

| Mayor and Cabinet | | |
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| Report Title | Response by the Executive Directors for Children and Young People and Customer Services to the comments of the Children and Young People Select Committee on Early Intervention and Targeted Support | |
| Contributors | Executive Director, Children and Young People Executive Director, Customer Services | |
| Class | Part 1 | Date: 9 April 2014 |

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the responses by the Executive Directors for Children and Young People and Customer Services to the comments and views of the Children and Young People Select Committee, arising from discussions held on the officer report entitled Early Intervention and Targeted Support, considered at their meeting on 29 January 2014.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to agree the response for reporting to the Children and Young People Select Committee following their comments relating to early intervention.

3. Children and Young People Select Committee views and responses

- 3.1 On 29 January 2014, the Children and Young People Select Committee considered a report entitled Early Intervention and Targeted Support. The Committee agreed the comments below, which are followed by the responses of the Executive Directors for Children and Young People and Customer Services.
- 3.2 The Committee recognised the work staff in the Customer Services Directorate and the Children and Young People Directorate have carried out in improving links regarding housing services and recommended that further work be 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.

Response

Children's Centres have good links with the Housing Floating Family Support team, supporting families in temporary accommodation including hostels. Children's Centres also offer drop-in sessions at a number of hostels and one-to-one support to homeless families where needed, as well as links with local housing associations.

Officers agree that links need to be further strengthened and named link housing workers for Children's Centres are now being identified. These named workers will act as a source of advice and guidance where housing is an issue for the families with whom the Centres are working.

As part of the Universal Credit Pilot, families who are impacted by the changes are offered support through Children's Centres.

Children's Centres offer money, benefits and debt management advice. Many of the Children's Centres have very good links with Jobcentre Plus who also run sessions in the Centres.

All Children's Centres offer support around finding employment and/or training with a range of sessions across different Centres including CV-writing, confidence-building and interview techniques.

- 3.3 The Committee has also passed on comments to the Health and Wellbeing Board recognising the valuable role that Children's Centres play in providing links to other public services. The Committee has also asked that opportunities for increased outreach immunisation programmes are considered, specifically increased availability of immunisation for both MMR and MMR 2 in Children's Centres.

Response

Children's Centres work closely with health visitors and GP practices in their areas to support families in the uptake of immunisations including Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) 1 and 2. This includes a number of clinics that run at Children's Centres, to help facilitate access to immunisations.

As part of the existing immunisation strategy, the pre-school booster pathway has been redesigned and will be re-launched in May 2014. This will include systematic checking of uptake of vaccine as part of the school entry process. Children's Centres will be part of this new pathway, working with families, GPs and Health Visitors to ensure all children have had two doses of MMR by the ages of 5.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se; but there may be financial implications arising from carrying out the action proposed by the Committees.

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).

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Kate Platt (kate.platt@lewisham.gov.uk/ 0208 3146408).

Background papers

Early Intervention and Targeted Support – meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee 29 January 2014