

Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee



TOWER HAMLETS

Thursday, 7 December 2023 at 6.30 p.m.

Council Chamber - Town Hall, Whitechapel

Supplemental Agenda

This meeting is open to the public to attend.

Further Information

For further information including Membership of this body and public information see the main agenda.

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Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Thursday, 7 December 2023

6.30 p.m.

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NUMBER(S)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

5 - 6

Members are reminded to consider the categories of interest, identified in the Code of Conduct for Members to determine: whether they have an interest in any agenda item and any action they should take. For further details, see the attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

Members are also reminded to declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and the agenda item it relates to. Please note that ultimately it is the Members' responsibility to identify any interests and also update their register of interest form as required by the Code.

If in doubt as to the nature of an interest, you are advised to seek advice prior the meeting by contacting the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

7 - 14

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the held on 12 October 2023.

4. **REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

4 .1 **Free School Meals for all Children**

15 - 32

4 .2 **Sixth Form Performance**

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4 .3 **SEND and Education and Healthcare Plans**

51 - 80

5. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Next Meeting of the Committee:

Thursday, 8 February 2024 at 6.30 p.m. to be held in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Whitechapel

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Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AT MEETINGS– NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Code of Conduct for Members at Part C, Section 31 of the Council's Constitution

(i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)

You have a DPI in any item of business on the agenda where it relates to the categories listed in **Appendix A** to this guidance. Please note that a DPI includes: (i) Your own relevant interests; (ii) Those of your spouse or civil partner; (iii) A person with whom the Member is living as husband/wife/civil partners. Other individuals, e.g. Children, siblings and flatmates do not need to be considered. Failure to disclose or register a DPI (within 28 days) is a criminal offence.

Members with a DPI, (unless granted a dispensation) must not seek to improperly influence the decision, must declare the nature of the interest and leave the meeting room (including the public gallery) during the consideration and decision on the item – unless exercising their right to address the Committee.

DPI Dispensations and Sensitive Interests. In certain circumstances, Members may make a request to the Monitoring Officer for a dispensation or for an interest to be treated as sensitive.

(ii) Non - DPI Interests that the Council has decided should be registered – (Non - DPIs)

You will have 'Non DPI Interest' in any item on the agenda, where it relates to (i) the offer of gifts or hospitality, (with an estimated value of at least £25) (ii) Council Appointments or nominations to bodies (iii) Membership of any body exercising a function of a public nature, a charitable purpose or aimed at influencing public opinion.

Members must declare the nature of the interest, but may stay in the meeting room and participate in the consideration of the matter and vote on it **unless:**

- A reasonable person would think that your interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair your judgement of the public interest. **If so, you must withdraw and take no part in the consideration or discussion of the matter.**

(iii) Declarations of Interests not included in the Register of Members' Interest.

Occasions may arise where a matter under consideration would, or would be likely to, **affect the wellbeing of you, your family, or close associate(s) more than it would anyone else living in the local area** but which is not required to be included in the Register of Members' Interests. In such matters, Members must consider the information set out in paragraph (ii) above regarding Non DPI - interests and apply the test, set out in this paragraph.

Guidance on Predetermination and Bias

Member's attention is drawn to the guidance on predetermination and bias, particularly the need to consider the merits of the case with an open mind, as set out in the Planning and Licensing Codes of Conduct, (Part C, Section 34 and 35 of the Constitution). For further advice on the possibility of bias or predetermination, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting.

Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 - Declarations which restrict Members in Council Tax arrears, for at least a two months from voting

In such circumstances the member may not vote on any reports and motions with respect to the matter.

Further Advice contact: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer, Tel: 0207 364 4800.

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2023

COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL

Members Present in Person:

Councillor Bodrul Choudhury -(Chair)

Councillor Ahmodul Kabir

Councillor Bellal Uddin

Councillor Leelu Ahmed

Councillor Sabina Akhtar

Councillor Shahaveer Shubo Hussain

Other Members Present:

Councillor Maium Talukdar -(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning (Statutory Deputy Mayor))

Co-optee's Present in Person:

Dr Phillip Rice -(Church of England Representative)

Joanna Hannan -(Diocese of Westminster Representative)

Ashraf Zaman -(Parent Governor)

Co-optee's In Attendance Virtually:

Shiblu Miah -(Muslim community representative)

Officers Present in Person:

Anna Murphy (Strategy And Policy Officer)

Susannah Beasley-Murray (Divisional Director of Supporting Families)

Layla Richards (Head of Strategy and Policy – Children and Culture)

Justina Bridgeman Democratic Services Officer (Committee)

Officers In Attendance Virtually:

James Thomas (Corporate Director, Children's Services)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Shafi Ahmed, Abena Adeji and Nafisa Ahmed, Parent Governors respectively.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Sub Committee meeting held on 11 July 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record of proceedings. See item 5 for further details.

4. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Councillor Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning, provided a brief overview of priorities for 2023/24 to the sub-committee, as apologies were given at the first meeting of the municipal year.

Councillor Talukdar emphasised the success of the free school meals programme for primary schools, which has now been expanded for secondary schools in the borough, and early results show a 75% overall increase in demand. Updates on the Education Maintenance Allowance and university bursaries were given, as were details on the expansion of the youth service with £13.7 million investment and a further £1.1million to improve the Special Educational Needs and Disability service (SEND).

Councillor Talukdar also noted the Corporate Parenting Strategy, agreed by Cabinet in July, to build upon the work to support looked after children and also the recognition given by the National Justice Board on the policy assurance framework as an example of good practice. This is evidenced by the decline in first time entrance to the services and a testament to the hard work of officers and partners.

The sub-committee were informed that 85% of GCSE students achieved grade 94 in English and 77% in maths, which are improvements from 2019. Councillor Talukdar noted the good work from the 'Every Chance for Every Child' forum and the upcoming Young Mayor's election. The service is prepared for the OFSTED inspection and will continue to provide excellent provision. Finally James, Thomas, Corporate Director for Children and Culture, who is leaving the organisation was praised for his dedication and service to children in the borough.

Further to questions from the sub-committee, Councillor Maium Talukdar;

- Clarified that the £1.1 million will be invested in the service with consideration to be given for further funding to combat the ongoing national challenges.
- Confirmed that the overall 75% improvement figure relates to school children now receiving lunch at school. The programme is in the base budget, which promotes healthy eating and will continue as long as the current administration in office. Consideration will be given to extend the programme to faith schools and other independent schools in the borough.
- Explained that co-production entails ensuring children's voices are heard and supported, as per the council's strategies.
- Clarified that parents who have concerns in regards to a particular school, should talk to the teachers in the first instance, it should then be raised it with the Chair of Governors if a response is not forthcoming. Any queries and complaints received by Councillors are raised with Members Enquires if responses are not satisfactory. These in turn can be forwarded to the Education Department.

4.1 Children's Services Inspection Preparation

Councillor Maium Talukdar introduced Susannah Beasley-Murray, Director of Supporting Families, who gave a brief overview on the ongoing preparation on the upcoming inspection.

Ms Beasley-Murray outlined the extensive work undertaken, which lead to a good OFSTED rating in in 2019, following the inadequate rating given in 2017. This included the work of the Continuous Improvement Board, which is chaired by the Director of Childrens Services who oversees the improvement work. This Board considers robust quality assurance measures via data and audit. There is a clear improvement plan and weekly and monthly detailed management reports. There are fortnightly inspection readiness meetings chaired by the Director of Supporting Families. These are conducted to ensure that children's services are fully equipped for the inspection and the service remains focused on best practice.

Information on the inspection process were outlined to the sub-committee, detailing a call to the Director of Children's Services which will announce the inspection for the following week. Annex A data documents will be sent to OFSTED the next day, along with 12 audited cases for detailed evaluation. In the next assessment there is a new Care leaver category which will be judged.

Ms Beasley-Murray went through the presentation and then gave an update on; the number of children which are supported i.e. CIN, CP and CLA KPI's highlighted, the areas of focus which include the initial health assessments, care and pre-proceeding timescales and placement stability issues. The sub-committee were informed that re-referral numbers have decreased in

comparison to other local authorities and that short-term placements stability have improved.

Internal scrutiny is a key factor to improved performance and robust audits, dip samples and thematic reviews are routinely undertaken. Strong relationships to support children is at the centre of the service and the Learning Academy ensures continual staff development and retention despite national shortages.

The creation of a multi-agency support team to integrate the front doors for early help and children's social care, will assist in providing the right support for child and families within their immediate extended families. To support this aim there is support given to families to try and prevent needs escalating. 400 family group conferences take place yearly to support families. There is a 'Edge of Care' service and also strong early help.

External scrutiny is welcomed with two external reviews undertaken since the last sub-committee meeting. In particular, with Mark Riddell, the National Implementation Advisor for Care, who gave positive feedback on the leadership and management approach and work with care leavers. The main priorities remain tackling domestic abuse, neglect and harm outside the home, as is ensuring staff are continually trained to effectively work with families and partner agencies to care for children in the borough.

