

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

REPORT OF THE CABINET

11 MARCH 2009

To receive the report of the Cabinet at its meeting held on Wednesday **11 March 2009**.

The Members who attended our meeting were: -

Councillor Lutfur Rahman (Chair)	(Leader of the Council)
Councillor Sirajul Islam (Vice-Chair)	(Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Lead Member, Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships)
Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed	(Lead Member, Culture and Leisure)
Councillor Anwara Ali	(Lead Member, Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	(Lead Member, Employment and Skills)
Councillor Marc Francis	(Lead Member, Housing and Development)
Councillor Clair Hawkins	(Lead Member, Children's Services)
Councillor Josh Peck	(Lead Member, Resources and Performance)
Councillor Abdal Ullah	(Lead Member, Cleaner, Safer, Greener)

Other Members present: -

Councillor Shahid Ali	
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Chair Overview and Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor Tim Archer	
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	(Leader Liberal Democrat Group and Scrutiny Lead Member: A Health Community)
Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader Conservative Group)
Councillor Fazlul Haque	

1. Children and Young People's Plan 2009 -12 (CAB 130/089)

The Cabinet considered a report (attached as Appendix A to this council report) which informed us that: -

- The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is an important element of the reforms underpinned by the Children Act 2004. On the basis of a statutory duty, all local authorities are required to produce a single, strategic, overarching plan for all services affecting children and young people every three years (to be reviewed each year in which the authority is not required to publish a plan). The CYPP supports more integrated and effective services to secure better outcomes for children. The last

Tower Hamlets three year CYPP was published in April 2006. We are therefore required to publish a new three-year plan in April this year.

- The CYPP is 'owned' by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group (CYPSPG) which is Tower Hamlets Children's Trust Board. The CYPSPG is one of the five community plan delivery groups. Through developing and implementing the CYPP, CYPSPG focuses on all of the community plan priorities as they relate to children, young people and their families in Tower Hamlets. Expert theme groups which focus on developing the more detailed work around each of the Every Child Matters themes¹ report into the CYPSPG which is chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services.
- The new CYPP is different to previous plans. It is shorter and more focussed on key priorities, outlining what will be done *differently* over the next three years to address these priorities. It has a more developed localisation section and has identified three new cross-cutting themes which run throughout the plan: tackling child poverty, engaging the community and supporting families. The new CYPP does not attempt to outline *everything* that will be done over the next 3 years. Instead, the final plan will be accompanied by detailed delivery plans for each Every Child Matter theme.

We considered and noted the advice and comments of our Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in respect of the report before us, detailed in a paper presented to us for our consideration, by our Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Asad.

Our Corporate Director Children's Services, Mr Collins, at the request of the Chair in introducing the report before us briefly presented the report and summarised the salient points. In response to the comments tabled by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, he advised that Priority 2 – Significantly Reduce Bullying would tackle all bullying, but that the specific issue of homophobic bullying would be worked into the detail of the plan. He also reported that a significant amount of work was being carried out in respect of engaging children and young people in the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.

The Cabinet noted that the Council had recently been awarded the Beacon Award for preventing Child Poverty. Members welcomed the Plan and noted the importance of working constructively with the Council's Partners in tackling Child Poverty.

In response to Members questions, Mr Collins advised that the proposed change of the Directorate name to "Children, Schools and Families Directorate" reflected the name of the relevant government department. He also informed the Cabinet that the bullying

policies of all schools would be monitored closely. It was important that schools co-operate with the Council's Social Services.

We endorsed the Children and Young People's Plan 2009 -12, attached at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 130/089) before us, and agreed that Council be recommended to approve the plan.

We therefore recommend Council to: -

- (i) Approve the Children and Young People's Plan 2009 -12, attached at Appendix 1 to the report **(CAB 130/089), (Attached at Appendix A to this Council report)**; and
- (ii) Note the proposed name change of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group (CYPSPG) to the Children and Families Trust. The new name is shorter and more relevant, reflecting the importance of the work undertaken with families. It is also more in keeping with the names of the other Community Plan Delivery Groups.

**Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Chair of the Cabinet**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 100D (AS AMENDED)
LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background paper" number of holder	Tick if copy supplied	If not supplied, name and telephone
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None