

Overview and Scrutiny



Children and Young People Select Committee Agenda

Thursday, 12 January 2023

7.00 pm

Civic Suite

Lewisham Town Hall

London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Nidhi Patil (020 8314 7620)

This meeting is an open meeting and all items on the agenda may be audio recorded and/or filmed except for the verbal update being given in connection to item numbered 5 on the Agenda. For legal reasons, the verbal update will be considered in private with the press and public excluded.

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Part 2

Verbal update in connection to Item 5- Children's
Social Care Report

The public are welcome to attend committee meetings. However, occasionally, committees may have to consider some business in private. Copies of reports can be made available in other formats upon request

Children and Young People Select Committee Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Thursday, 12 January 2023.

Jeremy Chambers, Monitoring Officer
Wednesday, 4 January 2023

Members	
Councillor Luke Sorba (Chair)	
Councillor Luke Warner (Vice-Chair)	
Councillor Yemisi Anifowose	
Councillor Coral Howard	
Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin	
Councillor Jack Lavery	
Councillor Carol Webley-Brown	
Oluwafela Ajayi	Parent Governor Representative - Special Schools
Clive Caseley	Parent Governor Representative - Secondary Schools
Bryan Strom	Parent Governor Representative - Primary Schools
Monsignor N Rotheron	Catholic Church Representative
Rev. Erica Wooff	Church of England Representative
Councillor Ese Erheriene (ex-Officio)	
Councillor Mark Ingleby (ex-Officio)	

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MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 24 November 2022 at 7.00 pm

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Luke Sorba (Chair), Luke Warner (Vice-Chair), Yemisi Anifowose, Coral Howard, Liz Johnston-Franklin, Jack Lavery, Carol Webley-Brown and Monsignor N Rothon

ALSO JOINING THE MEETING VIRTUALLY: Bryan Strom

APOLOGIES: Clive Caseley

ALSO PRESENT: Dawn Atkinson (Lewisham Mayoress), Katy Brown (Advisor to the Young Mayor), Councillor Edison Huynh, Christina Normanto (Lewisham Mayoress), Sara Rahman, Councillor James Rathbone, Natasha Ricketts (Lewisham Mayoress), Angela Scattergood (Director of Education Services, Education Standards and Inclusion), Marvin Gordon (Young Mayor's Advisor), Jentai Gen-One (Young Mayor's Advisor) and Katie Wood (Scrutiny Manager)

ALSO PRESENT VIRTUALLY: Councillor Chris Barham, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, and David Austin (Director of Corporate Services)

NB: Those Councillors listed as joining virtually were not in attendance for the purposes of the meeting being quorate, any decisions taken or to satisfy the requirements of s85 Local Government Act 1972

1 **Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2022**

1.1 **RESOLVED:**

That subject to the addition that Councillor Webley-Brown be marked as having attended the last meeting, the minutes be agreed.

2 **Declarations of interest**

2.1 **RESOLVED:**

Councillor Edison Huynh, who was attending the meeting as a guest, declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5 as he was a Council appointed member on the Board of Youth First.

3 **Cost of living crisis**

3.1 Angela Scattergood, Director of Education presented the report to the Committee. Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director for CYP was also in attendance.

3.2 The Lewisham Mayoresses: Dawn Atkinson, Natasha Ricketts and Christina Normanto were invited to give evidence to the Committee and highlighted the following key points:

- They had been running a Community Food Store in Deptford for the last three years and the number of people needing their support was increasing. They currently provided food for over 105 individuals or family households providing food for more than 500 people per week, with 50 more on the waiting list. Emergency cases and referrals had also risen.
 - They were seeing families where the parents were missing meals to provide for their children and not able to afford food for their children. They were also supporting working people such as NHS workers who still needed the service to provide basic necessities for their families.
 - The store had had a uniform and warm clothing drive recently and items had been really needed by their families.
 - The Mayoresses spoke of people who were having to sacrifice their cultural beliefs to be able to provide food for their families even if it did not conform to their usual cultural dietary requirements.
 - The members paid £3.50 per week for access to the service and even that was becoming too much for some of the members.
 - The problem was not confined to Deptford where the Food Store was based but was across Lewisham and London.
 - The Mayoresses stressed that the fact that children in London were going hungry in 2022 was devastating and more needed to be done.
- 3.3 The Young Advisors, Jentai and Marvin were invited to give evidence to the Committee. They highlighted the following key points:
- A lot of school uniform has to be bought from specific shops and can be very expensive which is difficult for young people and their families
 - The quality of the school food for the price was not always very good and the portions were not always adequate size or was food that sometimes young people did not like.
 - Young people needed financial support to help their families.
 - Heating homes is really expensive and the pre-pay meters were needing topping up regularly.
- 3.4 Cllr Howard and Cllr Sorba highlighted the Committee's visit to Watergate School and the challenges faced by staff, parents and young people. A summary of the visit is included in the agenda documentation. Cllr Howard highlighted that transport to and from school was one of the key issues raised as well as the energy costs and accommodation challenges experienced by families.
- 3.5 Following all the presentations the following key points were raised by the Committee.
- The Council had produced webpages including information about support available and information on benefits. These were being publicised to schools. Schools were also one of the biggest referrers to food banks.
 - The Council had undertaken a campaign to promote applying for Free School Meals to families and there had been an increase in numbers who were now eligible and receiving these. Schools were also being resourceful, trying to maximise the resources they had available to support as many people as possible. The Council would continue to review if more could be done on communications on these matters.
 - Members of the Committee raised the issue of the cost of school uniform and asked if schools were carefully considering what needed to have schools

logos on for example. The Committee heard this was a decision for individual schools but many were looking to reduce branded items. Many Head Teachers were providing free school uniforms to some families and there were second-hand uniform schemes as well. The Committee and their guests discussed that this was positive but not necessarily what they were seeing happening and hearing from the people they worked with. Many families continued to struggle to purchase expensive branded school uniform.

- A member of the Committee commented that the scale of the problem was so extensive that he now saw students needing to access soup kitchens and also trying to eat as much as possible at lunch as they may not have food available in the evening.
- The Children and Young People Directorate would consider what follow up could be done following this report to further understand the challenges faced by families and schools.
- The Chair requested that the report and minutes of this meeting be shared with the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to contribute to their discussion on the Cost of Living Crisis.
- The report included a lot of qualitative information including anecdotal evidence which was really helpful. In terms of quantitative data, a Council-wide product had been purchased to try and coordinate data from different areas of the Council to help identify and focus resources on where there was most need, to help target results. This was in the context of the limited resources the Council had available so that they could be allocated in the most intelligent way.
- Natasha Ricketts commented on the standard of accommodation that many of their members were living in. This combined with the challenges of heating and providing food for the family was extremely difficult for some people. It was also causing a rise in people experiencing mental health problems including very young children. For example they had worked with children living in houses with severe mould problems.
- Marvin from the Young Advisors, commented that the fact that some young people had no money for a social life was challenging and had a negative effect on their mental health. In some situations, they couldn't let people visit their home either due to their living accommodation.
- A member of the Committee commented on the increase in Special Guardianship Orders that had been listed in the report. The Committee heard that this was as a result of a reduction in the number of children going into care. There was currently 451 children in care compared to 480 last year. Where possible it was always prioritised that children should stay within their wider family network if appropriate with additional support. The Committee requested that there was feedback to Clyde and a discussion regarding this matter as the comments from Clyde listed in 3.1.6 of the report gave a different picture that more support was needed. The Director of Children's Services agreed to look into this in more detail.
- Many schools gave punishments to children for not wearing the uniform correctly. This can cause additional stress and challenges to young people and families.
- Jentai from the Young Advisors commented that at the school he attended there was no school uniform and it reduced the pressure on young people and on families. He felt that at his school no one judged people on what they were wearing and it was really positive for the young people. Marvin from the Young Advisors agreed and said in Year 11 his school just made everyone wear all black uniform so it could be bought cheaply from any store. They both

felt schools did not really need uniforms anymore and need to think more about how children feel and the pressure. Members of the Committee agreed and commented they would like to see schools relaxing their uniform practices.

- A member of the committee commented that some children were working long hours whilst at school to help out with family bills and that LB Tower Hamlets were offering maintenance grants for 16-18 year olds of £10 per week. The Executive Director for Children and Young People commented that it was a very expensive support mechanism in the context of the budgetary pressures and ultimately would be a political decision as to what to prioritise.
- A member of the Committee asked about schools funding following the pay awards and what could be done to support them with financial pressures. The Committee was informed that the Government funding would be clearer following the local government settlement in December. The Council was conscious of the pressures schools were under and were working with them closely.

3.6 **RESOLVED:**

That the Lewisham Mayoresses: Dawn Atkinson, Natasha Ricketts and Christina Normanto; and Jentai and Marvin from the Young Advisors be thanked for attending the meeting and for their insights and contribution to the discussion.

That a copy of the Committee report and minutes be sent to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee for inclusion in the information they were considering for their work on the Cost of Living Crisis.

4 **Budget Reduction proposals**

- 4.1 David Austin, Director of Finance introduced the report to the Committee. Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director for Children and Young People and Sara Rahman, Director of Families, Quality and Commissioning was also in attendance. Councillor Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People was in attendance online. During the discussion that followed, the following key points were raised:
- Members of the Committee raised concerns regarding the saving proposal COM_SAV_08 of cuts to Lewisham libraries opening hours. There was particular concern regarding the role they were playing in “Warm Welcomes” and support being provided to residents during the cost of living crisis and that any cut in hours would be detrimental to this work.
 - Regarding All_SAV_01. This would be £2 million applied equally across all budgets to help meet the additional costs of the staff pay awards. In CYP Directorate, it would be applied across all budgets and mitigated by leaving posts vacant in certain situations and looking at agency spend and grades of staff. For CYP Directorate the total was £500,000 which was proportionate to the CYP budget within the scale of the Council budget.
 - Regarding CYP_SAV_04 Youth Services Review, members of the Committee were concerned given that youth services were part of the Council’s early help approach and played a key role in providing support for young people and families. Combined with the cuts to Children and Family Centres, members voiced concern that reducing spend in early help would lead to increased spend at later stages.
 - The Committee heard that disinvesting in early help could lead to additional costs, however, focusing on where to spend was crucial and the current proposals was

about re-balancing the spend in the context of losing budget to ensure as targeted an approach as possible. The Department for Education was providing investment for Family Hubs which would increase the overall budget to Children and Family Centres and could allow for more targeted support across all ages.

- A member of the Committee commented that Youth Workers needed long-term contracts and job security. There was a reduction in those training to be Youth Workers nationally. The Council wanted to look at other roles within the Council that Youth Workers might be suitable for such as roles within the Council's Adolescent Strategy.
- **The Committee suspended standing orders.**
- The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People highlighted the level of cuts to Local Government since 2010. Since 2010 budgets to Sure Start Children Centres had been cut dramatically since 2010. The Council was working to get additional funding to provide the best service possible.
- The funding for the pilot Family Hubs was for a limited time of three years and members of the Committee voiced concerns regarding what would happen after the three year period. The Committee were informed it was very challenging to predict future funding from central government but that the base budget would not necessarily be lost, so in three years' time if the national funding picture was different then new decisions could be made on how to invest.
- The role of Children and Family Centres in supporting families in the cost of living crisis was of deep concern to members of the Committee.
- Discussions were on-going with Youth First on management costs and on targeted versus universal provision. There was also more focus on alternative funding sources.
- Councillor Rathbone was invited to join the Committee to set out the process at Public Accounts Select Committee for any referrals on the budget.
- Members of the Committee were very concerned on the long-term effect of the budget cut to Children and Family Centres on children and their family and on possible increased spending in the future from children's needs not being met and unanimously agreed to refer CYP_SAV_04 to Public Accounts Select Committee.
- A reduction in the base budget of a service did not mean there could not be a re-investment in the future if there was a change in the national funding available.
- The Director of Finance would provide some examples to the Committee of where investments had been made to base budgets to reflect changing priorities and responding to new challenges and pressures.
- Members of the Committee were concerned regarding CYP_SAV_04 and unanimously agreed to refer to the Public Accounts Select Committee.

4.2 **RESOLVED:**

The Committee requested that the following comments be referred to the Public Accounts Select Committee:

- **CYP_SAV_01 – Review of Children Centres Budgets.** The Committee was concerned about the associated risk of the move to the pilot hub model advocated by government only coming with funding committed for three years and the potential long-term impact of the cut on children and young people and their families. The Committee was concerned that the cut could reduce preventative support and result in more significant pressures on other budgets should peoples' needs then escalate.
- **CYP_SAV_04 – Youth Services Budget Review.** The Committee was concerned about the impact of the cut on levels of provision for children and young people in the borough and also for the staff providing these services. The Committee was

particularly concerned that the shift to focus Council support on more targeted provision, with a necessary reduction in support for universal provision, and the mitigations outlined in the proposal would make the recruitment of staff harder for providers.

- **COM_SAV_08 – Reduction in Opening Hours at Lewisham Libraries.** The Committee was concerned regarding any reduction in opening hours at Lewisham libraries considering the important role libraries played on a range of services and in particular in their part in the response to the cost of living crisis and the Council’s strategy on “Warm Welcomes”.

5 Select Committee work programme

5.1 Councillor Luke Sorba introduced the report to the Committee and explained that the Children’s Social Care Improvement Report had been postponed until the January meeting and that he therefore proposed that the item on Youth First be moved to the March meeting of the Committee to enable enough time for consideration of each item.

5.2 RESOLVED:

That the item on Youth First on the Select Committee work programme be moved from the January meeting to the March meeting of the Select Committee.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____



Children and Young People Select Committee

Declarations of Interest

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Director of Law, Governance and Elections

Outline and recommendations

Members are asked to declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda.

1. Summary

1.1. Members must declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda. There are three types of personal interest referred to in the Council's Member Code of Conduct:

- (1) Disclosable pecuniary interests
- (2) Other registerable interests
- (3) Non-registerable interests.

1.2. Further information on these is provided in the body of this report.

2. Recommendation

2.1. Members are asked to declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda.

3. Disclosable pecuniary interests

3.1 These are defined by regulation as:

- (a) Employment, trade, profession or vocation of a relevant person* for profit or gain
- (b) Sponsorship –payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than by the Council) within the 12 months prior to giving notice for inclusion in the register in respect of expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses (including payment or financial benefit from a Trade Union).
- (c) Undischarged contracts between a relevant person* (or a firm in which they are a partner or a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest) and the Council for goods, services or works.
- (d) Beneficial interests in land in the borough.
- (e) Licence to occupy land in the borough for one month or more.
- (f) Corporate tenancies – any tenancy, where to the member’s knowledge, the Council is landlord and the tenant is a firm in which the relevant person* is a partner, a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest.
- (g) Beneficial interest in securities of a body where:
 - (a) that body to the member’s knowledge has a place of business or land in the borough; and
 - (b) either:
 - (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person* has a beneficial interest exceeds 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that class.

*A relevant person is the member, their spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom they live as spouse or civil partner.

4. Other registerable interests

4.1 The Lewisham Member Code of Conduct requires members also to register the following interests:

- (a) Membership or position of control or management in a body to which you were appointed or nominated by the Council
- (b) Any body exercising functions of a public nature or directed to charitable purposes, or whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy, including any political party
- (c) Any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25.

5. Non registerable interests

- 5.1. Occasions may arise when a matter under consideration would or would be likely to affect the wellbeing of a member, their family, friend or close associate more than it would affect the wellbeing of those in the local area generally, but which is not required to be registered in the Register of Members' Interests (for example a matter concerning the closure of a school at which a Member's child attends).

6. Declaration and impact of interest on members' participation

- 6.1. Where a member has any registerable interest in a matter and they are present at a meeting at which that matter is to be discussed, they must declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered. The declaration will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the matter is a disclosable pecuniary interest the member must take not part in consideration of the matter and withdraw from the room before it is considered. They must not seek improperly to influence the decision in any way. **Failure to declare such an interest which has not already been entered in the Register of Members' Interests, or participation where such an interest exists, is liable to prosecution and on conviction carries a fine of up to £5000**
- 6.2. Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest they must still declare the nature of the interest to the meeting at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered, but they may stay in the room, participate in consideration of the matter and vote on it unless paragraph 6.3 below applies.
- 6.3. Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest, the member must consider whether a reasonable member of the public in possession of the facts would think that their interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair the member's judgement of the public interest. If so, the member must withdraw and take no part in consideration of the matter nor seek to influence the outcome improperly.
- 6.4. If a non-registerable interest arises which affects the wellbeing of a member, their, family, friend or close associate more than it would affect those in the local area generally, then the provisions relating to the declarations of interest and withdrawal apply as if it were a registerable interest.
- 6.5. Decisions relating to declarations of interests are for the member's personal judgement, though in cases of doubt they may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

7. Sensitive information

- 7.1. There are special provisions relating to sensitive interests. These are interests the disclosure of which would be likely to expose the member to risk of violence or intimidation where the Monitoring Officer has agreed that such interest need not be registered. Members with such an interest are referred to the Code and advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance.