Further to questions from the sub-committee, Susannah Beasley-Murray;

- Clarified that although high staff turnover in the sector is a national issue, Tower Hamlets has retained staff longer than other local authorities due in part that staff have stated they enjoy working in Tower Hamlets, have manageable caseloads and Learning Academy supporting career development. 25 newly qualified social workers have recently been accepted. A five year support package has been developed and 24% of staff have worked in the borough for over 10 years and staff have leadership opportunities.
- Explained that exit interviews for staff are voluntary and there are a range of reasons for leaving. Some relate to leaving the profession after the pandemic or taking career breaks.
- Noted that considerable work with faith groups, the voluntary sector and police is routinely undertaken to educate, prevent and intervene where necessary Programmes such as the 'Repair Model' and 'Positive Change Service' are ways to interact and Therapeutic groups, children and family centres, early help workers, partners and schools continue to work together in a multi-agency approach.
- Explained that external assurance is welcomed to improve the service and supporting care leavers until 25 years old is integral to this. The Kit Kat Terrace late night Wednesdays now have people there to assist in education, training and employment needs for care leavers.

- Affirmed that the recommendations outlined in the previous report are considered and evidence is provided for OFSTED's next inspection.

RESOLVED that:

1. That the presentation be noted.

4.2 Supporting Families, Key Strategies - Children and Families

Councillor Maium Talukdar introduced Layla Richards, Head of Strategy & Commissioning (Children's Services), who provided an overview on the Children and Families Strategy formed under the leadership of the 'Every Chance for every Child Forum', and co-chaired by Councillor Maium Talukdar.

Ms Richards discussed the strategy, which will be delivered in partnership with a range of agencies. It's designed to ensure that all children in the borough have the same opportunities to achieve success, despite the present economic conditions and concerns around child health in early years, the decline in school attendance and wellbeing following the pandemic.

The sub-committee were informed of the engagement and analysis so far, the role of partners as champions of children to keep them safe and, the views of young people, which is integral to the developing strategy. Ms Richards also outlined the allocation of deliverables and proposed an annual stock take to ensure accountability. Consideration will be given to further opportunities or challenges that require a partnership response. The six priority outcomes were noted;

- A great start in life
- A healthy childhood
- Support for good mental health and wellbeing
- The right support for children with special educational needs and disabilities and their families
- Safe and Secure
- Achieve their best in education and opportunities to develop a career.

Plus two cross-cutting priorities:

- Support families in the cost of living and child poverty crisis
- Champion co-production, equality and anti-racism

Further to questions from the sub-committee, Layla Richards and Susannah Beasley-Murray:

- Clarified that the Family Hub is a service that works in partnership with the police, housing and health departments and the Children and Family centres to support early help.

- Explained that school attendance details are monitored and dealt with as part of the multi-agency support team along, with the education welfare officers who undertake daily checks. As data was not included in the presentation, it will be provided to the sub-committee for review.
- Explained that mental health is a key priority within the strategy, as many young people have concerns on how to access services. Partnership with Bernardo's and CAMHS (Child Adolescent Mental Health) takes place as does continual work with schools. Consideration has been given on ways to commission mental health services for further support.
- Clarified that the Children and Families Partnership Executive has been working to address poverty and providing support for full access to benefit entitlements through the task and finish group.
- Confirmed available data on the link between overcrowding, mental health and attendance will be provided to the sub-committee for review.

RESOLVED that:

1. The school attendance statistics for Tower Hamlets to be provided to the sub-committee for review.
2. Any existing data on the link between overcrowding, mental health and attendance will be provided to the sub-committee for review.
3. That the presentation be noted.

4.3 Youth Services Update

Susannah Beasley-Murray, Director of Supporting Families, presented an overview of the current commissioning of youth service provision, internal delivery and governance of the development of Young Tower Hamlet.

Ms Beasley-Murray outlined the current £1.2million commissions of contracts within the borough and the KPI targets to date. This includes specialist delivery four short term contracts to support the Somali groups youth work for the next 11 months, which began in September 2023. Funding for long term arrangements are currently being sourced for Youth Service providers within the Council for quarter 4 of the 2023/24 municipal year.

Other notable achievements included; the young carers support groups, assisting the young Mayor's election scheduled for December, and Youth Council, where around 45 children enhance their public speaking skills, participation work with care leavers, a team building residential and weekend away, in conjunction with the Exploitation Service and Youth Justice team.

The sub-committee were informed that an interim team delivering universal delivery of youth support and alongside there being a strong sports provision

Two have been refurbished, Golston Street and Columbia Road, in order to provide universal youth provision, with two further sites due for October end. Targeted youth provision is being delivered by the 'Break the Cycle' team there has been increased staff to provide assistance to young people including young carers and to prevent vulnerable young people from entering the criminal justice system. The consideration will be given to charities and voluntary groups, an increased workforce and a youth service to enhance the provision in all wards.

Further to questions from the sub-committee, Susannah Beasley-Murray and Kelly Duggan, Head of Youth Justice Service;

- Confirmed that further data on Youth Service uptake, including a breakdown of new contacts and the gender split in participants, to be provided to the sub-committee for review.
- Clarified that there is specialised youth provision commissioned by the council i.e. health for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), children transitioning for primary to secondary school and LGBTQI+.
- Explained that the requirements for Integrated Detached team staff have various levels of qualification depending on the level of seniority. Group interviews and team building exercises are often used to see the skills which are required to engage young people.
- Confirmed that all provision is free admission and partnerships work closely with schools. The aim is to give children a safe space in every ward and build on skills learnt, including feedback from parents and carers. Consideration to use other local spaces is ongoing and any suggestions from the sub-committee would be gratefully received.
- Noted that publicity is available via the council website, flyers with a Young Tower Hamlets quick response (QR) code, a two dimensional barcode with full details of council services are available. Details have also been sent to the Head teachers Forum. The Detached Team are now advertising around local areas.
- Clarified that timetables are updated daily with structured times for various ages within the borough.
- Confirmed that each centre has a male and female staff members and specific sessions that are safe for girls and young women. This also extends to teams working with the community to build trust with young women and girls. A breakdown on equalities monitoring data for employees of the youth service, specifically gender will be provided to the sub-committee for review.

RESOLVED that:

1. That further data on Youth Service uptake, including a breakdown of new contacts and the gender split in participants, will be provided to the sub-committee for review.
2. That a breakdown on equalities monitoring data for employees of the youth service, specifically gender to be provided to the sub-committee for review.
3. That the presentation be noted.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Sub-committee members requested details on the uptake levels for the Universal Free Meals initiative and evaluation data from the Queen Mary University and the University of Newcastle be made available to sub-committee members, outlined in the minutes from 11 July 2023 meeting.

The Chair and sub-committee also thanked James Thomas, Corporate Director for Children and Culture, for his contribution to the sub-committee and Tower Hamlets Council.


RESOLVED that:

1. That details on the update levels for the University Free Meals initiative and evaluation data from the Queen Mary University and the University of Newcastle be circulated to sub-committee members.

The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Bodrul Choudhury

Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee</p> <p>7th December 2023</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Lisa Fraser</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Review the delivery of Free School Meals</p>	

<p>Originating Officer(s)</p>	<p>Lisa Fraser, Interim Director of Children’s Services</p>
<p>Wards affected</p>	<p>All wards</p>

Summary

This cover report accompanies the presentation slidedecks

Free School Meals for all Children

- Review the delivery of the Free School Meals Policy

Recommendation:

The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Review the accompanying presentation in order to inform discussion for the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting.

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Mayor's Universal Free School Meals

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Mayor's Universal Free School Meals



Mayor's Pledge

In May 2022, Tower Hamlets Mayor Lutfur Rahman made a manifesto pledge to provide Universal Free School Meals (UFSM's) to all KS3 & KS4 secondary pupils.



Why was this pledge made?



1st council in the UK to provide UFSM to ALL KS3 & KS4 Pupils (to help realise nutritional and academic benefits)

1st



On average, expected to save families £550 a year (helping with the cost-of-living crisis).

£550



Benefitting approximately 8,500 pupils per day.

8500



The journey of change

The journey of **change** to achieve the mayor's pledge.



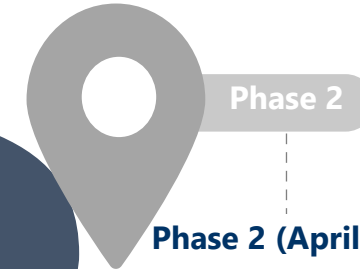
Phase 3 (September 2023- onwards)

Activities include: Mobilisation of kitchens, schools go-live (mayor's launch, comms coverage), further monitoring and training/support for mobilisation issues and evaluation (meal take up, impact on students).



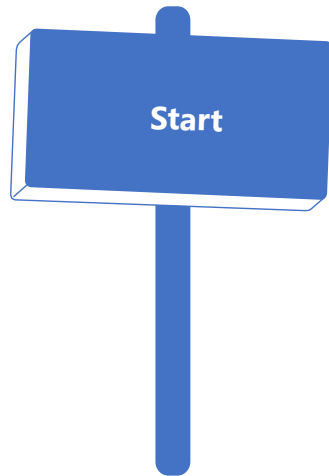
Phase 1 (January 2023 – April 2023)

Activities included: setting up a Project Board, undertaking 20 site surveys, compiling a cabinet report and identifying evaluation partners.




