Attendance and Apologies

Present: Councillors Paschoud (Chair), Clutton (Vice Chair), Britton, Handley, Jeffrey, Nisbet, Paschoud (Mrs J) and Till, Monsignor Rothon and Henri Webb

Apologies: Councillors Daby and Peake and Gail Exon

Also present: Alan Docksey – Head of Resources, CYP, LBL
Christine Grice – Head of Access and Support Services, LBL
Salena Mulhere – Scrutiny Manager
Frankie Sulke – Executive Director CYP, LBL

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2011
1.1 Subject to noting that Councillor Jacq Paschoud is Chair of Governors and Meadowgate School and Vice Chair of Governors of Drumbeat school, the minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Monsignor Rothon declared he was Chair of Governors at Christ the King and Governor at St Matthew’s Academy.

2.2 Councillor Till declared he was a governor of Kilmorie school

2.3 Councillor Jacq Paschoud declared that she is Chair of Governors of Meadowgate School and the Vice Chair of Governors of Drumbeat School and a Trustee of the Ravensbourne Project.

2.4 Councillor Nisbet declared she was a Governor of Forest Hill School and is a member of the management Committee of Abbey Manor College.

3. Response from Mayor and Cabinet: Specialist Provision

3.1 RESOLVED: The Committee noted the response, and agreed to discuss the matter further within their monitoring of the Implementation of the Strengthening Specialist Provision Programme in December.
4. **Implementing 2011/2012 Savings**

4.1 Alan Docksey introduced the report. The key points to note were:

- The original savings agreed by the Council for the CYP directorate was £7.106m
- It is expected that 98.6% of the agreed savings will be delivered, the only saving not to be achieved is “court fees for care proceedings” following a reversal of government policy
- There is a risk that the following savings will not be achieved in full: Serious case reviews being undertaken up existing staff rather than consultants (120k), increase in nursery fee charges (461k), increase in school meal prices (260k)
- The take up of paid meals fell by 2% in the summer term, but early indications this term are that the number has increased, as it often does in the winter months, to a higher percentage than was the case before the price increase
- All other savings have been implemented and achieved, or are on track to be achieved

4.2 In response to questions from the Committee, Frankie Sulke, Alan Docksey and Christine Grice advised:

- The downturn in demand for nursery places is in large part due to the rise in unemployment and families looking to save money in difficult financial times
- A growing number of children starting school who have had no contact with any services and who in some cases are lacking in basic communication and social skills - this is something that the Early Intervention Service will be looking to address through targeted involvement with families
- A number of families don’t take up the free early years provision offered, some working parents advise that this is in part because the am and pm sessions in school nurseries do not meet their needs as the all day sessions offered in most private nurseries do
- Providing universal free school meals would be a political decision, not an officer decision. The cost of providing universal free school meals would be extensive, would involve providing free meals for all those families that can afford to pay for them and a number of wider savings would need to be identified to fund such a scheme
- 6 organisations expressed an early interest in the lease at the Rushey Green Early Years Centre, 2 proposals were put forward but neither were compliant with the specification. Options for the centre are currently being assessed – informal feedback indicated that the organisations felt the staffing costs under TUPE would be prohibitive.
- CYP 31 and CYP 38 (2011/12 savings proposals) are being delivered by Care UK, although the numbers provided by Care UK are not currently what was anticipated it is expected to catch up to a total of 100 carers in 3 years, as planned.
- Officers will advise the Committee of the total number of staff in the CYP directorate that have taken voluntary or compulsory redundancy as a result of the implementation of the savings – the numbers will be as were outlined in the savings report considered by the Committee last year
- The impact of the savings made so far are regularly monitored to ensure that the anticipated savings over the three years are still on track to be achieved, there will be some additional savings put forward for 2012-13 that will be considered by the Committee at its next meeting
- Charges to schools for some services have been introduced as per the savings plans, a large number of the relevant services provided are highly thought of by schools, such as HR and governors services, and take up by schools has been high
4.3 **RESOLVED: The Committee agreed to note the report.**

5. **Early Intervention Grant (EIG) Implementation**

5.1 Christine Grice introduced the report. The key points to note were:

- The new EIG represented a 20% reduction in funding, which required Lewisham to rethink how services should be shaped. Eight key areas of early intervention work were identified and a focus on targeted services and targeted interventions was agreed.
- There are three goals for the new Early Intervention Service, which will be focused on the best outcomes for the most disadvantaged children and families: Improved parenting and attachment, Improved school readiness and participation and Prevention of escalation of need.
- The consultation and design of the new services has been completed and the service is currently an interim transition service, which will support commissioning of children’s centre services for operation from July 2012.
- The commissioning of Children’s Centre provision and Targeted Family Support will be part of a payment by results (pbr) pathfinder; in year one the providers will receive full funding and from March 2013 providers will be paid 70% as a block contract fixed fee with 30% paid on a pbr basis, with 15% of that paid on achievement of agreed/defined outcomes and 15% paid on delivery of agreed outputs.
- As part of a successful bid for the Special Education Needs and Disability Pathfinder Programme, officers will be looking at how to integrate services for children with complex needs more, to generate a more efficient and effective set of services for young people and their families.

5.2 In response to questions from the Committee, Christine Grice and Frankie Sulke advised:

- The diversion from care services are being developed to work with adolescents and their families at risk of becoming looked after and will provide intensive short term family support and key interventions – it is only appropriate for young people to come into care at that age if they are in imminent danger – staying at home with their families and working through the breakdowns in communication in the family, with the family being supported, provides better outcomes for young people – some parents need support in parenting and communicating with teenagers.
- The Committee will be provided with a formal briefing on the “positive for youth” policy statement development programme, recently launched by Government.
- The Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) strategy has been developed and work is being done with schools to increase their responsibility and capacity to support young people, and a new Youth Services Manager, Mervyn Kaye, has been recruited.
- The previous advice service provided by connexions was provided by Babcocks and commissioned by the council – 5 staff members were TUPEd from Babcocks to the Council.
- There were a number of other services operating from the same building as connexions including counselling, sexual health services, housing support and the feedback from young people suggests that they want a place that they can drop-in to access a broad range of information and services in a central location that is easy to access.
5.3 **RESOLVED:** The Committee resolved to receive a briefing on the “positive for youth” programme, to add a review of the Early Intervention Service to its draft work programme for 2012/13, for approximately December 2012, and to note the report.

6. **Select Committee Work Programme**

6.1 The Scrutiny Manager introduced the report. The Committee discussed the work programme and requested that, following on from discussions on the items on tonight’s agenda, the “childcare in Lewisham” item be a detailed report covering all available provision for under 5’s in the borough, including total places, provider numbers and types, and how this differs from the provision available a year ago. The Committee also agreed to take this item in February rather than March.

6.2 The Committee also agreed to keep a watching brief on the high demand for primary places, and decided it should be further updated after April 2012, after the applications for September 2012 had been received.

6.3 **RESOLVED:** To note the report, to move the affordable childcare item to February and broaden the focus of the report to include all under 5 provision, and ensure primary place admissions is added to the draft work programme for 2012/13 for early in that municipal year.

7. **Items to be referred to Mayor and Cabinet**

7.1 There were none.

The meeting ended at 9:20 pm

Chair:

Date: