

ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

29 JUNE 2010

**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 developments.

2. INTERIM MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE STRATEGY COMMISSIONING AND PERFORMANCE DIRECTORATE

- 2.1 John Wilkinson Director for Strategy, Commissioning and Performance left Kensington and Chelsea on June the 4th to take up a new role in North Somerset. John's departure comes at a time of change and as we embark on our Stronger Families transformation programme. Any decisions about filling his role permanently will be put on hold while the change programme seeks to work out the future shape of Family and Children's Services.
- 2.2 As a result, the following interim arrangements have been put in place: Joanne Hay who has been seconded to work with the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit for the last two years will be returning to FCS in August and will act up as Head of Strategy, Commissioning and Performance. In the meantime Nelly Bossick will Act up as Head of Strategy, between now and late July when she goes on maternity leave.

3. EVERY CHILD A TALKER PROJECT

- 3.1 The Every Child a Talker (ECAT) project was introduced in Kensington and Chelsea in April 2009. The programme was devised to improve the speech and language of children in the earliest stages of verbal

development and to give children a head start in acquiring basic communication skills.

- 3.1 In this borough, the Early Years Service used the allocated funding to:
- support 20 primary schools and private and voluntary settings to participate in the project;
 - Commission a speech and language therapist to lead the work in each school and setting;
 - Identify an early years practitioner in each school and setting to take on the role of sharing best practice in supporting children's communication skills;
 - Commission a level 4 modular programme to develop the skills and knowledge of these practitioners; and
 - Create a cluster of these practitioners that meet regularly to exchange information and share best practice
- 3.2 The analysis of the data for the first year is encouraging as it shows decreases in the numbers of children who are at risk of developing language delay and therefore requiring higher levels of intervention to support them in the future.

4. YOUNG CRIME WRITERS COMPETITION

- 4.1 The Crime Writers Association ran a national competition in collaboration with public libraries for young people for the first time this year. Young people under 19 years were invited to write a crime story with a maximum of 1000 words. The national winner will be announced during National Crime Fiction Week, 14-20 June.
- 4.2 In London, all public libraries were invited to take part. The Library Service informed all secondary school librarians and all expressed interest. There were 92 entries from our schools, with an age range of 8 to 17; Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School contributed 60 of these.
- 4.3 Maggie Roche, a Senior Librarian, was a London judge and read all 92 Royal Borough entries. Because of the high standard, there were three additional Highly Commended entries, one of which was a Royal Borough entry from Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School.
- 4.4 The London award ceremony was held at the new Shepherds Bush Library in the Westfield centre. The finalists and their families were invited, as well as the school librarian from Cardinal Vaughan. Although the final London winner was not from the Royal Borough, our entries were excellent, and they received certificates. An award ceremony at Cardinal Vaughan School has also been arranged.

5. SUMMER IN THE BOROUGH 2010

- 5.1 Kensington and Chelsea are providing an exciting programme of summer activities, courses and events for children and young people.

Last year the programme attracted 1,737 individuals to youth sessions; 474 individuals to Summer Uni4U; 46 young people became peer mentors; 1,347 children attended playcentres; 279 young people took part in the London Youth Games; and 1,279 children enjoyed the play structures in adventure playgrounds.

- 5.2 This year we are planning to increase attendance on many of the activities on offer. The programme includes: bookcrawls in local libraries, storytelling, playcentre and adventure playground activities, beginners Irish Dancing, Royal College of Music workshops, beauty therapy, passion for fashion, Portobello Dance, Flashback at the Gate, Canoeing on the River and the Canal, and a host of youth activities.
- 5.3 There is a great variety on offer to keep local children and young people engaged. A brochure with all details is available and up to date information can be accessed on www.kccentral.rbkc.gov.uk.

