

Children and Young People Select Committee			
Title	Key Issues - Information item	Item No	6
Contributors	Scrutiny Manager, Director of Children's Social Care, and Head of Targeted Services and Joint Commissioning, CYP		
Class	Part 1	Date	8 September 2015

1. Recommendation

- 1.1. The Select Committee is asked to note this update.

2. Background

- 2.1. At the last meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee on 23 June 2015, following discussions with the Executive Director for Children and Young People, the committee agreed to receive an information item providing brief updates on a number of matters relating to Children and Young People. These included: Child Sexual Exploitation; Children's Centre Savings; implementation of savings proposals relating to the youth service; and looked after children in the youth justice system.
- 2.2. The committee will be receiving full reports on some of these matters later in the municipal year as per the agreed work programme. These dates are scheduled as: youth service future arrangements on 18 November 2015; children's centre savings proposals on 12 January 2016; and child sexual exploitation on 1 March 2016.

3. Updates

Youth Service - implementation of savings 15/16

- 3.1. This is a brief update on savings already agreed for 15/16. It does not cover the ongoing business planning for the proposed mutualisation of youth services. However, that work continues and a full report will be available to the committee in November, before going to Mayor & Cabinet. Savings proposals for 2016/17 and 2017/18, due to be presented to the Committee include a proposal to taper funding to the mutual if it goes ahead. This proposal will be factored in to the business plan.
- 3.2. The youth service is on track in implementing the agreed £1.4m savings for the 2015/16 municipal year. This is through staff reductions of 10.5 full time employees including the removal of youth workers from Ladywell Youth Village, Rockbourne Youth Club and street based work, and a reduction to management and business support staff, equating to £478,000.

- 3.3. Additional hours are being provided at Ladywell Adventure Playground for two evenings a week since the closure of the Youth Village. Rockbourne continues to deliver the non-youth work provision that was previously there as well as two evenings a week delivered by a partnership of the Young Lewisham Project, the Police, and the Friends of Rockbourne. The building is planned to be leased by Education My Life Matters who provide alternative education during the day.
- 3.4. A 31% reduction in commissioned provision, already achieved, equates to a further £293,000. The service is on track to realise efficiencies across training, IT, print materials, stationery and other miscellaneous expenses equating to £24,000.
- 3.5. Arrangements for increased income generation through sale of services and better asset usage (room rentals) predicted to total £100,000 are in place.
- 3.6. The remaining £505,000 is being achieved through grant substitution from the Government's "Troubled Families" programme for the 1:1 keywork service and Bromley College and City Bridge funding of the NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) traineeship programme. Work remains on-going to re-specify the Targeted Family Support Service (also funded through the Government's Troubled Families Programme) and align further with the keywork service, including exploring funding opportunities through the European Social Fund.

Children's Centres - Implementation of savings

- 3.7. A total of £1.936m has been identified as savings from Children's Centres from 2015 to 2017 through reductions in the unit costs and number of targeted families that Children's Centre providers are contracted to work with and by reducing administration costs. The new, reduced funding schedule for providers will be implemented on 1st October.
- 3.8. A consultation process in May and June 2015 identified that the majority of parents and carers, whilst understandably disappointed at the fact that savings had to be made, nevertheless understood the requirement and made suggestions such as more volunteering and the introduction of small charges which will be explored with Centre providers. There was much positive discussion, with parents and carers keen to be involved further in plans for those Centres in which significant changes will be taking place.
- 3.9. Two Children's Centre providers are to have considerable reductions in funding and these providers have planned to amend their service offers significantly in discussion with officers. They will be required to work with a smaller number of targeted families and there will continue to be close monitoring of the effectiveness of their work with families. All providers will continue to be subject to robust performance monitoring and quality assurance as part of the Council's performance management framework.
- 3.10. The morale of Children's Centre providers continues to be good despite the reductions in funding and a vision day is planned for 15 September with both

officers and providers. Areas to be explored include joint working and closer working with partners from the statutory and voluntary sectors and the providers are enthusiastic about this opportunity for collaborative development.

Child Sexual Exploitation

- 3.11. At the meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee in March 2015, the Director of Children's Social Care provided an update on safeguarding services. Since then the Metropolitan Police have published a report on Child Sexual Exploitation activity in Lewisham between 1st July 2014 and 30th June 2015. There were 71 cases of child sexual exploitation that came to the notice of the police in this period. In 43 out of 71 cases there were strong suspicions of Child Sexual exploitation but no disclosures were made by the young person which could be used as evidence to enable a prosecution to be pursued. In 21 out of 71 cases, professionals suspected child sexual exploitation activity in the context of other criminal activity, such as drug dealing. In 5 out of 71 cases the police were able to gather sufficient intelligence to disrupt child sexual activity through coordinated action with other agencies such as Children's Social Care and the Home Office. Past examples include breaking the network of procurement of girls by taking the lead procurer, also a vulnerable young person into care and placing her outside Lewisham with key work support to work through her own issues. A joint raid by the police and immigration services took place to disrupt suspected child sexual activity at a local carwash. Out of 71 suspected cases there were 2 prosecutions.
- 3.12. The Lewisham Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) has a Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and an action plan which is in line with the London wide adopted protocol to address this issue. The action plan involves working with a range of partners within the Council and externally. These include: Metropolitan Police; Crime Reduction Team; Children's Social Care; local schools and colleges; Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service; voluntary sector providers; Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust; London Probation Service; Public Health; CAF/CASS; NHS England; London Ambulance Service; South London and Maudesley NHS Trust ; Youth Service; and Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group. The partnership is led by the LSCB. The action plan also includes detection and disruption activity by the Metropolitan Police, training for professionals and clear identification and referral pathways.
- 3.13. In March, there was a London wide campaign, "Operation Makesafe" which involved police officers and crime reduction staff visiting businesses including hotels, food outlets and general shopping areas. The intention of these visits was that local businesses be made aware of the potential for sexual exploitation and encouraged to contact the police if their suspicions are aroused. The campaign delivers the message "if you see something, say something". In addition to this, Transport for London as the licensing authority for taxis, has made contact with taxi firms as a specific recommendation from the Rotherham findings.

- 3.14. Since the last update the committee received in March, the LSCB has initiated an information sharing data base which tracks all children who go missing from home or care, are missing from school, are at risk of involvement with gangs and who are judged to be at risk of sexual exploitation. This information is shared with those staff in agencies who are involved with the young people and who are active participants in the plan to address the young person's vulnerabilities. The list is scrutinised by management on a weekly basis and each agency has to satisfy itself that the plan is doing everything possible to address the issues. The number of children on the list vary from week to week.
- 3.15. The Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People in Lewisham works closely with MOPAC (the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) and London Councils in relation to this issue and in understanding a clearer London picture
- 3.16. The LSCB has a comprehensive plan to ensure frontline practitioners in schools, colleges, health services, youth service and children's services are trained on the indicators of child sexual exploitation and how to intervene.
- 3.17. Future areas of work for the LSCB include undertaking some detailed work on peer on peer abuse as this is an emerging concern across London.

4. Further implications

- 4.1. At this stage there are no specific financial, legal, environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider as a result of this update. Full reports are due to be presented to the committee during the 2015/16 municipal year as per the schedule listed above.

Appendix A - Reducing offending among Looked After Children in Lewisham

Background Documents

The Children and Young People Select Committee Work programme 2015/16

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Katie Wood, Scrutiny Manager (ext. 49446) or Warwick Tomsett, Head of Targeted Services and Joint Commissioning, (ext. 48262).