panel meeting 1 further Ofsted inspection of Merton's schools has reported with Links School retaining its rating of 'good'. Over 75% of Merton's schools are now rated good or outstanding.
- 2.6 At the time of writing this report, all applicants for reception class places in Merton's primary schools, including all late applicants to date, have received suitable offers. 15 have rejected offers and remain unplaced. There are currently over 70 vacancies across 9 schools - William Morris, Beecholme, Lonesome, Liberty, Stanford, Garfield, Merton Abbey, Joseph Hood and All Saints. This level of vacancies provides confidence that Merton will be able to offer suitable places to any remaining late applicants and in year applicants.
- 2.7 An interim contract has been put in place to enable Bishopsford School to operate as 'Harris Academy Morden' from 1<sup>st</sup> September. The IEB established in the Spring of 2012 now has Harris Federation representation and Harris has appointed a Head teacher who will take responsibility for the day to day leadership of the school under an executive Head based at Harris Academy Merton. Pupils will begin to wear Harris uniforms and the Harris branding will be adopted. The school will formally remain a maintained school at this stage until final legal processes are completed – full academy status is expected to be achieved by end of October 2012.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. N/A

### **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. No specific implications.

### **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. No specific implications.

- 8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**
- 8.1. No specific implications.
- 9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**
- 9.1. No specific implications.
- 10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**
- 10.1. No specific implications.
- 11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**
- Appendix One – Provisional school level ‘A’-Level results
- 12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**
- 12.1 None.

### Post 16 Provisional Data Collection

Source: Schools - 16th August 2012

School	Year	A*-A	A*-B	A*-C	A*-E
Bishopsford Art College	2012 Provisional*			11% (A-C)	90% (A-E)
Raynes Park High school	2012 Provisional	23%	43%	69%	99%
RR6 (Ricards & Rutlish High)	2012 Provisional	14%	24%	60%	99%
	2012 Provisional	25%	59%	85%	100%
Ursuline	2011 Provisional	24%	58%	84%	99%
	2010 Provisional	n/a	n/a	80%	100%
	2012 Provisional	35%	64%	83%	99%
Wimbledon College	2011 Provisional	23%	54%	73%	96%
	2010 Provisional	22%	48%	75%	98%
St. Mark's Academy Merton	2012 Provisional	22%	41%	57%	86%
Harris Academy Merton	2012 Provisional	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>National</b>		<b>26%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>98%</b>

\*Please note results at Bishopsford are incomplete as results still missing for Music (4 pupils) and Media(8 pupils). Maths results at Wimbledon College are also incomplete