

Children and Young People Select Committee Agenda

Tuesday, 4 March 2014
7.30 pm, Committee Room 1
Civic Suite
Lewisham Town Hall
London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Andrew Hagger (Tel: 020 8314 9446)

Part 1

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Children and Young People Select Committee Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Tuesday, 4 March 2014.

Barry Quirk, Chief Executive
Thursday, 20 February 2014

Councillor John Paschoud (Chair)	
Councillor Jenni Clutten (Vice-Chair)	
Councillor David Britton	
Councillor Stella Jeffrey	
Councillor Marion Nisbet	
Councillor Stephen Padmore	
Councillor Jacq Paschoud	
Councillor Philip Peake	
Councillor Alan Till	
Councillor Dan Whittle	
Councillor Alan Hall (ex-Officio)	
Councillor Kevin Bonavia (ex-Officio)	
Gail Exon (Church Representative)	Church of England Southwark Diocesan Board of Education
Monsignor N Rotheron (Church Representative)	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark Commission for Schools and Colleges
Sharon Archibald (Parent Governor Representative)	
Lisa Palin (Parent Governor Representative)	
Mark Saunders (Parent Governor Representative)	

Public Document Pack **Agenda Item 1**
**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 29 January 2014 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors John Paschoud (Chair), Stella Jeffrey, Marion Nisbet, Jacq Paschoud, Alan Till, Dan Whittle, Sharon Archibald (Parent Governor Representative), Lisa Palin (Parent Governor Representative), Mark Saunders (Parent Governor Representative) Gail Exon (Church Representative) and Monsignor N Rotheron (Church Representative)

APOLOGIES: Councillors David Britton and Philip Peake

ALSO PRESENT: Petra Der Man (Principal Lawyer), Andrew Hagger (Scrutiny Manager), Jane Hendrie (Lewisham Education Arts Network), Onay Kasab (Regional Officer (Unite), John Russell (Service Manager, Educational Access), Frankie Sulke (Executive Director for Children and Young People), Chris Threlfall (Head of Education Infrastructure) and Warwick Tomsett (Head of Targeted Services and Joint Commissioning)

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2013

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2013 were agreed.

2. Declarations of interest

2.1 There were none.

3. Lewisham Live 2014

3.1 Jane Hendrie, Manager of Lewisham Arts Education Network, made a presentation to the Committee about Lewisham Live 2014 and highlighted the following key points:

- The first collaborative event was held in 2011.
- Since then there have been an increase in the number of partners involved and performances held.
- In 2013 just over 2000 young people performed to about 4000 people.
- Lewisham Live 2014 will have 14 performances involving 13 partners, including LeSoCo (Lewisham and Southwark College)
- Councillors will be invited to performances and are encouraged to raise the profile and promote the event.

3.2 The Committee thanked Jane Hendrie for the presentation and the offer of invitations for Committee members.

4. Savings Proposals Attendance and Welfare Service

4.1 Warwick Tomsett, Head of Targeted Services and Joint Commissioning, introduced the report and highlighted the following key points:

- The £300k saving proposed in the report is additional to the £200k saving that has already been agreed. This represents a 50% reduction in funding and both savings will be implemented at the same time.

- The reduction would bring Lewisham in line with statistical neighbours for average spend per pupil.
- The Council's statutory duties will be protected and core funded, with extra services available for schools to buy in.
- Officers are in consultation with schools over the amounts to be charged for services and different models for supplying these services. The response from schools so far has been broadly positive, schools accept the reasons for charging and are now deciding what they want to do.

4.2 Petra der Man, Principal Lawyer, then offered legal advice to the Committee, stating that while the Committee could hear from any person they wish to with regards to the item, they should consider the impartiality of the person addressing the Committee and whether that person may have a personal interest in the subject. A personal interest could mean that evidence given carries less weight than if it had come from a more impartial source, and that recommendations or advice of the Committee that is based on evidence from an impartial source could be further impacted. Therefore the advice to the Committee would be to take evidence only from a person not affected by the current proposals.

4.3 The Chair then proposed a motion that, in line with the advice, the Committee should only hear from a representative from Unite who has no personal interest in the item. The Committee voted 7 to 2 in favour of the proposed motion.

4.4 Onay Kusab, Regional Officer for Unite, then addressed the Committee and made the following points:

- The majority of the work carried out by officers in the Attendance and Welfare Service is statutory.
- The changes are likely to have a disproportionate impact on schools that have extra needs and staff are not convinced the Pupil Premium will cover the extra costs.
- The savings proposed represent significant cuts which will have an impact on early intervention work. This will mean relying on punishment and not addressing underlying causes of non-attendance.
- There is also concern over selling services to schools, as no schools have committed to buy them as yet.
- The current performance of the service is good, and attendance for Primary Schools is 1st in London and in the top 10 in the UK. There is a fear that changes will result in a drop in performance.
- Concerns of the staff were raised in November, but consultation has been about how to implement the proposals, not about whether implementing them is a good idea. The consultation also starts and finishes before the Mayor and Cabinet decision, which gives a short time for consultation and presents the proposals as a done deal.
- Officers in the Attendance and welfare service are passionate about the service and proud that it performs well. Staff will engage in consultation and have been offered bespoke JCCs.
- Unite will issue a notice of industrial action ballot, which is a protection of the position of the staff and an indication of how seriously this proposal is taken.

- 4.5 In response to questions from the Committee, Frankie Sulke, Executive Director for Children and Young People, Warwick Tomsett and John Russell, Service Manager Early Intervention and Access, informed the Committee of the following:
- The proposals being made are due to the financial pressures resulting from cuts to local authority funding from central government.
 - Attendance is a school responsibility, and Lewisham has previously subsidised this service.
 - In comparison with our statistical neighbours primary school attendance is very good, whereas secondary school attendance is poor.
 - The groups that will be exempted from charges for persistent absentee activity includes Looked After Children, those with a Child Protection Plan, and those involved with Children's Social care, among others. About 25% of persistent absentees would fall in to the group.
 - Research carried out looking at geographical trends in attendance highlighted issues in Downham and Bellingham.
 - Schools can be flexible in their use of the Pupil Premium and Attendance and Welfare services are a valid use for it. Schools are comfortable about having to buy-in services and the Pupil Premium means that schools do have sufficient resources to buy in attendance and welfare services.
 - The Best Value review looking at Attendance and Welfare occurred in 2003, when there was an issue with poor attendance in secondary schools. Funding had been devolved to secondary schools and attendance had improved for 4 years but then got worse. The review found that court preparation work was poor so after negotiation with the Schools Forum extra support was provided.
 - Previously there were not many ways to buy-in Attendance and Welfare services, however there is now a more sophisticated market and schools can buy-in services in a more rigorous way.
 - 3 service options have been made available to schools, 2 are packages and one is spot purchasing. No schools have picked an option as yet and they will need to confirm by April. While there has been no sign-up, no schools have objected and many are evaluating their options before committing. If there is little buy-in, there will still be resources to provide the core service.
 - TUPE will not apply to staff under these proposals.
 - Register checks are a school improvement issue, with schools RAG rated on attendance to identify schools which might have problems.

Resolved:

The Committee agreed to refer the following comments to Mayor and Cabinet:

- The timetable for the staffing restructure of the Attendance and Welfare Service should be reconsidered to ensure that it is aligned with the timetable for schools to indicate whether they intend to buy attendance and welfare services from the Council. The Committee expressed concern that if the current timetable is followed there is a risk that a restructured service will have lost the capacity to meet demand from schools.
- The impacts of the changes made to the service should be monitored closely. This should include the monitoring of all early indicators related to attendance.
- Information should be provided to Mayor and Cabinet on 12 February 2014, including:

- To ensure that the list of the core and chargeable services is specified in full and without ambiguity in relation to the list of vulnerable children.
- Improved comparative information showing the current and proposed provision of attendance and welfare services against other London Boroughs, including the ratio of attendance and welfare local authority staff to pupils and information about the outcomes in comparable boroughs which allocate more and less resources to these responsibilities.

5. Early Intervention and Targeted Support

- 5.1 Warwick Tomsett, Head of Targeted Services and Joint Commissioning, introduced the report and highlighted the following key points:
- There have been a number of changes to the funding of early intervention since 2010/11.
 - The Children and Young People Plan sets out the approach to early intervention in Lewisham.
 - The government's Troubled Families programme is supported through the early Intervention and Access Service and works with 826 families across the borough.
 - Payment by Results has focused the attention of the Council and providers on what they are trying to achieve. The process of developing measures took a year to carry out and involved working closely with providers and partners.
 - Payments are divided into 70% core funding for the service, with 15% payments linked to goals for outreach to targeted families and 15% linked to outcomes.
 - There is robust quality assurance and monitoring of the goals.
 - There are a range of activities provided by Children's Centres that are universal, including activities by voluntary organisations and health visitors.
- 5.2 The Chair then provided information to the Committee about the visit to Downderry Children's Centre that was carried out by a group representing the Committee. The Chair highlighted how the Centre provided a service that was seamlessly linked to school that shared the site and the way it focussed on the whole family's needs.
- 5.3 In response to questions from the Committee, Warwick Tomsett and Frankie Sulke provided the following information:
- Immunisation at Children's Centres depends on the facilities available, as GPs have to be happy with them. However GPs have increasing trust in Children's Centres to deliver immunisations and it is likely that the number of immunisations delivered by Children's Centres will increase. Currently MMR immunisation is good, although numbers are not as good for the follow-up jab MMR2.
 - Partnership working with Jobcentre Plus has worked well.
 - Children's Centres have a named contact within Housing and links to revenue and benefit, as well as early intervention service links also.
 - The term 'worklessness' means the same as 'unemployment'.
 - Sustained goals and achievement is part of the quality assurance process with Children's Centres. Adjustments are made at the end of the financial year to ensure that changes put in place are long term.