Phase 2 (April 2023 – September 2023)

Activities included: commissioning of equipment suppliers, conducting further site surveys, completing installations, developing a comms strategy and creating a toolkit for schools. There was continual headteacher engagement throughout this process.




The impact of change


This is what some of our partners had to say about the launch of MUFSM:




"I am seeing students that have never eaten, eat a meal. I am seeing students that used to share a plate with friends or other family members, now do not have to share a meal"



"Behaviour has drastically improved. Students are no longer angry due to being hungry"



"There is a significant upturn in students taking meals."



"Pupils are excited at the prospect of taking meals"

Quotes were taken from a range of different stakeholders including: headteachers, school caterers, lunchtime supervisors and students.



Early performance reports



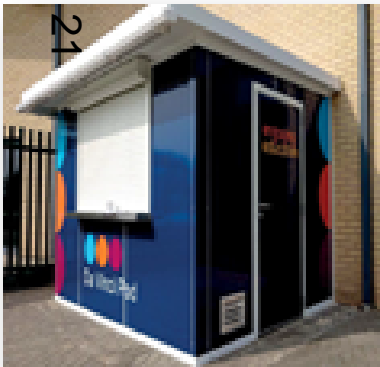
20/20

Eligible secondary schools receiving UFSM

16/16

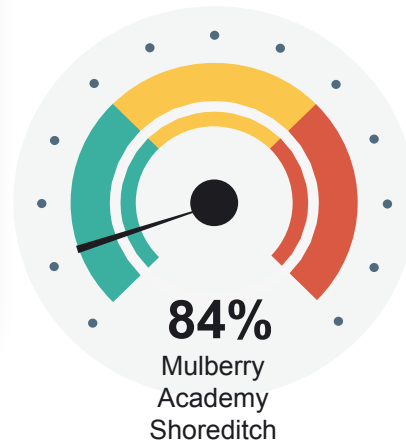
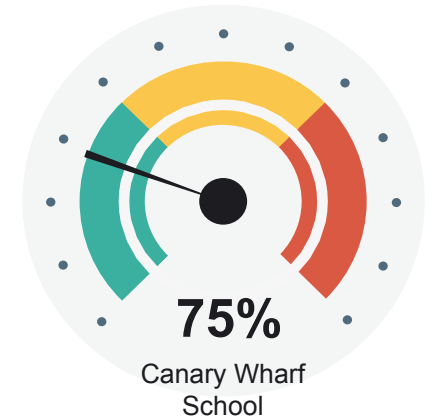
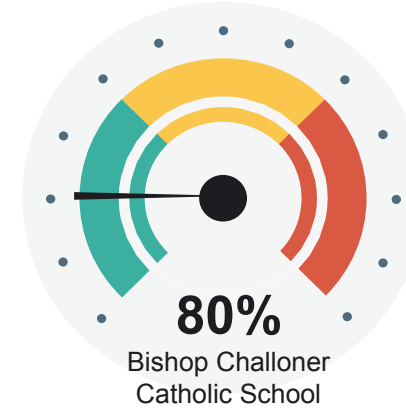
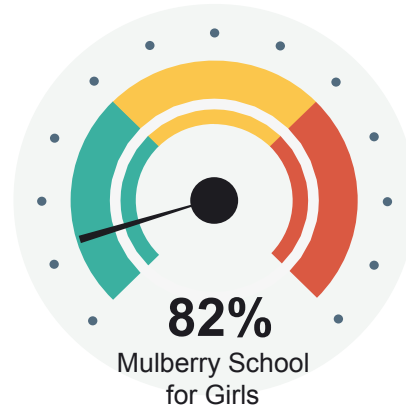
Secondary schools received comprehensive equipment installations

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Images show a POD and on-going installation works to a kitchen.

Meal Take Up Performance (across schools)



Performance Summary

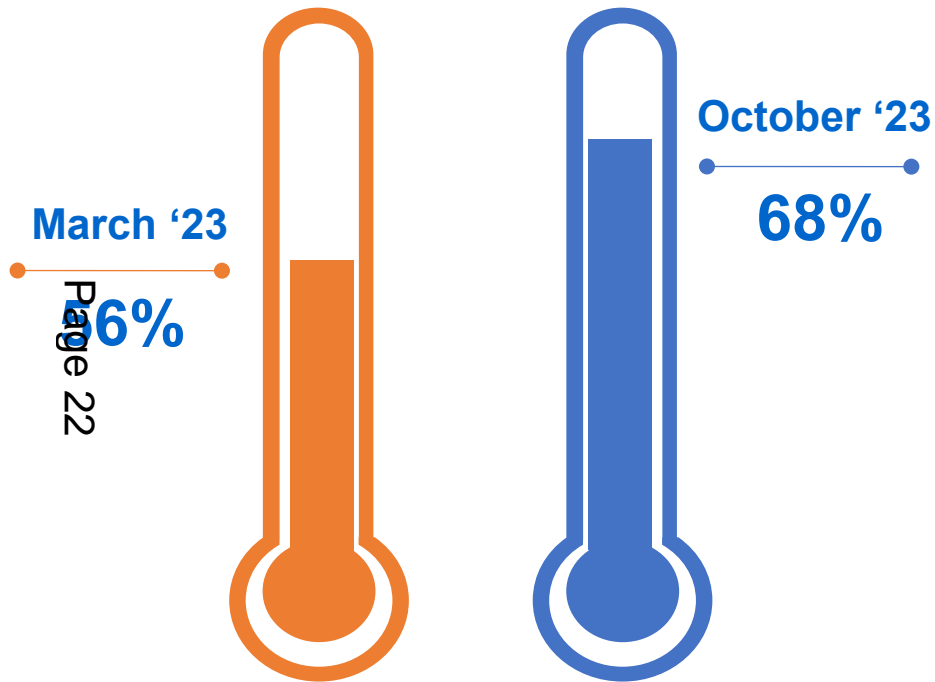
Early reports suggest that the MUFSM has been extremely well received by pupils and schools alike.

The meal uptake rate at many schools has seen a drastic uplift. Even across schools that have seen a relatively slower start, the rate is steadily increasing.

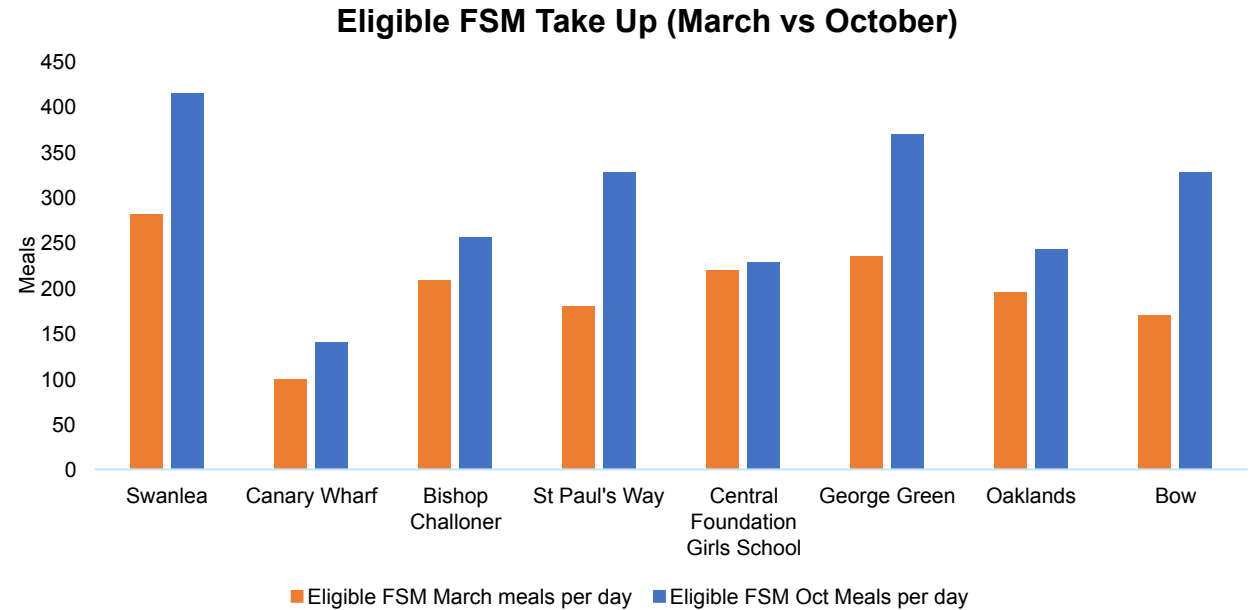
An on-going evaluation process is underway to assess the nutritional and educational benefits of free school meals.



Early performance reports



Total Average Meal Take Up Rates



So far, the above schools have seen an increase in meal take up after the launch of UFSM from among FSM eligible pupils.



