

Children & Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

12th 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



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)

“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)



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

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

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



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

