

# Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

**Tuesday, 12 July 2022 at 6.30 p.m.  
Committee Room One - Town Hall, Mulberry  
Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG**

## Supplemental Agenda

### 6.1 Overview of Children & Education (Pages 3 - 20)

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# Children & Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

12<sup>th</sup> July 2022



# STRUCTURE CHILDREN & CULTURE DIRECTORATE



James Thomas  
Corporate Director  
Children & Culture

Susannah  
Beasley-Murray  
Director of  
Supporting  
Families

Steve Nyakatawa  
Director of  
Education

Judith St. John  
Director of  
Commissioning &  
Culture

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# Vision

EVERY  
CHANCE  
for EVERY  
CHILD



- People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities
  - A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in
  - A dynamic, outcomes-based council using digital innovation and partnership working to respond to the changing needs of our borough
- (Council's Strategic Plan 2021-24)

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**“A better deal for children and young people”** – Tower Hamlets Partnership Plan priority

- Delivered via the Children and Families Strategy – Every Chance for Every Child, with 3 overarching priorities – **Aspiration to Action, Healthy Families and Safe and Secure**



# Children & Culture – Key Points



- Residents at the centre – priority focus upon person-centred and co-production delivered by our workforce
- Universal Provision – parks, leisure, Children & Family Centres, FSM, youth offer
- Targeted Provision – groups needing more support, statutory duties to intervene
- Children’s Services – heavily prescribed and regulated, inspections
- National Policy drivers – schools, SEND, children’s social care



# Children & Culture – Key Priorities & Challenges



- **New Administration Priorities – going into the Council’s revised Strategic Plan**
- **Improvement Priorities – SEND, Children’s Social Care, Early Help & Adolescent Offer, Youth Justice Service**
- **Children’s Partnership Priorities**
  - **Safeguarding: Domestic Abuse, Online Safety, Exploitation**
  - **Health & Wellbeing: SEND, Mental Health, Health Weight, Poverty**
- **Budget Pressures – demographic change, increased need, school closures, locum Social Workers, placement costs**



# Education



Steve Nyakatawa  
Director of  
Education

Terry Bryan  
Service Head  
Pupil Access and  
School  
Sufficiency

Farhad Ahmed  
Head of School  
Governance,  
Information and  
Traded Services

Gillian Harris  
Head of Tower Hamlets  
Schools Library  
Services

John O'Shea  
Head of SEND

David Cregan  
Executive Headteacher  
of the Corporate School  
for Children Vulnerable

Jess Milne  
Head of Early  
Education and  
Childcare (Interim)

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# Education – key figures



## 95 Schools (Mainstream and Academy)

- 35 (37.9%) Outstanding
- 55 (58.9%) Good
- 2 (2.1%) Requires improvement
- 1 (1.1%) Inadequate

## Attendance

- Primary 93%
- Secondary 94%
- Special 84%

## Ethnicity of school aged pupils

- Bangladeshi 63%
- White British 7%
- Black Somali 4%
- Black African (exc Somali) 3%
- All other groups 23%

## Total number of children in schools 46,373

- Free School Meals eligible 17,864 (38.5%)
- SEND Support 5,601 (12.1%)
- EHCP 2,572 (5.5%)



# Role of Tower Hamlets Education Partnership



- Led by schools for schools, LA also a member
- School improvement that LA commissions: challenge and support, data analysis, inspection support
- Professional learning: training, leadership programmes
- Additional services: school improvement support, primary support packages, leadership consultancy and coaching, bespoke training and development programmes, teacher and leadership networks



# Education – Priorities & Challenges



- Delivering the SEND improvements and managing increasing levels of demand
- Planning for the implementation for the Schools White Paper “Opportunity for All”
- Outcomes for 14-25 year olds
- Early Years
- Demographic changes – impact on pupil place planning
- Recovery from Covid – children have missed significant amounts of education during the pandemic.



