

MEETING**CHILDREN, EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE****DATE AND TIME****MONDAY 9TH MARCH, 2015****AT 7.00 PM****VENUE****HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ**

Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed a public question and answer relating to this meeting of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
5.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)	1 - 2

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Question Number	Item Number	Raised by	Question Raised	Answer
1	7	Mr Mark Oliver	<p>The families of Dollis Valley estate in Chipping Barnet are facing an interruption of Early Years provision in their community with the imminent closure of Valley Pre-School as a result of the current regeneration scheme, some 6 months before alternative capacity will be available. This is a Property Services issue for Valley Pre-School's tenancy, and this department has done all it can within its constraints to manage the closure of the building, but assurances were given throughout last year that when the time came to serve Notice to Quit the Childcare Business team would ensure that adequate alternative provision was available.</p> <p>For at least 12 families currently attending Valley Pre-School this is not the case, despite numerous efforts on our part to work with alternative providers, Underhill Children's Centre, and the Childcare Business Team.</p> <p>I understand that CELS committee has had no prior involvement in this case, which has an 18month+ context and significantly impacts on the delivery of LBB's Early Intervention & Prevention strategy on the Dollis Valley estate.</p> <p>I ask that the CELS committee investigate this matter with some urgency, as the Notice to Quit (March 30th) will leave these families without childcare arrangements which will impact on their jobs, college courses, and daily lives, and will leave children of a vulnerable community without their Early Years education in the critical period in which their transitions to school and (therefore long-term outcomes) are defined.</p>	<p>We do appreciate that this is a difficult time for the families affected. The initial development plan for the new provision intended that there would have been a seamless transition for children into a new setting. It was envisaged that following the closure of Valley Pre-school at the end of the Spring Term the new provision would then open at the start of the Summer Term.</p> <p>The Terrapin building, where Valley Pre-School is located, is needed urgently for the provision of four bedroom social rented units. The Regeneration Team worked very hard to re-profile the build to allow the nursery to stay open until July. However, the Housing Needs Assessment found a greater than expected need for four bed units and so those units planned for the Terrapin site are needed for local families being relocated on the estate. Subsequent delays in the building development have meant that the new nursery site will not be ready in time for the new childcare provision, Kidz Choice, to register with Ofsted for May 2015 (the expected date of building completion).</p> <p>The Early Years Childcare Business Team has offered on a number of occasions since the notice of eviction was issued, to facilitate meetings with parents at Valley Pre-School</p>

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	<p>I relate my questions to the following sections of Appendix A: CLES Committee Commissioning Plan 2015 - 2020:</p> <p>9. Service component: Family and youth support (Page 21)</p> <p>"The early years of childhood development present us with the best early intervention opportunity across the public sector to improve outcomes for local residents and reduce the financial burden on the state"</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>"a bold vision for early years services, which focuses on developing a more flexible, targeted and collaborative model with greater community involvement and improved identification and support for vulnerable families."</p> <p>"For residents this will mean: - An early years service that integrates universal provision with targeted services with a specific focus on improving outcomes for the most vulnerable families."</p> <p>"For Providers: • An increase in demand for childcare places, especially with the expansion of the free entitlement for 2 year olds."</p> <p>9b. Outcome measures Page 23</p>	<p>to discuss their childcare needs and to support them in finding alternative provision. As this has not been possible through this route, letters have now been sent directly to parents asking them to contact the team should they require support. Information surgeries at a nearby venue to the pre-school, Underhill Children's Centre, will be organised shortly, so that parents can discuss with the team what their needs are in order to provide bespoke support should it be required.</p> <p>There has been on-going contact with local providers to ensure there is sufficient local provision available and it has been established that there are in excess of 40-50 places available locally. Full details of these places have been provided to Valley Pre-school for parents along with the previously mentioned offers to meet with parents to discuss their individual needs.</p> <p>Whilst London Borough of Barnet recognise that these places might not be in parents preferred location or within the immediate local vicinity, they are all within a 1.5 mile radius of the pre-school and all childcare settings have confirmed they can deliver Free Early Education places. Many can offer additional hours should parents require them.</p>
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