- It is difficult to compare early intervention directly with other boroughs as there are no universally used comparative measurements and provision is organised differently according to local needs. However Ofsted will be conducting a 2 day thematic inspection of early intervention which will provide an indicator of the quality of the service.

Resolved:

The Committee resolved to add the result of the Ofsted thematic inspection to the work programme for the Committee in 2014/15.

The Committee agreed to refer the following comments to Mayor and Cabinet:

- The Committee commends the approach taken in embedding the Government's Troubled Families programme within Lewisham's early intervention approach to targeting and supporting vulnerable families.
- The Committee recognises the work staff in the Customer Services Directorate and the Children and Young People Directorate have carried out in improving links regarding housing services. The Committee emphasises the impacts that housing can have during the early years of a child's life. Therefore the Committee recommends that further work is carried out to improve the links between Children's Centres and housing providers, as well as between Children's Centres and the Revenue and Benefits Team.

The Committee agreed to refer the following comments to the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- The Committee notes the important role that Children's Centres play in early intervention and in providing links to public services operating throughout the borough. The Committee feels that there is considerable good work already between health agencies and the Children's Centres but raise the possibility for increased use of Children's Centres to deliver services associated with health.
- The Committee particularly recommends that the Health and Wellbeing Board consider whether there is scope to increase the number of outreach immunisation programmes operating in the borough, specifically within Children's Centres and to increase availability of immunisation for both MMR and MMR 2 in Children's Centres.

6. Primary and Secondary Places Planning

6.1 Chris Threlfall, Head of School Infrastructure, introduced the report and highlighted the following key points:

- This is the first report to the Committee looking at secondary school placement planning.
- The impact of the surge in demand for primary places has not yet reached secondary schools.
- Currently there is a surplus of places in secondary schools, but by 2017 there will be an excess of demand.
- There are site constraints at existing school sites that limit expansion, as well as a limited number of options for developing new sites. Discussions are being carried out about how to bring pockets of council land together for use, possibly for education.

- Additionally, there are restraints on the financial resources needed to meet demand. There has been an additional grant from the DfE to 2016/17, but there will be a £27m shortfall in 2017.
- The lack of space and land is critical, and while there are some plans being put in place to allow for an additional 4 forms of expansions, after 2017 the pressure increases further. Lewisham will likely need a new school by the end of the decade.

6.2 In response to questions from the Committee, Chris Threlfall and Frankie Sulke provided the following information:

- Local authorities aren't required to have a sibling policy, although Lewisham does. Pressures from accommodating siblings have been worse in bulge classes, although the authority has not been put in the position of having to not admit siblings.
- Officers from Planning work closely with CYP officers in the early stages of schools planning.
- Officers can predict pupil numbers using predictions by developers as a baseline to put their own calculations onto. There were 3995 new pupils predicted for 2012/13 and Lewisham had 3887 new pupils.
- There is the possibility of working with other boroughs around secondary schools, as well as looking at more integrated developments. However, boroughs will want to take care of their own situations first before exploring what is happening elsewhere so these opportunities could be limited.

7. **Generation Playclub Update**

7.1 The Committee noted the report.

8. **Select Committee work programme**

Resolved:

The Committee agreed the work programme

9. **Referrals to Mayor and Cabinet**

The meeting ended at 9.45 pm

Chair:

Date:

Agenda Item 2

Committee	Children and Young People Select Committee	Item No.	2
Title	Declarations of Interest		
Wards			
Contributors	Chief Executive		
Class	Part 1	Date	4 March 2014

Declaration of interests

Members are asked to declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda.

1 Personal interests

There are three types of personal interest referred to in the Council's Member Code of Conduct :-

- (1) Disclosable pecuniary interests
- (2) Other registerable interests
- (3) Non-registerable interests

2 Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined by regulation as:-

- (a) Employment, trade, profession or vocation of a relevant person* for profit or gain
- (b) Sponsorship –payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than by the Council) within the 12 months prior to giving notice for inclusion in the register in respect of expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses (including payment or financial benefit from a Trade Union).
- (c) Undischarged contracts between a relevant person* (or a firm in which they are a partner or a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest) and the Council for goods, services or works.
- (d) Beneficial interests in land in the borough.
- (e) Licence to occupy land in the borough for one month or more.
- (f) Corporate tenancies – any tenancy, where to the member's knowledge, the Council is landlord and the tenant is a firm in which the relevant person* is a partner, a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest.
- (g) 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 borough; and

- (b) either
- (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or 1/100 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 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that class.

*A relevant person is the member, their spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom they live as spouse or civil partner.

(3) Other registerable interests

The Lewisham Member Code of Conduct requires members also to register the following interests:-

- (a) Membership or position of control or management in a body to which you were appointed or nominated by the Council
- (b) Any body exercising functions of a public nature or directed to charitable purposes, or whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy, including any political party
- (c) Any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25

(4) Non registerable interests

Occasions may arise when a matter under consideration would or would be likely to affect the wellbeing of a member, their family, friend or close associate more than it would affect the wellbeing of those in the local area generally, but which is not required to be registered in the Register of Members' Interests (for example a matter concerning the closure of a school at which a Member's child attends).

(5) Declaration and Impact of interest on member's participation

- (a) Where a member has any registerable interest in a matter and they are present at a meeting at which that matter is to be discussed, they must declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered. The declaration will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the matter is a disclosable pecuniary interest the member must take no part in consideration of the matter and withdraw from the room before it is considered. They must not seek improperly to influence the decision in any way. **Failure to declare such an interest which has not already been entered in the Register of Members' Interests, or participation where such an interest exists, is liable to prosecution and on conviction carries a fine of up to £5000**
- (b) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest they must still declare the nature of the interest to the

meeting at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered, but they may stay in the room, participate in consideration of the matter and vote on it unless paragraph (c) below applies.

- (c) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest, the member must consider whether a reasonable member of the public in possession of the facts would think that their interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair the member's judgement of the public interest. If so, the member must withdraw and take no part in consideration of the matter nor seek to influence the outcome improperly.
- (d) If a non-registerable interest arises which affects the wellbeing of a member, their, family, friend or close associate more than it would affect those in the local area generally, then the provisions relating to the declarations of interest and withdrawal apply as if it were a registerable interest.
- (e) Decisions relating to declarations of interests are for the member's personal judgement, though in cases of doubt they may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

(6) Sensitive information

There are special provisions relating to sensitive interests. These are interests the disclosure of which would be likely to expose the member to risk of violence or intimidation where the Monitoring Officer has agreed that such interest need not be registered. Members with such an interest are referred to the Code and advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance.

(7) Exempt categories

There are exemptions to these provisions allowing members to participate in decisions notwithstanding interests that would otherwise prevent them doing so. These include:-

- (a) Housing – holding a tenancy or lease with the Council unless the matter relates to your particular tenancy or lease; (subject to arrears exception)
- (b) School meals, school transport and travelling expenses; if you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or a school governor unless the matter relates particularly to the school your child attends or of which you are a governor;
- (c) Statutory sick pay; if you are in receipt
- (d) Allowances, payment or indemnity for members
- (e) Ceremonial honours for members
- (f) Setting Council Tax or precept (subject to arrears exception)

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Children and Young People Select Committee			
Report Title	Safeguarding Services		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	3
Ward	All		
Contributors	Bernice Walters, Interim Service Manager Quality Assurance		
Class	Open	Date: 4 March 2014	

1. Purpose and Summary of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides a brief overview of the safeguarding services in Lewisham. The report focuses on:-
- The number of children subject to child protection plans and their demographics.
 - The changing patterns and trends in the numbers of children subject to plans and how Children's Social Care is responding to this.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 This is a report to the Select Committee on Safeguarding. There have been previous reports and reviews of safeguarding services in Lewisham following the Baby P Inquiry. It is recommended that there is an annual report of the progress in safeguarding services. Members are asked to note and discuss the report.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 There are a number of key policies and legislation that govern the work in safeguarding children:
- The Children Act 2004, updated all the previous legislation in relation to children. This Act gives boundaries to local authorities to help them better regulate the official intervention in the interests of children.
 - The London Child Protection Procedures 2014, are Pan London procedures for protecting children that all London local authorities are expected to adopt. This ensures a high level framework and a common understanding amongst all agencies working to protect children in London.
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013, provides a national framework and the core requirements which agencies and professionals should follow to agree their own ways of working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

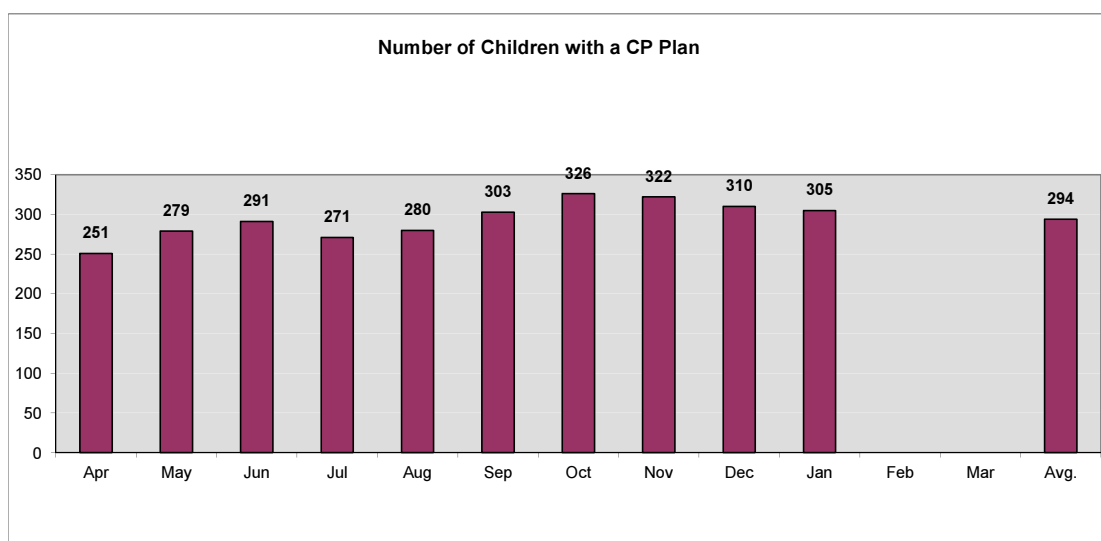
4. Details

4.1 Children's Social Care works with children who are considered to be children in need, who require support or services and children subject to child protection plans. Children in need are supported to achieve their outcomes and there will be a plan for the child that is regularly reviewed to ensure that progress is being made. Children subject to child protection plans will be placed on a plan following an initial child protection conference and will have suffered or considered to be at risk of significant harm.