8. Exempt categories

- 8.1. There are exemptions to these provisions allowing members to participate in decisions notwithstanding interests that would otherwise prevent them doing so. These include:-
- (a) Housing – holding a tenancy or lease with the Council unless the matter relates to your particular tenancy or lease; (subject to arrears exception)
 - (b) School meals, school transport and travelling expenses; if you are a parent or

guardian of a child in full time education, or a school governor unless the matter relates particularly to the school your child attends or of which you are a governor

- (c) Statutory sick pay; if you are in receipt
- (d) Allowances, payment or indemnity for members
- (e) Ceremonial honours for members
- (f) Setting Council Tax or precept (subject to arrears exception).

9. Report author and contact

- 9.1. Jeremy Chambers, Director of Law, Governance and Elections
jeremy.chambers@lewisham.gov.uk, 020 8314 7648



Children & Young People's Select Committee

Tackling Race Inequality in Lewisham Schools

Date: December 2022

Key decision: No.

Ward(s) affected: all

Contributors: Sandra Roberts, Director Lewisham Learning

Outline and recommendations

This report seeks to provide an update on the work schools and the Council is currently doing to address race inequality and to improve educational outcomes for Black Caribbean Heritage pupils.

1. Summary

- 1.1. There is a Council-wide commitment to tackling race inequalities, which includes work in various services across the Council and a key piece of this work is actively tackling race inequality in our schools. A steering group of Head Teachers, stakeholders and local authority officers has been working to drive this work forward. Tackling race inequality is a three year approach, funded by Lewisham Learning involving all Lewisham schools and the college. It started in September 2021.
- 1.2. The approach is based on the recommendations of national and local research and focuses on Black Caribbean pupils. The main aims are to:
 - Close the historic attainment gap which was 7-10% at the start of the programme and improve life chances;
 - Tackle systemic bias and racism;
 - Address and reduce disproportionately high rates of exclusions.
 - Support parents and communities;
- 1.3. Following initial research recommendations emerged which led to the development of a three year action plan which is now in its second year.
- 1.4. In June 2022 the steering group commissioned an expert consultant, Michael Keating, to undertake a midterm review of the programme. (Appendix 2 for a summary).
- 1.5. We are seeking to evaluate the evidenced-based activity that research tells us will secure long term improved outcomes for Black pupils. We recognise that this work is part of a long term commitment to a programme of improvement. Measuring impact, particularly in the context of the pandemic is a challenge and it must be noted that data included here is still unvalidated.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members are asked to note the information contained in the report

3. Background

- 3.1. Nationally certain groups identified by ethnicity underachieve at school and one of the groups which have been impacted by this across London and indeed across the country are children and young people with a Black Caribbean heritage. This has been recognised in many reviews and reports over the years. This issue has also been recognised previously by the CYP Select Committee.
- 3.2. Young people with a Black Caribbean heritage, including those with a mixed heritage background constitute nearly a quarter of the school population in Lewisham.
- 3.3. Over the last few years the Council, through Lewisham Learning have been working with schools across the borough to address concerns about race equality and in particular the educational outcomes of pupils with a Black Caribbean heritage. As part of this work recent research in this area has been considered in addition to good practice in other Local Authority areas and specific research in Lewisham was carried out for Lewisham.
- 3.4. Lewisham is an open borough that celebrates diversity, and has a history of standing up to racism and inequalities, from the Battle of Lewisham in 1977 to more recently becoming a Borough of Sanctuary.
- 3.5. There is a Council-wide commitment to tackling race inequalities, which includes work in various services across the Council and a key piece of this work is actively tackling race inequality in our schools, bringing new energy, expertise and a fresh collaborative approach.
- 3.6. This project is linking with “Birmingham and Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review “

4. Overview of the work to Tackle Race Inequality in Lewisham Schools and Colleges

- 4.1. The starting point for the initiative was an Executive Directors’ meeting for school leaders in July 2020.
- 4.2. Following the meeting a steering group of headteachers and officers was formed and agreed to commission an eminent academic, to carry out research in Lewisham that led to the report “Embedding Race Equality in Lewisham Schools” published in September 2020.
- 4.3. The main findings of the report were used by the steering group to shape the development of a three year action plan which included the following initial 3 actions that were implemented in year 1.
 1. To appoint a part time project manager.
 2. To develop a “Pledge” setting out the commitment to change. This has been signed and adopted by all Lewisham schools and colleges [Race Equality Pledge A3.pdf](#)
 3. To ask all schools to send a letter (signed by the mayor, lead member, executive director and chair of Lewisham Learning) to all parents, setting out the case for change. The letter was sent on 22 June 2021, Windrush Day, [Race Equality Letter.pdf](#)
- 4.4. In June 2022 the steering group commissioned an expert consultant, Michael Keating, to undertake a midterm review of the programme. (Appendix 2 for a summary). The report is based predominately on a series of interviews with a range of the key local

players. It says-

“The vision set out for ‘Tackling Race Inequality in Education’ (TRIIE) is an ambitious one, articulating as it does that ‘we need to lead the way and be in the vanguard of driving change.’ The aim of the evaluation has been to understand and agree:

- What’s been happening?*
- What’s been working and what hasn’t? Why?*
- What should the next steps be for the second half of the project?*

It should not be forgotten that the TRIIE work has been initiated and developed over the last two years of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns. The following conclusions are offered:

- The Pledge signed by 100% of schools provides a strong foundation and should not be underestimated as both an important symbol and a spur to action.*
- The understanding and debates about equality and race at the heart of TRIIE are difficult shaped as they are by community and personal experiences (both bad and good) but the Steering Group should not be afraid of exploring their complexity.*
- The Steering Group is Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic led and this is itself an important symbol and spur to new ways of working and thinking.*
- It feels too early to make grand claims about the impact, but enough work has already taken place or is planned to allow greater clarity over the coming year.*
- This will require further reflection by the Steering Group about how it operates, the measures it wishes to use and the outcomes desired.*
- Even in a difficult national policy and service context for local government, the local authority has a key role*
- There is (always) more to do in strengthening trust and relationships – among the Steering Group itself, with all Heads and schools, the breadth of local authority services and the community itself – and continually teasing out the tensions is vital.*
- While ‘education’ and ‘race’ are the starting points these are not discrete entities (either conceptually or practically) so seeking to make the right connections with ideas, policies, organisations and people both within and outside Lewisham can only enhance the work.*
- The needs of Black children and young people are at the heart of TRIIE but getting the policy and delivery of this work right (and indeed being honest about what might go wrong) must benefit the needs of children and young people from all backgrounds in the borough”.*

5. Strand updates

- 5.1. The steering group acknowledge that no single initiative will bring about the change needed. Work has focused around **4 strands**.
- 5.2. Each strand is led by school leaders and has a full programme of actions planned and underway. They include:

Curriculum - How can we make sure that the curriculum better reflects our communities here in Lewisham?

Actions

- A “Race Equality Audit Tool” has been created for schools to use to evaluate their curriculum
- A training Package for Curriculum Leads is being delivered by Dr Muna Abdi
- Peoplescape Theatre has developed a drama piece based on reminiscences of Black African Caribbean elders which has been used in 20 schools.

Peoplescape were successful in securing funding from the Borough of Culture to allow us to present a public performance of *A Place For Me* – the professional performance element of the Migration Stories project at the Migration Museum in December. There were also performances from two primary schools and one secondary school who have taken part in the project;

- Two high profile “Decolonising the Curriculum Conferences” have taken place with nationally renowned speakers. Both conferences were attended by over 100 school leaders, staff, governors, key stakeholders and councillors.

Relationships - How can we make sure that the relationships between teachers and students are positive and productive and backed up by the right school policies?
<https://schoolsservices.lewisham.gov.uk/Page/21670>

Actions to date

- Inclusion Leads and LA officers are developing principles and guidance for schools on creating and implementing effective behaviour policies
- A training package for Inclusion Leads is being delivered to teachers
- A Pupil and staff survey was carried out during June/July 2021 and again in July 2022 to provide a baseline to measure progress against.(see appendix 1)
- The Young Mayors Team has produced a video to support pupil voice and provide teachers with a valuable teaching resource. This will be launched in the new year
- The Young Mayors Team have also been working with groups of pupils in Lewisham secondary schools to explore and discuss issues of race and inequality.
- Racial Literacy training is planned to run alongside the launch of the Pupil voice film and Teacher’s pack at the Migration Museum in January 2023

Parents and Community - How can we make sure that our schools are linked up with parents and the community?
<https://schoolsservices.lewisham.gov.uk/Page/21672>

Actions to date

- A “community conversation spaces framework” has been developed to enable important regular communication between school leaders and communities to take place.
- Training for the “community conversations” took place and a pilot ran in 5 schools in January 2022.
- The successful pilot is now being extended to a further 5 schools
- Community leaders are being kept abreast of developments. The project manager and others are attending meetings arranged by Lewisham Black parents Forum, Ubuntu and others.
- A ground breaking new partnership aimed at supporting Black Caribbean and dual heritage (Black Caribbean/White) pupils in Lewisham was launched in September 2021 called the Lewisham Young Leaders Academy.

Leadership - How can we make sure that more of our black staff progress to senior leadership jobs; there are more black parents and community members on governing boards; that school leaders have engaged with racial literacy and bias

training; that we know and understand any barriers to tackling race inequality, at school level, and provide appropriate bespoke support to school leaders and governors where it is needed <https://schoolsservices.lewisham.gov.uk/Page/21668>

Actions to date

- The Pledge has been developed and endorsed by all schools and governing bodies
- The letter to parents/carers was sent out on Windrush Day, 22nd June.
- Race Equality Training for more than 100 governors has been delivered
- A two year intensive Leadership Programme has been commissioned and is being delivered to all schools. So far 50 schools have engaged in one of two cohorts.
- A universal programme is offered to all schools comprising three two hour sessions. All schools are expected to engage with this over the life of the programme. So far at least 1 member of the senior leadership team from 85% of schools have or are attending. The remaining schools will attend in 2022-23.
- Members of the Lewisham Steering Group are founder members of a Pan London Group formed to tackle race inequality.
- Lewisham Learnings team of School Improvement Partners have all engaged with the leadership training programme
- Finding out what each school is doing to implement the “tackling race inequality pledge” is on the agenda for each school improvement visit and reports on these actions are provided for the steering group so that they know and understand what barriers to tackling race inequality, at school level, are and can provide appropriate bespoke support to school leaders and governors where it is needed
- A governors toolkit has been developed. This toolkit was created by a group of very committed governors who sought to ensure that every governor, new or experienced, has the use of the toolkit as a beginning to support their understanding of their school’s journey to meeting the Lewisham Race Equality In Schools Pledge
- Eight aspirant young leaders are attending a London South “Stepping into leadership programme” to equip them with the leadership skills, personal confidence and professional networks they need to make a successful application for promotion into school leadership roles and beyond.

6. Impact so far

6.1. Close the historic attainment gap of 7-10% and improve life chances;

- 6.1.1. A full analysis will be carried out when validated data is available in February 2023. Table 1 below shows only headline data from the provisional data available now. This data reflects the effects of the pandemic and, as elsewhere in the country, these effects are not uniform but usually have had a larger impact on disadvantaged students than those that are not disadvantaged. They vary greatly from ward to ward and school to school. When the full data set is available we hope we will be able shed more light on the outcomes in Lewisham.
- 6.1.2. The data available shows that on average across all schools gaps to national for black Caribbean pupils have increased, except at Key Stage 4, where pupil attainment maintained the same gap (-0.9) and progress narrowed to -0.29 from -0.63 in 2019. At present we do not know how this compares with black Caribbean pupils in London or

nationally. We do know that within the averages there is significant variation between schools. For example, in some Lewisham schools black Caribbean pupils achieve well in comparison with their peers and national expectations. In one secondary school the black Caribbean cohort achieved grades of up to +0.41 for progress 8 and +5.25 for attainment 8. When the full data set is available we need to investigate why this variation exists and try to find ways to replicate the highest achievement in all our schools.

Table 1

Lewisham Outcomes 2019 and 2022								
Attainment	Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Good Level of Development (GLD)		KS1 Reading, writing, maths @ expected level		KS2 Reading, writing, maths @ expected level		KS4 Attainment 8 Each grade a pupil gets is assigned a point score from 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest). Each pupil's Attainment 8 score is calculated by adding up and averaging the points for their 8 subjects, with English and maths counted twice	
	2019	2022	2019	2022	2019	2022	2019	2022
National		65	65	53	65	58	4.6	4.9
Lewisham		70	66	54	68	58	4.4	4.8
Black Caribbean		60	59	42	58	47	3.7	4
Difference to National		-5	-6	-11	-7	-11	-0.9	-0.9
Progress					KS2 Reading, writing, maths @ expected level		KS4 Progress 8 (Progress 8 is calculated by comparing each student's Attainment 8 score to those nationally of other students who had the same KS2 SATs results. This is designed to measure how much progress each student has made from Year 6 to Year 11.)	
	2019	2022	2019	2022	2019	2022	2019	2022
National					0	0	0	0
Lewisham					0	-2	-0.27	0.08
Black Caribbean					-5	-7	-0.63	-0.29
Difference to National					-5	-7	-0.63	-0.29

6.2. Tackle systemic bias and racism

- 6.2.1. The staff and governor training and pupil activities that have taken place and are ongoing are providing increased opportunities to raise awareness and reflect on attitudes, systems and beliefs but no hard evidence is available yet to show the changes we need to see. The 2022 pupil outcomes, (Table 1), midterm evaluation (Appendix 2) and 2021 exclusion data (Appendix 3) indicates we are on the right lines with significant more work to do.

6.3. Address and reduce disproportionately high rates of exclusions – Based on National data from 2020 and local data for 2021;

6.3.1. Primary exclusions (per 1,000) 2020/21

- The permanent exclusion rate for Lewisham primary schools remained at **zero per cent** which was better than England at **0.01 per cent** and on par London and Inner London at **zero per cent**.
- The suspension rate for Lewisham primary schools was **0.88 per cent** which is better than England at **0.99 per cent** but worse than London at **0.57 per cent** and Inner London at **0.61 per cent**.
- **Primary exclusions by ethnicity (per 1,000) 2020/21**
- The data shows **disproportionality** in Lewisham Primary schools for ‘Black African’, ‘Black Caribbean’, ‘White and Black African’, and ‘White and Black Caribbean’ background with suspensions (**see Appendix 3**).

6.3.2. Secondary exclusions (per 1,000) 2020/21

- The permanent exclusion rate for Lewisham secondary schools continued to improve at **0.07 per cent** better than England at **0.10 per cent**, on par with London. (**See Appendix 3**)
- The suspension rate for Lewisham secondary schools improved to **8.13 per cent** which was better than England at **8.48 per cent** but worse than London at **5.76 per cent** and Inner London at **6.42 per cent**.
- **Secondary exclusions by ethnicity (per 1,000) 2020/21**
- The data shows disproportionality in Lewisham Secondary schools for ‘Any other Mixed Black’, ‘Any other Black’, ‘Black African’, ‘Black Caribbean’ and ‘White and Black African’ with suspensions; also for ‘Black African’, ‘Black Caribbean’ and ‘White and Black Caribbean’ with permanent exclusions
- No student with an EHCP has been excluded in Lewisham in 2021 but there have been students with, or who have previously had, SEND support excluded or on a managed transfer.
- The main reason for exclusion appears to be consistent disruptive behaviour, with exclusions for possession of weapons or physically violent behaviour reduced.

6.3.3. We recognise that some schools have better outcomes in terms of exclusions and managed transfers. We are linking this to discussing and sharing behaviour principles, policies and practices to try to bring about more consistency across the borough. This will be a key focus of the TRIE steering group in 2023.

6.3.4. We recognise external issues such as housing, cost of living crisis and mental health needs all contribute to exclusions. We are using a new program- “Study Bugs” as well as including a well-rounded approach within the Early Help Strategy to tackle the family wide factors that contribute to a child being excluded.

