

ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES****4 MAY 2011****JOINT REPORT BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FAMILY AND
CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND THE CABINET MEMBER FOR
EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES****REPORT ON CURRENT ISSUES**

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of recent policy and practice developments which are likely to impact on the future work of the Business Group and to update Members on progress of important current projects.

FOR INFORMATION**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Scrutiny Committee Members have requested regular updates on important projects and local or national Family and Children's Service (FCS) developments.

2. TRI-BOROUGH LIBRARIES UPDATE

- 2.1 The Triborough Libraries and Archives initiative is looking at whether savings can be achieved by integrating libraries and archives services across the three boroughs, without detriment to the customer service offer in each borough.
- 2.2 A Programme Board has been established, chaired by Mike More, the lead Chief Executive for the libraries strand, with senior representatives from each borough covering Libraries, HR, Finance and Customer Services. The Board is meeting fortnightly and is responsible for overall coordination of the programme, and its implementation (should the three Cabinets decide to go ahead). Programme support is being provided by a Project Manager and business analysts from Westminster's corporate team, and this is to be supplemented by funds secured from the London Library Change Programme and Capital ambition. The work of this Board has been to prepare a Business Case to go to all three Cabinets in May for a decision on whether to proceed with integration, or whether further exploratory work is still needed with a report back to the June Cabinets for a final decision.
- 2.3 The focus of the work over the last month has been to verify each of the savings options and to develop robust plans to ensure that as soon as

agreement is gained implementation can begin immediately. It is proposed that a single library service with local branding in line with local community needs is created.

- 2.4 There is a tight decision timeline for producing the Business case to go in the Cabinet report, along with those for the other services in scope of this phase.

3. RE-OPENING OF NOTTING HILL GATE LIBRARY

- 3.1 Notting Hill Gate Library will be re-opening on Tuesday 26 April. The library has been closed since early January whilst it has undergone a complete refurbishment. The Grade I listed Adam-style ceiling, badly damaged by water in 2008, has also been fully restored enabling full access to all areas once again.
- 3.2 Changes to the library include new shelving and improved book stock, self service, more computers and a bigger children's library. These improvements are part of a wider programme of work across all the libraries in Kensington and Chelsea.
- 3.3 The re-opening will be officially celebrated on Tuesday 17 May with an event by much-loved children's author Shirley Hughes for an invited school audience, whilst Mariella Frostrup will mark the opening in the early evening. Scrutiny Committee members will receive invitations shortly

4. PLAY PATHFINDER LEARNING EVENT

- 4.1 To celebrate and learn from our very successful Play Pathfinder project, Play England and the Royal Borough's Play Service organised an event in March to plan for the future of play in Kensington and Chelsea. The Play Pathfinder project delivered 30 new or refurbished playgrounds and 2 new adventure playgrounds in the space of 2 years.
- 4.2 Kensington and Chelsea was the only local authority in the country to deliver so many new facilities within the tightest of timescales, largely due to effective partnership working between different Council departments and with external partners, including housing providers, the Police, and the voluntary sector.
- 4.3 The event focused on how all parts of the Council and its partners can continue to work together to ensure safe and high quality play spaces in our communities. It was well attended and produced useful priorities for a future of reduced public investment. The Royal Borough's Play Partnership will take these forward over the next few years.

5. CHELSEA ACADEMY BUILDING AWARD

- 5.1 Chelsea Academy, the first new secondary school built in the Royal Borough for over 50 years, was named the Public Building of the Year at the Building Awards 2011. The building was designed by architects Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios and built by Wates.
- 5.2 Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, which sponsors the school, along with the Church of England, said: "From the beginning we wanted the Chelsea Academy to be a fine building that would provide generations of children with a first class education. Therefore I am very pleased that it has won the Public Building of the Year award. A great deal of effort was taken to ensure that we had the right design and the right builders and I know that the pupils and staff think it was worth it."
- 5.3 The prestigious Building Awards are attended annually by key players in the construction and building industry. Judges were impressed with how the school 'enriches both itself and its neighbourhood'. They also noted how the architects' had to be creative with the use of space as the site was so small, and so created outdoor learning spaces on the roofs of some of the smaller buildings.

6. ANTI-BULLYING STRATEGY LAUNCH

- 6.1 The Royal Borough's new Anti-Bullying Strategy was launched at Chelsea Academy on 28 March 2011.
- 6.2 Representatives from the Royal Borough's schools, youth offending and play services were among those who attended to discuss aspects of bullying that relate to their work with children and young people. Students also took part on the day with a creative dance performance by Chelsea Academy students and a vocal performance from student vocal group AKA.