4.2 In January 2014 there were 305 children subject to child protection plans. These children will all be subject to multi-agency plans that will be reviewed by the core group of professionals involved with the child and their family. When children become subject to a child protection the conference is required to specify the reasons for the plan and the category of the plan. The categories are:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

Graph 1: Number of children with a child protection plan



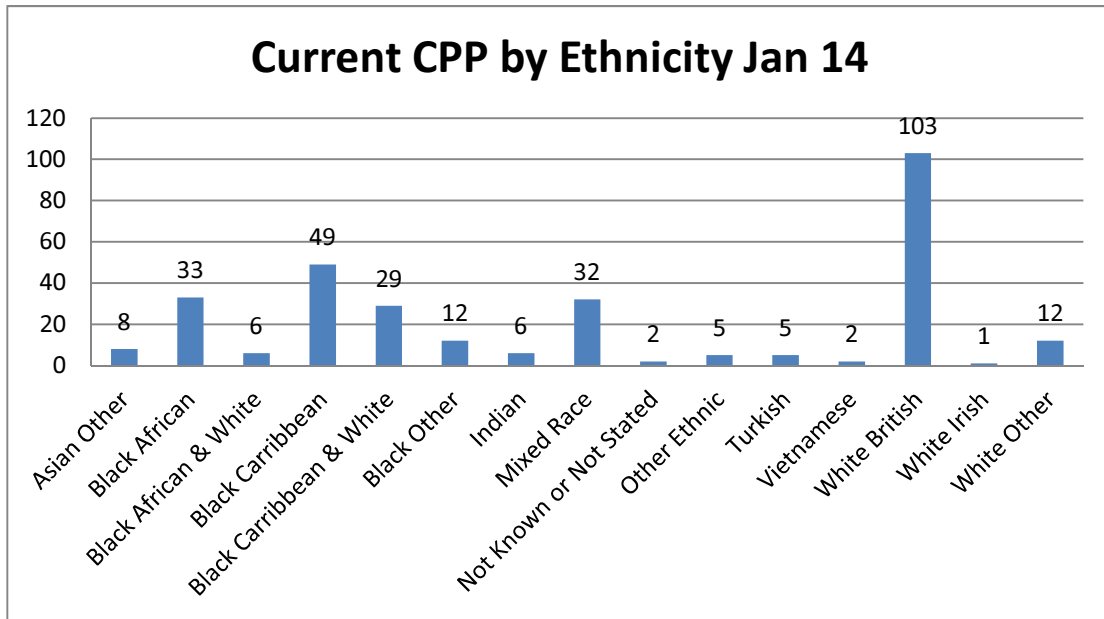
4.3 The current gender breakdown is :

- 163 Male
- 141 Female
- 1 Unborn (gender unknown)

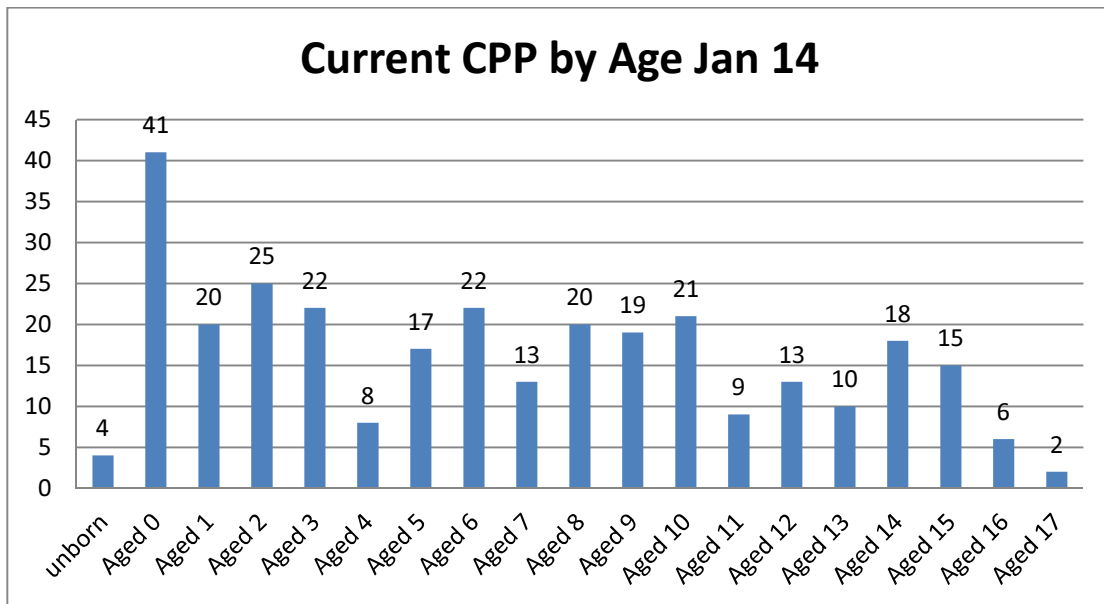
4.4 The gender breakdown does fluctuate, but the higher number of males follows a national trend.

4.5 In Lewisham the ethnicity of children subject to child protection plans largely follows the population breakdown. Currently 60% of the population aged 0-19 years are from a BME background.

Graph 2: Ethnicity of children subject to a child protection plan

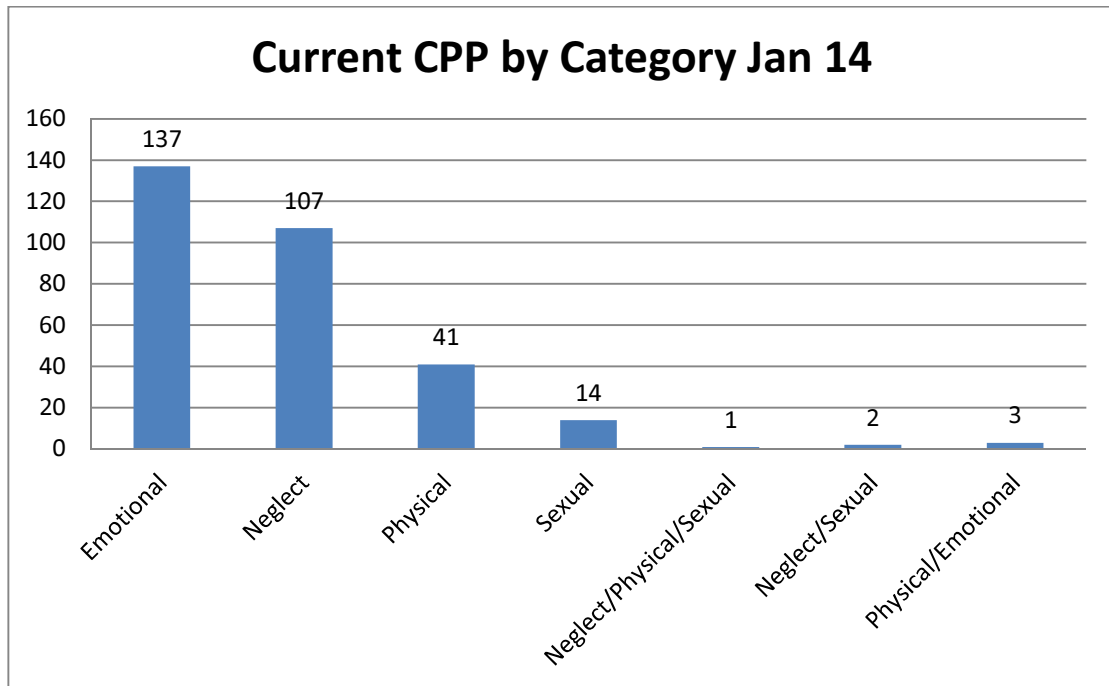


Graph 3: Age of children subject to a child protection plan

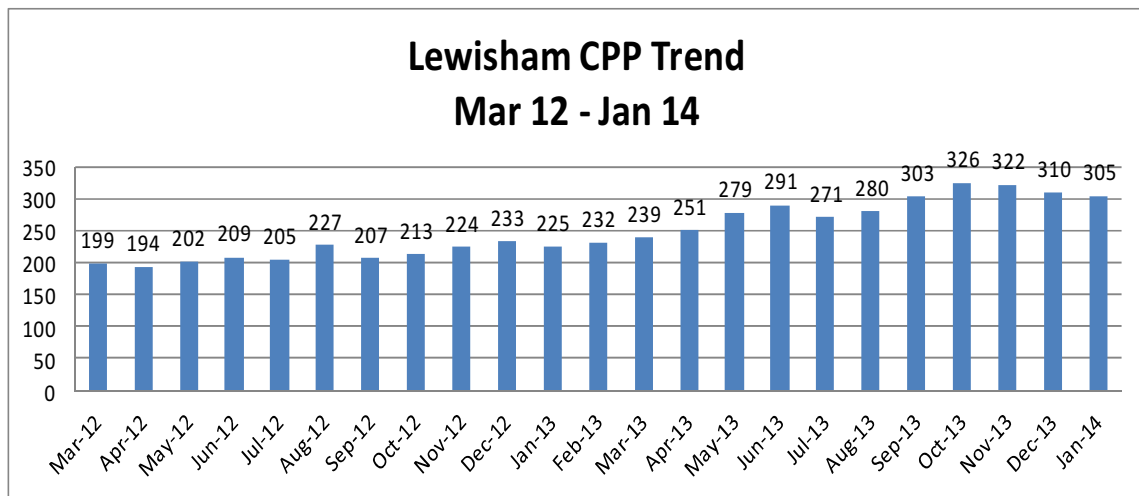


4.6 The largest group of children (15%) subject to plans are under the age of one. This reflects their vulnerability and is a common pattern in Lewisham as there is a significant issue in the borough with the number of children who become subject to plans due to domestic violence in the family. These children are usually placed on a child protection plan under the category of emotional abuse. Very young children are at much greater risk of being significantly harmed in domestic disputes. The chart below shows the current categories for the children on a child protection plan.

