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# Merton Council

## Children and Young People

### Overview and Scrutiny

#### Panel



Date: 10 February 2021

Time: 7.15 pm

Venue: This will be a virtual meeting and therefore will not take place in a physical location, in accordance with s78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020.

#### AGENDA

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## Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel membership

### Councillors:

Brenda Fraser (Chair)  
Hayley Ormrod (Vice-Chair)  
Stan Anderson  
Omar Bush  
Nick Draper  
Edward Foley  
Joan Henry  
James Holmes  
Russell Makin  
Dennis Pearce

### Co-opted Representatives

Uzma Ahmad  
Mansoor Ahmad, Parent Governor  
Representative Secondary and Special  
Sectors  
Roz Cordner, Education Co-optee.

### Substitute Members:

Kelly Braund  
Thomas Barlow  
Andrew Howard  
Carl Quilliam  
Dickie Wilkinson

### Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. For further advice please speak with the Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership.

### What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny describes the way Merton's scrutiny councillors hold the Council's Executive (the Cabinet) to account to make sure that they take the right decisions for the Borough. Scrutiny panels also carry out reviews of Council services or issues to identify ways the Council can improve or develop new policy to meet the needs of local people. From May 2008, the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and Panels have been restructured and the Panels renamed to reflect the Local Area Agreement strategic themes.

Scrutiny's work falls into four broad areas:

- ⇒ **Call-in:** If three (non-executive) councillors feel that a decision made by the Cabinet is inappropriate they can 'call the decision in' after it has been made to prevent the decision taking immediate effect. They can then interview the Cabinet Member or Council Officers and make recommendations to the decision-maker suggesting improvements.
- ⇒ **Policy Reviews:** The panels carry out detailed, evidence-based assessments of Council services or issues that affect the lives of local people. At the end of the review the panels issue a report setting out their findings and recommendations for improvement and present it to Cabinet and other partner agencies. During the reviews, panels will gather information, evidence and opinions from Council officers, external bodies and organisations and members of the public to help them understand the key issues relating to the review topic.
- ⇒ **One-Off Reviews:** Panels often want to have a quick, one-off review of a topic and will ask Council officers to come and speak to them about a particular service or issue before making recommendations to the Cabinet.
- ⇒ **Scrutiny of Council Documents:** Panels also examine key Council documents, such as the budget, the Business Plan and the Best Value Performance Plan.

Scrutiny panels need the help of local people, partners and community groups to make sure that Merton delivers effective services. If you think there is something that scrutiny should look at, or have views on current reviews being carried out by scrutiny, let us know.

For more information, please contact the Scrutiny Team on 020 8545 4035 or by e-mail on [scrutiny@merton.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@merton.gov.uk). Alternatively, visit [www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny)

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# Agenda Item 3

All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the committee/panel. To find out the date of the next meeting please check the calendar of events at your local library or online at [www.merton.gov.uk/committee](http://www.merton.gov.uk/committee).

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

13 JANUARY 2021

(7.15 pm - 9.28 pm)

PRESENT: Councillors Brenda Fraser (in the Chair), Hayley Ormrod, Stephen Alambritis MBE, Omar Bush, Nick Draper, Edward Foley, Joan Henry, James Holmes Carl Quilliam and Russell Makin

Co-opted Members Mansoor Ahmad and Roz Cordner

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Tobin Byers (Cabinet Member for Finance), Edward Gretton, Nick McLean and Eleanor Stringer (Joint Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Education)

Stella Akintan (Scrutiny Officer), Hannah Doody (Director of Community and Housing), Caroline Holland (Director of Corporate Services), Phil Howell (Assistant Director for Strategy and Improvement), Jane McSherry (Assistant Director of Education), Karl Mittelstadt (Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships) and Dr Dagmar Zeuner (Director, Public Health)

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor Dennis Pearce and Councillor Carl Quilliam attended as a substitute.

Colin Powell has resigned as Co-opted Member representing education matters and Roz Cordner will fill the role on an interim basis

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests

### 3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record

### 4 IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN MERTON - VERBAL UPDATE (Agenda Item 5)

The Director of Public Health gave an overview of her presentation. In response to questions she reported that:

The length of hospital stays for Covid patients varies according to age and co-morbidity.