6.4. **Support parents and communities:** While several initiatives have started to take place there is no hard evidence collected yet that parents and the community feel more supported. The 2022 midterm evaluation (Appendix 2) and 2021 exclusion data (Appendix 3) indicates we are on the right lines with significant more work to do.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1. This three year project has been allocated £300,000 over its term, to support its work. 2023-24 is the final year.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1. There are no legal implications

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1. Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities are required to have due regard to equality impacts when making decisions in the exercise of their functions (Public Sector Equality Duty, PSED). In particular, public authorities are required to have due regard to the need to:
- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The Equality Act 2010 identifies the following as protected characteristics for the purpose of the PSED:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy and maternity
- race (including ethnicity)
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

- 9.2. Lewisham Education strategy 2022-2027 reflects the Council's commitment to reducing achievement gaps and negative disproportionality in educational outcomes for specific groups of children and young people. This involves recording and reporting on data around protected characteristics by groups, as presented in this report. This data informs both how we deliver our business as usual functions and the development of strategies and programmes to tackle these inequalities.
- 9.3. The work of the schools' Tackling Race Inequality Steering Group is specifically focussed on addressing the poorer education outcomes achieved by young people from a Black background and in particular with a Black Caribbean heritage.

10. Background papers

- 10.1. ***Appendix 1 Summary of the 2022 Lewisham schools tackling race inequality survey***
- 10.2. ***Appendix 2 Summary of the 2022 Lewisham schools tackling race inequality midterm evaluation***

11. Glossary

Term	Explanation
AP	Alternative provision: places that provide education for children who are unable to go to a mainstream school.
Attainment 8	Accountability measure introduced in 2016. This calculates how well each pupil did across 4 elements (or 'buckets'): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English – double weighted and best result of English Language or English Literature; • Mathematics – double-weighted; • English Baccalaureate (EBacc) – three EBacc GCSEs (best results in science, humanities (history / geography) and languages); • Other best results in 3 other subjects
DfE	Department for Education: a department of the UK Government responsible for child protection, education (compulsory, further and higher education), apprenticeships and wider skills in England
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan: a document setting out the education, health and social care needs of a child or young person for whom extra support is needed in school
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage- learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education: main qualification at year 11 (age 16)
GLD	Good level of development: as assessed at the end of early years foundation stage
KS1	Key Stage 1: school years 1 and 2 (infants) (ages 5 to 7)
KS2	Key Stage 2: school years 3 to 6 (juniors) (ages 8 to 11)
KS4	Key Stage 4: school years 10 and 11 (ages 15 to 16)
Lewisham Learning	Partnership established by school leaders and the local authority to deliver high quality school improvement to all Lewisham schools.
Progress 8	Progress 8 is calculated by comparing each student's Attainment 8 score to those nationally of other students who had the same KS2 SATs results. This is designed to measure how much progress each student has made from Year 6 to Year 11.
PRU	Pupil referral unit: provision for children excluded from mainstream school or in need of specialist provision because unable to attend school
SATs	Standard Assessment Tests measure children's educational achievement in years 2 and 6
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability

12. Report author and contact

12.1. Sandra Roberts, Director Lewisham Learning, sandra.roberts@lewisham.gov.uk

Appendix 1

A Summary of the Survey carried out by The Centre for Education and Youth to help evaluate Lewisham Learning's work to Tackle Race Inequality (September 2022)

The Centre for Education and Youth (CfEY) has been working with Lewisham Learning to understand the impact of its work with schools on tackling racial inequality. To do this, school leaders completed a survey which was disseminated from July to September 2022. This is the second time we have asked school leaders to complete this survey, with school leaders completing it initially in 2021.

57 leaders across 48 schools responded to this year's survey, representing nearly 40% of the 122 schools in the borough.

This is a summary of key findings.

1. Black school leaders are 10% more likely than their White peers to say racial equality is an 'essential priority' for them personally. However, White school leaders were more likely than their Black peers to see racial equality as an 'essential priority' to other groups within their school.
2. Amongst SLT members of all ethnicities, the activity staff are most likely to see as 'essential' is embedding race equality in their schools' curricula and cultures (59%) and taking a whole-school approach to embedding race equality (58%). At the same time, respondents see holding other schools to account for their race equality as a 'low' priority (12%).
3. School leaders of all ethnicities report that there is a plethora of activities underway against the race equality pledge. The majority report that work was underway to embedding race equality in their curricula and culture (87%), taking a whole school approach to embedding race equality (82%), and targeting ambitious outcomes for Black Caribbean heritage and Black and Minority Ethnic pupils (80%).
4. Staff report that there is little being done to hold other schools to account, reflecting their feeling that this may be a lower priority in other schools than their schools.
5. School leaders are most optimistic about the effectiveness of their work to embed race equality in culture and curriculum and taking a whole-school approach to embedding race equality, with 98% and 96% respectively describing it as 'very' or 'somewhat' effective. In contrast, leaders are less optimistic about the work done to improve Black representation in their governing/trustee body and within the schools' leadership more broadly, with only 65% and 63% respectively describing it as 'very' or 'somewhat' effective.
6. School leaders found Lewisham Learning's support most helpful in relation to taking a whole-school approach to embedding race equality and embedding race equality in culture and curriculum, with 88% and 80% respectively feeling it was either 'very' or 'somewhat' effective.
7. When asked about the most useful piece of support from Lewisham Learning, school leaders cited: the training and workshops on offer; having spaces to engage in open discussions about race; and receiving support to reform school policies and diversify the curriculum.
8. When asked what additional support would be helpful, school leaders cited: extra funding for staff CPD; additional support with diversifying the curriculum and ensuring behaviour policies are not discriminatory; and the creation of working groups to share best practice.

Sandra Roberts 2022

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Appendix 2

Summary of A Mid-term evaluation of Lewisham Schools Tackling Race Inequality in Education 'Difficult things require a lot of effort.'

Michael Keating June 2022

The Report

Based predominately on a series of interviews with a range of the key local players this report provides a mid-term evaluation of Tackling Race Inequality in Education. Crucially it is the needs of the children and young people and their families that sit at the heart of this work – for their individual and collective benefit and the present and future of Lewisham.

Introduction

- 1.1 The vision set out for 'Tackling Race Inequality in Education' (TRIIE) is an ambitious one, articulating as it does that 'we need to lead the way and be in the vanguard of driving change.' To test how this is measuring up with practice a mid-term evaluation was commissioned to reflect on the progress of the key areas of focus and priority actions on curriculum, relationships, parents and the community and leadership. The aim of the evaluation has been to understand and agree:
 - What's been happening?
 - What's been working and what hasn't? Why?
 - What should the next steps be for the second half of the project?
- 1.2 To achieve this a series of one-to-one interviews, and attendance at the May Steering Group meeting, was undertaken with members of the Steering Group, local authority officers and a parent as well as a group discussion with the Lewisham Education Group.
- 1.3 Within the limits of this evaluation there is a richness of information and views which hopefully allow the Steering Group to build on their work to date.
- 1.4 It should not be forgotten that the TRIIE work has been initiated and developed over the last two years of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns causing major disruption to schools, their pupils and the wider community. During this time a substantial amount of interactions have taken place via Zoom and Teams enabling business to carry on but do lack the subtleties of face-to-face interactions which could enhance some of the sensitive debates that are at the heart of TRIIE.
- 1.5 The evaluation is structured on five key themes:
 - Understanding Lewisham the place and its people
 - Building on the opportunity of TRIIE
 - Leveraging the leadership of the local authority
 - Strengthening trust and relationships
 - Bringing it together
- 1.6 These themes are explored in more depth in the body of the report, but the following conclusions are offered:
 - The Pledge signed by 100% of schools provides a strong foundation and should not be underestimated as both an important symbol and a spur to action.

- The understanding and debates about equality and race at the heart of TRIIE are difficult shaped as they are by community and personal 4 experiences (both bad and good) but the Steering Group should not be afraid of exploring their complexity.
- The Steering Group is Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic led and this is itself an important symbol and spur to new ways of working and thinking.
- It feels too early to make grand claims about the impact, but enough work has already taken place or is planned to allow greater clarity over the coming year.
- This will require further reflection by the Steering Group about how it operates, the measures it wishes to use and the outcomes desired.
- Even in a difficult national policy and service context for local government, the local authority has a key role
- There is (always) more to do in strengthening trust and relationships – among the Steering Group itself, with all Heads and schools, the breadth of local authority services and the community itself – and continually teasing out the tensions is vital.
- While ‘education’ and ‘race’ are the starting points these are not discrete entities (either conceptually or practically) so seeking to make the right connections with ideas, policies, organisations and people both within and outside Lewisham can only enhance the work.
- The needs of Black children and young people are at the heart of TRIIE but getting the policy and delivery of this work right (and indeed being honest about what might go wrong) must benefit the needs of children and young people from all backgrounds in the borough.

In May 2022 a report from the Centre for Labour and Social Studies, The UK Race Class Narrative¹, captured the values and experiences of diverse working class people up and down the country to develop a new narrative that builds solidarity across race and class for progressive change. It outlines a core structure for doing this as follows which echoes the TRIIE model:

- Start with a shared value that explicitly includes people across lines of race and class (or residence, profession and commitment) to build solidarity. 1 <http://classonline.org.uk/pubs/item/the-uk-race-class-narrative-report-14>
- Narrate the problem and locate this in the roles and actions of individuals and organisations.
- Emphasise how collective action helps address the problem and implement the solutions that will benefit all.
- Communicate an aspirational vision, being specific about the outcomes that can be achieved by joining together.

7.2 There are questions still unanswered about when and how the impact will be evident but these remain up for debate and all the actors are still working out how to do this. Although TRIIE may not yet have completed its journey (which may well be a long one) the foundations are there to reach the positive change the Pledge and related work aspire towards.

8. Personal endnote

8.1 Travelling home after undertaking some interviews in the borough, I read a review of a new biography of the poet, John Donne, and thought the following excerpt captured an essence of what TRIIE could and should be about. It may be an odd connection, but I offer it as final note (of inspiration): It’s a place in which connections are everywhere, in which the material stuff of the world is always ‘speaking’ and pointing and cross referencing. In a world like this, you can take enormous risks in playing with concepts and images, because of a confidence that things join up

sooner or later; you can launch from a trapeze, knowing that someone or something else's trajectory will bring them to a place where they can catch you.

Rowan Williams, *The New Statesman*, 13-19 May 2022

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CYP Select Committee

Report title: School Place Planning update

Date: 12 January 2023

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: Whole Borough

Contributors: Head of Business, Infrastructure, Compliance and Education Operations

Outline and recommendations

This report provides an update on Lewisham's position regarding school place planning, specifically in relation to the changes to primary and secondary forecasts, mitigations in place and an overview of the changes being made to special educational needs and disability (SEND) provision.

CYP Select Committee members are recommended to note and comment on the contents of the report and the attached presentation (Appendix 1)

1. Summary

- 1.1 The report details the falling birth rate in Lewisham (and across the UK) and the impact this has on place forecasting and how the system is dealing with these reductions. It also covers the increased preference for Lewisham secondary schools and the work underway to increase the provision of special educational needs and disability (SEND) places within the borough.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 CYP Select Committee are recommended to note and comment on the contents of the report and the attached presentation at Appendix 1.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Ensuring sufficiency of school places contributes to the following key priority outcome of Lewisham's Corporate Strategy 2022-2026:

Supporting our schools to improve and increasing the opportunities for young people in Lewisham.

- 3.2 Specifically we are helping our schools plan for the future by ensuring that they know how many pupils they are likely to have and reducing the potential for excess spaces within schools. Additionally we are working to increase the provision for children with SEND to meet children's learning needs within the borough.

- 3.3 The Local Authority has a duty to ensure the provision of sufficient places for pupils of statutory school age

Place Planning Strategy 2017-22

- 3.4 A recommendation of the 2016 Lewisham Education Commission Report was for the Council to develop a new 5 year Place Planning Strategy that succeeded the Primary Strategy for Change. Officers reviewed what had gone on before and what needed to be achieved in the future, and the draft strategy went through a public consultation process. The strategy was approved by Mayor and Cabinet on 22 March 2017.

- 3.5 Within the strategy the council committed to constantly review its forecasting to ensure that the supply of school places met need as accurately as possible, as both undersupply and oversupply can have knock on effects on school standards and finances.

- 3.6 Within this the strategy also highlights the need to review the provision we have within the borough that caters for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), to ensure that the correct provision is provided in the right place at the right time.

- 3.7 The current strategy has just come to an end and future plans are included within the action planning behind the new Lewisham Education Strategy 2022-27.

4. Background

- 4.1 The UK and London in particular has suffered from two 'shocks' over the past few years that have impacted pupil numbers, namely Brexit and Covid.

- 4.2 Together these have impacted on both the number of families within Lewisham (and surrounding areas) but also the number of people planning to have families.

- 4.3 This has come after a near 10 year boom of pupil numbers which peaked in Reception

in 2017.

- 4.4 Alongside this, whilst our primary schools have typically had a very strong reputation, the Secondary sector had been less widely regarded.
- 4.5 A lot of work has been put in to ensure that we do not have excessive oversupply of school places in Lewisham, and that we take advantage of spare physical capacity to enable us to cater more widely for Lewisham children in Lewisham, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- 4.6 The presentation at Appendix 1 outlines the current position, actions that have been taken and what the near future holds.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1. Whilst there are no immediate financial implications for the General Fund, there is potential implications for individual schools who could be negatively impacted from falling numbers.
- 5.2. Where this is the case, there is an associated risk that a school in deficit could result in a pressure on councils overall funding position.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 The Education Act 1996, Section 14 lays you a local authority's functions in respect of provision of primary and secondary schools:

A local authority] shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary education and education that is secondary education by virtue of section 2(2)(a) are available for their area.

The schools available for an area shall not be regarded as sufficient for the purposes of subsection unless they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education. In subsection (2) "appropriate education" means education which offers such variety of instruction and training as may be desirable in view of—

- (a) the pupils' different ages, abilities and aptitudes, and*
- (b) the different periods for which they may be expected to remain at school, including practical instruction and training appropriate to their different needs.*

A local authority in England shall exercise their functions under this section with a view to—

- (a) securing diversity in the provision of schools, and*
- (b) increasing opportunities for parental choice.*

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities are required to have due regard to equality impacts when making decisions in the exercise of their functions (Public Sector Equality Duty, PSED). In particular, public authorities are required to have due regard to the need to:
 - a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The Equality Act 2010 identifies the following as protected characteristics for the purpose of the PSED:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy and maternity
- race (including ethnicity)
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

Equality impact assessment ('EIA') will be applied to future school place planning decisions with a view to identifying positive or negative impacts of policy and decisions on persons with protected characteristics, as compared with those who do not share that protected characteristic. This will be considered from the perspective of to the need to have to regard to the elimination of discrimination, advancement of equality of opportunity and fostering good relations.

