

Mayor And Cabinet			
Report Title	Comments of the Children and Young People Select Committee on the ongoing implementation of the strengthening specialist provision programme		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	
Ward	All		
Contributors	Children and Young People Select Committee		
Class	Part 1	Date	11 July 2012

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Children and Young People Select Committee, arising from discussion of the officer report "Strengthening Specialist Provision Monitoring Report", considered at its meeting on 26 June 2012.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to note the views of the Children and Young People Select Committee as set out in section three of the report and agree that the Executive Director for Children and Young People be asked to respond to the referral.

3. Children and Young People Select Committee Views

- 3.1 On 26 June 2012, the Children and Young People Select Committee considered a report outlining developments in the ongoing implementation of the strengthening specialist provision programme, as part of the Committee's ongoing monitoring of the programme and the principles on which it is founded, which began in 2007 when the programme was initiated.
- 3.2 The Committee also considered the impact of the SEN Green Paper, published in March 2011, and Lewisham's role in testing the proposals in the Green Paper via participation in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Pathfinder Project.
- 3.3 The Children and Young People Select Committee makes the following comments:
- 1) The Committee is concerned by the lack of a clear timeframe being given to schools for the establishment of Service Level Agreements (SLA) between the school and the Council in relation to the expectations and outcomes of resource bases in schools. In many cases, this means that there is still no SLA in place a prolonged period of time after the resource base has opened and is in operation and this is a concern for schools and their governing bodies.
 - 2) The Committee notes the short timeframe, imposed by the Government, for the SEN and Disability Pathfinder project, and is concerned that the truncated

timescale, and therefore limited number of participants, will not provide a real opportunity to test the effectiveness of the single assessment process and independent support to that process, due to the limited numbers of families able to go through the pathfinder within the limited time available.

- 3) The Committee welcomes the suggestion that Drumbeat may cater for children with a wider spectrum of need than just those diagnosed with ASD, and welcomes the possibility that the facilities and expertise at Drumbeat could be used to effectively support all those children whose needs they have the ability to meet effectively, rather than solely take children based on a diagnosis of ASD.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se. The financial implications of accepting the Committee's recommendations will need to be considered.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 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).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Strengthening Specialist Provision Monitoring Report – Officer Report to Children and Young People Select Committee (26.06.12)

CYP Select Committee (6 December 2011): 'Strengthening Specialist Provision Programme Monitoring Report'

CYP Select Committee (March 2011): 'Strengthening Specialist Provision Programme'

Mayor and Cabinet (3 October 2007): 'Strengthening Specialist Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs'

CYP Select Committee (25 May 2011): 'ASD Provision and the New ASD School'

Mayor and Cabinet (5 October 2011): 'Expansion of Pupil Places at the New ASD School'

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Salena Mulhere, Overview and Scrutiny Manager (ext. 43380), or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Committee Business (ext. 49327).