Those who have been diagnosed with Covid will not receive the vaccine while they are infectious due to need to protect those administering the vaccination.

It is not known if a person can transmit the infection once they are vaccinated, so it is important to continue with social distancing and government guidance.

In response to questions on vaccines the Assistant Director of Strategy and Improvement reported that:

There have been approximately 40,000 vaccinations across Southwest London, figures are not available for Merton residents only.

The vaccines are currently being administered through hospitals who have the facilities to store the Pfizer vaccine.

There will be a roving team to vaccinate those who are unable to leave home.

#### RESOLVED

The Chair thanked the Director for her report

#### 5 BUDGET AND BUSINESS PLAN 2021-2025 (Agenda Item 4)

The Director of Corporate Services gave an overview of the budget report highlighting that as the Local Government Settlement was late there will be an additional scrutiny meeting in February before the final budget goes to Cabinet.

In response to questions the Director reported that:

The DSF Grant is in deficit, and is not sufficient to cover high needs spending which is increasing rapidly and in levels of complexity. The department are looking at options to mitigate the deficit.

The current budget gap is £11.7 million. The notional cost of an additional days leave for all council employees will be £300,000.

The current non-covid underspend at the end of October was £2.1 million there were covid costs of £900,000 so net underspend £1.3million. The underspend was due to savings in home to school transport costs during the first lockdown period.

The use of capital funds in revenue to help councils to release funds is complex. Consideration has been given to social impact funds which could be paid back over a longer period of time. Also, changes in the capital programme such as closure of the Merantun Development Company will release revenue funds.

A panel member asked the cabinet member for an update on progress with commercial opportunities and why last year savings were agreed as a matter of policy. The Cabinet Member for Education and Schools said savings could only be implemented after extensive consultation which had not been possible during this

period. The Cabinet Member for Finance said he is willing to meet with councillors to discuss income generating suggestions.

The Assistant Director for Education and Early Help gave an overview of the saving on rationalisation of children centres. She reported this work is in the very early stages more work to do on this area and will focus on deprived communities as well as look at different ways to deliver services. A panel member asked how extensive the consultation will be. The Assistant Director said they will target specific stakeholders, and ensure as many people can contribute as possible.

## 6 DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE REPORT - TO FOLLOW (Agenda Item 6)

The Director of Community and Housing and Interim Director for Children, Schools and Families introduced the report said this is a rapidly changing environment and work with schools has been very positive.

A panel member expressed concerned about the 200 additional children with social care needs, and queried how caseloads can be reduced to normal levels. The Head of Service Children in Care and Resources reported that a number of measures have been implemented including the recruitment of social workers and sharing workloads across department.

The Head of Policy Performance and Partnerships will identify data on additional children in system and comparative figures across London and south west London using the London data set.

A panel member asked why primary school attendance is higher than secondary school. The Assistant Director for Education and Early Years said this is possibly due to the needs of working parents and secondary school pupils are more independent.

A panel member asked about the impact on schools as the definition of key workers has widened, resulting in teachers required in both actual and virtual learning. The Assistant Director for Education and Early said teachers are managing this in different ways including working on rota basis, self-isolating staff are still working online, all schools are still able to operate effectively.

Performance monitoring report

## 7 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT - TO FOLLOW (Agenda Item 7)

The Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships gave an overview of the report.

The Chair thanked officers for their presentations and thanked all staff for their hard work during this difficult time

## 8 WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21 (Agenda Item 8)

The Panel noted the work programme.

9 BUDGET AND BUSINESS PLAN 2021-25 SAVINGS PACK (Agenda Item 9)



## **Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

**Date: 10 February 2020**

### **Subject: Expansion of Merton Medical Education Services into to Lavender Nursery site and closure of Lavender London Road Nursery**

**Ward:** Lavender London Road is in Lavender Fields ward but the proposal serves a wider area

**Lead officer:** Hannah Doody, Interim Director of Children, Schools and Families

**Lead member:** Councillor Eleanor Stringer, Joint Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Education.

**Contact officers:** Tom Procter, Head of Contacts and School Organisation

Allison Jones, Head of Early Years, Family Wellbeing and Early Help

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#### **Recommendation:**

Prior to it being considered by Cabinet in March, for Panel Members to comment on the proposed expansion of Merton Medical Education Services, and so to close Lavender London Road Nursery, as set out in this paper and the consultation document (Appendix 1).

