

BEST VALUE PROGRAMME REVIEW BOARD QUARTERLY MEETING

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Monday, 10 April 2017 at 6.00 p.m.
Room C1, 1st Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent,
London E14 2BG

This meeting is open to the public to attend.

Members:

Mayor John Biggs

Councillor Sirajul Islam

(Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management & Performance)

Councillor Rachael Saunders

(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services)

Councillor David Edgar

(Cabinet Member for Resources)

Councillor Oliur Rahman

Leader of the Independent Group

Councillor Peter Golds

(Leader of the Conservative Group)

Councillor Rabina Khan

(Leader of PATH Group)

Heather Wills

(Local Government Association)

Alan Wood

(Chair THCSIB)

Will Tuckley

(Chief Executive)

Sharon Godman

(Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Partnerships)

Contact for further enquiries:

Matthew Mannion, Democratic Services

Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG

Tel: 020 7364 4651

E-mail:

Web: <http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee>

Scan this code to your mobile phone to view Committee website.



LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
BEST VALUE PROGRAMME REVIEW BOARD QUARTERLY MEETING

MONDAY, 10 APRIL 2017

6.00 p.m.

**5. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS
CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

**5.1 Tower Hamlets Children's Services Improvement
Board (CSIB) 2017**

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Edward Timpson MP

Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Mayor John Biggs
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Tower Hamlets Town Hall
Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
London
E14 2BG

7 April 2017

Dear John,

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS: OFSTED INSPECTION
OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES, REPORT PUBLISHED 7
APRIL 2017**

I am writing following Ofsted's publication of its report into the inspection of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets' services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, and the review of the effectiveness of the local safeguarding board. Ofsted has judged services overall to be 'inadequate'.

I am very concerned to read about the widespread and serious failures in the services provided in Tower Hamlets, which are leaving too many children in harmful or potentially harmful situations. This represents a significant decline in performance since your last Ofsted inspection in 2012. I have asked my officials to work closely with your authority as part of a co-ordinated intervention to support rapid improvement across children's services delivery.

I have also asked my officials to procure an intervention adviser who will report to the Secretary of State and provide monitoring, support and challenge to the council as it implements corrective measures to improve service delivery. They will be in touch with you to set out how that will be done. I understand that you are setting up a new improvement board with the senior level representation from the council and its partners needed to drive improvement. I will expect quarterly reports on progress from the chair of the improvement board.

In the meantime, I expect the council to take swift and decisive action to address the areas for improvement identified by Ofsted. If I am not satisfied that you are making suitable progress then I will need to

consider whether sustainable improvement can be best achieved by removing service control from the council.

I am attaching a draft Direction which requires you to work with the intervention adviser. If you have any formal representations to make on the content of the Direction, please submit those in writing to Sean.Hilditch@education.gov.uk by 21 April 2017.

My officials will be in touch with you to agree the date to publish the Direction, and to discuss arrangements to announce the name of the intervention adviser.

I am copying this letter to Will Tuckley and Debbie Jones.

*Yours sincerely,
Edward*

Edward Timpson MP
Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families

**STATUTORY DIRECTION TO LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
IN RELATION TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES UNDER SECTION 497A(4B)
OF THE EDUCATION ACT 1996**

WHEREAS:

1. The Secretary of State for Education ("the Secretary of State") has carefully considered Ofsted's report of 7 April 2017, in respect of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets ("the Council), of its inspection carried out between 24 January and 16 February 2017. The inspection report found that children's services are 'inadequate'. The sub-judgments for children who need help and protection and leadership, management and governance were rated as 'inadequate'.
2. The Secretary of State is therefore satisfied that the Council is failing to perform to an adequate standard, some or all of the functions to which section 497A of the Education Act 1996 ("the 1996 Act") is applied by section 50 of the Children Act 2004 ("children's social care functions"), namely:
 - a) social services functions, as defined in the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, so far as those functions relate to children;
 - b) the functions conferred on the Council under sections 23C to 24D of the Children Act 1989 (so far as not falling within paragraph a. above); and
 - c) the functions conferred on the Council under sections 10, 12, 12C, 12O and 17A of the Children Act 2004.
3. The Secretary of State, having considered representations made by the Council, considers it expedient, in accordance with her powers under section 497A(4B) of the Education Act 1996, to direct the Council as set out below in order to ensure that all of the Council's children's social care functions are performed to an adequate standard.
4. The Secretary of State intends to appoint **[TBC]** as Intervention Adviser, in accordance with, and for the purposes of, the terms of reference ("the Terms of Reference") set out in Annex A to this direction.