This means there is likely a positive impact for children living in poverty



Project Evaluation



- Newcastle University working with three schools to understand dietary intake and food insecurity amongst pupils with plans to widen the evaluation in the new academic year
- Working with the Act Early Partnership (including QMUL) to expand the evaluation of the School Food Improvement Programme in primary schools to secondary schools
- As part of the Health Determinants Research Collaborative there are plans to explore how we better link council data to understand the impact of the new policy, including educational outcomes and child weight



A word from the project manager(s)



“

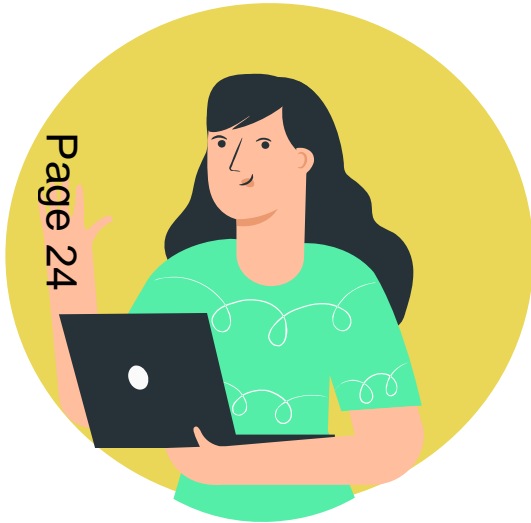
*Universal Free School Meals is one of Tower Hamlet's largest and most high-profile projects. National media eyes were focused on observing the outcome of the Mayor's pledge. But for us, the goal was simple: **children must eat.***

However, with any large and high-profile project comes several complex component parts and unexpected challenges (often from areas where you think you have things under control). But these were made easy to resolve as the fantastic project team were aligned with the mantra in mind: children must eat.

Everyone in the project team and our partners were always ready to go above and beyond to deliver. Very quickly we all realised this was not just another project, but something that could change the entire landscape of feeding children in the UK.

Through a combined effort we successfully delivered free school meals to all secondary schools in September 2023.

Badar Raja and Sayed Miah (Senior Transformation Project Mangers)



Universal Free School meals: Auto-enrolment and opt out process



Introduction

Auto-enrolment and opt out process

- Tower Hamlets is among the most deprived boroughs nationally, with more than half (56%) of children living in poverty in 2022.
- The council introduced Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) to address this issue.



The challenge

- The UFSMs policy had the potential to significantly reduce school funding.
- As all children would now receive council-funded meals, there would be fewer parents registering their child(ren) to receive benefits-related free school meals (FSMs).
- Schools receive additional funding (Pupil Premium) for each pupil registered for benefits-related FSMs.
- Fewer applications means less Pupil Premium funding for schools.



The solution

- Basis was commissioned to help set up a coordinated process to maximise registration of benefits-related FSM pupils and Pupil Premium funding.
- It was hypothesised that an opt-out process would increase uptake of benefits-related FSMs.
- If parents did not opt out, we could auto-enrol eligible pupils for benefits-related FSMs.



Project Team

The project team consisted of a collaboration of multiple services, including:

- Benefits
- Children Services
- Education
- Corporate Contact Centre
- Communications teams



The process involved...



- Data Protection Officers and consultation with legal officers
- Data matching, using pre-existing council data, to identify eligible families.
- ‘Opt out’ letters created based on checked pupils’ eligibility
- Finalised lists of pupils sent to schools to register pupils in time for the school census.




The outcome



- **Our hypothesis was correct**
- In total, 824 pupils had complete data records were registered increasing Pupil Premium funding for schools by an estimated £1,109,880.
- The process has significantly benefited the pupils, schools and the council.
- In addition to FSMs, registered pupils will receive further benefits (e.g. such as a uniform grant and holiday fund) and extra support from the Pupil Premium funding allocated to schools.
- The council now has a supported process to capture all entitled benefits-related FSM pupils.
- Finally, the core project team continued to work together to ensure that all pupils were correctly registered, and funding is fully allocated by the end of October 2023.



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<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee</p> <p>7th December 2023</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Lisa Fraser</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Sixth Form Performance</p>	

<p>Originating Officer(s)</p>	<p>Lisa Fraser, Interim Director of Children’s Services</p>
<p>Wards affected</p>	<p>All wards</p>

Summary

This cover report accompanies the presentation slidedecks

Sixth form Performance

- Review changes and progress made since the previous deep dive into sixth form provision in the borough, including university access

Recommendation:

The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Review the accompanying presentation in order to inform discussion for the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting.

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Children and Education Sub-Committee: Post 16 Provision

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07/12/2023



This session will cover:

1. Analysis of:

- a) Attainment Outcomes for 16 – 18-year-olds
- b) Participation data and destination data for 16–18-year-olds

2. Analysis of:

- a) SEN analysis by age band (16 – 25-year-olds with SEND)
- b) Participation data and current setting status for 16 – 25-year-olds with SEND

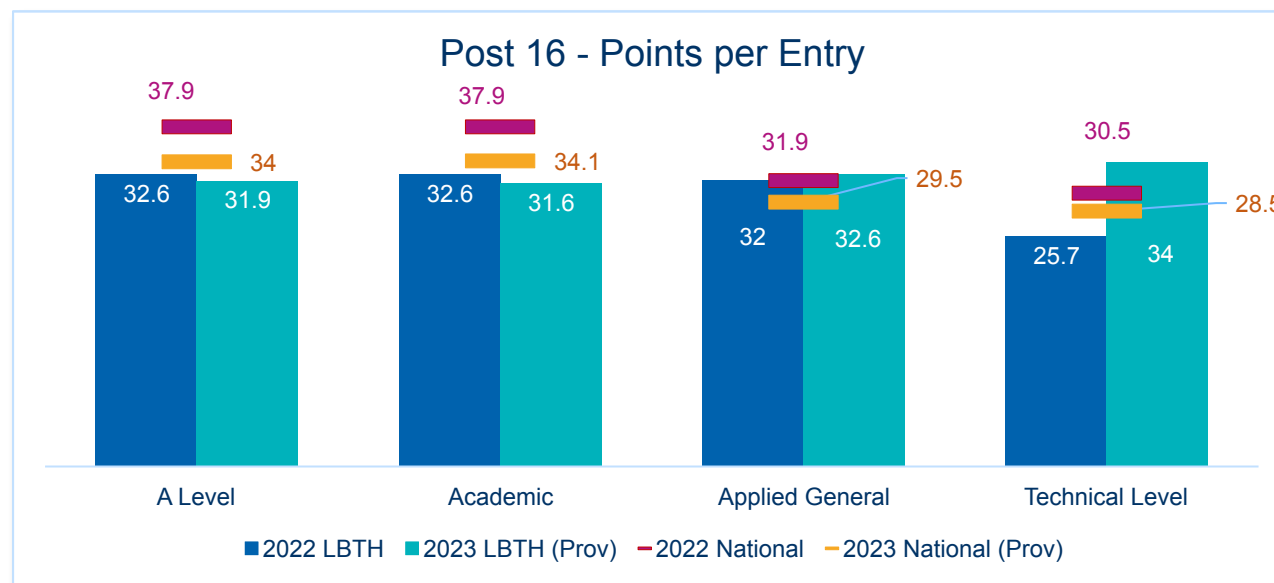
3. Challenges and Actions



1. Provisional Post-16 Analysis (2023)



2023 Provisional Data*



* 2023 data is provisional and is subject to change.

** Caution should be treated when comparing 2022 and 2023 outcomes due to changes in assessment frameworks.

• Summary:

- National outcomes have all fallen when compared to 2022
- Applied General – 2023 outcomes have slightly increased when compared to 2022, higher than national
- Technical Levels– 2023 outcomes have increased by 9 points from 2022; higher than national
- A Level and Academic Studies– outcomes have slightly fallen in 2023; less than the fall seen nationally
- A Level and Academic Studies – outcomes in 2022 and 2023 are lower than 2022 and 2023 national



KS5 Destinations (2022)



- Despite improving in 2022, the proportion of mainstream Level 3 students remaining in Education Employment or Training (EET) after KS5 in TH remained below the England average
- In 2022, 86.4% of students remained in EET after KS5, an improvement from 82.6% in 2021. This was still below both statistical neighbour and England averages
- Almost 2/3 (62.5%) of students progressed to a UK Higher Education Institution, well above the England average. The population going onto the most selective institutions was well below average
- Tower Hamlets students are less likely to progress to an apprenticeship compared to students across England