Graph 4: Category of children subject to a child protection plan.



Graph 5: Rise in number of children subject to a child protection plan.



4.7 There has been a considerable rise in the number of children subject to a plan as can be seen in graph 5 above. In March 2012 the number of children subject to a child protection plan was 198, increasing to 235 children by March 2013, a 19% increase over the period of a year. In October 2013 this figure had risen to 327, which was a further 37% increase in a six month period. This has created considerable pressures within Children's Social Care and extra staff have been recruited to deal with the increased workload. We regularly audit these cases to ensure that registration is appropriate and to see if alternative plans could have been actioned.

4.8 The latest audit was in January 2014 of the children who had become subject to plans in November 2013. This found that in 26% of cases where the child became subject to a child protection plan, the concern was in relation to the

high level of domestic violence in the household. Child protection plans were considered appropriate for 31 of the 32 children who were made subject to child protection plans. In only one case, it may have been possible for alternative arrangements to be considered. In the vast majority of cases the threshold for significant harm was met and some parents previously had children removed from their care.

- 4.9 When children become subject to a child protection plan there is a review child protection conference after 3 months and subsequent review conferences every six months. At each conference the need for the child to remain on a child protection plan will be considered. Core groups of key professionals and family members meet regularly in between the conferences to review the plan and whether it is working.
- 4.10 The reasons for the increase have been carefully explored and were reported to the Local Children's Safeguarding Board in December 2013. The length of time that children were subject to plans was less than our statistical neighbours, and there was evidence to suggest that the issues that led to children being placed on a plan were being addressed in a timely manner.
- 4.11 Lewisham also performed well in relation to children who became subject to child protection plans for a second or subsequent time. This is important as too many cases where children become subject to a plan for a second time would suggest that they were originally removed from the Register before the concerns were fully resolved.
- 4.12 In January 2014, 10.3% of children that became subject to a plan in Lewisham was for the second or subsequent time. This is compared with the national average of 14.9% and a statistical average of 12%.
- 4.13 There have been audits of child protection cases by Children's Social Care Service Managers in July 2013, December 2013 and January 2014. These audits check if the thresholds set for social care intervention is at the right level and are interpreted appropriately. There was evidence to suggest the thresholds were being appropriately applied.
- 4.14 Therefore it was concluded that, despite the increase in child protection cases, the overall quality of the work has not declined and that Lewisham continues to perform well in relation to statistical neighbours and national benchmarking data. It was concluded that the increase in children becoming subject to child protection plans may, in part, be attributable to the economic downturn, as it known during these times that there is increased pressure and stress on parents.
- 4.15 There has been a rise in the population of children in Lewisham. There are currently 70,900 children in the Borough aged between 0-19 years, which is 25% of the overall population. This is a 12.8% increase over the last 5 years. There has also been a 30% increase in the birth rate in the Borough since 2003.
- 4.16 Lewisham Children's Social Care has recruited a new Family Social Work team, Albany, to respond to the rise in child protection cases. This team began operating in November 2013.

- 4.17 It would be reasonable to expect that the rise in children subject to child protection plans might reflect a rise in care proceedings, because as the concerns escalate the Local Authority will seek to issue care proceedings to exercise more powers to protect children. However, the current projections do not indicate a rise in care proceedings. At the end of October 2013 there were 68 families in care proceedings. This figure remains stable over time.
- 4.18 Lewisham is currently in a Project with the London Borough's of Greenwich, Lambeth and Southwark, working alongside the Judiciary, Children's Guardians and other key partners to reduce the length of care proceedings. This will ensure better outcomes for children who are subject to care proceedings because they can be moved onto permanent carers sooner, if they cannot return home.
- 4.19 There are quality assurance controls within Children's Social Care to measure progress, timeliness and quality of child protection plans. Service Managers have a monthly audit meeting where the performance, monitoring and audit reports are evaluated in relation to both the safeguarding and looked after children functions. This work and the follow up with line managers, serves to ensure that high standards are maintained and any issues identified, either with individual cases or the wider child protection systems, and are quickly addressed.
- 4.20 Children's Social Care also fulfils the LADO role (Local Authority Designated Officer) whose role is to deal with allegations against people who work with children within the London borough of Bromley. This role ensures that there are safeguards in place where a person who works with children has an allegation made against them, or a concern is raised. Between January – December 2013 there were 114 allegations made against people in a position of trust working in Lewisham. The previous year there were 154 allegations.
- 4.21 Although there was a fall in allegations reported last year, in 2011 there were 91 reported allegations and in 2010, 95 reported allegations. Over the years the pattern of allegations has remained fairly consistent. The majority (50 - 60%) of the referrals come from schools, and mainly primary schools in relation to physical abuse of children. Approximately 20% of the referrals are in relation to foster carers, and 10% in relation to nursery worker workers. The LADO offers oversight into the management of individual cases as well as advice and guidance. Where there is Police involvement the LADO will closely liaise with the Police during the course of the investigation. Approximately a third of cases are substantiated but the very few cases (less than 1%) result in police prosecution. This follows a consistent pattern in Lewisham and is similar to other local authorities.
- 4.22 The LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children's Board) oversees the safeguarding of children across Lewisham. Working Together 2013 states that the LSCB is:
- (a) To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
 - (b) To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body for those purposes.

4.23 In addition the guidance states that:

- (a) The chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area and
- (b) The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action.
- (c) The chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area and
- (d) The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action.

4.24 Once completed the Annual Report should then be submitted to the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the chair of the health and wellbeing board

4.25 The functions of LSCB's fall into seven main categories:

- Developing policies and procedures.
- Ensuring appropriate training is provided across the Borough in relation to safeguarding.
- Communicating and raising awareness of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and how this can be best implemented.
- Participating in the local planning/commissioning of children's services.
- Reviewing all child deaths.
- Ensuring agencies are effective, individually and collectively.
- Conducting Serious Case Reviews into non-accidental fatal, and near fatal harm to children, where lessons can be learned.

4.26 Lewisham's LSCB is a well-attended and purposeful Board. The main parts of it work are carried out by a number of sub groups which are all multi agency in their membership, Lewisham's LSCB currently has the following sub-groups:

- Policies, Procedures and Training
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Service Improvement
- Serious Case Reviews
- Child Death Overview Panel
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

4.27 Lewisham CSC has worked with the London Metropolitan Police to develop a Pan London Child Sexual Exploitation Protocol. This was formally launched in February 2014 and Lewisham CSC was commended for its work, which will now be rolled out across London for other local authorities to adopt. Lewisham CSC worked with the Police to train staff to recognise and respond to CSE. CSC was part of a pilot to host Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation meetings, (MASE). These meetings are held monthly and are attended by key partners, -sexual health, Youth Offending Services, Early Intervention, voluntary agencies, etc. The meetings are chaired by the Police and discuss the young people in the Borough where there are concerns in relation to CSE. The

purpose is to ensure there is an appropriate multi-agency response but also that networks are identified and perpetrators persecuted.

4.28 Since the work began on CSE, Lewisham Police now have a Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Persons Police Unit. There has been a significant increase in the numbers of child sexual exploitation meetings held. Last year there were four times as many CSE meetings held, compared to the period before this work began. Hotspots for CSE in the Borough have been identified and appropriate Police action taken. The majority of the victims (73%) are not children in local authority care and 50% are between the ages of 13-14 years of age. Individual work is undertaken with victims of CSE to raise their awareness about exploitation, as most of the victims do not accept they are being exploited. The professionals involved with the young people also need to gain their trust so victims are willing to share information about the perpetrators, who can then be brought to justice.

4.29 The first Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Plan is due to be launched in April 2014. This plan and the forum that will support it, brings together 8 strands under one policy:

- Domestic violence
- Rape and sexual violence
- Stalking
- Trafficking (modern day slavery)
- Prostitution
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Forced Marriage
- Honour Based Violence.

4.30 It is hoped that the work of the VAWG forum, when launched in April 2014, will ensure there is an effective strategic steer to the work undertaken, raise awareness and share good practice.

5. Financial implications

None

6. Legal implications

6.1 There are no specific legal implication arising from this report. Lewisham CSC provides Childrens safeguarding and support serves in accordance with the statutory framework provided by the Children Act 1989 and succeeding statutory requirements.