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

- 1.1 Merton Medical Education Services is part of Melbury College and is currently permanently located in 'The Bungalow' adjacent to the main Pupil Referral Unit building at Canterbury Road, on the same site as the Chaucer Centre. The building is now too small for the growing number of secondary aged pupils who are unable to attend mainstream schools for medical reasons.
- 1.2 A review has been undertaken for best use of council assets for this provision and more widely.
- 1.3 Lavender Nursery (Sure Start Children Centre London Road) currently provides up to 80 part-time, term-time only nursery places for 2-year-olds who are eligible for free nursery education, and up to 48 full-time all-year-round places for children aged 2, 3 and 4 for fee-paying families.
- 1.4 On 25 January 2020 the council commenced a consultation to expand Melbury Medical provision into Lavender Nursery, and so close the provision at this site, with sufficient nursery places available elsewhere.
- 1.5 The consultation closes on 22 February 2020 and Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to comment on the proposal

during this consultation phase, and before the matter is considered by Cabinet in March.

- 1.6 The consultation paper is provided as appendix 1, and this paper provides further detail on the background.

## **2. DETAILS**

### **Need for additional places for children with medical needs**

- 1.1 Part of Melbury College, Merton Medical Education Services offer high quality, bespoke education provision for highly vulnerable students who live in Merton and who are unable to attend mainstream school because of medical and/ or mental health needs.
- 1.2 Students can be referred by their mainstream school if they have, or will have 15 days of absence from school because of their medical condition. The school will need to provide medical evidence from a hospital consultant or CAMHS professionals.
- 1.3 They offer home tuition, in community provision, on line learning, a placement at the Canterbury Road campus or a combination of some/all of these, depending upon the individual needs of the student. SENDIS (Special Education Needs Integrated Service) also refers students with EHCP's if they are in Key Stage 4 (national year groups 10 and 11), as the most suitable provision to support these vulnerable pupils.
- 1.4 The number of pupils referred to Merton Medical Education Services has increased year on year. Last year, 63 students benefitted from the services. However, the limited accommodation at the Canterbury Road campus only allows up to 20 students to be accommodated at any one time, with pupils requiring the support of small class groups of no more than 10. There has therefore needed to be an over reliance on home tuition, and only KS4 pupils on site. Numbers are forecast to increase, both as the general secondary age population increases, and the increase in children with mental health needs that are unable to remain in mainstream secondary schools
- 1.5 Due to lack of space at Canterbury Road, Merton Medical Education Services temporarily moved to Worsfold House, Church Road, Mitcham, in September 2020. However, this is not suitable as a permanent location. The building is too large, and the site has been earmarked by the council for housing.

### **Feasibility of an extension on its current site**

- 1.6 The default position in the capital programme is to increase the on-site provision at the Canterbury Campus to 40 pupils, at a capital cost of circa £600,000 to £900,000.

- 1.7 However, expansion to 40 pupils may not be sufficient in the medium term, and there is a risk that a further project would be required in the near future. Moving to a new site with a larger building would meet the growing need with much more teaching time and a rounded offer. It could facilitate access to a broader curriculum, rather than 1:1 home tuition, and access to specialist on-site facilities such as food technology, Art, Design Technology, PE and Computing.
- 1.8 Should Merton Medical Education Services move from the Canterbury Campus the space released will provide opportunities for the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), where, with the growth in the general secondary school population, there is also growing demand and the need for additional accommodation, especially in the KS3 cohort and those more vulnerable PRU pupils who may struggle in the larger PRU building.