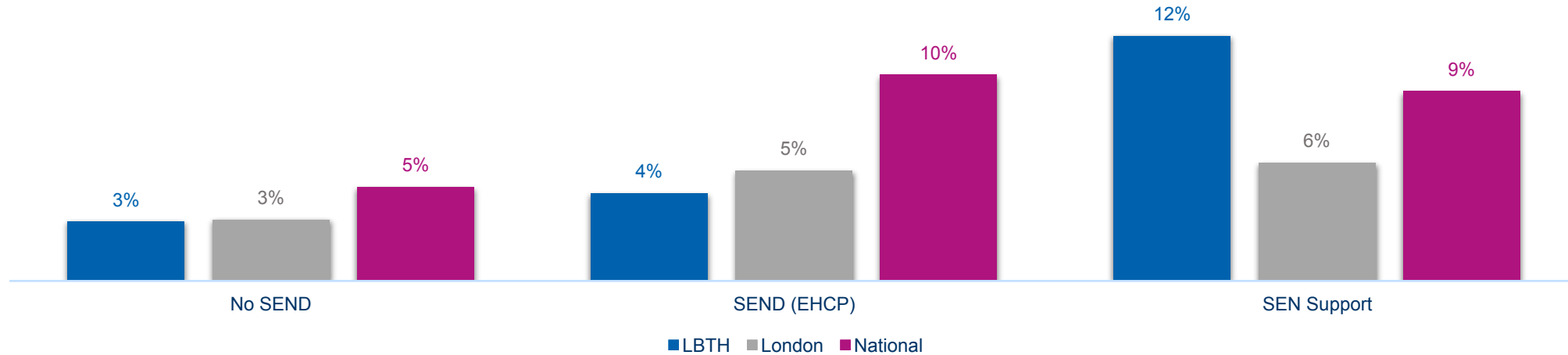


NEET Data for 16- & 17-Year Olds



* Average calculated using December, January and February

2022 NEET and Activity Not Known - SEND Provision



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- Students with no SEND are less likely to be NEET or Not Known; 3% compared to 5% for national
- Students with an EHCP are less likely to be NEET or Not Known; 4% compared to 10% for national
- Students with SEN Support are the largest group to be NEET or Not Known; 12% compared to 9% for national

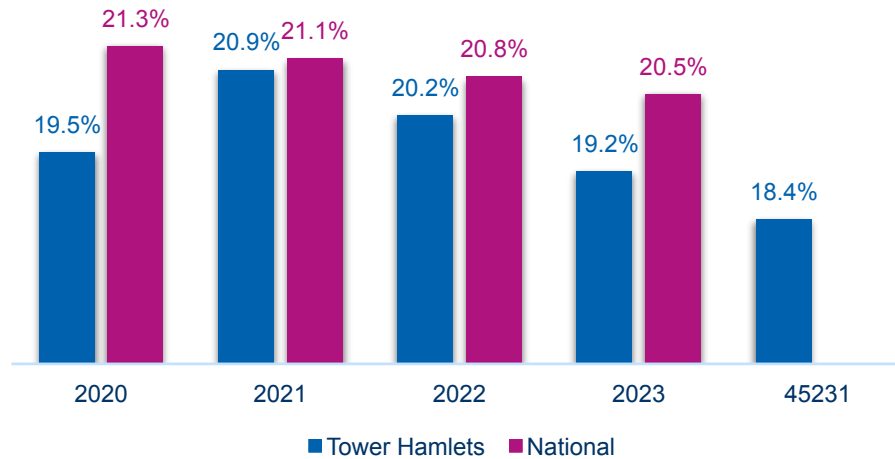


2. SEN Post-16 Analysis

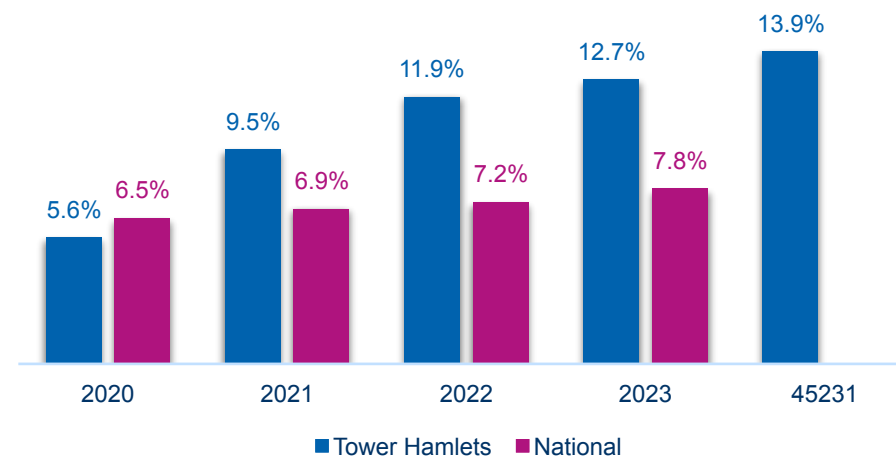


SEN: 16 to 25 Year Olds

Proportion of EHCPs Aged 16 to 19



Proportion of EHCPs Aged 20 to 25



- **Summary:**

- The proportion of 16 to 19-year-olds has fallen since 2021, lower than the national average
- The proportion of 20 to 25-year-olds has increased year on year, higher than the national average
- Projections show a continued fall in the 16 to 19-year-old phase and an increase in 20 to 25-year-olds



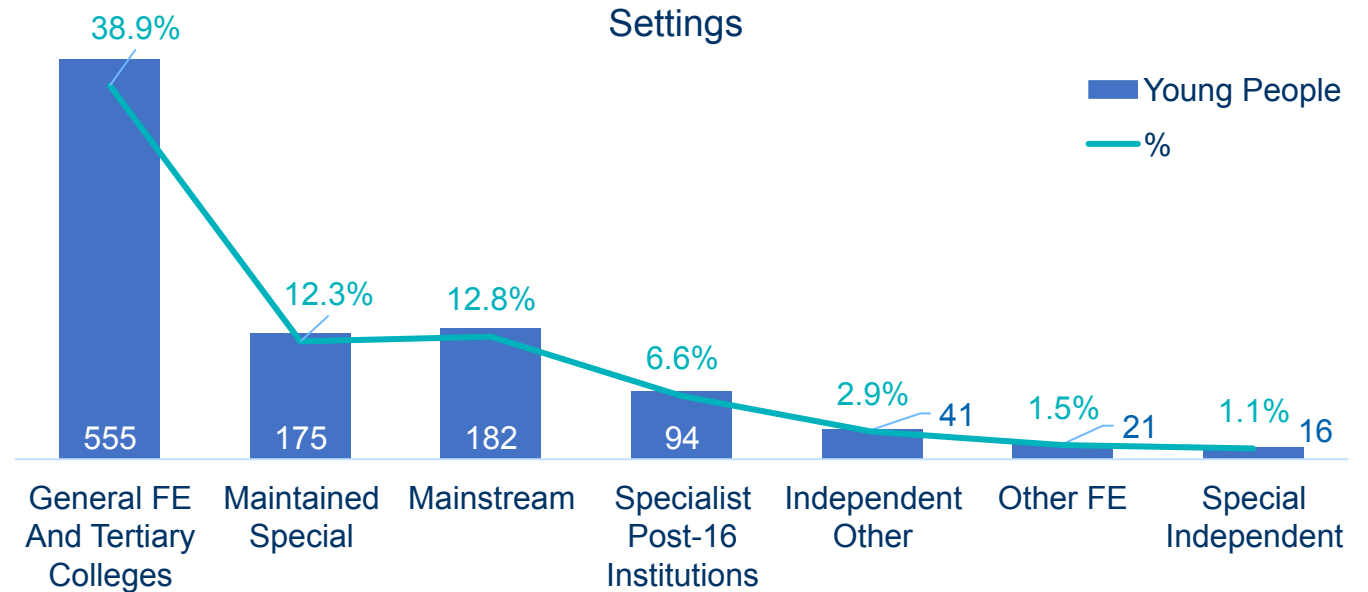
SEN and Current Settings



Proportion of Young People and Adults with Education, Health and Care Plans:

- 40.4% are in General FE, Other FE or Tertiary Colleges
- 12.3% are in Maintained Special Schools
- 12.8% are in Mainstream Schools (Maintained, Academies or Free Schools)
- 6.6% are in Specialist Post-16 Institutions
- Remaining 24.9% is across multiple settings

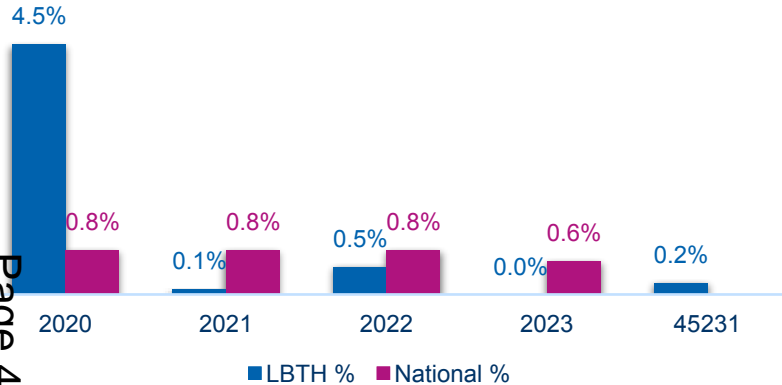
16 to 25 Year Olds
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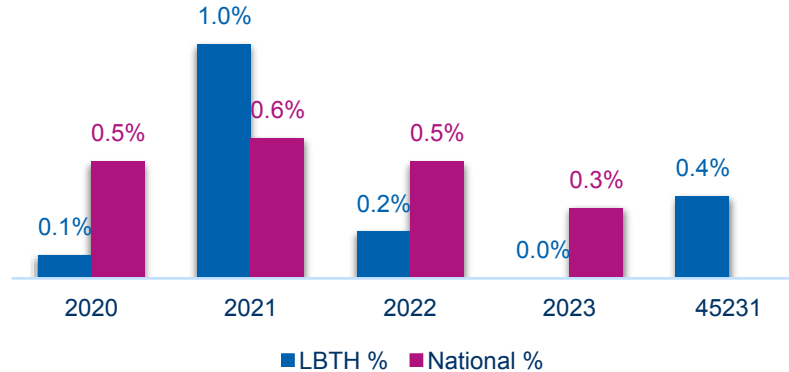
EHCPs - Participation