7. Crime and disorder implications

7.1 None.

8. Equalities implications

8.1 None.

9. Environmental implications

9.1 None.

10. Background documents and originator

If there are any queries on this report, please contact Ian Smith on 0208 314 8140.

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Children and Young People Select Committee			
Report Title	The Corporate Parenting Role		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	4
Ward	All		
Contributors	Ian Smith, Director, Children's Social Care		
Class	Open	Date: 4 th March 2014	

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To advise members of the select committee on the work of the Corporate Parenting committee (CPG) over the last 12 months. The Ofsted report dated Feb 2012 recommended that a mechanism be established for elected members and senior managers to be consulted with regard to significant decisions and for any learning to be shared at a strategic level.

2. Summary

- 2.1 Corporate Parenting was last considered at CYP Select in October 2012 on that occasion officers advised of the plans to implement the Ofsted recommendations and strengthen Corporate Parenting in Lewisham.
- 2.2 During the last twelve months there have been three meetings held on 25/04/13, 10/10/13 & 08/01/14. The meetings have been conducted in accordance with the plan submitted.
- 2.3 The Corporate Parenting Group is chaired by the Lead Member for Children and Young People and attended by Members, Officers from CYP including the Director of Children's Social Care and Young people representing the Children in Care Council (CICC).
- 2.4 The Service Manager for Looked After Children, Leaving Care & Adoption and the Chair of the Children in Care Council both submit written reports to the Corporate Parenting Group.
- 2.5 Prior to the January meeting, the Terms of Reference were revised and accepted by the Corporate Parenting Group on that date. A copy of the new terms of reference are attached at Appendix one.
- 2.6 An annual workplan has also been devised to reflect key service planning and priorities. Additional agenda items will be added to reflect

any performance concerns and or changes as a result of new legislation/case law.

- 2.7 A copy of the current programme is attached at appendix two to illustrate the areas covered recently and the forward plan for the remainder of the academic year.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Select Committee is asked to:

- Note the report and appendices and discuss any issues arising from them.
- Specify the information it requires in the future to allow it to maintain its scrutiny and overview function in relation to the work of the Corporate Parenting Group.

4. Policy Context

- 4.1 The principle of the Corporate Parenting was first launched in 1989 as part of the Quality Protects programme.
- 4.2 In 2007 the government white paper Care Matters Time for Change set out the requirement for all local authorities to establish a Children in Care Council and to ensure young people are actively engaging in participation which allows them to understand the child's care experience. And, to use such understanding to review and shape services.
- 4.3 During 2011/13 A National Voice (ANV) in partnership with the Department for Education (DFE) produced a report which looked at the strengths and weaknesses of Children in Care Council's nationally.
- 4.4 It made 12 recommendations. Many of these are already in place in Lewisham and their impact will be reviewed over the next 12 months. The remainder will be discussed by the group and consideration will be given to including them in the 14/15 workplan.

5. Details

- 5.1 The Corporate Parenting Group continues to comprise of a number of elected members with a range of experience and expertise all of whom are active and committed attendees.
- 5.2 The Service Managers report to the Corporate Parenting Group gives information and data regarding the departments performance in the following key areas Adoption, Health, Education and Placement Stability. At the meeting in January the drop in placement stability was recognised as a concern which the Corporate Parenting Group will need to monitor over the coming 12 months. Officers are looking in

detail at individual cases considered 'fragile' to ensure all appropriate resources are being considered to prevent further breakdown.

- 5.3 This monitoring provides an example of the challenge the Corporate Parenting Group is expected to ensure occurs to satisfy itself the needs of the children for whom it is responsible are met.
- 5.4 Corporate Parenting is a collective responsibility across services and the example of how the group responded to concerns from care leavers about their housing needs, demonstrates good practice in this area.
- 5.5 The Lewisham Senior Children in Care Council is well established and has a core membership of young people who meet fortnightly during term times.
- 5.6 Members of the council are actively engaged in a variety of participation activities and representatives attend the Corporate Parenting Group to report on their activities and to give and receive feedback on agenda topics/items.
- 5.7 At each meeting they are also given an opportunity to raise any urgent matters.
- 5.8 For approximately four years we have had a contract with Barnardos for work pertaining to children's rights including participation for the younger age group known as the Junior Children in Care Council.
- 5.9 A decision was taken last year to end the contract and manage the work within the department.
- 5.10 The formal handover of this work will take place until March 2014 to ensure a smooth transition.
- 5.11 From April 1st 2014 the Junior Children in Care Council will be managed by the Lewisham Participation manager supported by a participation apprentice. The latter is a new role which commenced in November 2014.
- 5.12 It is anticipated that transferring the responsibility for the Junior Children in Care Council will increase membership and support transition between the two groups and encourage peer mentoring, one of the recommendations of the ANV/DFE Report.
- 5.13 The Children in Care Council have raised issues of concern which the Corporate Parenting Group have responded to.
- 5.14 At the meeting held on 25th April 2013 the Children in Care Council raised concerns about the impact of Welfare Reforms and changes in the LBL housing allocations procedures. They were particularly concerned about affordable rents. Housing Benefit Caps, Lack of

Properties and Multiple viewings. Members present gave recent examples of difficulties care leavers have experienced.

- 5.15 At the meeting held on 8th January 2014 the focus was on education. The Children in Care Council raised concerns about the funding of university courses and opportunities for work experience. A decision of the meeting was for the Director of Children's Social Care and the Service Manager Adoption, Looked After Children and Leaving Care to meet with the group to discuss this in detail. The outcome and recommendations will be discussed at the next Corporate Parenting Group in June 2014.
- 5.16 A Senior Officer from the housing department attended and explained the impact of Welfare Reforms and the measures the council is taking to protect vulnerable tenants including care leavers. A key issue appeared to be the loss of a designated housing officer to resolve the particular issues for Care leavers in a timely way.
- 5.17 At the request of the lead member for children this post has been re-introduced and the officer has re-established the practice of running a weekly surgery for care leavers at the office in Bromley Road.
- 5.18 This session is well used and there have been no further difficulties raised. The housing officer in attendance advised the department are only able to influence the 'affordable rents' within Lewisham homes and accepted that some rents considered affordable by housing associations are not accessible to care leavers.
- 5.19 Care leavers are therefore confining bids to properties to Lewisham homes to prevent further difficulties with rent arrears in the future.
- 5.20 As a consequence the bidding process is taking longer and the impact can be seen on the post 18 budget as the dept has a statutory duty to ensure the young people are housing in appropriate accommodation.
- 5.21 Children in Care Council members and care leavers have continued to contribute in the following ways:
 - They deliver training on the Induction programme for all new staff.
 - They deliver training on the skills to foster programme which is delivered to all new foster carers.
 - They sit on interview panels for social workers and managers. The recent recruitment to the Virtual heads post had a children's panel as part of the process.
- 5.22 The chair of the Children in Care Council is a regular member of the Fostering panel which is responsible for the approval and review of all Lewisham foster carers.

6. Financial implications

6.1 None.

7. Legal implications

7.1 The duty of the Council and Elected Members to act as corporate parents to looked after young people is described above.

8. Crime and disorder implications

8.1 None.

9. Equalities implications

9.1 None.

10. Environmental implications

10.1 None.

11. Background documents and originator

Ofsted final report into inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services.

Children in Care Councils; The London Picture 2010.

'If this were my child'...A Councilor's guide to being a good corporate parent LGIU 2003.

Appendix 1-Lewisham Corporate Parenting Group Terms of Reference.

Appendix 2-Lewisham Corporate Parenting Group Work Programme.

If there are any queries on this report, please contact Ian Smith on 0208 314 8140.



TERMS OF REFERENCE

CORPORATE PARENTING GROUP

1. Council Members of the Corporate Parenting Group

Membership of the Corporate Parenting Group will comprise:

- (i) The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
- (ii) One other Cabinet Member
- (iii) The Chair of the Children & Young People Select Committee
- (iv) 5 other nominees representing the political balance of the council

2. Other Participants in Group Meetings

Other Group members will include:

- (i) A varying number of children and young people looked after by LB Lewisham to include the Chair and other representatives from the Children in Care Council
- (ii) The Director of Childrens Services; the Service Manager for Looked After Children, Leaving Care Services & Adoption, and the Service Manager for Business Strategy, Fostering, Placements & Procurement, or their nominated alternatives
- (iii) The Participation Manager
- (iv) An open invitation to the Young Mayor and/or Deputy Young Mayor
- (v) Guest presenters, as appropriate to the theme of each meeting
- (vi) Other appropriate persons who members or young people may wish to invite to participate in the Group
- (vii) Representatives of Lewisham Foster Carers Association

3. Chair of the Corporate Parenting Group

The Group will be chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

4. Aims of Group

- (i) To ensure that children and young people can make their views known on all aspects of the corporate parenting agenda.
- (ii) To advise the Mayor and Cabinet on corporate parenting issues.
- (iii) To establish an environment whereby Members and young people work together to address the needs, aspirations and future life chances of Lewisham's looked after children.

- (iv) To empower children and young people to be involved in decision making with adults.
- (v) To support the involvement of children and young people in the development and evaluation of services and to ensure their views are heard.
- (vi) To oversee the implementation of best practice principles in all aspects of service delivery, with the aim of producing positive outcomes for looked after children.

5. Frequency of Group Meetings

The Corporate Parenting Group meetings will be held three times a year to correspond with school terms.

6. Quorum

The quorum for a Group meeting will be a quarter of Councillor membership but not less than three members.

7. Reporting Lines

The Corporate Parenting Group will have the right to report to the Mayor and Cabinet which will include an Annual Report.

These revised Terms of Reference were formally approved and adopted by the Corporate Parenting Group meeting held on 8th January 2014.