### **Alternative site solutions for medical provision**

- 1.9 Officers have considered the potential sites currently within Children, Schools and Families management that could provide for additional SEND provision.
- 1.10 There are only two buildings currently not in permanent use. Firstly, Whatley Avenue, SW20 (former Adult Education building recently used temporarily by Harris Academy Wimbledon). This has been earmarked to provide specialist provision, catering for children with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), for approximately 80-90 pupils. Secondly, Worsfold House. However, as referenced in paragraph 1.5 this is not suitable as a permanent location.
- 1.11 There are primary schools with surplus places but it would be challenging to have a distinct area that could be a provision operated by another provider, and especially to provide for secondary aged children on a primary school site. However, there is space to consider expanding nursery places/provision according to need, where there are schools with surplus accommodation
- 1.12 The network of Children's Centre buildings and Youth Centres have been considered but had to be discounted as too small. However, the exception identified was Lavender Nursery, a local authority run childcare setting that is a discretionary service. While it was discounted for Special Educational ASD provision as being too small for the size of school needed, it has been considered for the medical provision.
- 1.13 Lavender Nursery could be adapted to provide for up to 60 children for the medical provision at a fraction of the cost in the capital programme compared to extending at Canterbury Road.

### **Lavender Nursery**

- 1.14 Lavender Nursery opened in 2004 as part of Children's Centre provision under the government's Sure Start programme. It was opened with Lavender Steers Mead, which provides the main Children's Centre activities, support

services and co-location with Merton's Community Health provider, with Lavender Nursery providing early education and childcare for 2 – 5 year olds. Early education and childcare provision has developed significantly during this time.

- 1.15 Lavender Nursery (London Road) currently provides up to 80 part-time, term-time only nursery places for 2-year-olds who are eligible for free nursery education, and up to 48 full-time all-year-round places for children aged 2, 3 and 4 for fee-paying families
- 1.16 Based on the current roll for fee paying families (this is subject to change slightly), from September 2021 there will be:
- 36 children who will go to school reception class in September 2021 – i.e. will be leaving regardless
  - 24 children who would have ordinarily had the option to remain at Lavender, who will require alternative provision under this proposal
- 1.17 This provision can be provided through other means as follows:
- the private, voluntary, or independent sector, where within a 1 mile distance there are 9 private all-year-round full day care nurseries with good Ofsted inspections (or waiting for their first inspection)
  - nursery classes in primary schools, where within a 2 mile distance there are 14 primary schools with nursery classes, some offering 30 hour funded places for 3 and 4-year-olds. The council will continue to work with schools wanting to offer the 30 hours (extended entitlement) to meet the needs of families
  - the childminding sector where, within a mile there are 20 to 25 childminders
- 1.18 It is recognised that there are generally fewer places available via the free childcare scheme for eligible 2-year-olds, hence the aim is to relocate the existing council-run 80 places to the following three designated children centre sites, whilst continuing to support sufficiency across the whole childcare market:
- Lavender Steers Mead Children's Centre CR4 3HL
  - Acacia Children's Centre CR4 1SD
  - Abbey Children's Centre SW19 2JY.
- 1.19 The council's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report shows that the population of Merton's under-fives has decreased in recent years and the forecast from the GLA demography unit is for it to continue to decrease over the next five years. This is likely to reduce the demand for childcare. However, the secondary aged population has increased substantially and is forecast to still modestly increase over the next five years.

### **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1 A series of site options for Melbury Medical are summarised in the main body of this report, alongside the implications of closing Lavender Nursery.
- 3.2 Following the consultation Cabinet could decide not to proceed with the proposal in the consultation and keep Lavender Nursery open. In this instance either more children would have to be Home Educated by Merton Medical Education Services, or an alternative permanent building would need to be found that is cost effective to the council.

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

- 4.4 A public consultation commenced on Monday 25 January 2021 and ends of Monday 22 February 2021. It is on the council's consultation page <https://consult.merton.gov.uk> and the following specific groups have been directly contacted:
- All parents with children currently at the nursery
  - Early years sector – 360 registered childcare providers (including childminders) in Merton
  - Headteachers of all Merton state funded schools
  - All Merton councillors

4.5 A webinar is also planned to discuss the proposal before the end of the consultation period.

4.6 Early responses to the consultation indicate support to the proposal from Merton schools as it will provide much needed specialist provision. However, concern has been raised from a number of parents currently benefitting from the nursery provision regarding alternative affordable quality childcare.

#### **5. TIMETABLE**

- 5.1 It is planned that a report is considered by Cabinet in March to decide whether to proceed with this proposal. If it is agreed Lavender Nursery would shut in August 2021. Works would then commence to adapt the building so that it is suitable for the Medical Education services provision by late 2021/early 2022.
- 5.2 An early decision is preferred by Cabinet so that the council and families can plan for September 2021 and beyond.