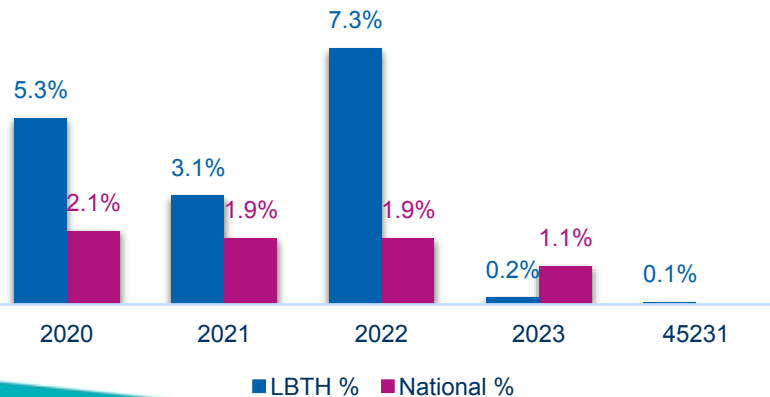
Apprenticeships



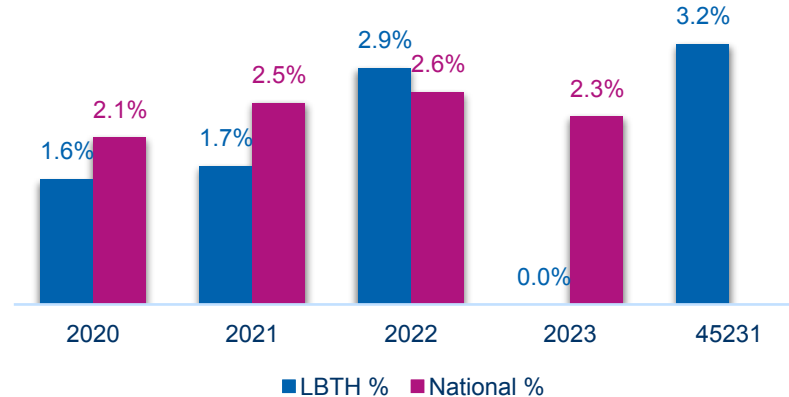
Traineeships



Internships



NEET



- Apprenticeships have fallen since 2020 – less young people with EHCPs are in an Apprenticeship compared to the National average.
- A greater proportion of young people are now engaged in a Traineeship, more than the 2023 National average.
- Internships have fallen since 2022.
- Proportion of young people with Plans as showing as NEET has increased each year since 2020 (excluding 2023 where this was 0%).



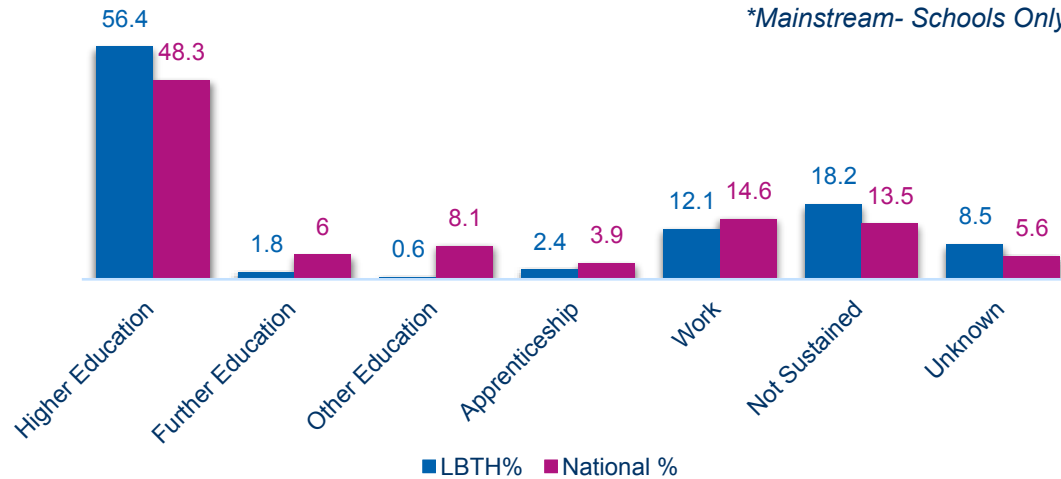
Destinations for 16 to 18 Year Olds

Latest available information: 2021/22 academic year cohort



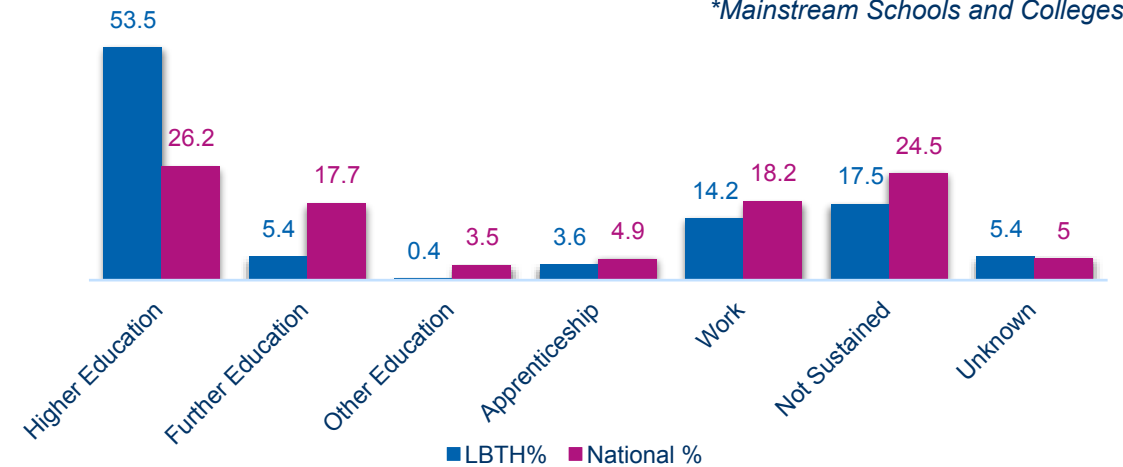
Destination % - SEN Provision

*Mainstream- Schools Only



Destination % - Disadvantaged (at KS4)

*Mainstream Schools and Colleges



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- 56.4% of SEND students' progress to higher education, 8% more than the national average
- Higher proportion of SEND students are not in sustained education, employment or training
- 53.5% of disadvantaged students are in higher education; 27.3% more than the national average
- 5.4% of disadvantaged students are in further education; 12.3% less than the national average



3. Post 16 - Challenges and Actions



Current Challenges



- Below national average outcomes at A Level and Academic Studies
- Numbers of students going on to top third universities are below average
- Low number of Entry, Level 1 and 2 vocational courses in LBTH 6th forms
- Specialist education provision at Post 19 does not match local need
- High NEET figures: 16 – 17-year-olds; 16 – 25-year-olds with SEN
- Limited number of Apprenticeship Programmes
- Low take up of Internship Programmes in 2023



Current Actions



- THEP leading focussed work on improving KS5 outcomes, including subject networks
- Scoping around the Mayoral Priority for an Institute of Academic Excellence is underway
- Review into the Post 16 offer in Tower is in progress.
- An audit of the Preparing for Adulthood pathway is in progress
- SEN Sufficiency report will lay out the proposals for filling the Post 19 provision gaps
- LEAP participating in the Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce programme to reduce NEET numbers at Post 16




Current Actions



- The SEN and Careers Young WorkPath Services are engaging with all post 16 NEETS to support them into Education, Employment or Training
- The first Apprenticeship for young people with SEN began in February 2023. A second is planned for 2024.
- Engagement with local employers and Training providers is ongoing to explore and develop apprenticeships for young people without SEN
- Take up of the five broad sector LBTH Supported Internships in 2023 is low. Leaflets have gone to parents and young people, SENCOs, careers advisers and youth workers. There have been open evenings and presentations at local events. Further presentations and mail outs are planned.



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<p>SEND and Education, Health and Care Plans</p>	

<p>Originating Officer(s)</p>	<p>Lisa Fraser, Interim Director of Children’s Services</p>
<p>Wards affected</p>	<p>All wards</p>

Summary

This cover report accompanies the presentation slidedecks

SEND and Education, Health and Care Plans

- Update on EHCP plans forecasting and demand management
- SEND Provision and transport

Recommendation:

The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Review the accompanying presentation in order to inform discussion for the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting.