Appendix 2

Lewisham Corporate Parenting Group Work Programme

Term	Meeting Date Scheduled:	Deadline for written reports	Main Theme of meeting	Additional Items
Summer Term	Thu 25 April 2013		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing and Benefit Issues Genevieve Macklin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback on International Volunteer Project to India
Autumn Term	Thu 10 Oct 2013		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Outcomes for LACs Donal O'Sullivan and Beulah Lewis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback on Wellbeing Event
Spring Term	Wed Jan 8 th 2014	Thur 19 Dec 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education (including Higher Education) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider updated Terms of Reference
Summer Term	Wed - date to be confirmed (June-July 2014)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in Looked After Reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider ToR ? Feedback from young people on International trips Update from Donal O'Sullivan on Health Outcomes report
Autumn Term	Wed - date to be confirmed (Sep-Dec 2014)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment (to include Vocational Training) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tbc

Standard Agenda Items for each meeting:

- 1 Welcome and Introductions
 - 2 Apologies
 - 3 Minutes of the last meeting
 - 4 Terms of Reference *
- ...
- Other items – from the work programme or as appropriate
- V Report on Participation from Chair of Senior Children in Care Council
- W Opportunity for Young People to raise issues
- X Report on other Participation Activities
- Y Report from Looked After Children (LAC) Service Manager
- Z Work Programme

* It is good practice to consider the ToR at the first meeting of each Civic year.

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Children and Young People Select Committee			
Report Title	Progress on recommendations made in the 'Falling Through the Gaps' report		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	5
Ward	All		
Contributors	Children and Young People Select Committee Frankie Sulke, Executive Director Children and Young People		
Class	Part 1	Date	4 th March 2014

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress on recommendations made in the "Falling through the Gaps" report by the Children and Young People Select Committee to the Mayor and Cabinet on 30 January 2013.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to note the action taken in each area.

3. Background

- 3.1 Children and Young People Select Committee carried out an in-depth review of the area of children and young people who may be unknown to the local authority and others, and who were therefore potentially at risk. This culminated in its report produced on 30th January 2013. The response from Mayor and Cabinet was considered at the meeting of 2 July 2013.

4. Policy context

- 4.1 The Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015 (CYPP) outlines the vision across Lewisham's Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership for improving outcomes for all children. In developing our fourth CYPP, across the partnership we have looked at innovative ways of working together and sharing good practice, to ensure we make every penny of public money work as hard as it can with a continued focus on improving outcomes. One of the approaches we are taking is to ensure that we are better at targeting support to the children, young people, and families who need it most. Ensuring that children, young people and their families receive the intervention they need, early, is crucial in preventing their needs escalating and needing more specialist services.
- 4.2 The recommendations from the Falling through the Gaps review cover several policies and approaches of the Children and Young People's Directorate and

its partners, including: the Out of School Policy; the Fair Access Policy; the Managed Moves Policy; and the Elective Home Education Policy.

- 4.3 The local authority has a duty to provide a school place for each child living in the borough who needs one. Parents have a duty to ensure that their child receives suitable education, and the policy for monitoring Elective Home Education includes establishing the suitability of such arrangements. Under Section 19 of the 1996 Education Act, as amended by the Children, Schools and Families Act 2010, there is a duty on authorities to provide full time education for pupils who are not in school, unless there are medical reasons why this would not be appropriate.

5. Recommendations made by Select Committee

- 5.1 The review was welcomed by officers in the Children and Young People's Directorate and professionals across the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. Select Committee made the following recommendations.
- 5.1.1 **Recommendation 1:** Ensure that arrangements are in place so that when a child with potential difficulties who was previously unknown to authorities is identified, services can be made aware of their existence. This could be of particular use for newly arrived children in the country.
- 5.1.2 **Recommendation 2:** Consideration should be given to how the borough's single point of contact for safeguarding concerns can be more widely known, emphasising the wider message that 'It's Everybody's Business' to take responsibility and look out for vulnerable children in Lewisham.
- 5.1.3 **Recommendation 3:** MPs and Councillors, who may deal with newly arrived or unidentified children in their casework, should be regularly reminded of the clear point of contact and encouraged to refer to it.
- 5.1.4 **Recommendation 4:** Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board should continue to scrutinise data regularly about children who are missing from education and ensure that all agencies are aware of which groups of children are locally most at risk of missing education, in order to ensure that they are given the appropriate attention
- 5.1.5 **Recommendation 5:** Councillors' safeguarding responsibilities should be routinely highlighted to them through the member development programme.
- 5.1.6 **Recommendation 6:** Schools should be reminded of the need to ensure that the use of relevant categories for recording absences should be regularly audited in detail and the Attendance and Welfare Service should continue to challenge schools on their use in order to identify instances of poor attendance.
- 5.1.7 **Recommendation 7:** School Governors should be supported, where needed, with training and awareness on tracking and identifying poor attendance,

particularly in relation to poor attendance as an indicator of broader problems that a child may be facing.

- 5.1.8 **Recommendation 8:** The local authority should ensure that schools operate close monitoring of attendance when a pupil has been formally excluded or around a managed move, to ensure that an unofficial exclusion is not taking place.
- 5.1.9 **Recommendation 9:** Parents should be able to access accurate information to support them in dealing with exclusions, both official and unofficial.
- 5.1.10 **Recommendation 10:** Lewisham should encourage networking between parents and children in elective home education to provide more accessible opportunities for informal contact between those families and officers.
- 5.1.11 **Recommendation 11:** The local authority should take into account differences in language and communication among groups identified in the review, for example the oral culture of Travellers or language barriers for children who are newly arrived in the country, and consider appropriate approaches when dealing with these groups to ensure that children are known to local organisations.
- 5.1.12 **Recommendation 12:** A further recommendation is that the Committee undertakes a review looking at issues affecting young carers.

6. Action following from the recommendations

- 6.1 We have re-briefed partners, including schools, GPs, Health Visitors and Children's Centres to ensure they are aware of the need to identify vulnerabilities at an early stage for children previously not known to services. The Family Support Team has an ongoing process of auditing CAFs to identify any potential gaps, and provides support and training to a range of providers, to ensure that there is appropriate join-up. The common understanding is underpinned by regular partnership forums convened by the Early Intervention Service.
- 6.2 A reminder has been sent to all staff in the partnership about the single point of contact for safeguarding issues. Following the publication of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' in 2013, the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board undertook an exercise to ensure there is a clear understanding across the partnership, including when it is appropriate to refer to Children's Social Care, and this work is ongoing. A further report will go to the LSCB in March 2014.
- 6.3 A briefing was produced for MPs and Councillors, providing the key contact details for safeguarding concerns, and contact details for Children's Centres, should MPs and Councillors come into contact with families who require support services. This was circulated after CYP Select Committee and will be re-circulated in the future as necessary.

- 6.4 The LSCB continues to scrutinise data to ensure appropriate safeguarding arrangements, and this now includes data on children missing from education. Children missing from education will in future also be part of the LSCB business plan, with an annual report to the Board, to monitor and challenge progress. The first report is due to be presented in March 2014.
- 6.5 Training for members has been scheduled for June 2014 on safeguarding and their role in corporate parenting. Briefings will be provided to all MPs and Councillors as and when there are significant strategic, operational or legislative changes. A video of the last training is also available via Sharepoint.
- 6.6 The Attendance and Welfare Service continues to work closely with schools through register checks and attendance review meetings. This includes addressing incorrect coding of absence and supporting schools with strategies and good practice to improve attendance. From September 2014, the restructured service will continue to prioritise these issues through register checks and support and challenge to schools. They will have a remit particularly to monitor the attendance of vulnerable groups such as those with Child Protection Plans, those known to MARAC and those with Complex Needs.
- 6.7 Schools have the main responsibility for their attendance. The LA Governors' service continues to support school governors with a range of issues, including poor attendance. Key information is contained in the termly information pack. An article from the Attendance and Welfare Service will appear in the summer term 2014 briefing and further training will also be made available, particularly in relation to how the restructured service will operate.
- 6.8 The Attendance and Welfare Service continues to scrutinise school rolls through its regular register checks, and this is designed to identify possible unofficial exclusions and any other issues. Vulnerable Pupils meetings now take place weekly, between the School Improvement Team and the Early Intervention and Access Service to consider instances where pupils are missing education, and to make plans for their urgent reintegration. Cases are escalated to senior managers as appropriate, and schools are challenged where necessary.
- 6.9 Parents are able to access information on the Lewisham website to support them in dealing with exclusions, both official and unofficial. The summer term briefing for school governors will recommend that this information is carried on school websites. Advice continues to be available for parents from the Attendance and Welfare Service.
- 6.10 Lewisham continues to monitor the education being provided for children who are being educated other than at school, and seeks to build constructive relationships with parents. A successful initial network meeting was held recently with parents who are educating their children otherwise and further such meetings are planned.

- 6.11 It is an expectation of all staff and providers that appropriate, clear and timely communications are employed with children, young people and families. Where communication might be more difficult, alternative methods such as picture boards may be used. Cultural communication needs, such as the oral culture of the Travelling community, are anticipated and met.
- 6.12 The needs of and services for Young Carers were further considered in detail by the Committee on 15 May 2013.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).
- 8.2 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 8.3 The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.
- 8.4 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory

code and the technical guidance can be found at:

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>

- 8.5 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:
1. The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
 2. Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
 3. Engagement and the equality duty
 4. Equality objectives and the equality duty
 5. Equality information and the equality duty
- 8.6 The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at:
<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/> "

Public bodies such as local authorities are legally required to consider the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (set out in the Equality Act 2010) and document their thinking as part of any decision-making processes. The Act sets out that public bodies must have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share that characteristic; and
- foster good relationships between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share that characteristic.