8. Background papers

8.1. Appendix 1 School Place Planning presentation

9. Glossary

Term	Definition
PAN	Published Admission Number
FE	Forms of Entry
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SLD	Severe Learning Difficulties
PMLD	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
CfD	Centre for the Deaf

13. Report author and contact

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School Place Planning update

CYP Select Committee – 12 January 2023

School Place Planning update

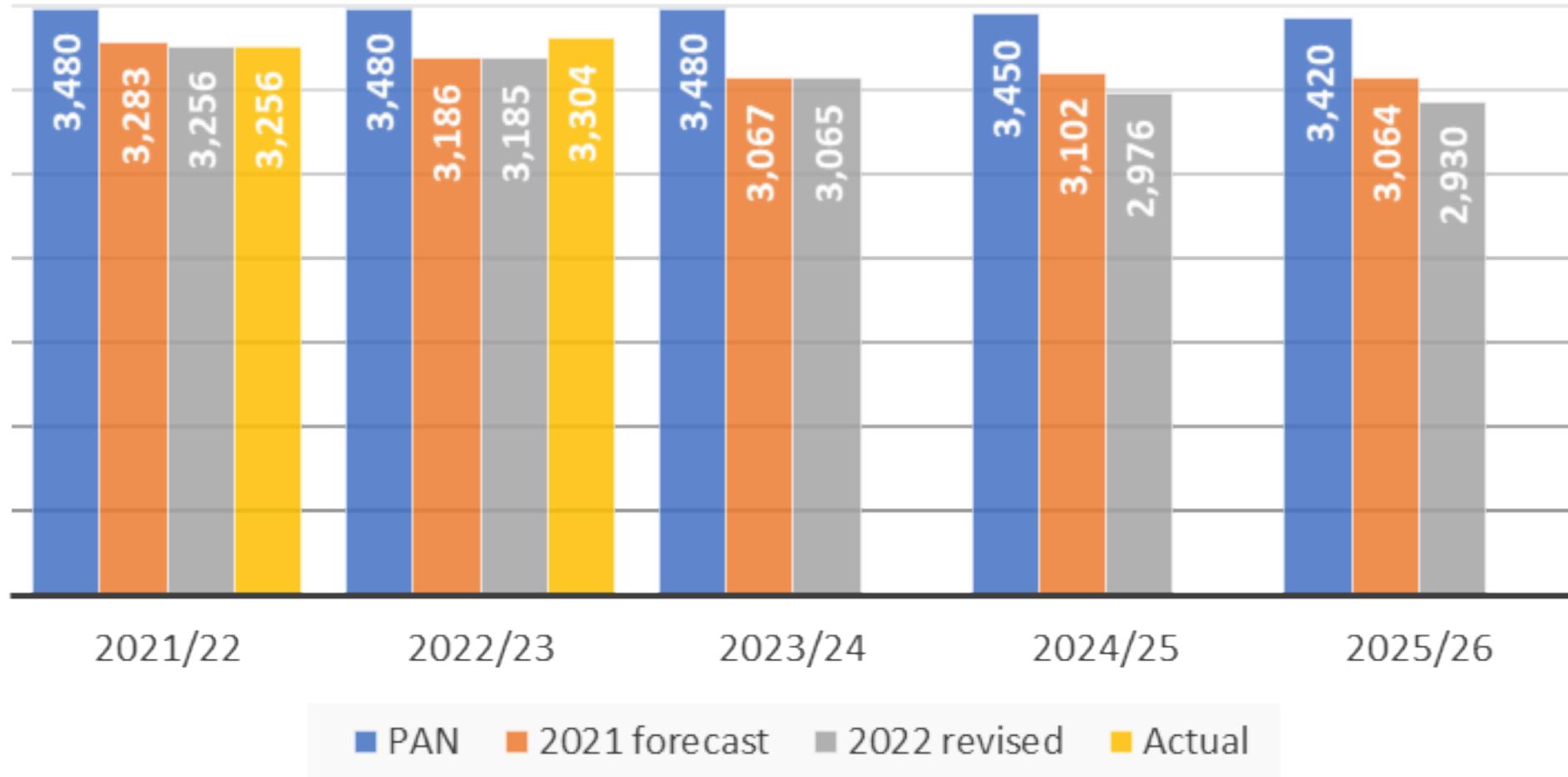
Headlines - Primary

- Following a reduction in forecast numbers we been utilising a mixed economy of reduced PANs and in-year caps – 17.5FE since 2017 peak. Prior to this reduction becoming known we would have been operating with a 5% surplus (in line with guidance)
- Since then, new forecasting has been revised further downwards and we are working with schools ‘at risk’ to identify the best options moving forwards.
- For 2022/23 we have taken out a further 5FE via capping which has brought the vacancy rate back down to 5% as at October 2022 according to our Admissions data
- It is likely that further action will be needed in the short to medium term as continued pressures are suppressing birth rates.
- Current data shows that Reception numbers are above forecasts at 3304 v 3185

Headlines - Secondary

- Following a series of PAN reductions in schools over the past 5 years (10FE total) we actually saw an increase in applications for 2022/23 and over-offered in 4 schools (Deptford Green, Conisborough College, Forest Hill and Sedgehill) for September.
- The net result being that we have formally added a 1FE bulge at Forest Hill and a 0.5FE bulge at Deptford Green, leaving us with 2% spare capacity for in-year admissions.
- Last year was the highpoint for the primary bulges coming through, so if 'throughput' rates continued then we would have expected this to be a one-off intervention, however early data suggests the total number of 1st preference applications for Lewisham schools for 2023 has only fallen by 20. It is clear that Lewisham Secondary Schools are becoming more popular in general, and having a full or overfull system is a nice problem to deal with.
- Current data shows Year 7 numbers are also above forecast at 2433 v 2359.

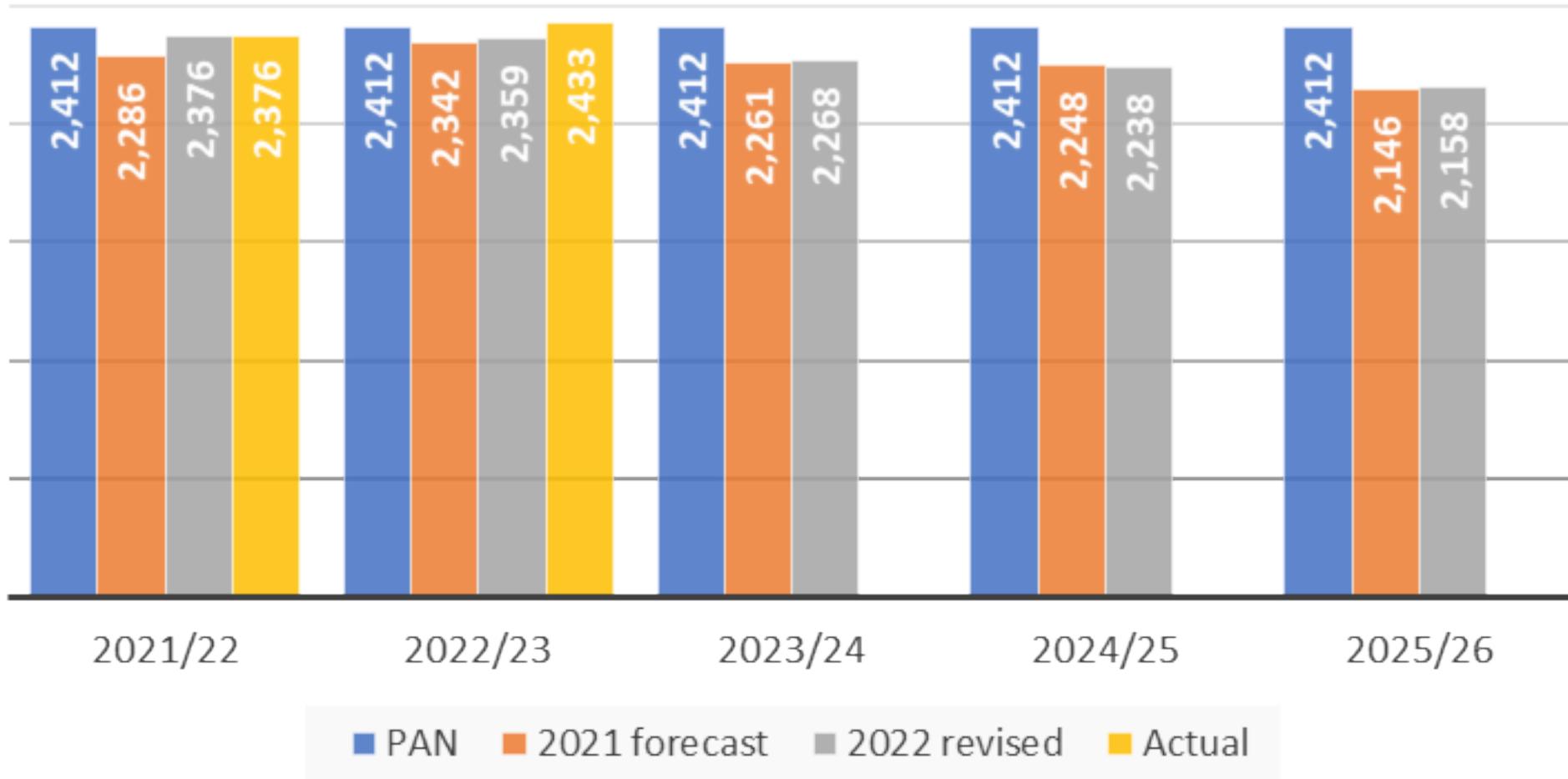
Reception



Actions

- Short term – Caps in place in for this academic year 2022/23. Conversations with schools regarding capping of places for September 2023 underway.
- Medium term – Working with schools to consider the possibility of in-year Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) applications for Published Admissions Number (PAN) reductions dependent upon application numbers, where appropriate. So far 2 schools looking to reduce their PAN in the future. Expectation that we need to reduce numbers by approximately 2FE per year either via PAN reduction or capping.

Year 7



Actions

- Commencing discussions regarding bulge classes and over-offering for September 2023 entry to be included as part of official offer round.

SEND – Special Schools

- Greenvale School expansion now complete – Total 230 places for Secondary aged children with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and/or Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)
- Commencing final design and planning for Watergate School expansion (with increased numbers) – Total 186 places for Primary aged children with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and/or Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)
- Initial Drumbeat School expansion now complete – Total 270 place for Primary and Secondary aged children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) needs

SEND – Resource Bases

- Forster Park Primary School Resource base provision opened – 21 places for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)/Social Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH)
- Edmund Waller Primary School Resource Base provision due to open Easter 2023 – 16 place ASD provision
- Rushey Green Primary School Resource Base changed from Centre for the Deaf (CfD) to SEMH as of January 2023 – 6 places
- Planned consultation for Resource Bases at two more Primary Schools this term.

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Children and Young People Select Committee

Annual Children's Social Care report and Progress on Children's Social Care Improvement Programme

Date: 12 January 2023

[Original Submission dated 24/11/22, paper updated for the current meeting]

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1 (Part 2- Verbal Update)

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors:

Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director Children & Young People's Services

Lucie Heyes, Director Children's Social Care, *with contributions from the Director of Families, Quality & Commissioning and the Director of Education*

Outline and recommendations

This report seeks to provide Members of Children and Young People Select Committee with an overview of safeguarding and corporate parenting social work practice in Children's Social Care (CSC) and an update on the improvement work carried out since last reporting in September 2021. The information in this report is based on the 2021/22 Annual Self-Assessment.

The Committee has requested some verbal feedback from council officers involved in the recent Ofsted inspection of November 2022. This information is exempt so will be provided in a Part 2 session at the end of the meeting. The Committee will be asked to agree the following recommendation:

It is recommended that in accordance with Regulation 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012 and under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the proposed verbal update from officers on the grounds that it will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) states that the information is exempt as it is relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

1 Summary

1.1 Children's Social Care Service Improvements

The improvement programme commenced in mid-2018 and the service conducts an annual self-evaluation, which our regulatory body Ofsted scrutinises as part of their inspection processes. Lewisham's last full self-assessment was completed in August 2022, covering the period January 2021 – April 2022. This report summarises the key issues identified in the self-assessment and progress since.

- 1.2 It is important to note that with the development and restructure of the Children and Young People's Directorate, social care for children and young people (CYP) is no longer provided exclusively by the Children's Social Care division. The provision of social work/care takes place via a range of services across all three divisions. The table below summarises where the practice is led from.

Children's Social Care (CSC)	Family, Quality & Commissioning (FQC)	Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MASH• Statutory social work assessments of need• CYP in need of safeguarding and protection• Children Looked After• Care Leavers• Fostering/Carers• Placements for CLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early Help – Family Thrive/Family Hubs• Youth Services• Strategic leadership of Contextual Safeguarding• Youth Offending• Quality Assurance i.e. <i>LADO</i> <i>Child Protection Chairs</i> <i>Independent Reviewing Officers</i>• Commissioned services e.g. <i>Advocacy, Independent visiting, young carers, Care Leaver accommodation</i>	CYP in need with complex needs/ disabilities & SEND

- 1.3 This report focuses mainly on the delivery of services by the CSC division, but also includes reference to activities carried out to a greater or lesser extent in the other divisions of the CYP directorate.

2 Recommendations

Members are asked to note and comment upon the contents of this report.

3 Progress on the CSC improvement journey

CSC had previously reported in September 2021 that we were on track to deliver consistently good standards of practice by the end of 2022. However, the chronic impact of the pandemic was unknown and since mid-way through 2021 we have experienced significant staffing challenges, placing caseload capacity pressures on the workforce which has consequently slowed down the pace of improvement.

- 3.1 We know from staff surveys two thirds of the workforce feedback senior managers are accessible, role model a clear vision and there is a supportive climate and a positive learning culture. Staff feel valued, proud and enjoy working for Lewisham (80%). Where we have more to do is on communication and only 45% feel their views are taken into consideration, whilst only 10% actively disagree with both

these things (the remainder were neutral), we would like a bigger proportion actively agreeing.

3.2 The Quality & Improvement Service

This service performs an internal quality assurance (QA) function and was relocated from CSC to FQC in 2021, expanding its remit. Quarterly reports collating learning are used to inform service and workforce planning. This year, caseload pressures have impacted on our capacity to deliver a comprehensive programme of auditing and feedback, or make significant improvements to our performance reporting. We have focused effort on ensuring our bi-annual Listening & Learning practice weeks are intensive periods of QA to review quality and progress at two points in the year, with a focus on thematic audits through the rest of the year.

3.3 Management oversight and supervision

This has been strengthened through embedding a range of management oversight panels, all of which are chaired by a senior manager. Panels require social workers and/or managers to attend and through the regular scrutiny and systematic monitoring these panels provide, we are improving consistency and reducing drift.

3.4 Remote working has made management oversight more challenging. As pandemic restrictions eased we resumed key activities in person and required staff to be in the office for 2-3 days per week minimum. 80% of team meetings and monthly supervisions are now held face to face. We have continued to improve the supervision framework by creating more supportive spaces for reflective thinking, to supplement individual professional supervision. Two thirds of staff report their supervision is regular, reflective and treated as a priority. However we know recording reflective supervision in a timely way still needs improving.

3.5 Workforce – recruitment and retention.

There have been gains and losses in the flexible working arising from the pandemic, whilst providing a healthier work life balance for many, the stresses of living and working through this period has had a chronic impact and has contributed to a national shortage of qualified social workers.

3.6 Lewisham has good commitment from its workforce, our Health-check survey found 62% said it was likely they would be working in Lewisham in 2 years time and our turnover rate is 11%, lower than last year and the inner London average of 17%. Lewisham also has a strong track record of converting agency staff to be permanent, (n.10 in 2021/22). We have held regular recruitment campaigns attracting 26 social workers and 22 NQSW's who started in the ASYE Academy. Despite this, in the context of a national shortage, recruitment has been the biggest challenge we have faced this year.

3.7 At the beginning of 2019, the permanent staffing ratio was 64%, we increased this to 80% in 2020, it has since fallen to 70%. Half of the drop is a direct result of increasing our establishment by two safeguarding teams to meet additional demand. Our agency headcount is comparable within a range of other inner London Boroughs. This has had a significant impact on caseloads and subsequently our ability to sustain the positive trajectory of practice development that we had seen since start the improvement journey. Through mid 2021-22 we have taken a number of actions to improve our position on recruitment, with a specific recruitment and retention plan and a board chaired by the Executive

Director. Actions taken beyond our standard recruitment activities include the introduction of Family Practitioners into frontline teams, a specific agency to permanent recruitment campaign, an extension of the 'refer a friend' scheme and we are also considering the benefits of an overseas campaign.

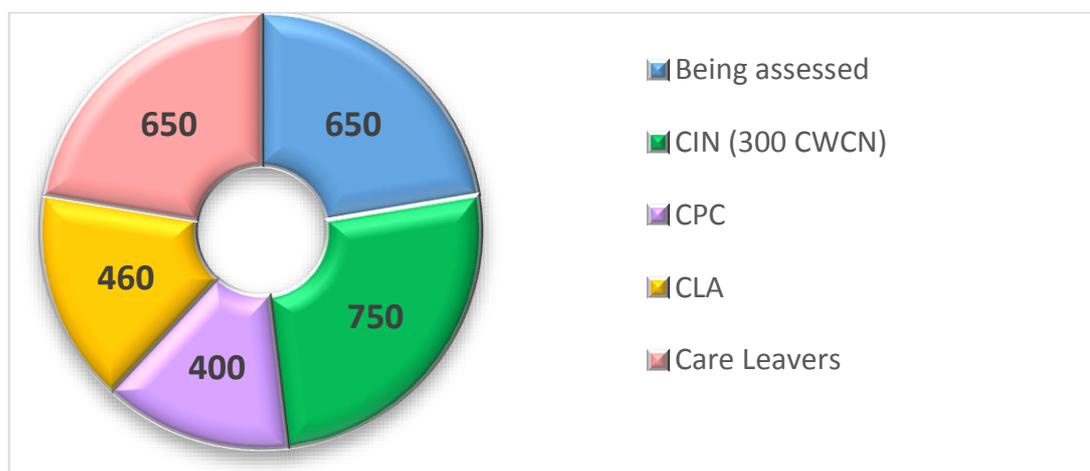
3.8 Workforce learning and development

Our Workforce Development Strategy was published in 2021 followed by our Practice Standards. 80% of practitioners report they understand the practice expectations but also report they need to feel more confident and have more time to put the standards into practice consistently. Learning and development activities through 2021 were restricted to being delivered online, diluting the impact. Remote working also presented real challenges for student placements and NQSWs. This has constrained us from driving up skills development across the workforce. Since April 2022 most training delivery has resumed in person. Through 2022/23 we are delivering a tailored intensive Signs of Safety training programme that will be in person for all staff, with the intention of further embedding practice quality.