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Children and Education Sub-Committee Work Plan: SEND

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07/12/2023



This session will cover:

1. SEND provision
2. EHCP Update
3. LGA Peer Review
4. Ordinarily Available Provision/Inclusion Framework
5. SEND Transport



1. SEND Provision

School Census Data

DBV Data



School Census Data 2022-2023

- School Census Data
 - 5.9% pupils EHCP (National average 4.3%.)
 - 12.4% pupils SEN Support (National Average 13.0%)
 - Highest Primary Needs (EHCP)
 - ASD (autistic spectrum disorder)
 - SLCN (speech, language and communication needs)
 - SEMH (social, emotional, mental health)
 - PMLD (profound and multiple learning disability)
 - Highest Primary Needs (SEN Support)
 - SLCN (speech, language and communication needs)
 - SEMH (social, emotional, mental health)
 - MLD (moderate learning disability)
 - SPLD (specific learning disability)

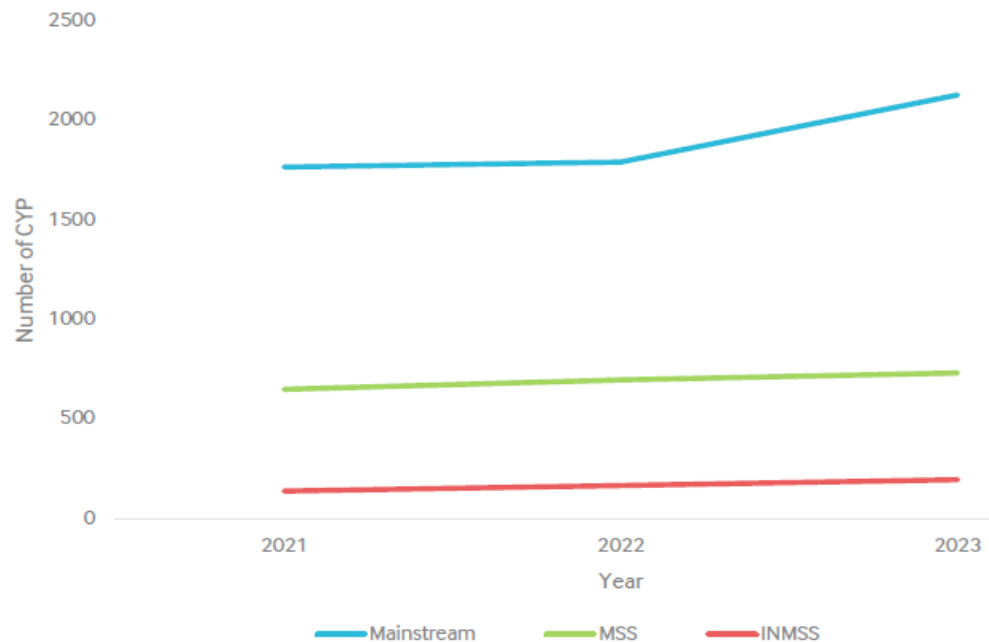


Understanding the Context of SEND (high impact areas)



EHCPs have grown year on year (19% growth in mainstream between 22-23)

Unmitigated Revised EHCP Projections by Provision
(Unconstrained)



Understanding the Context of SEND (high impact areas)

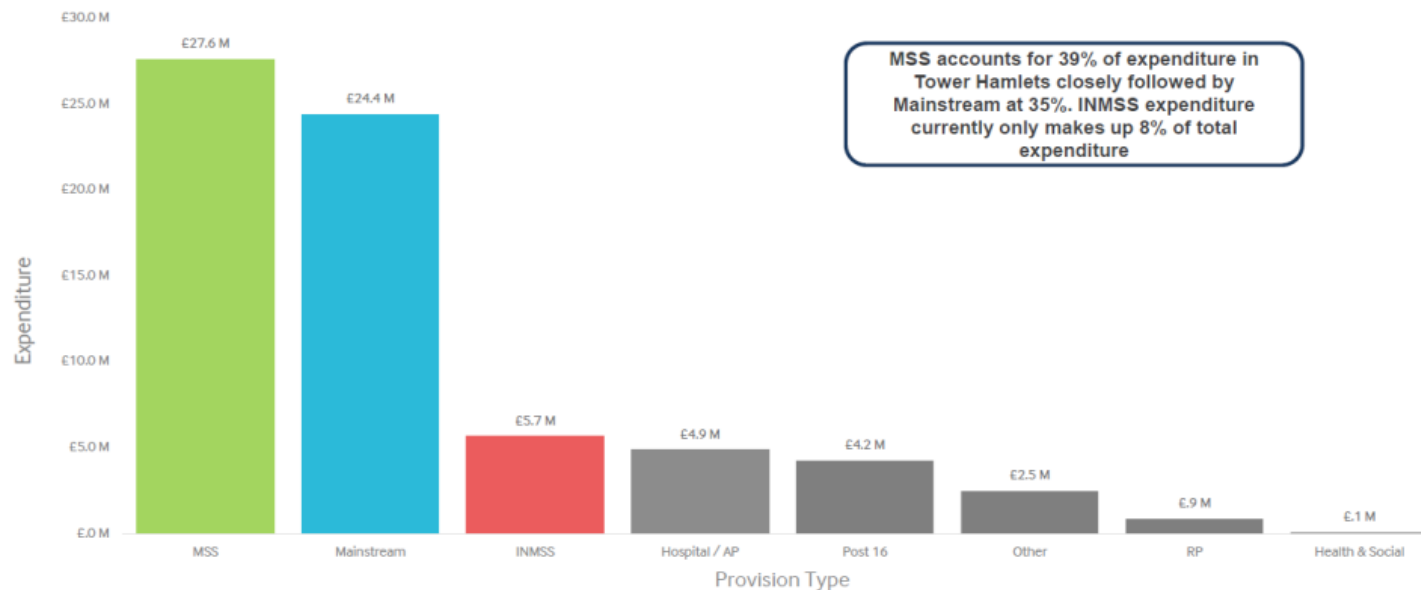


Maintained Special Schools and Mainstream Schools have the largest spend, accounting for nearly three quarters of spend in 2022/2023

MSS and Mainstream are the largest cost centres, accounting for nearly three quarters of spend in 2022/23



2022/23 HNB Expenditure Breakdown for Tower Hamlets



2. EHCP Update

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Timeliness
Forecasting
Quality
Demand



EHCPs: Timeliness



- Timeliness of EHCPs has shown month-by month improvement, rising from 33% at the start of the year, to 60% now, giving a cumulative timeliness of 54% for the year to date
- This is above national averages, which sits at 50%
- Ambition is to exceed national averages and remain there
- There have been challenges in receipt of advice from Health and Therapy services; this has been addressed through recruitment by the NHS of additional speech and language therapy, occupational therapy staff and SEN working with school-based providers



EHCPs: Quality



- The quality of our newly-issued EHCPs has improved since the last inspection and the Written Statement of Action
- Feedback from Sector Led Improvement Partner (Islington) and DFE has been positive; LGA Peer Review gave us further areas of work to consider
- Co-production (ie collaborating with children, families and key stakeholders) and SMART outcomes are our next target areas
- Quality Assurance has been given a renewed priority within SEND



EHCPS: Forecasting



- LBTH currently has 4406 EHC plans open. This is predicted to rise to around 6750 by 2028 (Delivering Better Value project) or by 2033 (SEND Sufficiency Project).
- The largest areas of need are (in order):
 - Speech, language, and communication
 - Autism
 - Social, Emotional & Mental Health
 - Severe Learning Difficulties.



EHC plans: Demand for assessment



- Demand for EHC needs assessments has doubled for the 2022/23 academic year against the 2020/21 academic year (around 80-90 requests a month). This is consistent with statistical neighbours and nationally.
- To mitigate demand, the LA is developing an Inclusion Framework to set expectations for what schools should be delivering from their own resources.
- Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme identified a need for more coordinated early identification and intervention. The DBV grant will be used to pilot Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) early intervention



3. LGA SEND Peer Review

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Key lines of Enquiry
Overall Feedback
Recommendations



Scope of Peer Review (Key lines of Enquiry)

Areas of Focus

- Progress made on WSOA
- Quality of provision in place for children and young people as they move through the education system
- Annual Reviews – are they effectively supporting transitions?
- Therapies – are they supporting children and young peoples' progress?
- Co-production – are we involving children, young people and their families? How does this support their progress?

