

**Response to the queries raised at the Family and Children Select Committee
on 20 October 2020**

The Committee requested:

- a written response on how residents in the north of the borough could access CAMHS following its relocation.
- details of the services available to disadvantaged young mothers in the borough.
- information on the pricing of school uniforms for schools in the borough.
- information on temporary accommodation for children outside the borough, for whom the Council has responsibility.
- Information on governance for the Inclusion Strategy
- Information on the provision offered to students at Latimer AP when it was temporarily shut in 2019

1. A written response on how residents in the north of the borough could access CAHMS following its relocation.

In March 2019, Kensington and Chelsea Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) relocated from 63-65 Lancaster Road, W11 1QG to 1B Beatrice Place, W8 5LW. The previous premises were no longer fit for purpose due to structural issues such as subsidence and access issues, which impacted on the quality of the environment for all service users and staff.

The new location is next to Collingham Child and Family Centre which is an inpatient service for children under 13. The Collingham team includes doctors, nurses, teachers, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, family therapists, speech and language therapists, and occupational therapists. The move has enabled closer working between the Community team and Collingham's ward team. The new site is also closer to Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and Lavender Walk Adolescent Mental Health Unit.

The new location has good transport links and is more accessible to residents living across the whole borough, being at an equal distance for families living in the south of the borough (e.g. Worlds End Estate and Earls Court) and those living in the North of the Borough.

A large proportion of CAMHS support has been delivered remotely. This is part of a blended model of face-to-face and remote support that CAMHS has offered since March. This blended offer will continue to be available going forward.

CAMHS are also currently in the process of arranging for two clinic rooms in the Curve. These will be available once per week to deliver sessions to patients who are finding it hard to travel to the Beatrice Place site. The CAMHS Service will continue to explore options to make the offer most accessible to all children and young people that need to access their support.

2. Services available to disadvantaged young mothers in the borough

A summary of the key services available to disadvantaged young mothers follows:

Health visiting

The Health Visiting service continues to offer support to new families and families with children under five. The majority of appointments are taking place virtually, but practitioners will arrange a face-to-face visit if there are any concerns identified. A seven day phone line has been introduced for families to increase access to services and address any concerns.

Children's Centres

Children's centres have developed a virtual offer of online activities, activity packs and support to families. Where there has been a new birth, families are being contacted by Early Years and are being assigned a named Early Years Family Practitioner who will stay in regular contact.

Group activities are currently not taking place due to Covid19 restrictions but the most vulnerable families have been invited for individual play sessions as well as for specific health or psychosocial support e.g. where there is an abusive parental relationship, or mental health challenges, severe overcrowding and/or children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Children's centres outreach and family navigator support to families facing both practical/financial and psychological challenges have continued during the pandemic. Outdoor activities for families have been taking place such as nature walks, teddy bear picnics and buggy walks to help create support networks for women who have reported feeling isolated.

Early help

Our Early Help services are continuing to provide support for families and disadvantaged young mothers during this period. If families are already receiving one-to-one support from our Early Help team, practitioners contact them weekly or fortnightly via telephone or video call, and since July some face to face visits take place where appropriate.

One-to-one family support (including referrals for extra support) can be received by contacting the Early Help team on 020 7598 4608 or 020 7361 4129

Our programme Baby's Sake, which is an evidence-based response to domestic abuse, trauma and what babies need during the first 1001 days from conception to age two, has continued to effectively support mothers during pregnancy and early childhood.

Maternity champions

'Maternity champions' is a community-run organisation that offers support for expectant and new parents. They've been running a mixture of virtual events such as antenatal classes, parent and baby yoga sessions and outdoor buggy walks.

Perinatal mental health

Perinatal mental health services have remained available throughout the last six months and this will continue. Face to face appointments are offered to all families but some are choosing telephone contact instead.

All this information can be found on the [RBKC Family Information Service](#), including how services are being delivered during Covid-19.

3. The pricing of school uniforms for schools in the borough

There is no legislation in place relating to school uniform in England. Local authorities and academy trusts may choose to provide school clothing grants or to help with the cost of school clothing in cases of financial hardship. Individual schools may run their own schemes to provide assistance. Details of uniform costs for Holland Park School and Kensington Aldridge Academy and support offered to parents is set out below.

Holland Park School

The total uniform costs are £303.75 for girls and £289 for boys. The uniform includes a coat, bags and a PE kit. This is for Year 7 child, larger sizes would cost more.