- 8.7 The following equalities characteristics are 'protected' from unlawful discrimination in service provision under the Equality Act 2010: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief; gender; and sexual orientation.

9. Equalities Implications

- 9.1 In addition to its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010, the Council has set its own equality objectives that underpin the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme (2012-2016). These five equality objectives are as follows:
1. Tackle victimisation, harassment and discrimination;
 2. To improve access to services;
 3. To close the gap in outcomes for citizens;
 4. To increase understanding and mutual respect between communities; and
 5. To increase participation and engagement.
- 9.2 The work of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is delivered within the context of our Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015. This plan aims to improve the lives and life chances of every Lewisham child, and inherently seeks to reduce inequalities in all that we do.

10. Environmental Implications

10.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising out of this report.

11. Crime and disorder implications

11.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s20335/FallingThroughTheGaps%20Final%20Report.pdf>

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Agenda Item 6

Children and Young People Select Committee			
Title	Select Committee Work Programme	Item No	6
Contributors	Scrutiny Manager		
Class	Part 1	Date	4 March 2014

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To advise Members of the Select Committee of the work programme for the municipal year 2013/14.

2 Summary

- 2.1 At the beginning of the municipal year, each select committee drew up a draft work programme for submission to the Business Panel for consideration.
- 2.2 The Business Panel considered the proposed work programmes of each of the select committees on 14 May 2013 and agreed a co-ordinated overview and scrutiny work programme, avoiding duplication of effort and facilitating the effective conduct of business.
- 2.3 However, the work programme is a “living document” and as such can be reviewed at each Select Committee meeting so that members are able to include urgent, high priority items and remove items that are no longer a priority.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 The select committee is asked to:
- note the work programme attached at **Appendix B** and discuss any issues arising from the programme;
 - specify the information and analysis required in the report for each item on the agenda for the next meeting, based on desired outcomes, so that officers are clear on what they need to provide;
 - note all forthcoming executive decisions, attached at **Appendix C**, and consider any key decisions for further scrutiny.

4. The work programme

- 4.1 The work programme for 2013/14 was agreed at the meeting of the Committee held on 9 April 2013 and by the Business Panel on 14 May 2013.
- 4.2 The Committee is asked to consider if any urgent issues have arisen that require scrutiny and if any existing items are no longer a priority and can be removed from the work programme. Before adding additional items, each item should be considered against agreed criteria. The flow chart attached at **Appendix A** may help members decide if proposed additional items should be added to the work programme. The Committee’s work programme needs to be achievable in terms of

the amount of meeting time available. If the committee agrees to add additional item(s) because they are urgent and high priority, Members will need to consider which medium/low priority item(s) should be removed in order to create sufficient capacity for the new item(s).

5. The next meeting

5.1 The following items are scheduled for the next meeting:

Agenda Item	Review Type	Link to Corporate Priority	Priority
1. Nursery Education and Childcare Review – Response	In-depth review response	Young people's achievement and involvement, Protection of children	High
2. Trading Services to Schools	Standard review	Young people's achievement and involvement,	Medium
3. EHC Pathfinder project	Standard review	Protection of children	Medium

5.2 The Committee is asked to specify the information and analysis it would like to see in the report for each item, based on the outcomes the committee would like to achieve, so that officers are clear on what they need to provide for the next meeting.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 In accordance with the Council's constitution, all scrutiny select committees must devise and submit a work programme to the Business Panel at the start of each municipal year.

8. Equalities Implications

8.1 The Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act

- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

8.2 There may be equalities implications arising from items on the work programme and all activities undertaken by the Select Committee will need to give due consideration to this.

9. Date of next meeting

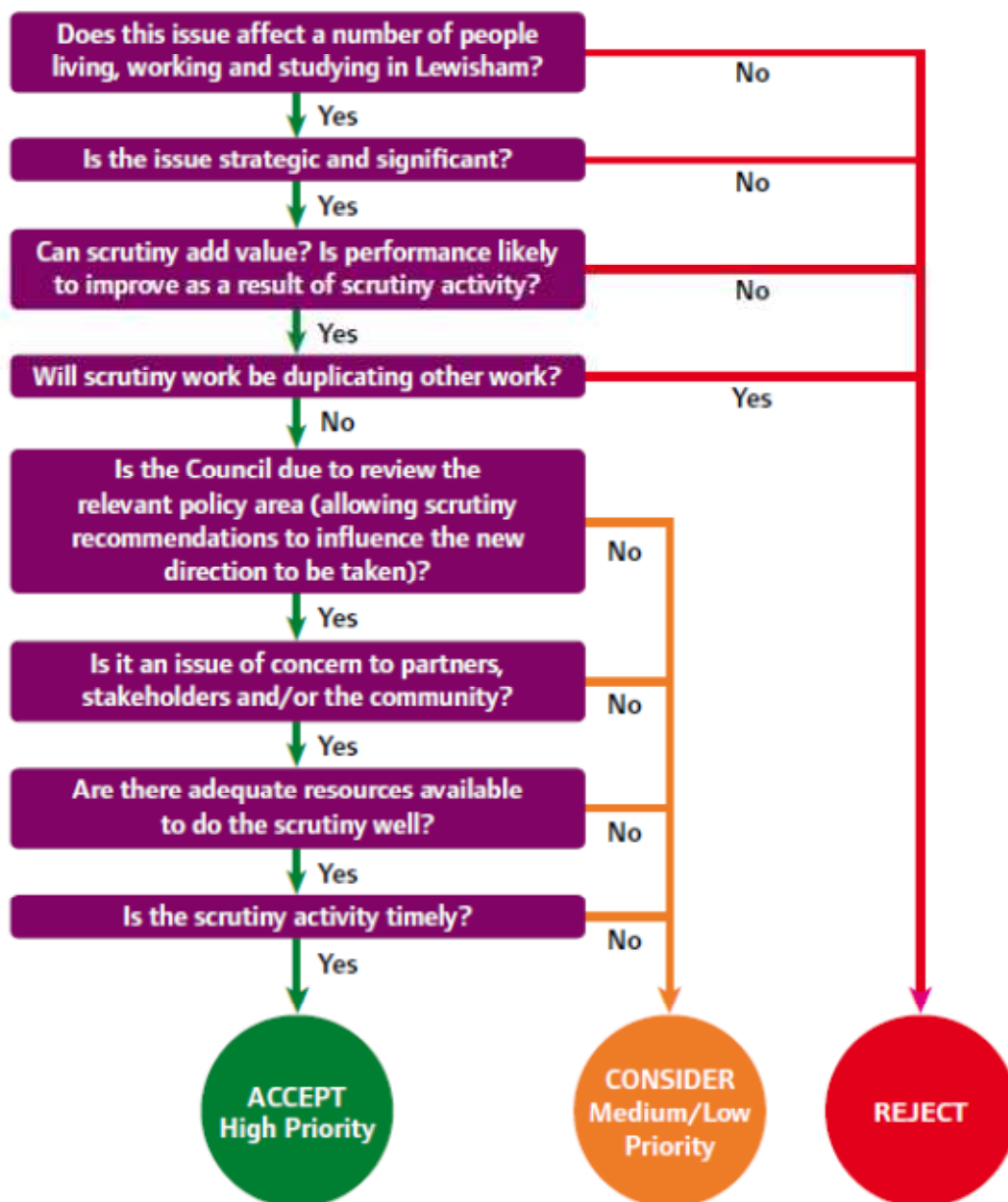
9.1 The date of the next meeting is 19 March 2014.

10. Background Documents

Lewisham Council's Constitution

Centre for Public Scrutiny the Good Scrutiny Guide – a pocket guide for public scrutineers

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



Work Item	Type of review	Strategic priority	Priority	Delivery deadline	April	May	July	October	November	December	January	February	March (4th)	March (19th)
Raising of Participation Age strategy	Standard review	MEDIUM	CP2	April										
Young carers	Standard review	HIGH	CP2, CP7	June										
Nursery and Childcare Provision	In-depth review	HIGH	CP2	June		Scoping paper	Evidence session	Evidence session		Final report				Response
Emergency Services Review	In-depth review	HIGH	CP2, CP7	June										
Fostering Ofsted report	Standard review	MEDIUM	CP7	May										
In Depth Review -Falling through the gaps - children at risk through, potentially, being unknown to the local authority	In-depth review	MEDIUM	CP2, CP7	January			Response						Update	
Attainment and achievement in Lewisham Schools	Standard review	HIGH	CP2	October										
Looked after children performance and participation strategy	Standard review	HIGH	CP7	October										
Revenue Budget Savings Proposals (subject to timetables from finance)	Standard review	HIGH	CP2, CP7,	November										
Generation Play Clubs update	Information item	LOW	CP7	January							Information item			
Secondary school placements planning	Standard review	MEDIUM	CP2	January										
Lewisham Live 2014	Information item	LOW	CP2	January										
Attendance and Welfare Service savings proposal	Standard review	HIGH	CP2, CP7	January										
Early intervention and targetted support (incl Childrens Centres and visit)	Standard review	MEDIUM	CP7	January										
Update on Youth Service Reforms (Joint meeting with Safer Stronger Communities SC)	Standard review	MEDIUM	CP2	February			Joint meeting		Joint meeting			Joint meeting		
Corporate parenting update	Performance monitoring	MEDIUM	CP7	March										
Safeguarding status and update (incl LSCB)	Performance monitoring	MEDIUM	CP7	March										
Trading services to schools	Standard review	MEDIUM	CP2	March										
EHC Pathfinder	Standard review	HIGH	CP7	March										

	Item completed
	Item ongoing
	Item outstanding
	Proposed timeframe
	Carried over from last year
	Item added