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

- 6.1 The proposal will require significantly less capital expenditure than the alternative option of expanding the building at Canterbury Road.
- 6.2 The council's ongoing expenditure on Lavender Nursery is greater than the income received. The proposal will therefore contribute to required council

savings although, if the proposal goes ahead, redundancies are anticipated, with the associated costs for this.

6.3 While DfE grant was used to build the original Sure Start centre, the experience of councils who have re-purposed buildings is that no money is clawed back if it is continued to be used for Education purposes.

6.4 Full financial implications will be provided as part of the report to Cabinet

### **Impact on Tamworth Recreation Ground and paddling pool**

6.5 The paddling pool and park are independently managed. The proposal is that the area currently designated to 'Education for Nursery' becomes provision for Merton Medical Education Services. Tamworth Recreation Ground and paddling pool will not therefore be impacted by this proposal.

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

7.1 The Lavender Nursery site's land is a charity trust and Merton Council is the Trustee. The proposals for this change of use for this building in compliance with this Trust are currently being considered.

7.2 Lavender Nursery is considered part of the Sure Start/children's centre provision made by the Council under the Childcare Act 2006. The current consultation is intended to meet the requirements for consultation under section 5D of that Act.

7.3 Full legal implications will be provided as part of the report to Cabinet.

## **8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 An equalities impact assessment will be required before a decision is considered by Cabinet. A draft has been written, and may need to be amended following the consultation.

## **9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None specific

## **10. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 This would be a major project that will require a risk and issues log.

## **11. APPENDICES – the following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report**

- Appendix 1 – Consultation document

**12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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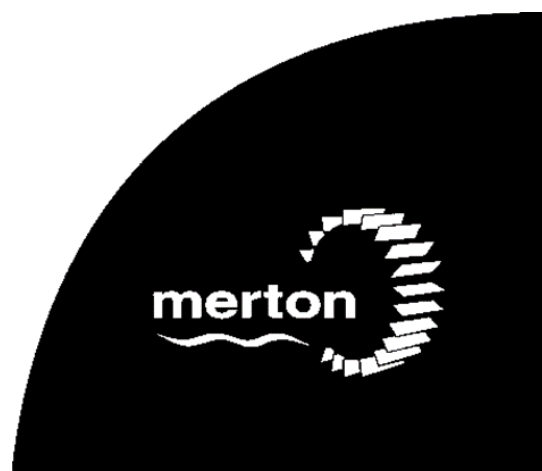


MERTON COUNCIL

# Provision for Merton Medical Education Services at Lavender Nursery site and closure of the nursery from September 2021

London Road, Mitcham CR4 3LB

*Please email comments to  
[School.Consult@merton.gov.uk](mailto:School.Consult@merton.gov.uk)  
by Monday 22 February 2021*



## **What is the purpose of this consultation?**

The purpose of this linked consultation is to allow anyone to raise questions or concerns regarding the proposal so that officers can report to the council's Cabinet with the full range of views and decide whether to proceed.

## **What is proposed?**

### **Expansion of Merton Medical Education Services into the Lavender Nursery site**

Part of Melbury College, Merton Medical Education Services offer high quality, bespoke education provision for highly vulnerable students who live in Merton and who are unable to attend mainstream school because of medical and / or mental health needs. The offer is part of the council's statutory obligation to ensure education is provided for all of its school age children. <https://www.melbury.merton.sch.uk/>

Due to a rise in the secondary school aged population and rising needs, especially in relation to mental health, student numbers have increased year-on-year, Merton Medical Education Services have outgrown their previous accommodation at the Canterbury Road campus, Morden. They are currently in temporary provision but require a permanent, suitable home.

The council has limited resources and therefore needs to make sure it can provide for this need from within its existing building stock rather than through new build.

### **Closure of Lavender Nursery (London Road)**

Lavender Nursery currently offers early education and care for children aged 2 to 4/5 years of age as part of the borough-wide offer of a range of early childhood services delivered through the borough's network of children's centres. For more information about these children's centres please visit [www.merton.gov.uk/childrenscentres](http://www.merton.gov.uk/childrenscentres)

Lavender Nursery (London Road) currently provides up to 80 part-time, term-time only nursery places for 2-year-olds who are eligible for free nursery education, and up to 48 full-time all-year-round places for children aged 2, 3 and 4 for fee-paying families. The proposal is to:

- Close the full working day, fee-paying provision (i.e. 48 full-time places)
- Find alternative venue(s) to provide the 80 part-time, term-time free places for eligible 2-year-olds

The proposed changes would not be implemented until late August 2021 to make sure families that are changing placement for September 2021 do not need to seek any short-term alternative arrangements.

Parents will be able to choose their future provision from across the wider childcare sector, as shown below.

### **Funded places for eligible 2-year-olds (part time, term time free provision)**

Merton's own service offer for eligible 2-year-olds is likely to be offered across:

- Lavender Steers Mead Children's Centre CR4 3HL

- Acacia Children's Centre CR4 1SD
- Abbey Children's Centre SW19 2JY

Families can choose to take up alternative provision from across the range of funded providers locally that deliver funded places for 2-year-olds.

[Find details of childcare providers offering funded places in Merton](#)

### **Places for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds for fee paying families (full time places)**

Alternative existing full day care is provided across:

1. the private, voluntary, or independent sector, where within a 1 mile distance there are 9 private all-year-round full day care nurseries with good Ofsted inspections (or waiting for their first inspection)
2. nursery classes in primary schools, where within a 2 mile distance there are 14 primary schools with nursery classes, some offering 30 hour funded places for 3 and 4-year-olds. (The council will continue to work with schools wanting to offer the 30 hours (extended entitlement) to meet the needs of families)
3. the childminding sector where, within a mile there are 20 to 25 childminders

[Find details of providers of full day care, including free places for 3 and 4-year-olds](#)

The council's [Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report](#) shows that the population of Merton's under-fives has decreased in recent years and is expected to continue to decrease over the next five years. This is likely to reduce the demand for childcare. The secondary aged population has increased substantially and is forecast to still modestly increase over the next five years.

It is recognised that there are generally fewer places available via the free childcare scheme for eligible 2-year-olds, hence the aim is to relocate the existing council-run 80 places to the three designated children centre sites, whilst continuing to support sufficiency across the whole childcare market.

The council is therefore confident that, in meeting the growing needs of Merton Medical Education Services, there will be sufficient childcare in the local area to meet demand

### **Impact on Tamworth Recreation Ground and paddling pool**

The paddling pool and park are independently managed. The proposal is that the area currently designated to 'Education for Nursery' becomes provision for Merton Medical Education Services. Tamworth Recreation Ground and paddling pool will not therefore be impacted by this proposal.

**Please provide comments by email to [School.Consult@merton.gov.uk](mailto:School.Consult@merton.gov.uk) by Monday 22 February 2021**

**Post to: Contracts and School Organisation, Children, Schools and Families Department, London Borough of Merton, Merton Civic Centre, Morden SM4 5DX**

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# Children and Young People Work Programme 2020/21



This table sets out the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme for 2019/20 that was agreed by the Commission at its meeting on 24 June 2020.

This slimmed down work programme has been designed so that it can be regularly reviewed and adjusted during the pandemic. It will be considered at every meeting of the Commission to enable it to respond to issues of concern or to request new pre-decision items ahead of their consideration by Cabinet/Council.

The work programme table shows items on a meeting by meeting basis, identifying the issue under review, the nature of the scrutiny (pre decision, policy development, issue specific, performance monitoring, partnership related) and the intended outcomes.

**Chair:** Councillor Brenda Fraser

**Vice-chair:** Cllr Hayley Ormrod

## **Scrutiny Support**

For further information on the work programme of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel please contact: -

Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer

Tel: 020 8545 3390; Email: [stella.akintan@merton.gov.uk](mailto:stella.akintan@merton.gov.uk)

For more information about overview and scrutiny at LB Merton, please visit [www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny)