NOW THEREFORE:

5. Pursuant to section 497A(4B) of the Education Act 1996, the Secretary of State directs the Council as follows:
 - a. To comply with any instructions of the Secretary of State or the Intervention Adviser in relation to the improvement of the Council's exercise of its children's social care functions and to provide such assistance as may be required;
 - b. To co-operate with the Intervention Adviser, including on request allowing the Intervention Adviser at all reasonable times access:
 - i. to any premises of the Council;
 - ii. to any document of or relating to the Council; and

- iii. to any employee or member of the Council

which appears to the Intervention Adviser to be necessary for achieving the purposes of, and carrying out the responsibilities set out in the Terms of Reference;

- c. To provide the Intervention Adviser with such amenities, services and administrative support as they may reasonably require from time to time for carrying out their responsibilities in accordance with the Terms of Reference, including:
 - i. providing officers' time or support; and
 - ii. providing office space, meeting rooms or computer facilities;
 - d. To appoint the Intervention Adviser to membership of the Tower Hamlet's Children's Services Improvement Board ('the Improvement Board');
 - e. To ensure that a comprehensive progress report is provided by the Director of Children's Services to each meeting of the Improvement Board;
 - f. To co-operate with the Intervention Adviser's six monthly reviews as to whether the Council has made sufficient progress in improving its children's social care services;
 - g. To ensure that the Chair of the Improvement Board reports to the Secretary of State on progress in delivering the improvement plan, on a quarterly basis, the first report being within 3 months of the date of this Direction.
6. This Direction will remain in force until it is revoked by the Secretary of State.

Signed on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education

SUZANNE LUNN

A Senior Civil Servant in the Department for Education

Dated this day of

ANNEX A

Intervention Adviser Terms of Reference

1. London Borough of Tower Hamlets has failed in its delivery of children's social care services. Ofsted's inspection report, published on 7 April 2017 ('the Ofsted report'), found the service to be 'inadequate' overall.
2. The Intervention Adviser is expected to provide practice advice and support to the Council on those areas of practice that Ofsted has judged to be inadequate, under the Direction issued to London Borough of Tower Hamlets by the Secretary of State under section 497A of the Education Act 1996 on [Insert date] ('the Direction'). The Intervention Adviser shall in particular:
 - a. Be a member of the Tower Hamlets' Children's Services Improvement Board ('the Improvement Board');
 - b. Ensure the development and implementation by the Improvement Board of:
 - a robust improvement plan which spans children's services, and
 - an effective reporting system that ensures that progress and outcomes are measured appropriately.
 - c. Ensure that the improvement plan includes clear and specific actions which reflect the journey of the child and which address all recommendations made in the Ofsted report so as to improve the quality of services for children in need of help and protection; and
 - d. Provide practice advice in line with priorities agreed with the Council and addressing areas of weakness identified by the Ofsted report.

The Intervention Adviser will carry out periodic six monthly reviews that assess service improvements in Tower Hamlets by reference to the OFSTED report. The Intervention Adviser will carry out the first review within six months of the date of this Direction. These reviews may cover but are not exclusive to practice; performance; culture; leadership, management and governance; workforce and management oversight; early help; and the LSCB.

From time to time, the adviser may require that a diagnostic review or assessment of performance in a specific service area in undertaken by a local authority or other party agreed with the Department.