The school has confirmed they have a small but regularly updated supply of very good quality second-hand uniforms which the school dry cleans and washes as needed at no cost to families. The school is proactive in monitoring uniforms daily so they are able to reach out in a sensitive way to families who might be in financial difficulties and need for support.

Kensington Aldridge Academy

The total uniform costs are £192.36 for girls (£208.01 if buying a skirt) and £185.46 for boys. The basic uniform pack costs £149, which is cheaper than buying individual items and includes a coat, bags, socks/tights and two skirts/trousers. The sports/PE kit costs £115.

The school has confirmed they have a hardship fund in place to provide grants to assist parents in financial difficulties with the purchase of school uniforms and equipment etc. Parents apply directly to the Vice-Principal and details of the grant are available on the school's website at <https://kaa.org.uk/students-parents/hardship-fund/>. The school's Family Connections Manager, provides support and guidance for the families in difficult financial circumstances, including assistance with welfare applications and guidance in finding food banks and other means of support.

Families are encouraged to approach their child's school directly for assistance with purchasing school uniform. Schools will always assist wherever they can, including offering options to make payment through instalments to assist in reducing the burden for those families in very challenging financial circumstances. The Early Help Service signposts families to sources of practical support including food banks and may also be in a position to assist through accessing charities.

4. Information on temporary accommodation for children outside the borough, for whom the Council has responsibility

Under the Children Act 1989 (Section 17 and Section 47) and as stated in Chapter 6 of the London Child Protection Guidance, the responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of such children lies: *"with the local authority responsible for the area in which the child is to be "found", i.e. where they are at the time that a concern may arise, which will normally be where they are living."*

Children's Services and Housing Services work under different legislation, the legislation in relation to children is clear that the responsibility for the child lies where they live. This means that when a child and their family are placed in temporary accommodation outside the borough, they need to access the services in that authority (e.g. health, education and social care). In some circumstances, the child still attends school in Kensington and Chelsea if it is practical.

If a child moves to another borough, we cannot direct another social work service to provide services. The receiving Local Authority would do their risk assessments and develop a plan dependent on their resources and the needs of the family. In some circumstances, we retain responsibility for a short period whilst the family settle and support them to access services in the new local authority. Families placed in temporary accommodation are often there for a number of years. It is important that they make connections with local support services who have knowledge of the area and are easily accessible. Equally, there are situations when other local authorities place families in Kensington and Chelsea, and we would provide services to them following an assessment.

Often if a family is moving to temporary accommodation, we are able to negotiate with our colleagues in Housing to support them staying closer to the borough. If a child is subject of a Child Protection Plan, Housing services aim to place them in temporary accommodation in Kensington and Chelsea.

5. Provision offered to Year 9 and Year 10 students at Latimer AP when it was temporarily shut in 2019

Arrangements were put in place by TBAP at Latimer AP following temporary closure in 2019 to support pupils in Years 7-11. Safeguarding was also stepped with regular fortnightly meetings involving TBAP and the Bi-Borough Safeguarding Lead for

Schools. The purpose was to review and evaluate risk levels and identify where action was needed and by whom.

Officers have now clarified that there were no gaps in provision for children on roll at Latimer AP. All of the children were provided with an education offer utilising venues at Harrow Club, Kids on the Green, Libraries, Sulgrave (LBHF) and Cobbs Hall (LBHF). Careful consideration was given to the best arrangement for each child taking full account of possible risk factors.

Parents/carers received written information outlining the daily timetable of the offer including the venue. Staff from Latimer AP maintained contact with families including follow up of any pupil absence. Relevant support services including Early Help, Social Work and Youth Offending Teams were also kept informed where these services were involved in working with particular children. Latimer AP also made referrals to Children's Services using the established pathways to address absence concerns. Safer Schools Police Officers were also kept apprised of arrangements including the Police Sergeant leading on Safer Schools Policing and the identified Police Officer linking with Latimer AP.

6. Governance for the Inclusion Strategy

The Inclusion Strategy is being developed by officers in Education Service alongside colleagues from the Transformation and Innovation Team. The Senior Responsible Officer is Ian Heggs, Bi-borough Director of Education. Progress on the development of the strategy is reported to both the Vulnerable Children's Collaborative Strategic Group, which is chaired by the Deputy Director of Education and also to Children's Services Senior Leadership Team.

It is anticipated that the Strategy will sit under a newly established Local Education Partnership Board. The new Local Education Partnership Board is being set up to provide strategic direction and oversight on the delivery of school organisation, school improvement and school sufficiency. It is expected that the Board will be established by February 2021.