

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

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

Wards: All wards

### **Subject: Departmental Update Report January 2019**

Lead officer: Rachael Wardell, Director of Children Schools and Families

Lead members: Cllr Kelly Braund, Cabinet Member for Children Services

Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Cabinet Member for Education

Contact officer: Sharon Buckby, Interim Head of Service for Policy, Planning and Performance

### **Recommendations:**

A. Members of the panel to discuss and comment on the contents of the report.

---

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

1.1. The report provides members of the panel with information on key developments not covered elsewhere on the agenda and affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the panel's last meeting in November 2018. It focusses on those aspects of particular relevance to the department and those where the Panel expressed an interest in receiving regular updates.

## **2 DETAILS**

2.1. **Harris Academy Wimbledon.** Planning permission for the school's permanent site was granted at the November planning committee. The project is still on target for the permanent school to be completed in time for September 2020.

2.2. **Special Education Provision** In addition to the works now under way to expand Cricket Green, outline proposals for the creation of additional places for children with special educational needs have been included in the capital programme for coming years, including a secondary school autism unit, primary SEMH provision, a primary ASD base, a secondary SEMH / medical PRU and new ASD provision.

2.3. **Merton Safeguarding Children Board** is continuing to manage the transition from LSCBs to the creation of a Safeguarding Partnership under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Chapter 3 of Working Together 2018. A task and finish group, comprised of the Statutory Partners and Relevant Agencies, has met and has drafted a Partnership Agreement that outlines how the Partners and Relevant Agencies as identified in Working

Together 2018 will work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. The draft agreement includes the following:

- The vision of the Partnership
- The national and local context
- The geographical area of the Partnership (i.e. LB Merton)
- The Purpose, Principles and Priorities of the Partnership
- Membership
- Governance and Structure
- Independent Scrutiny including the role of the Independent Scrutineer and the Role of the Independent Person (Chair)
- Accountabilities including reporting
- The Business Cycle
  - Resources,
  - Training
  - Delegation

The Partnership Agreement will be presented to the current safeguarding board in January and at a range of stakeholder events in February 2018, with the intention that final approval is secured through individual organisation and Partnership governance for publication in March 2019.

- 2.4. **Ofsted inspections** There have been no further inspections of schools by Ofsted this term. The Merton School Improvement Service continues to use 'Support and Challenge Groups' to work intensively with those schools currently judged to require improvement to ensure they become 'good' as soon as possible. These groups are also deployed with schools where published and local information would indicate that there is a risk they could be judged as less than good when they are next inspected. There are currently eight of these groups.
- 2.5. The DfE has released the unvalidated GCSE outcomes for 2018. These show that Merton is ranked eighth nationally for its Progress 8 score (the progress made by pupils between the end of Key Stage 2 and Year 11 in their best eight subjects) and 27<sup>th</sup> nationally for its Attainment 8 score. The primary school performance tables have also recently been released which rank Merton 8<sup>th</sup> nationally for progress in reading; 23<sup>rd</sup> nationally for progress in writing; and 6<sup>th</sup> nationally for progress in mathematics. Attainment in the combination of reading, writing and maths ranks Merton 36<sup>th</sup> nationally. Detail about these outcomes will be presented in the annual Standards Report in March 2019.
- 2.6. **The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)** is the key partnership strategy for the Children's Trust and aims to unite all partners around a common cause delivered through pooling or alignment of their respective budgets. We are currently in the developmental phases of producing a Children and Young People Plan 2019-23. A significant programme of consultation is currently underway, which will allow the CYPP priorities to be coproduced through engagement with stakeholders including children, young people, the third sector and communities as well as our wider partners in schools, health and the police.