7. FOSTERING CHARTER

- 7.1 The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea welcomed the introduction of a foster carers' charter and has signed up to the charter immediately as the authority responsible for looked after children in foster care and as a fostering service.
- 7.2 The charter sets out helpful guidelines on how foster carers and social workers should work together to support one another and the child and young people who live with foster carers. The charter is also underpinned by new Fostering Regulations and National Minimum Standards that came into force 1 April 2011. It is hoped the launch of the charter will help attract people to apply to foster and build on Kensington and Chelsea's already existing good practice in fostering.
- 7.3 There will be an official launch event on the 1 June 2011 in the Mayor's Parlour at the Foster Carers Annual Awards and recognition celebration.

8. PARKWOOD HALL OFSTED INSPECTION

- 8.1 Parkwood Hall Residential Special School was inspected by Ofsted at the end of January 2011: they awarded the school an overall quality rating of outstanding. They found the school has positive leadership with a stable, committed and trained staff group. The staff are child-centred and children receive excellent, individualised care, according to their needs. Education is actively promoted and there are a wide range of other activities. There is excellent practice with regard to helping all young people, whatever their ability, communicate and make choices. Staff and the young people have positive relationships and show mutual trust.
- 8.2 Ofsted found only two minor shortfalls, both of which are already being addressed: one concerns the need to introduce an appraisal system and the other concerns the need to provide more privacy in the dormitories.

9. MIDDLE ROW PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ST. MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT

- 9.1 Following the outline submission in November 2010, and consultation with parents, the wider community and staff, a further option for redevelopment is being considered.
- 9.2 There are now three potential options for the redevelopment of Middle Row and St Mary's RC schools: a) the scheme originally presented for Outline Planning in November 2010; b) the scheme following comments from RBKC's Planning Department to reduce the extent of residential development; and c) the scheme following comments from stakeholders, retaining proposals to demolish and rebuild Middle Row Primary, to refurbish and extend St. Mary's RC Primary and to provide reduced residential development.
- 9.3 Each option will outline viability, affordability, programme and risk. The outcome of this further round of investigation and consultation will enable the Royal Borough and Diocese to make a final decision on exactly how this scheme will proceed. The final results of the consultation will be presented to the wider community in June 2011.

10. KENSINGTON ACADEMY UPDATE

- 10.1 Discussions between the Council and the Lead sponsor are on-going to address a potential capital funding shortfall for the academy. These will be part of the whole site project costs which is the subject of a cabinet paper on 5 May.
- 10.2 The Department for Education (DfE) has appointed Tribal as their project management company to manage the services relating to the delivery of the academy for the DfE and the Academy Trust. A review of the shortfall

of the services required to open the academy, due to reduced Government funding, is being undertaken and costed.

- 10.3 Officers from Property Services are holding on-going discussion with Partnership for Schools with regard to the possible procurement routes. This discussion includes the option of a joint contract for the school and leisure centre subject to a cabinet decision on 5 May.
- 10.4 The academy programme for consultation and information is now aligned to the whole site communications and consultation plan.
- 10.5 Additional resources for technical project management have been allocated by the Director of Property Services.

11. WARWICK ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 11.1 Members are investigating their preferred type of school including the option of a primary academy, "free school" or a local authority community school. To inform that decision, meetings have been held with interested parties and the Department for Education Office of the Schools Commissioner. A paper with these options is being presented to Cabinet on 5 May 2011.
- 11.2 A procurement/construction options report will be compiled by a Technical Project Manager following decision on the type of school. This person, who has been appointed by Property Services, will manage the chosen procurement route and the appointment of the design team.

12. 'SUPPORT AND ASPIRATION' SEN AND DISABILITIES GREEN PAPER

- 12.1 The Government launched its green paper '*Support and Aspirations - A new approach to special educational needs and disability*' on 14 March 2011. The Green Paper sets out for consultation a wide range of proposals aimed at creating a radically different system to support better life outcomes for children and young people with a special education need (SEN) or disability. They are arranged in five chapters: early identification and support; giving parents more control; learning and achieving; preparing for adulthood; and services working together for families.
- 12.2 In line with other Coalition Government reforms, the approach is to simplify processes, reduce bureaucracy, and give more control to parents and more power to frontline professionals and local communities.
- 12.3 Key proposals include replacing the present SEN assessment and statement with a new single assessment process leading to an 'Education, Health and Care Plan'; the option of personal budgets by 2014 for all families with children with a statement of SEN or Education, Health and Care Plan; strengthening parents' choice of (state-funded) school; introducing greater independence of the assessment process through a

possible role for the voluntary and community sector; and improving support for families with children who have the most complex or serious needs.