3.9 The CSC recording systems – LCS, EHM and ControCC

These systems require continuous adaptation as practice evolves. Improvement work in 2021 focused on a rebuild of the ControCC finance system. LCS has undergone two phases of redesign and phase 3 commenced in September 2022.

4 **The Children and Young people Children’s Social Care are working with**



Data Source: LCS August 2022.

Key:

CIN	Children in Need
CWCN	Child with Complex Needs
CPC	Children subject to Child Protection plans
CLA	Children Looked After (in care)

4.1 Since the onset of the pandemic, data trends have been atypical. Initially in 2020, CSC accepted fewer referrals, to focus limited staffing to children requiring safeguarding, however later in the year, especially as more CYP returned to being at school, demand for CSC services started to increase and an upward trend continued throughout 2021-2022, it was not until midway through 2022 that we have seen demand levelling out, albeit at the higher levels of need. The increased demand is volume, but also greater complexity and seriousness in families, which Ofsted has described as 'hidden harm' arising out of lockdown. In particular we

have noted greater levels of need in children’s mental and emotional wellbeing/health. CSC are working with approximately 200 more CYP at any one time than in 2019, half of that relates to more need/safeguarding, the other half relates to high numbers of care leavers.

- 4.2 Benchmarking against other London Boroughs, in 2021 there was a marginal increase in referrals and child protection activity (s47) compared to pre-pandemic levels, which has since fallen back in 2022. However not all London Boroughs including Lewisham have seen the fall. Lewisham’s referral and s47 rate is in the top quartile in London. Lewisham also has the 2nd highest rate of Looked After Children in London, arising from the legacy of historical practice and insufficient preventative/family support services in the past. Across London the rate of care leavers has significantly increased and Lewisham has the 5th highest rate (18-21 years old) in London.
- 4.3 Throughout 2021/22 we have continued to work with CYP and families face to face wherever possible, with virtual visits by exception and meetings operating remotely, or as a hybrid. Despite the context, we have continued to embed Signs of Safety (SoS) practice, expanding and diversifying our preventative/family support service and introducing new protocols to improve our court work. Combined, this has enabled us to support more CYP to stay safely with their families, reducing the numbers subject to court proceedings and entering care. That trend is expected to continue through this year, as the table below shows in our activity forecasting.

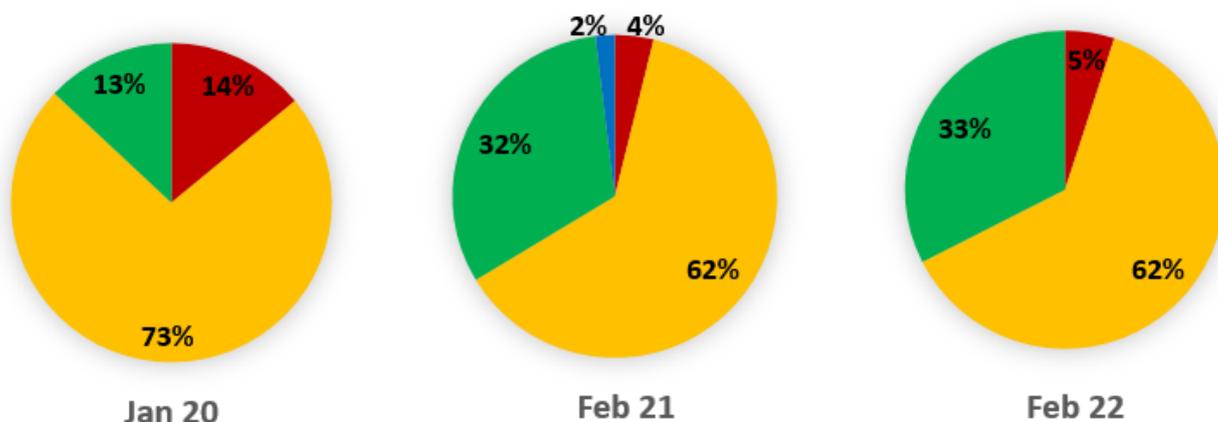
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Difference from 2019/20	2022/23 Q1 & 2	EOY Forecast
Referrals to CSC	3874	3153	4365	+491 (13%) ↑	2130	4400 →
CYP open to CSC total (EOY)	2590	2660	2800	+210 (8%) ↑	2900	2850 →
Assessments completed	4181	3711	4825	+644 (15%) ↑	2195	4400 ↓
CYP placed on CPP	326	336	458	+132 (40%) ↑	189	390 ↓
Court applications (families)	55	68	52	-3 (%) →	26	52 →
CYP entering care	218	179	218	0 →	87	170 ↓
Net rate of CYP in care (EOY)	69	69	70	+1 →	66	65 ↓
Net no. CYP in care	473	482	480	+7 (1%) →	467	450 ↓
						Arrows in last column compare with 2019/20

- 4.4 The caseload pressures arising as a consequence of increasing demand and staffing shortages, have been acutely felt since mid 2021 and the impact can be seen across several areas of performance and practice over the last 12 months. We have not been able to sustain the positive trajectory of practice improvement that we saw through 2019 to mid 2021.
- 4.5 Section 4 provides an overall summary of practice and performance across all service areas in CSC. Sections 5 and 6 provide more detail of our annual self assessment of practice across the safeguarding teams and in corporate parenting.

5 An overall picture of practice

This section gives a summary of practice and performance. In summary, through

2019 - 2020 we saw a marked improvement in quality, with 20% more practice judged as good and 10% less practice considered inadequate. However through 2021-22 some of our key performance indicators have dipped in varying degrees, but we have not seen a notable deterioration in the quality of direct practice according to audit findings, here there has been little change, with broadly one third of practice judged as good and two thirds requiring improvement to be good.



Key for rating/grade:	Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate
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MEASURES OF SUCCESS	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23 Q1-2	Target
% Re-referrals.	15	18	20	20	21	<20
% MASH decision in 24 hours.	80	93	93	93	96	>90
% Assessments within 45 days	80	79	90	87	77	>90
% CIN visits in timescale - FSS (4 weekly – note there is no statutory timescale for visits, 6 weekly is the general guide)	-	-	79	66	70	>90
% CP visits in timescale (2 weekly – note the statutory minimum is 4 weekly))	-	40	75	67	71	>90
Rate of CPP for 2 nd /subsequent time	13	24	18	17	TBC	<20
% of CPP lasting + 2 years	0.4	1.1	1.2	2	4	<2
% Core Group Meetings in timescale (12 weekly)	-	64	69	62	67	>80
% CLA visited in timescale (6 weekly)	-	84	90	85	78	>90
% CLA 3+ placements	9	6	7	10	11	<10
% CLA in same placement 2+ years	70	71	71	75	75	>70
% CLA placed 20+ miles from home	17	20	20	19	19	<18
% Care leavers in EET (18-21 yrs)	49	55	57	55	52	>60
% Care leavers suitable accommodation	76	86	92	92	93	>85
% Care leavers visits in timescale (8 weekly)	-	58	88	80	61	>85

More information is provided in the following sections to provide further context to this performance indicator table.

6 Safeguarding Children and Young People

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is a multi-disciplinary service, managed within CSC, MASH receives all contacts on CYP for whom there may be a welfare need or safeguarding concern. They review and action all new contacts

within 1 day of receipt, advising professionals and directing families onto the most appropriate level service.

- 6.1 MASH has sustained consistently good performance on timeliness (>90%) and quality on decisions making over the last two years. The Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team (EDT) which operates for Children and Adults services has been subject to some changes in practice this year, to better connect practice to the MASH. CSC is currently reviewing the best way to expand the EDT team, recognising current staffing establishment does not provide sufficient capacity to deliver a service that can respond to the needs of CYP and Adults simultaneously. It is an ambition for Lewisham in 2024 to transform the MASH and EDT into a single point of contact for a broader range of CYP Services (e.g. Including CAMHS). The early stages of planning for this started in autumn 2022.
- 6.2 Our partnership working with Police, Health, Education and Housing is a strength. The addition of a permanent education lead, CSC having a regular presence at Lewisham education meetings and the innovation pilot where a Social Worker supervises safeguarding leads in schools has led to closer working relationships with schools. Extended responsibilities of the Virtual School have also been welcomed and a Deputy Head for Children in Need (CIN) was appointed. Collaborative working between Housing and CSC through 2021 led to the creation of a joint protocol, co-locating professionals in MASH and improving processes for assessing and helping homeless CYP and families, including those with no recourse to public funds.
- 6.3 The CSC Assessment Service has been managing significant caseload pressures throughout 2021-22 which has impacted on its performance. We continue to ensure all CYP are allocated to a social worker within a day, however the timeliness of visits needs to be improved. We are maintaining reasonable performance on completing the child's assessment within 45 days, whilst just below our target we are comparable with other London Boroughs. The most challenging area has been in the provision of support to children in need following the statutory assessment, social workers with limited capacity have to prioritise child protection and court activity and Early Help services are still maturing.
- 6.4 We have seen a significant increase in child protection enquiries started and CYP subject to child protection plans. Some of the increase relates to higher levels of need in the Borough, however we believe there are other local drivers contributing to the safeguarding numbers, which relate to the impact of staffing turnover and caseload pressures, leading to heightened levels of professional anxiety across the system. We have taken deliberate action to stabilise staffing, thresholds and resume risk sensible practice across the safeguarding teams. The service continues to promptly identify and respond to risk of harm, Section 47 child protection strategy meetings happen in a timely manner and the majority include key professionals from the multiagency network.
- 6.5 Lewisham's strategic and operational approach to adolescent extra-familial risk has been subject to review this year, precipitated by the publication of Pan London Child Exploitation protocol and the creation of the FQC division. The Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) has adapted the former model known as the Concern Hub and introduced Multi-Agency Child Exploitation procedures (MACE) which are commonly used across London.

- 6.6 The Safe Space Service in CSC is a dedicated team working alongside the Police, Youth Offending and Violence Reduction Team for CYP aged 11 – 18 who are experiencing extra familial harm. This year in parallel with the strategic developments noted above, CSC refreshed the missing procedures in collaboration with the Police. Lewisham now has a small dedicated missing team, with practitioners who specialise in conducting return home interviews (RHIs).
- 6.7 In the previous year there were fewer incidents of missing, which is a trend seen across the country and was the impact of lockdown rules temporarily restricting people's movements. It is not possible to compare figures with time periods pre-pandemic because our recording systems have since been changed. RHI's are now routinely offered to CYP within 72 hours of being located, this year take up rate was 57%, a marked improvement on previous years.
- 6.8 The Lewisham Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Strategy runs from 2022-23. CYP Services are currently reviewing the strategy and the Lewisham adolescent offer, with a view to strengthening the prevention and targeted support available to CYP at risk of exploitation and those who need support with mental/emotional health and wellbeing. The support for adolescents currently sits in different teams such as the Youth Offending Service, CSC, Community Safety and Youth Services, and the review will look to align the offer to improve access and earlier help.
- 6.9 The Family Support & Safeguarding Service works with medium/long term children in need (CIN) and CYP subject to child protection plans and court proceedings. Caseload pressures were felt most acutely in this service and managers have had to prioritise navigating this and mitigating the impact, therefore again here this has impacted on performance. Senior managers anticipated higher caseloads which could lead to more drift and so increased oversight of those CYP open to the service over 9 months. We did have a small increase (2%) of children in need open over 2 years, but while 122 more CYP were made subject to child protection plans, the number on plans for more than 1 year has not significantly increased.
- 6.10 The legacy of the pandemic is keenly felt in this part of the service, significant delays in court arising from the need for proceedings to be held virtually during lockdown, have added significant caseload and financial pressures in several ways. The national average for proceedings has risen from 36 weeks in 2019, to 46 (2022), with many cases extending well beyond the average. The protracted nature of the court processes has meant that despite having very low numbers entering proceedings, we have a higher net number of families in proceedings and CYP remaining in care for longer. Social workers are required to spend more intensive time in court and on associated activity and from a financial perspective, more expert assessments are directed and additional legal advocacy /representation arise, at significant cost to the Local Authority.
- 6.11 In 2020 Lewisham successfully bid for What Works Centre innovation funding to pilot the introduction of a Domestic Abuse (DA) advisory hub to deliver training and create specialist workers. The external evaluation is still underway, but our internal analysis found very positive impact. Social workers reported higher levels of confidence dealing with DA. Of the 95 CYP considered at the DA Hub for half the families there was an increase in safety for the CYP and/or victim.
- 6.12 The Children With Complex Needs Service (CWCN), sits within the Education division to be closely connected to SEND and health services. Learning from

historical serious case reviews there has been an emphasis on partnership working. Care Packages for CWCN are discussed at a multi-agency panel to ensure appropriate outcome orientated services are in place. Adult Services are also on this panel to support transition planning. CWCN have also prioritised CYP identification and protocols for CWCN on rescue medication.

6.13 Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI), November 2022.

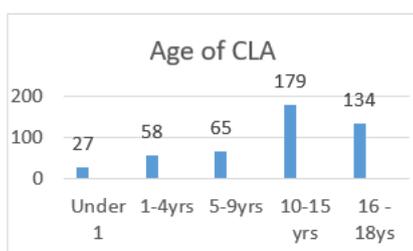
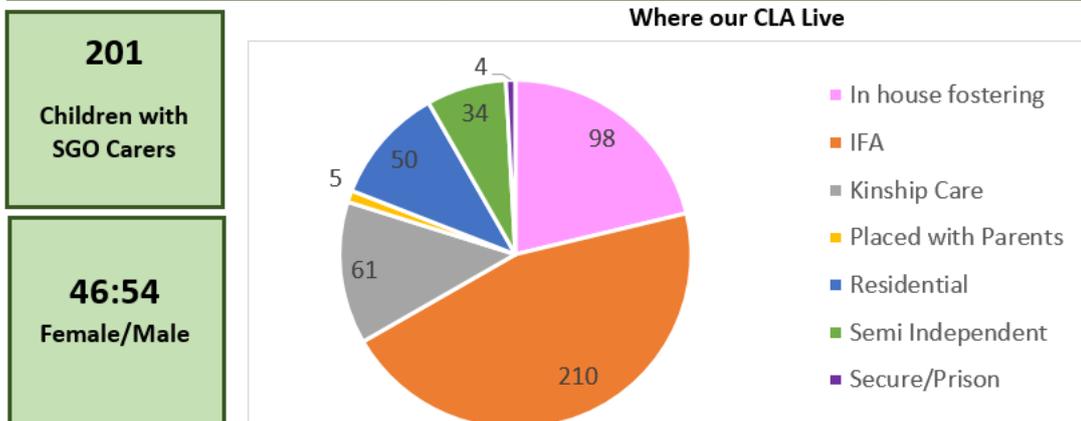
In November 2022, Lewisham was subject to a JTAI. This methodology of inspection is multi-agency, involving three national inspectorates i.e. Ofsted for Local Authority - CYP Services & Education. CQC for Health and HMIC for Police. JTAI inspections are unannounced, they take place over three weeks, they focus on a specific theme of practice and do not provide a judgement, they present findings and make recommendations.

- 6.14 Lewisham's theme was the 'identification of initial need and risk', which for the Local Authority, includes targeted Early Help, the MASH and CSC safeguarding teams. For Schools, the scope is narrowly focused on Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) role, exclusions and elective home education. In Health the 'front door' includes aspects of Accident and Emergency, School Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and CAMHS. In the Police, the Borough Command Unit working with Child Protection, Family Violence and Exploitation are the focus. [Joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to identification of initial need and risk - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-targeted-area-inspection-of-the-multi-agency-response-to-identification-of-initial-need-and-risk)
- 6.15 At the time of writing this report we have not yet received the formal feedback letter and so are unable to comment of the specifics of the inspection. However the verbal feedback received was in line with what we had anticipated and we were pleased with the comments made by inspectors during the inspection. As expected they identified areas for improvement, but these were in areas we had already identified.

7 Corporate Parenting of our Children in Care (Looked After) & Care Leavers

Data as at August 2022. Provided to October Corporate Parenting Board.

455 (r66)	77	65	75%	18
Children Looked After (CLA)	Admissions into care (5 months)	Exits from care (5 months)	Subject to a court order	adopted (YTD) 3 awaiting



Ethnic background

	All CLA	Not UASC	UASC
White	27%	28%	12%
Mixed	29%	31%	9%
Asian or Asian British	6%	3%	33%
Black or black British	33%	35%	12%
Other ethnic group	5%	3%	35%
Not stated	0%	0%	0%
Not recorded	0%	0%	0%

60 children (13%) with a disability

668 Care leavers 40:60 Female/Male	94% Living in suitable accommodation	76% Up to date Pathway Plan	96% In touch	263 (39%) Live in the borough	58% (18-20) 47% (21+) In EET
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7.1

Through 2021-22 we have been focused on delivering the 6 key aims of our Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-24 and awareness raising of Corporate Parenting responsibilities. Progress is monitored by the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB), which has a structure and forward plan constructed around the pledge in our strategy. The Child in Care Council (CICC) lead the first section of the CPB and the Lead Member for CYP services chairs.



7.2 Lewisham's Child in Care Council (CICC)

Elevation is the name of our CICC group for older CYP. The CICC are engaged in activities to bring young people together, celebrating successes and especially during the pandemic CICC provided much needed peer support. Regrettably, challenges in appointing a replacement participation officer to manage the CICC has meant we have been unable to facilitate an active CICC for the latter part of 2022. We still have much to do to strengthen our participation work and plans this year to bring together the Young Mayors Team with our participation officer is a step towards this. We are looking at a range of ways to create more spaces to give CYP a voice in service evaluation, design and become engaged in delivery. For example we aspire to have care experienced person as an ambassador and chairing the CPB, mentors and young inspectors.



7.3 The numbers of CYP in Care

The rate of CYP *entering care*, has fallen from 31 in 2019/20 to 21 (Q1 22/23) and is now below the London average and the net number (455) and rate of CYP *in care* (67) has fallen for the first time in several years, but still remains much higher than our Statistical Neighbours (r59), and the London average (r50) which continues to be a legacy from historic practice. The numbers leaving care to go home, or onto other forms of care e.g. special guardianship or adoption has also decreased this year, partly due to challenges created by the pandemic, but we still need to improve the timeliness of our permanence planning, build our adolescent service to support rehabilitation home options and strengthen our connected care support to help more extended family care for adolescents.

We anticipate the net number of CYP in care will continue to steadily reduce, because we are seeking fewer court orders and we know there is a wave of legal proceedings subject to delays in the family courts that will conclude in 2022-23, plus nearly a third of our care population are aged 16 and 17. However we are mindful that the increased requirement for Local Authorities to accommodate more Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) will impact on this. For Lewisham it means our UASC quota has increased from 47 to 69 CYP.

7.4 The demographic characteristics of our CYP in care

This remains largely unchanged from last year. Our age profile largely mirrors the national picture, 69% of our CYP are of secondary school age. Ethnically, we have an 8% less white CYP in care than in the local school pupil population and CYP of mixed heritage are over represented by 10% which is in contrast to a lower representation in safeguarding, other ethnic groups are largely representative of the local population. The data is not precise enough for us to know the exact make up of those who are mixed heritage and whether there is a particular group that are disproportionately represented. This is something we are seeking to better understand as part of our work promoting anti-racist practice.

7.5 Where our CYP in care live

Three quarters live in a foster placement, of which 14% are with a connected carer (family/friend), a 2% increase from 2020/21. This profile is comparable with other LA's, however, we are over-reliant on obtaining foster placements from Independent Fostering Agency's (IFAs), with only 20% living with Lewisham Foster Carers. 10% (No.47) of our CYP are in residential care, which is in line with others and has been steady in number. The proportion of CYP placed at a distance from home is comparable with other London Boroughs, but we have had a 5% increase in CYP placed outside of the Borough this year, as a consequence of local placement shortages. This presents additional challenges to ensure CYP have equitable access to services and creates increased cost pressures arising for example from transportation to and from visiting family and attending school or clubs, in order to maintain local connections.

7.6 Placement stability is a mixed picture, CYP in the same placement for 2 years + is up 8% and above the national average. But CYP who have had 3+ placements in the last year has increased by 2%, we believe this is connected to the complexities and behavioural challenges presented by some of our CYP in care and the nationwide shortage of placements.

7.7 Placement Sufficiency continues to be significant challenge for Local Authorities and Lewisham is no exception. For adolescents entering care there are now rarely well matched placements available, it is common for us to have to place CYP in the one available placement, compromising our ability to consider issues such as locality to school. Combined with a shortage of placements, there are increasingly CYP whose need are so challenging that we have had no available placements. In these circumstances we have no option but to create temporary bespoke unregulated individual arrangements, whilst we locate a regulated provision.

7.8 Creating interim arrangements is unsuitable and destabilising for CYP, extremely time consuming for CSC services and exceptionally costly to the Local Authority. Despite the numbers of CYP *entering* and *in care* falling and the proportion of CYP in residential care remaining steady, placement (an associated) costs are rising, in part due to market forces and inflation, but also because of the increasing complexities of the CYP coming into care. A particular trend we have noticed in 2022 is the need for care for adolescents with significant mental/emotional health difficulties and an absence of suitable health orientated facilities upon hospital discharge. Last year we had 3 CYP in placements costing over £10,000 per week, now we have 8. This is putting additional pressure on the placements budget.

7.9 We have been working tirelessly on our Placement Sufficiency Strategy which sets out 8 key aims. Additional senior management and commissioning capacity has been brought in to deliver the strategic aims at pace and a board chaired by the Executive DCS oversees the progress of the work. We are making headway, but many of the activities are medium or long term in nature. There are not quick or easy fixes, many aspects of the placements crisis are beyond our control. We anticipate announcements from central government in early 2023, in response to two major national reviews on the placements crisis and the delivery of CSC services, which it is hoped will lead to improvements.

7.10 Our Sufficiency Strategy aims:

1. Prevention Keep more CYP safely at home with their families and avoid the need to come into care unnecessarily.	2. Permanence Planning Early and timely permanence planning, so that CYP at the right time and only remain in care for as long as they need to.	3. Family & Friends Care When CYP cannot remain safely living at home. Support more to live within their own extended family and friends network.	7. Care Leaver & UASC Accommodation Develop a continuum of suitable local supported and independent housing options for care leavers to meet a broad range of needs. Ensuring timely transitions and securing tenancies that offer long term stability.
4. Foster Carers & Supported Lodgings Increase the pool and diversity of in-house local carers, so more CYP in care can live in stable family based alternatives, that help keep them connected to their important contacts and communities.	5. Placement Planning & stability Improve placement matching, to provide CYP in care the best placement options to meet their needs, keep them safe, and provide them with stability and opportunities to reach their potential.	6. Commissioned Placements Commission a broad range of regulated placements, which are of good quality and offer value for money to Lewisham.	8. Systems & Data Develop efficient systems & processes to: (a) support best practice, (b) minimise bureaucracy, (c) provide reliable performance data and (d) support strong financial management.

7.11 Key achievements on sufficiency strategy so far:

- ✓ **Prevention:** Expanding intensive Meliot Family Support Service and applying Signs of Safety to reduce numbers of CYP entering care unnecessarily.
- ✓ **Permanence:** Introducing new processes for permanence planning for CYP to exit care quickly into other care arrangements e.g. Connected care or Adoption
- ✓ **Family & Friends:** Developing our Connected Carer Service to support more families to look after CYP as an alternative to care.
- ✓ **UASC and care leavers:** Joint CSC & Housing protocols put in place and new pathways commissioned to expand the continuum of accommodation.
- ✓ **Foster carers:** Refreshing communication strategy for recruitment of foster carers. and opening Bromley Road building as a training and support hub.
- ✓ **Placement Planning/stability:** Creating provider forums and focus days on hard to place CYP, to build partnerships with trusted local providers to build Lewisham specific provision
- ✓ **Commissioning:** Changing arrangements to join a London regional commissioning alliance for placements.
- ✓ **Systems/Data:** Mapping the re-designing of LCS placements and care pathway, to streamline practice and financial processes, to improve tracking and forecasting.

7.12 Children in Care - Meetings and visits

Over 90% of our Looked After Review meetings are held in timescale, similar to the previous year and in line with others. We have made administrative changes to improve the timeliness of our Initial Health assessments, but this continues to be an area for improvement, whereas 90% of Review Health Assessments are held within timescale. The pandemic had a significant impact on dental reviews with only 51% completed in timescale, however this was 10% above the national average. The performance indicator table shows that timeliness of visiting has dropped this year, for caseload/capacity reasons already noted.

- 7.13 Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO's) have been taking steps to actively increase their footprint and are now more involved in management oversight panels where care, placement and permanence planning is monitored. IRO use of escalations has been deliberately increased to contribute to practice improvement. 129 monitoring notices were raised regarding delay/drift and 42 stage 1 escalations. Areas for improvement identified are; timeliness and quality of pre-meeting reports and care plans, delays in permanence planning, addressing vulnerability in the community, payments to connected carers, transfers and earlier allocation of personal advisors. Meetings are routinely held between IRO's, managers in CSC, YOS and the Advocacy service to address issues raised.

7.14 Permanence Planning

Through 2021/22 CSC took a number of steps to improve our permanence planning, streamlining processes, strengthening management oversight, expanding our Connected Carer team and increasing support packages for kinship carers. The impact of all this has been we have reduced drift and formalised arrangements through fostering panel more promptly. We increased connected (kinship) carer placements from 38 in 2020/21 to 69 this year and 28 CYP progressed from care into SG arrangements. Also 37% of those leaving care returned to live with family, 7% more than the previous year. We know there is more improvement to do in this area, this is set out in our Sufficiency Strategy.

We continue to work closely with the Regional Adoption Agency. The quality assurance group that oversees operational practice has established itself leading on practice improvements e.g. increasing the recruitment of BAME adopters and the Board in pro-actively engaged in steering the strategic direction.



- 7.15 While we have experienced a very challenging period, in July 2021 Ofsted completed a focused visit on CYP in care to seek assurance of improvement activity since their last ILACS inspection in July 2019. Ofsted's feedback was...

“ Since 2019, and despite the significant impact of the pandemic, the senior leadership team has improved services for children in care. Senior leaders demonstrate a clear focus on hearing the voices of children and have a clear understanding of areas for development that are being appropriately addressed”...“Social workers know their children well and are passionate advocates”...“Children said that they feel valued by their carers and are being well supported”. <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80508>

7.16 **Supporting and preparing our care leavers**



Note: Care Leaver data from June 2022

- 7.17 There have been many improvements in our Care Leaver/UASC Service through 2021, we believe we are making good progress delivering against the 'Keep on Caring' outcomes. We have revised our local offer and financial entitlements policy, completely redesigned our savings processes. To improve access to health support, we have introduced a jointly funded care leaver nurse post. The service moved into a refurbished building at Bromley Road in July 2022 and our intention is to provide an accessible and safe 'one stop shop' location for our care leavers.
- 7.18 Through collaborative work between CSC, Adults Commissioning and Housing Services, we have increased housing pathways for care leavers assisted by a dedicated housing officer matching YP to suitable accommodation and support. As part of our Sufficiency Strategy we are also identifying buildings which we plan to re-purpose, to create more capacity in 2023. We are just above the London average for care leavers in suitable accommodation.
- 7.19 Lewisham worked closely with Depaul on the I-Aspire programme between March 2018 - 2022. I-Aspire supported 152 Lewisham care leavers with ETE. There were 81 new starts in employment, 52 new starts on education or training and 41 have gained a level 1, 2 or 3 qualification, 13 have begun university or HE. As the programme drew to a close we have worked closely with Lewisham Works, DWP and the Virtual School, to transition this support. Lewisham is above the London average for Care Leavers in ETE.
- 7.20 We are now focusing on improving pathway planning at an earlier stage, a specific, supported, ring-fenced apprenticeship offer, transitions to adults services and achieving better mental-health outcomes. In July 2022 the care leaver service was assessed by Mark Riddell, who is care experienced and an advisor to the Department of Education on Care Leavers. Mark's feedback was positive i.e.

"Lewisham have acknowledged that they are on a journey of continuous improvement. The pandemic has placed huge demand on services and its impact is well understood...The local authority are clear what things are now needed to restart the care leavers improvement journey...The Corporate Parenting Board has a really good buy-in from elected members and I was able to see a developing Partnership Offer.

I got a real sense that personal advisers and managers are and want to make things happen for their care leavers...Housing came across as a very strong offer The health offer was good in that there is a nurse placed within leaving care which is exceptional practice"

- 7.21 Mark also commented that he was *“less able to see what the Adult Transition Offer... This was similar for mental health.”* He made a number of recommendations, we are currently exploring the feasibility of implementation.

8 CSC improvement programme & priorities for the next 12 months

The combined external endorsement and consistent feedback of (a) the unpublished Ofsted JTAI inspection on safeguarding in November 2022, (b) the Ofsted Focused Visit on CYP in care, in July 2021, and (c) Mark Riddell’s review of Care Leaver services in July 2022. Reaffirms that we know the service well, we are doing the right things and despite the challenges that we continue to face, particularly on staffing and in care placements, we continue to be on a positive improvement trajectory.

- 8.1 There is clearly more to do before we are delivering consistently good practice to all our CYP and families. Post pandemic with a stronger joined up approach across CYP and Adults services, clear strategic direction, stable leadership, more effective systems and a good workforce development approach. We are confident that we will recover the lost ground on performance, regain momentum on practice improvement and remain on course to deliver our vision. In 2023, for CSC we are focusing on the following for our continued improvement:

1. Deliver the Workforce Development Strategy to:
 - Reduce caseloads through a range of recruitment & retention activities
 - Resume in person learning and development activities
 - Introduce monthly frontline managers ‘practice improvement’ sessions
 - Deliver mandatory intensive SoS training for all staff
 - Extend our ‘Thinking Spaces’ to create more reflective opportunities to work with complex cases and plan purposeful interventions.
2. Strengthen oversight to ensure resources are targeted at the most vulnerable
3. Introduction of Family Practitioners into frontline teams
4. Continued development of the Meliot Family Support Centre, to support more CYP to live/return safely in their families.
5. Deliver Corporate Parenting Strategy to improve the experience of our CYP in and after care.
6. Deliver Sufficiency Strategy to improve placement options for CYP in care.
7. LCS system redesign phase 3 to further streamline recording processes.

In addition, across the CYP directorate, developments in Early Help services, the creation of an adolescent service and improvements to our performance reporting capabilities will further support the delivery of better services for CYP and families in Lewisham.

9 Financial implications

A report to Public Accounts Scrutiny Committee presented in September 2022, sets out CSC position on the budget and progress against savings targets.

10 Legal implications

The recommendations in this report have been considered, and observations have been included in the report. Members are asked to note that The Council must comply with its statutory duties to children and families, in particular those arising under the Children Act 1989 as amended, the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and related legislation, Regulations and Statutory Guidance.

11 Equalities implications

Addressing inequalities, especially those impacting upon our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, is a key priority for the Council and its partners. This focus has been sharpened in response to the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 has had on these communities. Any changes to services originating from the improvement plans will need to be mindful of this, with a thorough consideration of the equality implications for our most vulnerable residents alongside appropriate mitigation to reduce any negative impacts.

12 Climate change and environments implications

There are no anticipated climate change and environmental implications arising from this report. However, any proposed service changes or recommendations must be mindful of the Council's intention of becoming a carbon neutral borough by 2030 and observe our commitments in the Climate Emergency Action Plan that was agreed by Mayor and Cabinet in March 2020.

13 Crime and disorder implications

The work being undertaken on the exploitation strategy aims to contribute to a reduction in crime in the Borough.

14 Health and wellbeing implications

The improvements in services aim to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for our residents.

15 Background papers

See reference to the September 2022 PASC report and October 2022 Corporate Parenting Board report.

16 Report author and contact

Lucie Heyes, Director Children's Social Care.
Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director Children & Young People's Services.

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Children and Young People Select Committee

Report title: Select Committee Work Programme Report

Date: 12 January 2023

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: Not applicable

Contributors: Nidhi Patil (Scrutiny Manager)

Outline and recommendations

This report gives committee members an opportunity to review the committee's work programme and make any modifications required.

The Committee is asked to:

- Review the work programme attached at Appendix B.
- Consider the items for the next meeting and specify the information required.
- Review the forward plan of key decisions at Appendix E to consider whether there are any items for further scrutiny.

Timeline of decision-making

Children and Young People Work Programme 2022/23 – draft agreed on 29.06.22

Children and Young People Work Programme 2022/23 – agreed by Business Panel on 19.07.22

1. Summary

- 1.1. The committee proposed a draft work programme at the beginning of the municipal year. This was considered alongside the draft work programmes of the other select committees and agreed by Business Panel on 19 July 2022.

- 1.2. The work programme should be reviewed at each meeting to take account of changing priorities.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to:
- Review the work programme attached at Appendix B.
 - Consider the items for the next meeting and specify what evidence is required, including being clear about the information the committee wishes to be included in officer reports.
 - Review the forward plan of key decisions at Appendix E to consider whether there are any items for further scrutiny.

3. Work Programming

- 3.1. When reviewing the work programme the Committee should consider the following:

The Committee's terms of reference (Appendix A)

- 3.2. The Committee's areas of responsibility, include, but are not limited to:

- Schools and related services
- Children's Social Care
- Transition for care leavers
- Youth services
- SEND provision for children and young people up to age 25

- 3.3. The Committee has a key role in scrutinising the performance and supporting the development of the council's health and care-related strategies and policies. It also has a role in engaging and reflecting the views of residents in relation to health and care-related matters.

Whether any urgent issues have arisen that require scrutiny

- 3.4. If there is any urgent issue that is brought to the Committee's attention, it should consider the prioritisation process (Appendix C) and the Effective Scrutiny Guidelines (Appendix D) before deciding on its priority.

Whether a committee meeting is the most effective forum for scrutinising the issue

- 3.5. When scrutinising an issue of interest, the Committee should consider if there are any alternative methods for receiving information on the issue that would be more appropriate. For example, would a briefing or a written summary be more effective and appropriate for the issue in question?

Whether there is capacity to consider the item

- 3.6. The Committee should consider which work programme items could be removed or rescheduled to make space for the full consideration of more important issues.

Whether the item links to the priorities set out in the Corporate Strategy

- 3.7. A new corporate strategy has been developed¹ – which sets out the Council's values, priorities and focus for the next four years (2022-2026). These are categorised under the following headings:

- Cleaner and Greener

¹ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/corporate-strategy>

- Strong Local Economy
 - Quality Housing
 - Children and Young People
 - Safer Communities
 - Open Lewisham
 - Health and Wellbeing
- 3.8. The work of the Children & Young People Select Committee will relate most closely to the 'Children & Young People' priority, which commits the Council to:
- supporting our schools to improve and increasing the opportunities for young people in Lewisham;
 - working with our schools and communities to build on the inclusive and high-achieving system of local comprehensive schools;
 - ensuring our most vulnerable children are protected from harm, driving improvement in Children's Social Care and aiming to reduce the number of children coming into care through earlier targeted support for families in crisis;
 - helping to create new breakfast clubs at schools and continuing to lobby the government to expand their free school meals programme.
- 3.9. The Committee should consider how its work programme reflects these priorities. The Committee might also consider whether there are suggestions that should be put forward for consideration in the new municipal year.

4. The next meeting

- 4.1. The following items are scheduled for the next meeting. For each item, the Committee should clearly define the information and analysis it wishes to see in officer reports. If the Committee has designated one of its members as a climate change champion, that member should work with the Chair to ensure that officers are given appropriate steers in relation to the reports, to ensure they include relevant climate change considerations.
- 4.2. The Committee should also consider whether to invite any expert witnesses to provide evidence, and whether site visits or engagement would assist the the effective scrutiny of the item.

Agenda Item	Review type	Corporate Priority
Youth Services (Youth First update)	Performance Monitoring	CP3
School standards report (including DfE benchmarked data progress made regarding digital inclusion task and finish group)	Performance Monitoring	CP3
Amplifying the voices of children and young people	Standard Item	CP3

5. Scrutiny between meetings

5.1. Below is a tracker of scrutiny activity, including briefings, visits and engagement, that has taken place outside of the committee meetings.

Agenda Item	Date due	Outcome	Corporate Priority
Young Mayor and advisors Pizza evening	6 July	Start of conversation about how best to give our young people voice across the work of the Council.	CP3, CP5
Multi Agency Safeguarding annual report (LSCP) 2020/21 and 2021/22	July 2022 October 2022	Circulated to members	CP3, CP5
Update on Summer holiday activities and food provision	July 2022	Circulated to members	CP3, CP5
Initial unvalidated data on summer examinations	September 2022	Circulated to members	CP3
Update on the Youth Service	September 2022	Circulated to members	CP3
Visit to Watergate School – Cost of Living Crisis	October 2022	Considered at the meeting of CYPSC on 24/11/22	CP3
Attendance and exclusions- Annual Report	January 2023	Circulated to members	CP3

6. Referrals

6.1. Below is a tracker of the referrals the committee has made in this municipal year.

Referral title	Date of referral	Date considered by Mayor & Cabinet	Response due at Mayor & Cabinet	Response due at committee
Children and Young People Select	24/11/22	07/12/22 (Referral	07/12/22	05/12/22 (The

Committee comments on the budget cuts		made to PAC on 02/12/22 before being forwarded to M&C)		response to PAC's referral, containing the comments made by all select committees, was circulated in advance of M&C to all select committee chairs) Decision
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7. Financial implications

- 7.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme will have financial implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, all scrutiny select committees must devise and submit a work programme to the Business Panel at the start of each municipal year.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1. Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 9.2. The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 9.3. There may be equalities implications arising from items on the work programme and all activities undertaken by the Select Committee will need to give due consideration to this.

10. Climate change and environmental implications

- 10.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, in February 2019 Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency and proposed a target to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030. An action plan to achieve this target was subsequently agreed by Mayor and Cabinet (following pre-decision scrutiny by the

Sustainable Development Select Committee)². The plan incorporates all areas of the Council's work. Items on the work programme may well have climate change and environmental implications and reports considered by the Committee should acknowledge this.

11. Crime and disorder implications

- 11.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme may have crime and disorder implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

12. Health and wellbeing implications

- 12.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme may have health and wellbeing implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

13. Report author and contact

If you have any questions about this report please contact the scrutiny manager:

Nidhi Patil, 020 8314 7620, Nidhi.Patil@lewisham.gov.uk

² See <https://lewisham.gov.uk/TacklingTheClimateEmergency> for a summary of the Council's work in this area.

Appendix A – Children and Young People Select Committee Terms of Reference

The following roles are common to all select committees:

(a) General functions

- To review and scrutinise decisions made, and actions taken in relation to executive and non-executive functions
- To make reports and recommendations to the Council or the executive, arising out of such review and scrutiny in relation to any executive or non-executive function
- To make reports or recommendations to the Council and/or Executive in relation to matters affecting the area or its residents
- The right to require the attendance of members and officers to answer questions includes a right to require a member to attend to answer questions on up-and-coming decisions

(b) Policy development

- To assist the executive in matters of policy development by in depth analysis of strategic policy issues facing the Council for report and/or recommendation to the Executive or Council or committee as appropriate
- To conduct research, community and/or other consultation in the analysis of policy options available to the Council
- To liaise with other public organisations operating in the borough – both national, regional and local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working in policy development wherever possible

(c) Scrutiny

- To scrutinise the decisions made by and the performance of the Executive and other committees and Council officers both in relation to individual decisions made and over time
- To scrutinise previous performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives/performance targets and/or particular service areas
- To question members of the Executive or appropriate committees and executive directors personally about decisions
- To question members of the Executive or appropriate committees and executive directors in relation to previous performance whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over time or in relation to particular initiatives which have been implemented
- To scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the borough and to invite them to make reports to and/or address the select committee/Business Panel and local people about their activities and performance
- To question and gather evidence from any person outside the Council (with their consent)
- To make recommendations to the Executive or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process

(d) Community representation

- To promote and put into effect closer links between overview and scrutiny members and the local community
- To encourage and stimulate an enhanced community representative role for overview and scrutiny members including enhanced methods of consultation with local people
- To liaise with the Council's ward assemblies so that the local community might participate in the democratic process and where it considers it appropriate to seek the views of the ward assemblies on matters that affect or are likely to affect the local areas, including accepting items for the agenda of the appropriate select committee from ward assemblies.
- To keep the Council's local ward assemblies under review and to make recommendations to the Executive and/or Council as to how participation in the democratic process by local

people can be enhanced

- To receive petitions, deputations and representations from local people and other stakeholders about areas of concern within their overview and scrutiny remit, to refer them to the Executive, appropriate committee or officer for action, with a recommendation or report if the committee considers that necessary
- To consider any referral within their remit referred to it by a member under the Councillor Call for Action, and if they consider it appropriate to scrutinise decisions and/or actions taken in relation to that matter, and/or make recommendations/report to the Executive (for executive matters) or the Council (non-executive matters).

(e) Finance

- To exercise overall responsibility for finances made available to it for use in the performance of its overview and scrutiny function.

(f) Work programme

- As far as possible to draw up a draft annual work programme in each municipal year for consideration by the overview and scrutiny Business Panel. Once approved by the Business Panel, the relevant select committee will implement the programme during that municipal year. Nothing in this arrangement inhibits the right of every member of a select committee (or the Business Panel) to place an item on the agenda of that select committee (or Business Panel respectively) for discussion.
- The Council and the Executive will also be able to request that the overview and scrutiny select committee research and/or report on matters of concern and the select committee will consider whether the work can be carried out as requested. If it can be accommodated, the select committee will perform it. If the committee has reservations about performing the requested work, it will refer the matter to the Business Panel for decision.

The Children and Young People Select Committee has specific responsibilities for the following:

(a) To fulfil all overview and scrutiny functions as they relate to the social care of children and young people up to the age of 19 years including but not limited to the following activities: -

- (i) the social services functions of the Council under the Children Act 2004, and all functions of the Council under the National Assistance Act 1948, the Mental Health Act 1983, Children Act 1989, the NHS and Community Care Act 1990, Children Act 2004, Children and Families Act 2014 and all other relevant legislation in force from time to time
- (ii) to invite representatives of other service providers to children and young people in the area to give account of their performance and to answer questions.

(b) In so far as they relate to the provision of services for those under the age of 19 years, the exercise of all of the Council's powers under all relevant legislation pertaining to education from time to time in force. Without limiting the generality of this, this shall include, in particular, schools and school related services.

(c) The exercise of the overview and scrutiny powers of the Council in so far as they relate to people under 19 years of age in the provision of opportunities for education, training and learning outside the school environment, including pre-school services.

(d) In so far as they relate to children and young people under 19 years of age, to make comments and recommendations to the Executive on the contents and proposed contents of the plans making up the Council's policy framework.

(e) In so far as they relate to people under the age of 25 years, to make comments and recommendations on the provision of education, training and learning by those with special educational needs.

(f) Without limiting the remit of the Select Committee, its terms of reference include the following matters:

- Child protection - covering provision for vulnerable children including children in need and children looked after, placements, foster care and adoption
- Early years provision
- Special needs provision
- Schools and related services
- Youth Services
- Youth offending and challenging behaviour
- Transitional services for those leaving care
- Other matters relating to children and young people

(g) To receive and consider referrals from Healthwatch in so far as they relate solely to people under 19 years of age. Otherwise, such referrals will be made to the Healthier Communities Select Committee.

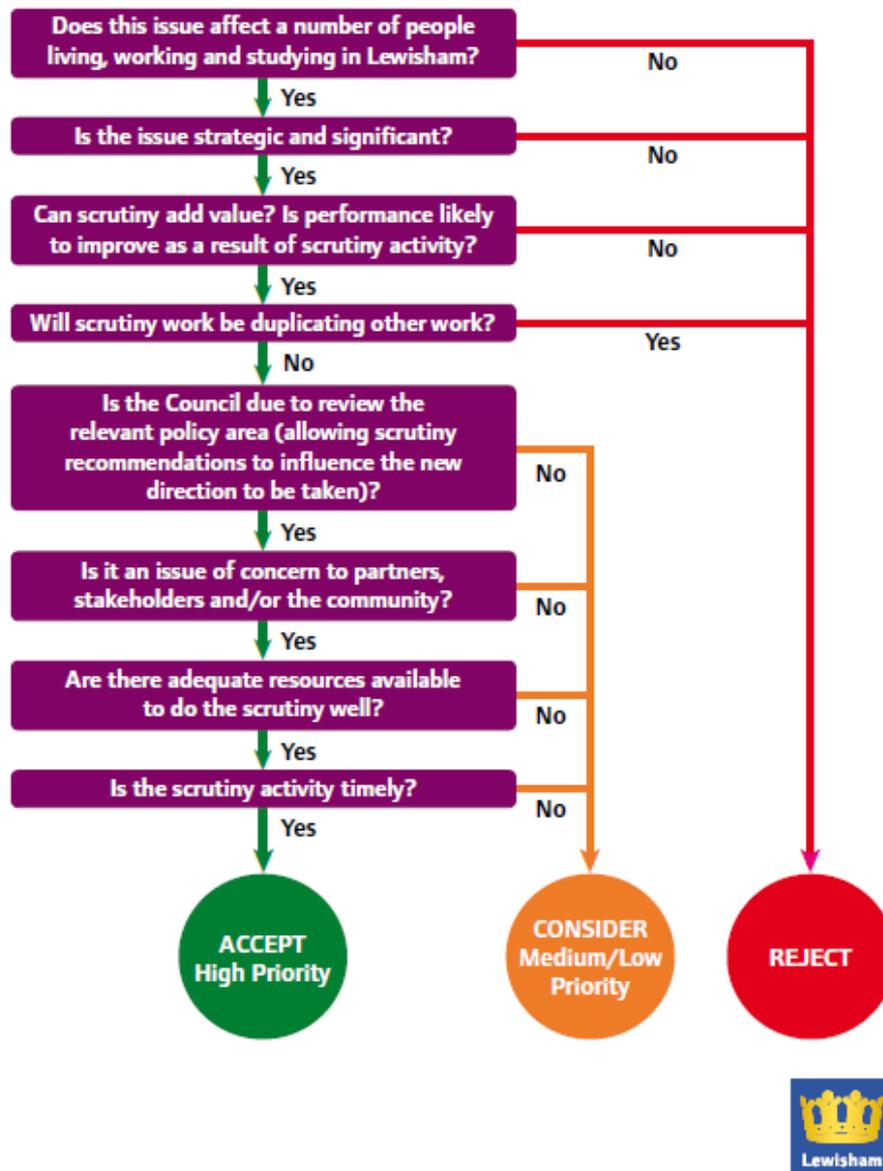
(h) Without limiting the remit of the Select Committee, to hold the Executive to account for its performance in relation to the delivery of Council objectives in the provision of services to children and young people.

NB In the event of there being overlap between the terms of reference of this select committee and those of the Healthier Communities Select Committee, the Business Panel shall determine the Select Committee which shall deal with the matter in question.

Appendix C

The flowchart below is designed to help Members decide which items should be added to the work programme. It is important to focus on areas where the Committee will influence decision-making.

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



Effective Scrutiny Guidelines

At Lewisham we:

1. Prioritise

It is more effective to look at a small number of key issues in an in-depth way, than skim the surface of everything falling within scrutiny's remit. We try to focus on issues of concern to the community and/or matters that are linked to our corporate priorities. We only add items to the work programme if we are certain our consideration of the matter will make a real and tangible difference.

2. Are independent

Scrutiny is led by Scrutiny Members. Scrutiny Members are in charge of the work programme, and, for every item, we specify what evidence we require and what information we would like to see in any officer reports that are prepared. We are not whipped by our political party or unduly influenced by the Cabinet or senior officers.

3. Work collectively

If we collectively agree in advance what we want to achieve in relation to each item under consideration, including what the key lines of enquiry should be, we can work as a team to question witnesses and ensure that all the required evidence is gathered. Scrutiny is impartial and the scrutiny process should be free from political point scoring and not used to further party-political objectives.

4. Engage

Involving residents helps scrutiny access a wider range of ideas and knowledge, listen to a broader range of voices and better understand the opinions of residents and service users. Engagement helps ensure that recommendations result in residents' wants and needs being more effectively met.

5. Make SMART evidence-based recommendations

We make recommendations that are based on solid, triangulated evidence – where a variety of sources of evidence point to a change in practice that will positively alter outcomes. We recognise that recommendations are more powerful if they are:

- Specific (simple, sensible, significant).
- Measurable (meaningful, motivating).
- Achievable (agreed, attainable).
- Relevant (reasonable, realistic and resourced, results-based).
- Time bound (time-based, time limited, time/cost limited, timely, time-sensitive).