**Meeting date:** 30 September 2020 (**Deadline for papers:** 12pm, 22 September 2020)

<b>Scrutiny category</b>	<b>Item/issue</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Lead member and/or lead officer</b>	<b>Intended outcomes</b>
<b>Standing items</b>	Covid 19 update	Verbal update	Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families	To include info on school opening status and attendance, including attendance of key worker children and 'vulnerable' children
<b>Holding the executive to account</b>	Harris Academy Wimbledon	Written Report	Tom Procter, Head of Contracts and School Organisation	An update on progress with new school.
<b>Holding the executive to account</b>	Departmental update report	Written report	Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families	An overview of the key issues within the Children, Schools and Families Department.
<b>Setting the work programme</b>	Work programme 2020/21	Written report	Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer	To review the work programme and agree any changes

**Meeting date:** 4 November 2020 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 27 October 2020*)

<b>Scrutiny category</b>	<b>Item/issue</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Lead member and/or lead officer</b>	<b>Intended outcomes</b>
<b>Holding the executive to account</b>	Covid 19 update	Verbal update	Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families	To include access to education for vulnerable children
<b>Budget scrutiny</b>	Budget/business plan scrutiny (Round 1)	Written report	Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services	To discuss and refer any comments to the O&S Commission
<b>Holding the executive to account</b>	Departmental update report	Annual report	Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families	An overview of the key issues within the Children, Schools and Families Department.
<b>Performance management</b>	Performance monitoring	Basket of indicators	Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	To highlight items of concern
<b>Setting the work programme</b>	Work programme 2020/21	Written report	Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer	To review the work programme and agree any changes

**Meeting date:** 13 January 2021 (**Deadline for papers:** 12pm 5 January 2021)

<b>Scrutiny category</b>	<b>Item/issue</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Lead member and/or lead officer</b>	<b>Intended outcomes</b>
<b>Standing items</b>	Covid 19 update	Verbal update	Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health	Panel to review current data and response to the pandemic
<b>Budget scrutiny</b>	Budget/business plan scrutiny (Round 2)	Written report	Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services	To discuss and make recommendations to forward to Cabinet
<b>Holding the executive to account</b>	Departmental update report	Written Report	Hannah Doody Interim, Director of Children, Schools and Families	An overview of the key issues within the Children, Schools and Families Department.
<b>Performance management</b>	Performance monitoring	Basket of indicators	Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	To highlight items of concern
<b>Setting the work programme</b>	Work programme 2020/21	Written report	Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer	To review the work programme and agree any changes



Meeting date: 10 February 2021 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 2 February 2021*)

Scrutiny category	Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
<b>Holding the executive to account – Pre-decision scrutiny</b>	Expansion of Merton Medical Education Services into to Lavender Nursery site and closure of Lavender London Road Nursery	Report to the Panel	Tom Procter, Head of Contracts and School Organisation	For the Panel to consider the decision before it goes to Cabinet on 22 <sup>nd</sup> March
<b>Standing items</b>	Covid 19 update	Verbal update	Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health	Panel to review current data and response to the pandemic
<b>Holding the executive to account</b>	Departmental update report	Written report	Hannah Doody Interim, Director of Children, Schools and Families	An overview of the key issues within the Children, Schools and Families Department.
<b>Performance management</b>	Performance monitoring	Basket of indicators	Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	To highlight items of concern
<b>Setting the work programme</b>	Work programme 2020/21	Written report	Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer	To review the work programme and agree any changes

Meeting date: 27 April 2021 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 19 April 2021*)

Scrutiny category	Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
<b>Holding the executive to account</b>	Schools Standards Annual Report	Written report	Hannah Doody Interim, Director of Children, Schools and Families	To scrutinise attainment information
<b>Holding the executive to account</b>	Departmental update report	Annual report	Hannah Doody Interim, Director of Children, Schools and Families	An overview of the key issues within the Children, Schools and Families Department.
<b>Performance management</b>	Performance monitoring	Basket of indicators	Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	To highlight items of concern
<b>Setting the work programme</b>	Topic suggestions for 2021/22	Written report	Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer	To identify topics for the 2021/22 work programme
<b>Holding the executive to account</b>	Corporate Parenting	Annual report	Assistant Director Children's' Social Care and Youth Inclusion	To provide comments on annual report
<b>Health scrutiny</b>	Merton Safeguarding Children Board	Written report		To provide comments on annual report
<b>Standing items</b>	Covid 19 update	Verbal update	Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health	Panel to review current data and response to the pandemic