- 12.4 The Green Paper was informed by a 'call for views'. It includes a total of 59 specific questions throughout, and the consultation period closes on 30 June 2011 and detailed plans will be published by the end of the year, forming the basis for any legislative changes to be taken forward from May 2012 at the earliest. Meanwhile, some proposals will be tested in local pilot areas from September 2011.
- 12.5 Following the Review of Special Educational Needs in the borough in 2010 an action plan was developed. Progress with implementing the action plan is being monitored by the FCS Leadership Team. The action plan will be reviewed in light of the recommendations from the SEN and Disability Green Paper.

13. ANNUAL RECEPTION FOR UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

- 13.1 Councillor the Baroness Ritchie and Councillor Elizabeth Campbell attended the Mayor's annual reception for Uniformed Organisations which was held in the Mayor's Parlour on Tuesday 12 April. Among those invited to this event are representatives from the Territorial Army and Cadet groups with which the Royal Borough has connections, together with the Emergency Services, Scouts, Guides, St. John Ambulance and the Red Cross. This year saw an especially good turn-out from YOU groups (Youth Organisations in Uniform). During the course of the evening the Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the Royal Borough, Richard Walker-Arnott, Esq., presented certificates to two cadets from 46F Kensington ATC who have given outstanding service to their Unit

14. KEY DECISIONS

- 14.1 Play Service Fees and Charges
03495/11/S/A ♦♦♦
To determine the level of fees and charges within the Play Service from July 2011 - Updated Decision
- 14.2 Proposed Admissions Arrangements for Community Primary and Secondary Schools 2012-13
03483/11/E/A ♦
The eight week public consultation on admission arrangements for community school concludes on 1 March 2011. The arrangements must be determined and be sent to the DfE by the mandatory deadline of 15 April 2011 - Implemented
- 14.3 Stronger Families Programme - Release of Funding
03531/11/F/A ♦
The approval for the release of funding from the Local Initiatives Reserve,

to provide funding for the Stronger Families Programme for 2010-11 which has supported the release of financial resources over the medium term.

- 14.4 Family and Children's Services (excluding Library Services) charges for 2011/12
03454/11/S/A ♦
To seek approval for revised fees and charges for Family and Children's Services (excluding the Library Service) in 2011/12. This will be a joint decision with the Cabinet Member for Education and Libraries
- 14.5 Catholic Children's Society Adoption Agency - transfer of responsibilities to the Council
03515/11/S/A ♦
The Council will acquire a responsibility for approximately 6,000 adoption case files of the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) and the duties that flow from holding those files due to the planned closure of the Adoption Agency. Responsibility for transfer in such cases is set out in the Adoption Agency Regulations 2005 Section 43 (2).
- 14.6 Independent Foster Agency Services and Residential Care Services for Children and Young People
03532/11/S/A ♦
Approval is sought to the continued use of the London Contracts Team for the provision of Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) Services and Residential Care (RC) Services for children and young people and the waiver of Contract Regulation 2.23(b) requiring a Key Decision Report for awards of contract worth in excess of £100,000 for IFA and RC Services and allow such contracts to be awarded through a scheme of delegation.
- 14.7 Health and Social Care qualifications training contract award
03507/11/A/A ♦
To agree the award of contracts for health and social care qualifications training. There will be a part B (confidential) appendix to this report. This will be a joint decision with the Cabinet Member for Family and Children's Services.
- 14.8 Award of Supporting People Contract for Young People Accommodation-based Service (Medium Support)
03342/10/H/B ♦
Award of Supporting People contract for St Christopher's Fellowship for young people accommodation-based service (medium support). This will have a Part B confidential appendix.
- 14.9 Extension of Contracts for Early Years Voluntary Sector Groups
03547/11/S/A ♦
To seek approval to extend the current contracts for four voluntary sector organisations that provide early years services to families in the Royal Borough. The year's extension will allow time for the service to line-up with the next Family and Children's Services voluntary sector commissioning round so that these agreements with providers who deliver essential services to fulfil the core offer for children's centres in the borough can be part of the larger FCS commissioning cycle.

FOR INFORMATION

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