

Mayor and Cabinet			
Report title	Comments of the Children and Young People Select Committee on funding levels for travel assistance and short breaks for children with complex needs		
Contributors	CYP Select Committee	Item No.	
Class	Part 1	Date	7 February 2018

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the views of the Children and Young People (CYP) Select Committee, arising from discussions held at its meeting on 11 December 2017.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to note the views of the CYP Select Committee as set out in section three of this referral.

3. CYP Select Committee views

- 3.1 On 11 December 2017, the CYP Select Committee considered a report entitled "SEND update on transport and short breaks".

- 3.2 The CYP Select Committee would like to make the following comments to the Mayor and Cabinet in relation to funding travel assistance and short breaks.

1. We have heard a number of concerns from parents about the effects on their daily lives resulting from changes to travel assistance and short breaks funding for children with SEND.
2. We appreciate that the current financial climate necessitates making difficult funding decisions in order to achieve savings and reduce overspends.
3. We have heard how travel assistance and short breaks provision in particular can make the difference between a family being able to work and not. Making savings in this area can have an undesirable knock-on effect for the wider economy of Lewisham, particularly where parents are no longer able to work, and become reliant on public funds.
4. We note a reduction in numbers of those being provided with free transport, but no compelling evidence that need has reduced.
5. We also note that there are proposals to tighten the criteria for eligibility for some short breaks, and that some short breaks may be reduced from full day to half days.
6. We would welcome a review of SEND funding levels, in particular of travel assistance and short breaks provision.

- 3.3 The Mayor attended the CYP Select Committee meeting on 11 December (under a separate item) to provide the Committee with his view of where the challenges for the new Mayor would lie. The Mayor's view was that Special Educational Needs

and Disability (SEND) was the area that had changed the most over the last 30 years. He acknowledged that the demand for places was increasing and that the complexity of need was far greater, and that this trend was likely to continue.

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 Committee.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to make recommendations to the Executive or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process.

6. Further Implications

- 6.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider.

Background papers

SEND update on transport and short breaks – report to the CYP Select Committee on 11 December 2017.

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Emma Aye-Kumi (Scrutiny Manager) on 020 8314 9534