6. TRAINEE FOOTBALL COACHING SCHEME

- 6.1 The Youth Sports Development Team has established a new 'trainee' football coaching scheme for young people aged 16-25 in Kensington and Chelsea. The scheme will provide six competitively recruited trainees with the opportunity to complete a 3-month mentored coach development programme which will develop the skills and attributes required to be a positive young coach. The scheme will offer each trainee coach 10 hours work per week over the 3-month period (Sept-Dec 2010) paid at minimum wage.
- 6.2 Trainee coaches will experience both curriculum coaching and community coaching through a structured programme of delivery involving Primary Schools and existing Sports Development and School Sports Partnership sessions and events.
- 6.3 Exit routes from the scheme will include access to the Borough's sports apprenticeship programme (NVQ Level 2 and above); and part time employment opportunities with local sports and leisure organisations.

7. DAPHNE III PROGRAMME

- 7.1 The European "Daphne III" programme for 2007-2013 was established to contribute to the prevention and combating of violence against children young people and women and to protect victims and groups at risk. A bid for €510,251.00 was submitted by the Royal Borough at the end of April 2010 for the following priority: 'Field work at grass-roots level with involvement of children, young people and/or women, in particular programmes that aim to empower them to protect themselves and their peers against violence'.
- 7.2 Family and Children's Services would be the lead agency and the project would be jointly delivered with a Swedish, Italian and two UK NGO

partners. The overall project aim is to strengthen children's involvement in the child protection system – a requirement in the revised Working Together 2010. We are expected to know the outcome by the end of Nov/beginning of Dec 2010.

8. THE PAN LONDON QUALITY MARK PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

- 8.1 The School Improvement Service has been working with eight other London Local Authorities and the Institute of Education to develop a 'Pan London Quality Mark Framework' for professional development. On 15 June this was successfully launched to school leaders from 28 of the 33 London Local Authorities who enthusiastically endorsed it.
- 8.2 The framework supports schools in evaluating and improving their professional development practices. The aim of the framework is to support the professional development of all colleagues in London's educational organisations by:
- Offering a framework to develop and improve the strategic leadership of professional development
 - Supporting organisations to offer high quality professional development opportunities which have an impact on teaching, learning and well-being
 - Supporting the national agenda on standards and workforce development
- 8.3 Schools can use the framework to audit their own practices and plan for improvement or they can submit their self review for regional accreditation (verification). This offers a very practical tool to develop the school as a learning culture, to encourage engagement of the whole school workforce in the improvement agenda, to empower colleagues professionally and to eradicate the notion that professional development is just about going on a course!
- 8.4 The framework will soon be publicly available to download and our schools have the option to join the pilot and be considered for verification in Spring 2011.

9. ARTSMARK – ROUND TEN

- 9.1 The School Improvement Service, through the work of the Music and Arts Manager, has continued to support schools in achieving accreditation in this year's round of the Artsmark applications. The schools who achieved Artsmark Gold accreditation this year are: Bousfield Primary School, Park Walk Primary School, St Mary's RC Primary School, St Thomas' CE Primary School and Our Lady of Victories Primary School.

10. INSPECTIONS

10.1 Unannounced contact, referral and assessment inspections

Ofsted have decided to reduce the number of unannounced contact, referral and assessment inspections they had planned to undertake over the past month. This will mean that the first cycle of these inspections will now be completed by the end of August 2010 as opposed to July 2010. Kensington and Chelsea are yet to receive an unannounced inspection and can now expect theirs by the end of August.

10.2 St Francis of Assisi RC Primary School

St Francis of Assisi RC Primary School was inspected by Ofsted in May and judged to be outstanding in almost every respect.

St. Francis of Assisi RC Primary school was inspected by Ofsted on May 11th and 12th and was judged to be outstanding in almost every respect. The report is now published and shows that the only two areas in which a judgement other than outstanding was made were those of the development of skills leading to future economic well being (taking into account attendance) and effective partnership working. These areas were graded as satisfactory and good respectively. This was a highly pleasing report littered with compliments about the school and its impact upon its community.

Interestingly the inspectors commented upon the fact that, '*the school's very strong and stable leadership team ensures that the headteacher's work at another school does not have a detrimental impact on the outstanding provision and effectiveness of the school.*' This refers to the fact that the headteacher has acting as the Interim Headteacher for Ashburnham Primary School since January 2010. **Ashburnham Primary School** was inspected by Ofsted on June 14th and 15th and was judged to be a good school overall. The report is not yet published; full feedback will be provided in the next Cabinet Member's Update.

11. EVENTS AND VISITS

11.1 Czech Republic Visit

During March 2010 a delegation of politicians and officers from the Czech Republic, on a visit to this country hosted by the British Association of Adoption and Fostering (BAAF), came to Kensington and Chelsea to find out about our fostering services. This was in the context of their recently launched programme to move children from institutional care by developing fostering services in the country, supported by Lumos, a charitable organisation set up by JK Rowling.

Following this visit John Page, Head of Family and Care Resources, was invited back to present at a regional conference in the Czech Republic

and join BAAF representatives in providing consultation to key politicians and officers on establishing a fostering service in the region. Delegates were enthusiastic about adopting the approach taken here to the recruitment, assessment, support and supervision of foster carers and interested in the lessons we had learnt along the way. It was particularly useful to be able to reflect on, and share the experience of, moving to foster care from residential provision in the borough during the 1970s and 1980s during which period we reduced our residential provision from 14 homes (with over 250 children) to the two we have today.

During the consultation a note of caution was necessary about prioritising what is needed in their context and stage of service development, whilst not losing the important focus on safeguarding, and officers from BAAF will continue to support them in this work. Overall it is hoped that through this the borough has contributed in some way to the beginnings of improving the life chances of children in the care of the state in the Czech Republic.

11.2 Mayor's Foster Carers' Party

On Friday 4 June 2010 Mayor Cllr Husband hosted a party to celebrate the achievements of Kensington and Chelsea foster carers. The theme of the event was activities and leisure interests for looked after children. Cllr Richie gave a speech to thank our foster carers for the care and commitment that they provide for our looked after children. Foster carers were given long service awards: 9 carers received an award for 5 years service, 2 carers for 10 years service, 9 carers for 15 years service and 2 carers received an award for 20 years service. Foster carers who had completed their Children's Workforce Development Council training portfolio also received an award. This year a special memorial award was also given to a foster carer for their outstanding contribution in memory of the late fostering team manager, Martin Fry. Following the presentations the children and young people participated in street dancing, arts and crafts and storytelling.

11.3 Children's Forum canal clean-up

Eleven members of the Royal Borough's Children's Forum got down to the dirty work of cleaning up a section of the Grand Union Canal towpath in North Kensington on 8 June 2010.

The group, escorted by Council officers, gathered at the Half Penny Steps bridge where they were met by a Craig Tidy from the Safer Neighbourhoods Team, Karen Tyerman, Community Learning Director and Councillor Ritchie and a representative from British Waterways. Dressed in high visibility jackets, the group got to work armed with shovels and litter pickers, concentrating on the towpath near Meanwhile Gardens. The group very much hope that the community will appreciate their efforts and trust that their achievements will encourage residents and local users to keep the canal nice and tidy.

11.4 London Youth Games 2010

The London Youth Games has taken place each year at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre since its inception in the Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1977. All thirty-three London boroughs compete in forty-nine sporting events throughout the preliminary and final rounds in May, June and July. Over 10,000 young people under nineteen years of age take part in a variety of sports ranging from Archery, Badminton, Football, Volleyball and Weightlifting.

This year the final event takes place at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 July 2010. This year the Royal Borough has entered 40 out of the 49 sports competitions on offer, including four competitions for disabled young people. The Youth Sports Development team has provided year round training in 14 sports including girls' football, archery, basketball (girls and boys), fencing, gymnastics, squash (girls and boys), table tennis (girls and boys), badminton, disability swimming, swimming, netball, diving, trampolining, and canoeing.

