

Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: February 11th 2014

Agenda item: 7

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

Lead officer: Yvette Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families

Lead members: Cllr Maxi Martin, Cllr Martin Whelton

Contact officer: Paul Ballatt, Head of Commissioning, Strategy and Performance

Recommendations:

A. Members of the panel note 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 affecting Children, Schools and Families Department since the panel's last update report in January 2014.

2 DETAILS

EDUCATION

2.1 There have been no further Ofsted school inspections since the panel's last meeting in January. The proportion of Merton schools classed as good or better remains, therefore, at 85%. At the last meeting, panel members requested information on schools classed as requiring improvement. There are currently five primary schools and one secondary school in this category – Bond, Gorrington, Hollymount, Liberty, Lonesome and Raynes Park High School. Merton's school improvement service has provided targeted support to these schools to develop and implement improvement plans to address inspection findings and the schools are subject to termly monitoring by Ofsted. At the time of writing all schools are considered by Ofsted to be making satisfactory progress or better in making necessary improvements.

2.2 Following its rating as inadequate in its last inspection, Garden primary school is set to convert into an academy sponsored by the Harris Federation from September 2014. The department's school improvement service is continuing to support the development and implementation of an improvement plan with the school. Ofsted's monitoring visit in December 2013 found that satisfactory progress was being made. A monitoring visit has also been made to Raynes Park High School, inspectors judging that effective progress is being made.

- 2.3 Funds have been agreed by the council and Merton's Schools Forum to enable the Merton Education Partnership to support school improvement initiatives across the sector. A bidding process has been initiated and the MEP is seeking to support partnerships of schools develop consultancy, leadership and curriculum initiatives to promote further improvement across Merton's schools.
- 2.4 Following interest expressed at a previous CYP scrutiny panel, a letter signed by the Leader of the council has been sent to the DfE urging that appropriate funding is allocated to support the implementation of the Children and Families Bill. The Association of Directors of Children's Services is also lobbying to this end and officers will keep the panel informed of any developments.
- 2.5 Panel members have been informed in previous reports of the area based commissioning model for universal youth services which officers have been implementing over recent months. Although commissioning has been successful in the Morden and Wimbledon areas with youth services now being delivered by partnerships of local agencies, officers have been unable to make similar arrangements in the Mitcham area due to complications relating to staff transfer and buildings issues. Although there will be ongoing attempts to resolve these issues to enable a partnership to come forward able to take on the delivery of services, CSF department will continue to provide these services directly for the time being.
- 2.6 A celebration event marking work undertaken by Merton's Young Advisors and Young Inspectors has recently been held. The event was attended by the cabinet member for children's services, other elected members as well as both local MPs. Young people won awards for consultancy work on reducing alcohol and gambling in Mitcham town centre; promoting health and well being through anti-bullying campaigning and undertaking 'peer inspections' of local youth provision.

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

- N/A

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. None

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