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TOWER HAMLETS CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT BOARD (CSIB) 2017

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

NAME	Tower Hamlets Children's Services Improvement Board
DATE	April 2017
CHAIR	Independent Chair Alan Wood
FREQUENCY	Every six weeks
MEMBERS	<p>Independent Chair Mayor Cabinet Member for Children's Services Chief Executive DfE Intervention Advisor - From Direction - tbc Corporate Director of Children's Services Divisional Director of Strategy, Policy and Partnership Chief Officer of CCG Borough Commander</p>
ATTENDEES Responsible for delivering improvement and being held to account	<p>Specialist external advisor – Nigel Richardson Specialist internal advisor – Steve Hart Specialist DfE advisor - tbc Divisional Director of Children's Social Care Independent Chair of Children's Safeguarding Board Children's lead officer for Strategy, Policy and Performance Divisional Director of HR and Transformation Divisional Director of Finance Primary Head Teacher representative Secondary Head Teacher representative VCS representative Secretariat support</p>
AIM	<p>To drive sustainable improvement across Children's services by providing advice, support and challenge LBTH and its partners, including the LSCB. To secure sustainable improvements and performance in children's services following the Ofsted Inspection. To ensure that all recommendations set out in the Ofsted report are owned and implemented by Council and its partners, including the LSCB. To hold the Council and its key partner agencies to account for their contributions to keeping children and young people safe through the implementation of the Improvement Plan.</p>
ROLE	<p>To provide a Council-wide approach to setting, reviewing and implementing sustainable improvement activity. To hold to the Council and partners to account for the delivery of the CS Improvement plan providing support, challenge and guidance. To provide clear accountability, scrutiny and reporting lines between the CS Operational Board and the CS Improvement Board.</p>

	<p>To consider and make recommendations on, the terms of reference and mode of working of the operational improvement group.</p> <p>To receive regular reports from the operational improvement group on how it demonstrates that the changes being introduced are having an impact and improving social work practice and outcomes for children.</p> <p>To challenge the delivery and direction of the actions contained within the CS Improvement Plan to ensure that improvements are timely and sustainable.</p> <p>To monitor the delivery of the CS Improvement Plan to agreed quality standards and timescales.</p> <p>To provide assurance that the culture of CS improvement is embedded across all those agencies beyond the life and work of the CS Improvement Plan.</p> <p>To report progress against the CS Improvement Plan to Cabinet, the Department for Education and Mayor, and TH BV Improvement Board.</p> <p>To ensure that the voices of children and young people are reflected in the developments in the CS Improvement Plan.</p> <p>To challenge the existing strategic governance, accountability framework, (including the Local Safeguarding Children Board, Health and Wellbeing Board, Children and Families Partnership, and relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s)), and assess how they are contributing to overall improvement in outcomes for children.</p>
OBJECTIVES	<p>To develop and deliver the CS Improvement Plan that ensures there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust model of social work practice; • Sufficient and skilled workforce; • Quality assurance and audit; • Leadership, management and governance. <p>From Direction</p> <p>To co-operate with the Intervention Adviser’s six monthly reviews as to whether the Council has made sufficient progress in improving its children’s social care services.</p> <p>To ensure that the Chair of the Improvement Board reports to the Secretary of State on progress in delivering the improvement plan, on a quarterly basis, the first report being within 3 months (end of June 2017).</p>
STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS	<p>To ensure that a comprehensive progress report is provided by the Director of Children’s Services to each meeting of the Improvement Board (from Direction)</p> <p>Review and note minutes, actions and decisions previously made.</p>

	<p>Overall progress update from the Independent Chair.</p> <p>High level progress against all action plans from Lead Members and Corporate Directors for Plans.</p> <p>Review of risk.</p> <p>Review progress reports to be submitted to Secretary of State and other Government Departments.</p> <p>Items for future meetings.</p>
OFFICER SUPPORT	<p>The strategy, policy and partnership service will support the work of the CS Improvement Board.</p>

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