At the time of writing, Kensington and Chelsea is in 9th place with 225 points, including a first place in the Kayak Slalom.

11.5 Young Persons' Orchestra and Royal College of Music

On 16 June 65 talented primary school instrumentalists joined forces at the Royal College of Music, as part of the newly formed "Young Persons' Orchestra". It was a very successful and enjoyable day. Professor Colin Lawson, Director of the Royal College of Music said *"This was a dynamic, creative session in which the pupils demonstrated a genuine love of music and communicated a joy in what they were achieving. It was inspiring to observe them at work in partnership with professional musicians and RCM students; clearly they were receiving a learning experience that was in every sense transformative"*.

11.6 Family and Children's Services Staff Awards

Family and Children's Services Business group held their annual staff awards event on April 29. Councillor Ritchie and the FCS Leadership Team were delighted to present certificates to over 60 staff who had achieved external validation of their professional development through obtaining new qualifications throughout the previous year. It was impressive to note the numbers of staff from the Council and our Schools who had made the commitment to progress their learning and development in this way and who as a result add extra value to services to the borough's children and families.

12. CAPITAL PROJECTS AND NEW BUILDINGS UPDATE

12.1 Middle Row and St Mary's Primary Schools

Middle Row and St Mary's primary schools were identified as the highest priority schools for capital investment through the Primary Capital Programme.

A feasibility study has been prepared for the design options on the site. After considering a range of factors, such as which option best meets the vision, risks involved and overall cost, it has been agreed to demolish and rebuild all of St Mary's, demolish the Junior block at Middle Row and remodel/refurbish the infant block. In addition, we are liaising with Early Years and our architects to determine whether we may be able to relocate a Children's Centre in the Infant block. We expect to take a report on these developments to Cabinet in July.

There is a risk to funding for the Primary Capital Programme given the recent change in Government.

12.2 Building Schools for the Future (BSF) (existing schools)

BSF is a national capital investment programme aimed at transforming secondary education through investment in the education facilities at each school.

In November 2009, following Cabinet approval, we submitted our Outline Business Case (OBC) to secure the funding available. Having received PfS approval to proceed with the sample school we have conducted Soft Market Testing with the construction market to understand whether they would be interested in bidding for the RBKC project. We noted significant interest and anticipate c10 contractors to tender. The ongoing investment in the schools will be phased over 3-4 years, beginning with Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School.

There is a risk to funding for the national BSF Programme given the recent change in Government.

12.3 Holland Park

Work on site is progressing well. The delivery of temporary classroom units to the site should be completed by the end of June. The temporary reception building will be delivered shortly. The school is due to move into the temporary accommodation for the start of the new academic year. Demolition of part of the existing school will start in the summer and work will then start on the construction of the new school.

Shepherd Construction is now taking primary responsibility for communications with local residents. A newsletter is due to be issued shortly to be followed by a residents' meeting to be held at the school on 8 July.

12.4 Chelsea Academy

Construction work on the new school building is almost complete. The building is due to be handed over by the end of June by Wates Construction. The ICT and furniture, fittings and equipment will then be delivered and installed. The Academy will move in over the summer and occupy the building from the beginning of the next academic year. An opening ceremony is being planned for the autumn term.

12.5 Kensington Academy

The Department for Education have confirmed plans for Kensington Academy are still going ahead. The DfE was delighted with the strong partnership that exists between the Royal Borough and the Aldridge Foundation sponsors and agreed the combined experience of both parties justifies flexibility in the management of the project.

A coalition of Education Partners is being developed by the Lead Sponsor and the Royal Borough. The coalition is made up of LAMDA, the Royal Academy of Dance, Goldphin and Latymer School and Charterhouse. The Governing Bodies of these partners are currently considering how to be involved. The education partnership will bring a wide range of skills and experience to the academy.

FOR INFORMATION

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