Additional Areas of Focus

- Leadership and governance
- Resources
- Alternative Provision



Overall Feedback

Positives

- **Commitment** and drive to improve outcomes for CYP with SEND
- Political leaders are **sighted on the agenda**
- The council has recently **invested into SEND services** to increase capacity
- **Strong system leadership** in schools shows ambition to continually improve
- **Alternative provision is strong** and delivering good outcomes
- **Parents and carers have been positively engaged** in the improvement journey

Considerations

- **Inconsistencies in practice** across the system which impacts on lives of CYP and their families
- **Lack of understanding of how the system works** meaning opportunities for early intervention are missed (Parents and Professionals)
- Opportunity to: **strengthen whole system connectivity and vision**; to capitalise on innovation and improvement; to realise the full potential of local ambitions



Recommendations



1. Review the size and remit of the **SEND Improvement Board** to ensure that it is more strategic, that **data** is used to identify priorities and that initiatives are delegated to task and finish groups.
2. **Co-produce a concise, revised SEND Strategy** which galvanises stakeholders around vision, priorities and next steps.
3. Devise a way to **test the impact of the progress** on the Written Statement of Action against outcomes for children and young people to give confidence and visibility of the achievements
4. **Improve information sharing** between partners and with all stakeholders, so that there is a common understanding of the local area's SEND development priorities
5. At pace, develop a **common understanding, and implement a universal offer** (graduated response) for early years settings, schools and colleges to enable the effective support for children and young people
6. Continue the programme to **improve the quality and timeliness of EHC plans** and the timely updating of plans following Annual Reviews



4. Ordinarily Available Provision / Inclusion Framework



Ordinarily Available Provision / Inclusion Framework

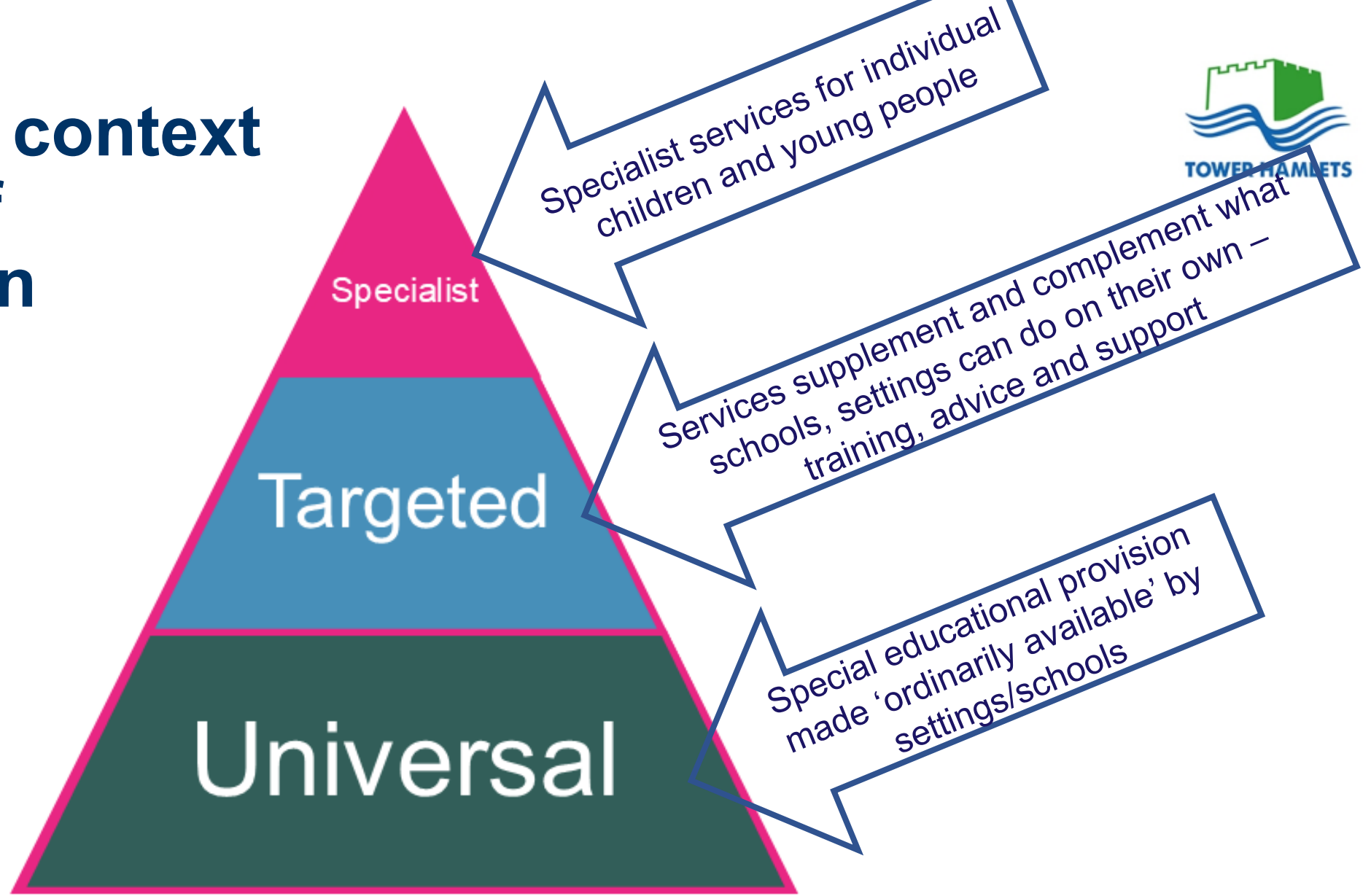


- Work is underway to co-construct a document that sets out the provision that must be made ordinarily available in all LBTH school settings.
- This is to set a realistic expectation around what all schools must be providing for children who may or may not have SEND
- It will also benefit developing a more consistent offer across schools
- Stakeholder engagement has occurred across Education, Health and Social care to begin co-constructing the document



OAP in the context of levels of intervention

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Aims and Aspirations



Provision

- To ensure all CYP with SEND access high-quality teaching, an inclusive curriculum, learning environment, and social opportunities in their local mainstream schools alongside their age-related peers.
- To improve the consistency of provision available across LBTH settings, despite budget constraints.
- To be able to meet need through additional support where appropriate.

Identification

- All settings and partners will act early when responding to early identification of SEN to reduce the risk of unmet educational needs escalating over time.
- Clear and consistent transition processes which best support CYP to confidently succeed in a new environment.
- Higher Quality Ordinarily Available Provision to ensure that those who require EHC Plans can rapidly obtain them.



Aims and Aspirations



Training for staff

- For LBTH mainstream education settings and staff to receive the training the support they require to be confident and energised in meet the needs of CYP with SEND in their school communities through their ordinarily available provision and reasonable adjustments.

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Stakeholder engagement & signposting

- Greater co-production between staff, CYP and families
- For greater co-production and communication between staff, CYP, families and professionals around the provision made available for CYP with SEND
- Pulling together social care, medical joined up working (SEN support - signposting to ensure multiagency working – social care)
- To include the voice of the CYP and their lived experiences
- To consider the lived experiences of settings working with outside agencies.



Approach / Action Plan

<p><u>Review</u>: The existing OAP documents from other Local Authorities</p>	<p><u>Consider</u>: Voice of CYP and keeping this central to how the document is created</p>
<p><u>Consider</u>: The specific needs and context of Tower Hamlets Schools/Services and how this shapes the document</p>	<p><u>Consider</u>: Parental voice and engagement (broader parent perspective)</p>
<p><u>Critical</u>: Engage stakeholders across Education/Health/Social Care</p>	<p><u>Consider</u>: Education settings engagement and visiting settings who are not engaging in this process</p>
<p><u>Consider</u>: Specialist advice for ‘broad areas of need’ sections of the doc.</p>	<p><u>Consider</u>: Piloting the document in settings</p>
<p><u>Review</u>: Signposting to support, training and resources for LBTH services – What is available to support schools to meet the expectations at the Universal Level?</p>	<p><u>Consider</u>: a form of ‘self-review’ and training packages to support settings to improve. Within council’s currently available provision?</p>



Update on Progress so far

- April 23: ALS1: **All stakeholder introductory meeting** with CDC – in person
- May 23: Task Analysis meeting to **agree priorities** - online
- June 23: **Working Groups 1** (C&L, C&I, S&P, SEMH) – in person (3 hours each group)
- July 23: **Whole document review group** – online (2 hours)
- August 23: **Initial structure**/bones formed
- September 23: Meeting to discuss engaging **parental and pupil voice**
- Sept 23: Meeting **CDC to review structure**. Priority OAP vs SEN Support
- Oct 23: **Working Groups 2** (C&L, C&I, S&P, SEMH) – in person
- Nov 23: **Whole document review group** – online with CDC (3 hours)



5. SEND Transport



SEND Transport



- A home to school travel assistance service for CYP aged between 5 and 18 years old, with an Education Healthcare Plan or complex medical needs.
- Children aged 10 or over will be expected to undergo Independent Travel Training. Only those deemed unsuitable will be offered an alternative form of travel assistance.
- Transport will only be provided for travel to a qualifying school (one that can meet the needs of CYP and is nearest to their home)



SEND Transport Data



Categories	End of 2022/3 academic year	End of term 1a 2023/4
Pupils that received travel assistance (1/4 of all CYP with an EHCP)	1016	1086
Pupils that travel to school on in-house school buses	568	623
Pupils that travelled to school via external provision, taxis and accessible vehicles	213	261
Pupils that accessed Independent Travel Training	69	86
Families in receipt of Personal Transport Budgets	98	195
Parents in receipt of travel cards	3	7



Current Challenges



- Increase in pupils that travel to school on in-house school buses
- Increase in pupils attending schools outside the borough
- Increase in pupils with SEMH needs that are unable to travel in vehicles with other pupils
- Transport providers cost increases passed onto the authority
- All above contribute to increasing pressure on transport budget



Current Pressure Reducing Actions



We are working with colleagues in Transport through our SEND Transport Board to:

- Audit gaps in driver working hours – gaps filled with to generate income
- Optimise routes
- Introduce a dynamic purchasing system, generating increased competition of external transport providers for school routes
- Audit single person vehicles for children
- Increase number accessing Independent Travel Training
- Increased volume of Personal Travel Budget offers



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