Children and Young People Select Committee work programme 2022-23

Work Item	Type of item	Strategic Priority	29-Jun	13-Sep	24-Nov	12-Jan	15-Mar
Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair	Constitutional requirement						
Select Committee work programme 2022/23	Constitutional requirement						
Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Health presentation	Performance monitoring	CP3, CP5					
Education Strategy	Policy development	CP3					
Play Strategy	Policy development	CP3					
Budget cut proposals	Standard item	ALL					
Children's Social Care report (Including update on Corporate Parenting and Children's Social Care improvement work)	Performance monitoring	CP3					
Cost of living crisis	Standard item	CP3					
Tackling Race Inequality in Education	Performance monitoring	CP3					
Youth Services (Youth First update)	Performance monitoring	CP3					
School places planning	Standard item	CP3					
School standards report (including DfE benchmarked data progress made regarding digital inclusion task and finish group)	Performance monitoring	CP3					
Amplifying the voices of children and young people	Standard item	CP3					
Any CYP Inspection - placeholder (date tbc if/when inspection happens)		CP5					
Responses to the climate emergency in schools - timing tbc		CP3, CP6					

Information Items, events and visits							
Young Mayor and Advisors	Informal meeting	CP3 & CP5	06.07.22				
Initial unvalidated data on summer examinations	Performance monitoring	CP3					
Summer holiday activities and food initiatives over summer							
Annual report on attendance and exclusions	Performance monitoring	CP3				04.01.23	
Multi Agency Safeguarding annual report (LSCP) 2020/21	Performance monitoring		Outstanding item from 2021/22 - has been circulated.				
Multi Agency Safeguarding annual report (LSCP) 2021/22	Performance Monitoring	CP3 & CP5			17.10.22		
Update on the Youth Service	Performance monitoring	CP3		16.09.22			

Corporate Priorities**Priority**

1	Open Lewisham	CP 1
2	Quality Housing	CP 2
3	Children and Young People	CP 3
4	A Strong Local Economy	CP 4
5	Health & Wellbeing	CP 5
6	Cleaner and greener	CP 6
7	Safer Communities	CP 7

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY**

Forward Plan – January 2022 – April 2022

This Plan sets out the key decisions the Council expects to take in forthcoming months. All key decisions should appear in the Plan for at least 28 days before consideration by either Mayor and Cabinet or an Executive Director for delegated key decisions.

Comments on this document should be sent to Emma Aye-Kumi – committee@lewisham.gov.uk

A “key decision”* means an executive decision which is likely to:

Any decision with a total value, expenditure or savings, including any grant and/or matched funding, with a total value in excess of: -

- a) £700,000 in revenue; or
- b) £1.5m in capital; or
- c) A property transaction, disposal or acquisition, in excess of £1.5m.
- d) Any decision that, in the opinion of the Monitoring Officer, has a significant impact on the communities in two or more wards;
- e) Where the Speaker on advice from the Head of Paid Service and/or Monitoring Officer and/or Chief Finance Officer is of the view that the matter is one which ought properly to be treated as a key decision, and informs the proper officer to that effect at least 6 weeks before the decision is in the opinion of the Monitoring Officer likely to be taken.

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date of Decision Decision Maker	Description of matter under consideration	Financial Implications (Capital, Revenue or none)	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Summary of Report
15/11/22 Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration & Environment	Award of Corporate Estate Maintenance Contract Phase 2	??	Akweley Badger Project Officer, Capital Programme Delivery and Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources	
07/12/22 ED HRPR	Walsham – Budget Requirement		James Ringwood	
7/12/2022 ED CYP	Approval to procure: School Minor Works Programme 2023 (SMWP 23)	Expenditure >£500k	Lemuel Dickie- Johnson x42186	
07/12/22 Executive Director for Corporate Resources	Approval to procure for the provision of Fixed Asset Valuations	Contract award of £350k (c. £70k per year based on usage)	Sofia Mahmood Chief Accountant Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategy	https://www.espo.org/estates-management-professional-services-2022-2700-22.html Lot 1A – Fixed Asset Valuation London
07/12/22 Executive Director for Children & Young People Services	Contract Award Report – perinatal mental health	Total contract award of £266,000, funded solely by external Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme grant.	Emily Newell, CYP Joint Commissioner, Emily.newell@lewisham.gov.uk	Contract Award for perinatal mental health peer support programmes, as part of – and Start for Life Programme
11/01/23 Mayor & Cabinet	Financial Monitoring Period 7	n/a	Nick Penny, Head of Service Finance and Councillor Amanda De	Information item

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date of Decision Decision Maker	Description of matter under consideration	Financial Implications (Capital, Revenue or none)	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Summary of Report
			Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategy	
11/01/23 Mayor & Cabinet	Council Tax Base Report 2023/24		Katherine Nidd, Head of Strategic Finance, Planning and Commercial Finance Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategy	The purpose of this report is to ask that M&C recommends that Council sets the Council Tax Base, note the 2023/24 NNDR estimated income, and delegates final approval of the NNDR1 form to the Executive Director for Corporate Resources for 2023/24.
11/01/23 Mayor & Cabinet	Secure Children’s Home for London Children and Pan- London Vehicle for Commissioning	£20k per annum payable only once the provision has launched – cost subject to inflation adjustment	Donna Simeon Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and School Performance	To seek approval to become a member of a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee, provisionally to be known as the Pan London Vehicle. To join the PLV for a five-year period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2028.
11/01/23 Mayor & Cabinet	Provision of parking and traffic enforcement division service	Expenditure of £4million estimated annual value of the contract	Kyki Kim-Bajko, Parking Services Manager	
11/01/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Permission to Award – Dementia Hub	£39,726.03 (contract extension) £1.45m. (new 3 year contract with 2 year extension option)	Natalie Sutherland Natalie.sutherland@s elondonics.nhs.uk Tom Brown, ED Community Safety	Permission to award following tender exercise which was agreed at M&C in June 2022. This is reporting on outcome ICB;£290,000 annually. 3 year value = £870,000

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date of Decision Decision Maker	Description of matter under consideration	Financial Implications (Capital, Revenue or none)	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Summary of Report
			Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care	ICB; £39,726.03 extension 22-23
11/01/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Permission to Award – Lewisham Wellbeing Service	£76,712.32 (contract extension) £2.8m (new 3 year contract with 2 year extension option)	Natalie Sutherland Natalie.sutherland@s elondonics.nhs.uk Tom Brown, ED Community Safety Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care	Permission to award following tender exercise which was agreed at M&C in July. This is reporting on outcome. The contract extension remains within budget. LBL; £25,570.77 ICB; £51,141.55 Contract extension 22-23 LBL; £190,400 ICB; £369,600 New contract annually 3 year value = £1,680,000
11/01/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Permission to Award – New Hope Housing Project	£2.07m (new 3 year contract with options to extend)	Natalie Sutherland Natalie.sutherland@s elondonics.nhs.uk Tom Brown, ED Community Safety Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care	Permission to award following tender exercise which was agreed at M&C in July. This is reporting on outcome. £414,000 annual cost 3 year value = £1,242,000 LBL; £90,456.48 ICB; £155,967 SLaM; £167,576.52 (for 1 st year only)

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

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11/01/23 Mayor and Cabinet	On Street Advertising Contract Variation and Extension	There are no expenditure implications. The Authority will derive an extra £497,000 to current Contract end 2030	Geoff Tice Asset Network Manager, Highways and Transport and Councillor Louise Krupski, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Action	The Authority entered into a contract with J C Decaux for on street advertising in 2015. J C Decaux have acquired planning permission to change 15 advertising panels to a digital format at 8 sites across the Borough. A digital panel affords the Authority a higher level of income. To compensate for the J C Decaux investment for panel upgrades agreement to a five year contract extension is to be offered. The current fifteen year Contract is due to end 2030. The contract offers the opportunity to extend for this period.
11/01/23 Mayor & Cabinet	Permission to Award to The Commissioning Alliance	Lewisham's total estimated spend over the three year period is £251k which includes the joining fee and other costs. Placement costs are additional and would have to be met even if the council was not in the framework.	Chloe Vergara CLA Placement Contract Manager/Emily Newell, CYP Joint Commissioner	
18/01/23 Council	Approval of the Lewisham Local Plan - Regulation 19		David Syme	Lewisham Local Plan -Regulation 19 Proposed Submission document

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date of Decision Decision Maker	Description of matter under consideration	Financial Implications (Capital, Revenue or none)	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Summary of Report
	Proposed Submission document for public consultation		Head of Strategic Planning	Local Plan Policies Map Integrated Impact Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment Consultation statement Duty to cooperate Statement Infrastructure Delivery Plan
18/01/23 Council	Council Tax Base Report		Katherine Nidd, Head of Strategic Finance, Planning and Commercial Finance/Kathy Freeman, ED Corporate Resources/David Austin, Director of Finance Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategy	This report sets out the statutory calculations required in order to set the Council Tax Base and estimates the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) tax base for 2023/24. The Council Tax Base and NNDR estimates are statutory obligations and are key elements in setting the General Fund revenue budget.
18/01/23 Council	Treasury Management Strategy Mid-Year Review		Katharine Nidd	
01/02/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Award report for NHS Health Checks provision	£300k pa	Iain McDiarmid/ Jason Browne	COVID-19 Related Extensions by Directorate Report - 2nd March 2021

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date of Decision Decision Maker	Description of matter under consideration	Financial Implications (Capital, Revenue or none)	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Summary of Report
			Tom Brown, Executive Director for Communities	Mayor & Cabinet Award of contract for NHS Health Checks – 5th June 2019 Extension Report March 2022
01/02/23 Mayor & Cabinet	Determination of Lewisham’s admission arrangements for the 2024/25 academic year		Ian Hewison Access and Inclusion Manager Education Services, Children and Young People 020 8314 9567	
01/02/23 Mayor & Cabinet	Lewisham Autism Strategy		Polly Pascoe, Integrated Commissioning Manager and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care	The aim of the report is to gain commitment from the Council to make Lewisham and Autism Friendly Borough and improve the quality of life for people with Autism and their carers. The content of the report has been informed by informed by engagement sessions with service users, carers and staff, followed by a borough-wide consultation exercise. Coproduction panels have supported the development of our action plans and we aim to maintain a coproduction response throughout the implementation of the strategy.
01/02/23 Mayor & Cabinet	Part 1 & 2 – Recommendation regarding the delivery of Extra Care Services by Housing 21 at Cinnamon Court Deptford and	Cost per annum (for both schemes combined): £854,900	Heather Hughes (Lead Commissioner) supported by Jennifer Quested (Joint Commissioner)	
01/02/23 Mayor & Cabinet	Contract for Microsoft Azure Agreement - EMT approval to use framework.	£565k revenue contract	Philippa Brewin (STS)	

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date of Decision Decision Maker	Description of matter under consideration	Financial Implications (Capital, Revenue or none)	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Summary of Report
	Mayor and Cabinet to note procurement and delegate authority for award to ED of Corporate Resources.		philippa.brewin@shar.edtechnology.services 07867 186778	
01/02/23 Mayor & Cabinet	Network Links (circuits, broadband, PSTNs)	tbc	Philippa Brewin (STS) philippa.brewin@shar.edtechnology.services 07867 186778	
01/02/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Approval to Procure for the provision of Occupational Health Service and Employee Assistance Programme Provider. Approval for the subsequent award of contract.	Current annual cost of contract £159,810.5 (plus VAT)	Claudia Menichetti, Head of Employee Services	
01/02/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Permission to Extend the Humankind (Adult Substance Misuse Contract)	£668,700 P/A	Danny Waites Ext: 48015	The Mayor and Cabinet are recommended to agree to a two year permitted extension for the Humankind Contract (Adult Substance Misuse Service) from April 2023 to March 2025
01/02/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Statement of Community Involvement		Michael Forrester	
08/02/23 Mayor and Cabinet (Budget)	2023/24 Budget Report		Katherine Nidd, Head of Strategic Finance, Planning and Commercial Finance/Kathy Freeman,	

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date of Decision Decision Maker	Description of matter under consideration	Financial Implications (Capital, Revenue or none)	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Summary of Report
			ED Corporate Resources/David Austin, Director of Finance	
01/03/23 Council	2023/24 Budget Report		Katherine Nidd, Head of Strategic Finance, Planning and Commercial Finance/Kathy Freeman, ED Corporate Resources/David Austin, Director of Finance Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategy	
21/03/2023 ED CYP	Contract Award Report for School Minor Works Programme 2023 (SMWP 23)	Award of contracts greater than 200K	Lemuel Dickie Johnson x42186	
08/03/2023 Mayor & Cabinet	Approval to appoint operator for concessions contract at Beckenham Place Park lake		Peter Maynard Parks Contract Officer and Councillor Andre Bourne - Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	Awaited

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date of Decision Decision Maker	Description of matter under consideration	Financial Implications (Capital, Revenue or none)	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Summary of Report
08/03/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Selective licensing: Consultation response and proposals to introduce a new licensing scheme		Rhona Brown Head of Private Sector Housing and Home Improvement	
08/03/23 Mayor & Cabinet	Reduction and Recycling Strategy		Wendy Nicholas (Strategic Waste and Environment Manager) 020 8314 2194	
08/03/23 Mayor & Cabinet	Approval to re-procure the Lewisham Learning Disability Framework Agreement	Total value of contracts commissioned under the Framework approx. £17.3 million per annum (Total value approx. £69.2 million)	Tom Bird, Integrated Commissioning Manager / Heather Hughes, Joint Commissioning Lead, Complex Care	To seek approval for the reprocurement of the Lewisham Learning Disability Framework Agreement (expiring 31/08/2023)
08/03/23 Mayor & Cabinet	Lewisham Climate Emergency Action Plan		Martin O'Brien, Climate Resilience Manager	
08/03/23 Mayor & Cabinet	Temporary Accommodation Acquisition Procurement (Part 1 & 2)		Jacob Foreman, Housing Services Policy and Strategy Officer	The report seeks approval from Mayor & Cabinet for the housing service to go to procurement for temporary accommodation services
08/03/23 Mayor & Cabinet	Approval to confirm an Article 4 Direction to withdraw permitted development rights for the change of use from		David Syme, Strategic Planning Manager	

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

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08/03/23 Mayor & Cabinet	dwelling house (Use class C3) to small HMO's (Use Class C4)	Approval to confirm an Article 4 Direction to withdraw permitted development rights for the change of use from Use class E (retail, office and industrial) to Use class C3 (dwelling house) within our town centres, industrial areas and employment sites.	David Syme, Strategic Planning Manager	
08/03/23 Mayor & Cabinet	CIL Governance proposals	CIL Governance proposals	Julia Robins, Developer Contributions Manager	
08/03/23 Mayor & Cabinet (slipped from February)	Learning Disability Framework: approval to procure supported living contract	Total values of contracts being procured in LDF3 & LDF4 Approx. £21.1 million (4 year contracts)	Tom Bird, Integrated Commissioning Manager / Heather Hughes, Joint Commissioning Lead, Complex Care	Learning Disability Framework: To seek approval for the procurement of a supported living contract to be included in the previously approved fourth phase of the procurement of Framework services (LDF4) & to agree an extension to this and other contracts to cover the period of procurement. In addition to request M&C delegate authority to the Executive Director, Community Services (in consultation with Director of Law, Governance and Elections and the relevant portfolio holder) to select the preferred contractors post tender for the award of contracts for LDF3 & LDF4.

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

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08/03/23 Mayor & Cabinet (slipped from February)	Permission to extend the current lead home care provider contracts		Tristan Brice	Permission to extend the current lead home care provider contracts for 5 months i.e. to 31 August 2023 to enable the new contracts to be mobilised
08/03/23 Mayor & Cabinet (slipped from February)	Riverside Youth Club development project – Approval to award.	Grant & public donation funded. Plus £80k CYP.	Tony Solly/Adam Platt, Ikwuoma Mkparu Capital Programme Delivery & CYP	Approval to award a contract for works to site. Estimated cost is £1,250,000.
08/03/23 Mayor & Cabinet (slipped from February)	Right to Buyback 2		Fred Nugent - Principal Development & Land Manager, Inclusive Regeneration	This report asks for approval to purchase properties from the open market to provide quality temporary accommodation for families within Lewisham. Exec Support Officer - Anisha Faruk
08/03/23 Mayor & Cabinet (slipped from February)	BfL Appropriation for planning purposes	TBC	James Ringwood and Councillor Brenda Dacres, Cabinet Member for Housing Development and Planning	Appropriation for planning purposes required for a number of schemes within the Building for Lewisham programme. This is subject to the relevant BfL schemes being within budget and proceeding to start on site - Appropriation for planning purposes needs to happen prior to start on site. This report has been moved to October given delay to start on sites dates.
April 2023 Mayor and Cabinet	BfL approval to enter into contract		James Ringwood and Councillor Brenda Dacres, Cabinet Member for Housing Development and Planning	

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS				
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May 2023	Public Space Protection Order consultation outcome		James Lee	
May 2023 Mayor & Cabinet	Building for Lewisham Budget requirements parts 1 & 2	Awaited	James Ringwood Senior Development and Land Manager and Councillor Brenda Dacres - Cabinet Member for Housing Development and Planning	Relates to Home Park and Edward Street developments

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