- 2.7. The initial phase of consultation is being carried out in the form of a Children and Young People survey, targeted at children and young people between the ages of 4-25. We are also drawing on a range of additional consultation activities that have taken place over the last six months. Through these activities, we hope to gain insights into the perspectives of young people on their local area, safety, their relationship networks, and their future. The survey has been issued to secondary schools and SEND schools within the borough, with a current deadline of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January. This has also been widely distributed to CSF staff to make available for children and young people, as well as youth groups, uniform services, Looked after Children, MVCS and various other external partners. This survey included questions not only formulated by the Children, Schools and Families department, but also questions that were included to inform the Community Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. These two plans are also being refreshed next year, so this opportunity has been taken to consult jointly, in order to ensure alignment between the two plans.
- 2.8. The next stage of consultation, scheduled from early February through until the end of March, will focus on consulting with a wider stakeholder group, using the key themes arising from our consultation with children and young people. We will utilise the range of youth forums such as the Kids First forum and the Children in Care Council alongside parent groups to add richness to the information drawn from the consultation.
- 2.9. CSF is working in conjunction with the Public Health team, the joint commissioners with the CCG and wider partner stakeholders in order to ensure that the commissioning work and the strategies implemented by partners take into account the priorities of the CYPP as they are being developed and once they are published. This work will be ongoing through quarter 4.
- 2.10. **Pathway to Employment** CSF Commissioning as part of the Economic Well Being Group submitted a bid from s.106 funds and were awarded £32.8k, to be spent on “local skills training”. The funds have been used to run a Towards Employment Pilot that has see the CSF Commissioning team negotiate work opportunities from supply chain contractors and local businesses. Since August 2018, 7 employers, (international and local), have been engaged and are actively supporting the pilot. 81 young people have been referred from both internal and external partners. 48 of those YP are Merton residents, 16 of whom are care leavers and 22 are known to Merton Youth Offending team, (of which, six had been considered of ‘significant risk’ to the wider community).
- 2.11. Supported by the My Futures Team, 33 YP have been hired since August’18, 3 have started apprenticeships, (including one created specifically for a Merton YP), 10 have gained sector specific qualifications. A potential economic uplift of over £300k has been gained for Merton residents accessing opportunities through this program. Most importantly, some very

vulnerable YP have sustained employment and are starting to refer their peers because they believe we can help.

- 2.12. **CAMH Transformation and iTHRIVE.** Through additional investment (CAMH Transformation Funding) and work both within Merton and across the South West London STP there have been significant improvements in a range of emotional wellbeing and mental health services/initiatives for our Children and Young People leading to:
- Merton exceeding the target to increase access to mental health services for children and young people by 30% from 2015 baseline.
  - Publication of the Local CAMH offer on Young Merton.
  - Successful pilot of two counselling services and procurement of online, 1:1 and group counselling services for young people from April 2019.
  - Development of a 'whole school approach' and submission of a bid to become a trailblazer for the C&YP Mental Health Green Paper
  - Further development of a Liaison and Diversion service for young people in the Youth Justice System and on the edge of offending behaviour
  - Systemic Therapy Team based within our Children Social Care Services
  - Implementation of a number of Workforce Development initiatives
  - Support with the development of the Merton Autism Strategy and Action Plan and improvements to the diagnostic pathway for children and young people with neurodevelopmental conditions (this work continues into 2019).
- 2.13. The CAMH Partnership with endorsement from the Health and Well Being Board have agreed to introduce a new conceptual model to underpin our approach to the Emotional Well Being and Mental Health of Children and Young People in Merton, called THRIVE. This will replace our current Tiers with a whole system approach. This new model builds on the CYP focus on outcomes, data and the engagement of children and young people in designing services. THRIVE aims to work with families, schools and children themselves to promote mental health and wellbeing and to prevent problems becoming entrenched. THRIVE attempts to create a clearer distinction than in the current tiered system between treatment and support, self-management and intervention.
- Implementation of the model will take at least 18 months through a project approach that will be overseen by the CAMH Partnership. Further updates will be provided in the New Year.
- 2.14. **Contextual Safeguarding** Merton has bid to participate in the scaling up of the University of Bedfordshire's contextual safeguarding project. There were 50 such applications which were subsequently narrowed down to 18 shortlisted local authorities, including Merton, in the running for three places. Our bid was assessed in a conference call on Friday 21 December, which secured good partnership support. We have been advised that successful applicants will be notified in the second week in January.

- 2.15. **Inspection Update** Preparations for upcoming inspections are in hand, and monitored regularly at the service's Continuous Improvement Board, including for the Youth Offending and SEND inspections for which continued progress is being made. The service is also preparing for the anticipated two-day "Focused visit" to the MASH and First Response teams. Any of these inspections / visits may fall in the first quarter of the next calendar year.

**3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1. No specific implications for this report

**4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. No specific implications for this report.

**5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. No specific implications for this report.

**6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. None

**7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. None

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

- 8.1. None

**9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. None

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

- 10.1. None

**11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

**12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1. None

This page is intentionally left blank