Meeting Schedule					
1) Tue	09-Apr	(Dsp: 28 Mar)	5) Tue	03-Dec	(Dsp: 21 Nov)
2) Wed	15-May	(Dsp: 07 May)	6) Wed	29-Jan	(Dsp: 21 Jan)
3) Tue	02-Jul	(Dsp: 20 Jun)	7) Tue	04-Mar	(Dsp: 20 Feb)
4) Wed	09-Oct	(Dsp: 01 Oct)	8) Wed	19-Mar	(Dsp: 11 Mar)

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**MAYOR & CABINET AND SCRUTINY
PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS**

Programme of Business for February 2014 – April 2014

Meeting date	Committee	Item	Directorate	Lead Officer
February				
Tuesday, 18 Feb 2014	Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel	Delivery of advisory and financial services contract award		Aileen Buckton
Wednesday, 19 Feb 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Budget Update Report		Janet Senior
Wednesday, 19 Feb 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Housing Property Acquisition		Kevin Sheehan
Wednesday, 19 Feb 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Response to Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel - Redevelopment of Lewisham Central Opportunity Site		Janet Senior
Wednesday, 19 Feb 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Response to Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel - the Asset Rationalisation Programme		Janet Senior
Wednesday, 19 Feb 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Response to Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Emergency Services Review		Aileen Buckton
Wednesday, 19 Feb 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Response to Sustainable Development Select Committee and Housing Select Committee - regeneration and housing in Deptford and New Cross.		Janet Senior
Wednesday, 19 Feb 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	School Governor Appointments		Frankie Sulke
Tuesday, 25 Feb 2014	Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee	Comprehensive equalities scheme - monitoring and update	Resources and Regeneration Directorate	Paul Aladenika
Tuesday, 25 Feb 2014	Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee	Safer Lewisham strategy monitoring and update	Community Services Directorate	Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney
Wednesday, 26 Feb 2014	Mayor and Cabinet, Council	Catford Town Centre - CRPL Business Plan 2014/15		Janet Senior
Wednesday, 26 Feb 2014	Council	Constitutional Amendment Mandatory Recorded Voting		Kath Nicholson
Wednesday, 26 Feb 2014	Council	Pay Policy Statement		Andreas Ghosh
Wednesday, 26 Feb 2014	Mayor and Cabinet, Council	Budget 2014-15		Janet Senior

Meeting date	Committee	Item	Directorate	Lead Officer
Wednesday, 26 Feb 2014	Council	Adoption of Lewisham Town Centre Local Plan.		Janet Senior
March				
Tuesday, 4 Mar 2014	Children and Young People Select Committee	Corporate parenting update	Children and Young People Directorate	
Tuesday, 4 Mar 2014	Children and Young People Select Committee	Falling Through the Gaps Review - Update	Children and Young People Directorate	
Tuesday, 4 Mar 2014	Children and Young People Select Committee	Safeguarding status and update (including LSCB)	Children and Young People Directorate	
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Housing Select Committee	Developing Lewisham's housing assets: upgrading existing stock	Customer Services Directorate	
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Housing Select Committee	Family Mosaic: Heathside and Lethbridge		
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Housing Select Committee	In depth review into low cost home ownership report and follow up	Customer Services Directorate	
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Housing Select Committee	Local Authority Borrowing Cap		
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Housing Select Committee	Newham landlord licensing scheme	Customer Services Directorate	
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Housing Select Committee	Review of the housing complaints process	Customer Services Directorate	
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	144 Evelyn Street (Parker House) Surplus Declaration and Demolition		Janet Senior
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Asset Rationalisation Programme 2013/14 and Strategic Asset Management Plan 2014/15		Janet Senior
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Development of Post 19 provision at House on the Hill		Frankie Sulke
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	GLA Funding bid for new build housing		Kevin Sheehan

Meeting date	Committee	Item	Directorate	Lead Officer
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Heathside and Lethbridge Estate, Lewisham - Phase 4B) Compulsory Purchase Order 2013		Kevin Sheehan
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Re-development of Heathside and Lethbridge Demolition Notice		Kevin Sheehan
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Management Report	Resources and Regeneration Directorate	Barrie Neal
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Surrey Canal Sports Foundation - Funding Allocation		Janet Senior
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Community Services Investment Fund		Aileen Buckton
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Extension of a drug and alcohol aftercare service		Aileen Buckton
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Extension of a drug and alcohol residential detoxification service		Aileen Buckton
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Recommissioning borough based residential respite care service		Aileen Buckton
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Section 75 Mental Health Services		Aileen Buckton
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Section 75 Overarching		Aileen Buckton
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Section 75 Public Health Services		Aileen Buckton
Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Supporting People Contract Award (Pagnell Street and Edward Street/Adult Placement Scheme)		Aileen Buckton
Tuesday, 11 Mar 2014	Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel, Overview and Scrutiny Education Business Panel	Decisions taken by Executive Directors		Janet Senior
Tuesday, 11 Mar 2014	Overview and Scrutiny Education Business Panel	Contract variations to deliver the 2013 primary places programme		Frankie Sulke
Tuesday, 11 Mar	Overview and Scrutiny	Single Tender Action Consultancy Services 2014		Frankie Sulke

Meeting date	Committee	Item	Directorate	Lead Officer
2014	Education Business Panel	Primary Places Programme		
Wednesday, 12 Mar 2014	Sustainable Development Select Committee	Sustainable Resources update	Resources and Regeneration Directorate	Martin O'Brien
Wednesday, 12 Mar 2014	Sustainable Development Select Committee	Implementation of the street lighting contract	Resources and Regeneration Directorate	Ian Ransom
Wednesday, 12 Mar 2014	Sustainable Development Select Committee	Parking policy monitoring and update	Customer Services Directorate	Ralph Wilkinson
Wednesday, 12 Mar 2014	Sustainable Development Select Committee	Implementation of the regeneration strategy	Resources and Regeneration Directorate	Tim Thompson
Tuesday, 18 Mar 2014	Healthier Communities Select Committee	Lewisham Hospital – Update		
Tuesday, 18 Mar 2014	Healthier Communities Select Committee	Update on outcomes of Premature Mortality Review		
Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014	Children and Young People Select Committee	ECH Pathfinder Project	Children and Young People Directorate	
Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014	Children and Young People Select Committee	Trading services to schools	Children and Young People Directorate	
Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Matters referred by Public Accounts Select Committee - Funding and Financial Management of Adult Social Care Review		Aileen Buckton
Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Matters referred by the Children and Young People Select Committee - Nursery Education and Childcare Review		Frankie Sulke
Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Matters Referred by the Healthier Communities Select Committee on the Library and Information Service		Aileen Buckton
Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Matters Raised by the Sustainable Development Select Committee on Sayes Court Garden		Aileen Buckton

Meeting date	Committee	Item	Directorate	Lead Officer
Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Matters raised by Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel - Recycling		Kevin Sheehan
Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Extra Care Service at Kenton Court and Somerville		Aileen Buckton
Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	John Ball & Coopers Lane Primary Schools Statutory Notice and Decision		Frankie Sulke
Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	New Instrument of Government - Christ Church School name change		Frankie Sulke
Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Revised instrument of Government - Stillness Infant School		Frankie Sulke
Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	School Governor Appointments		Frankie Sulke
Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Award of contracts to cover consultancy services to the Primary Places Programme for Employers Agent and other professional services		Frankie Sulke
Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Award of contract for the enlargement of John Stainer Primary from 1 to 2 FE		Frankie Sulke
Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Procurement of the School Catering Contract Service		Frankie Sulke
Tuesday, 25 Mar 2014	Public Accounts Select Committee	Revenue and capital Budget monitoring	Resources and Regeneration Directorate	
Tuesday, 25 Mar 2014	Public Accounts Select Committee	Management report	Resources and Regeneration Directorate	
Tuesday, 25 Mar 2014	Public Accounts Select Committee	Asset Management update	Resources and Regeneration Directorate	
Tuesday, 25 Mar 2014	Public Accounts Select Committee	Audit Panel Update	Resources and Regeneration Directorate	
Tuesday, 25 Mar 2014	Public Accounts Select Committee	Fairness Review update	Resources and Regeneration Directorate	
Tuesday, 25 Mar 2014	Public Accounts Select Committee	Managing Contract review - update on response	Resources and Regeneration Directorate	
April				

Meeting date	Committee	Item	Directorate	Lead Officer
Tuesday, 1 Apr 2014	Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel, Overview and Scrutiny Education Business Panel	Decisions taken by Executive Directors		Janet Senior
Tuesday, 1 Apr 2014	Overview and Scrutiny Education Business Panel	Horniman Primary School Award of Contract		Frankie Sulke
Wednesday, 9 Apr 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Campshill Road Extra Care Scheme		Kevin Sheehan
Wednesday, 9 Apr 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Changes to the Fixed Penalty Notice Charges		Kevin Sheehan
Wednesday, 9 Apr 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Holbeach Primary School and Sir Francis Drake Primary School Statutory Notice and Decision		Frankie Sulke
Wednesday, 9 Apr 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	No Recourse to Public Funds policy		Kevin Sheehan
Wednesday, 9 Apr 2014	Mayor and Cabinet	Surrey Canal Triangle - Compulsory Purchase Order Resolution		Janet Senior
Wednesday, 9 Apr 2014	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Discretionary rate relief – awards over £10,000	Community Services Directorate	Kevin Sheehan
Wednesday, 9 Apr 2014	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Award of Contract for the Provision and Support of Multi-Functional Devices		Janet Senior
Wednesday, 9 Apr 2014	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Delegation of Award of Construction Contracts at Coopers Lane, John Ball, Adamsrill and Haseltine Primary Schools		Frankie Sulke
Wednesday, 23 Apr 2014	Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel, Overview and Scrutiny Education Business Panel	Decisions taken by Executive Directors		Janet Senior
May				

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