# Supporting Families



Susannah Beasley-Murray  
Director of Supporting  
Families

Page 12  
Habon Ibrahim-  
Osman  
Head of  
Assessment,  
MASH and Eva  
Armsby

Bob Bielby  
Head of Family  
Support &  
Protection

Rachel Ringham  
Head of  
Exploitation,  
Serious Youth  
Violence & Gangs  
Service

Stuart Andrews  
Head of Family  
Support &  
Protection &  
CWD

Leo Major  
Head of CLA and  
Through Care  
Services

Nji Oranu  
Interim Head of  
Children's  
Regulated  
Services and  
Resources

Geraldine  
O'Donnell  
Head of  
Safeguarding  
and Quality  
Assurance  
Service

Sam Nair  
Head of Learning  
Academy &  
Principal Social  
Worker

Kelly Duggan  
Head of Youth  
Justice and  
Young People's  
Service

Mohammed Jolil  
Head of Family  
Support &  
Children and  
Families Service  
Children



# Supporting Families Priorities



Articulating  
the Practice  
Framework

Practice  
Priorities

Domestic Abuse  
Harm outside the  
home  
Neglect

Development  
of Family Hub  
Approach

Developing an  
Adolescent  
Offer

Improve  
Transition to  
Adulthood  
Pathways

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All to be delivered  
with the following  
at the heart:

Child at the Centre

Partnerships

Co-production

Equalities

Practice  
Principles:

Relationships

Strengths  
based

High Support,  
High  
Challenge

Collaborative

Empowerment



# Supporting Families – Key figures (May 22)



- 300 Children Subject to Child Protection Plans
- 334 Children in our care
- 812 Children in Need
- 525 Early Help Notifications
- Overall – 2595 allocated children
- Average around 1500 new contacts per month, of which around 25% progress to a full referral (with the majority of these progressing to assessment).
- Commissioned providers have worked with over 2500 children and young people (Sept 21-March 22)
- Participation forums have supported numerous interviews, launches and training days as well as the Young Mayors Team agenda
- YJS figures –
  - 130 YJS statutory and Prevention cases
  - We have reduced our FTE figure from 335 (per 100,000) to 259 (per 100,000) (National 145)
  - Our reoffending rate is consistently good at 25.5% (National Average 33.6%)



# Supporting Families – Key Challenges and Risks



- The most significant risk that we hold is that of death or serious harm to a child that was or should have been in receipt of services. Prevention of such a terrible outcome for a child is the primary focus of all of our work and that of the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Partnership (THSCP). All of our interventions can never completely eliminate this risk however we are focused on minimising the possibility.
- Serious violence where children/young people are simultaneously open to YJS and CSC (current CIN, CP, CLA, or Care Leavers) have perpetrated or been victims of harm.



# Supporting Families – Key Challenges and Risks



- Recruitment and retention – this is a regional and national challenge. We have fared better than most other local authorities but the recruitment of social workers (particularly experienced) remains a significant challenge.
- Demand – is back to pre-Covid levels. While this is currently manageable, any significant increase would pose a challenge.
- Inspection – Supporting Families in subject to a number of inspections. At our most recent inspection in 2019, we were graded as “Good”. We are expecting a focused visit in advance of our full inspection.





# Commissioning & Culture



Judith St. John  
Director of  
Commissioning & Culture

Catherine Boyd  
Head of Arts,  
Events & Parks

Lisa Pottinger  
Head of Sport  
and Physical  
Activity

Karen Brock Head  
of Tower Hamlets  
Arts, Music &  
Education Services  
(THAMES)

Jenny Pittam  
Interim Head of  
Contract Services

Layla Richards  
Head of Strategy,  
Policy &  
Improvement

Tony Parker  
Interim Head of  
Children's  
Integrated  
Commissioning

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# Commissioning and Culture - Priorities



- Leisure Contract recommissioning
- Mental Health
- SEND
- Children's specific health needs
- North East London Integrated Care System
- Providing great services that enable our residents to promote their health and wellbeing
- Enabling People – developing and integrating the new “Enabling People Service”



# Commissioning and Culture – Key risks and challenges



- Income generation – significant income from large contracts
- Delivery of the Mayor’s manifesto pledges
- Co-production and commissioning
- Delivery of capital schemes in parks and leisure
- Reprourement of leisure management contract



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