

Appendix C – Update on the recommendations of the Early Years Task and Finish Group

Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee, 28 October 2014

- 1.1 A Task and Finish Group was commissioned to consider Children's Centres as the result of a decision by the Barnet Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee in early 2012. However, Members took the opportunity to expand the remit of their review to cover wider aspects of early years' provision, as well as Children's Centres. The remit of the Task and Finish Group was to formally feed in on the first phase of an internal review of early years' provision that was being conducted by the Children's Service, and provide non-executive Member input into the Council Policy on early years' provision in Barnet.
- 1.2 The Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 January 2014 noted the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group are as follows:
 - To focus on early years provision development in areas where demographic changes mean there are gaps in childcare provision. This is an issue in both the South and West of the borough, especially Colindale, Golders Green and West Hendon.
 - To re-focus resources to improve early years support in the most deprived areas of the Borough and for the most vulnerable families in the Borough.
 - To recommend the integration of health professionals into Children's Centres.
 - To develop a sustainable funding solution for nursery schools and that the Schools Forum be informed of the view of this Task and Finish Group.
- 1.3 The report was considered on 25 February 2014 where it was resolved that Cabinet support each of the recommendations which will inform the presentation of an Early Years Strategy to Cabinet. The recommendations informed the outline business case approved by Cabinet on 2 April 2014 and the Full Business Case being presented to the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee on 28 October 2014.

1.4 The Early Years Review Full Business Case deals more fully with all of these points. An update against each of these recommendations is contained in the following table:

Recommendation	Update
<p>To focus on early years provision development in areas where demographic changes mean there are gaps in childcare provision. This is an issue in both the South and West of the borough, especially Colindale, Golders Green and West Hendon.</p>	<p>The proposed capital programme includes provision to create additional early years places in the West of the borough.</p> <p>The Two Year Old Capital Program has run three rounds of applications to increase the number of places available to two year olds. This has generated up to 140 places for children in these wards.</p> <p>Potential childcare providers are also encouraged to set up new provision in these areas through registration advice in briefing sessions and 1:1 advice sessions.</p>
<p>To re-focus resources to improve early years support in the most deprived areas of the Borough and for the most vulnerable families in the Borough.</p>	<p>A detailed needs analysis has been undertaken as part of the early years review and the new children's centre resource allocation will be based on a formula which considers the number of children under 5 in each locality and the level of deprivation.</p> <p>In the new model, improved use of data and local knowledge will ensure a focus on the most deprived areas of the borough and a focus on those with the most need. However, the council will continue to offer universal services for all families as these services are important to engaging with families and identifying where there maybe need further support</p>

Recommendation	Update
<p>To recommend the integration of health professionals into Children's Centres.</p>	<p>A recommendation has been made as part of the full business case for the integration of health visitors into children's centres.</p> <p>There has been on-going dialogue between the Council, NHS England and the provider of Health Visitors Central London Community Healthcare Trust (CLCH). The Council has recently signed a Governance Framework (IFG) with NHS England, allowing the sharing of information and joint provider monitoring meetings CLCH in preparation for the commissioning responsibility for health visitors to transfer to the Council in October 2015.</p> <p>The new early years model has been designed flexibly to allow for further integration of health visiting.</p>
<p>To develop a sustainable funding solution for nursery schools and that the Schools Forum be informed of the view of this Task and Finish Group.</p>	<p>The schools forum noted the view of the task and finish group at the meeting on 9 October 2015. At this meeting the Schools Forum agreed extra subsidy for 2015/16 (at 50% of current rates) and an in principle decision for extra subsidy in 2016/17 (at 25% of current rates) to facilitate transition to a new sustainable model of delivery for nursery schools.</p> <p>The Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee meeting on 28 October will receive a recommendation for the amalgamation of three Maintained Nursery schools (Hampden Way, St Margaret's and Brookhill) to form a new early years centre of excellence. This will provide a sustainable solution, with continued high quality early education and no reduction in the number of places offered. There will also be a recommendation to undertake further work to develop a sustainable solution for Moss Hall Nursery School.</p>

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 2.1 Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 16 October 2014, Early Years' Review and Task and Finish Group Update
- 2.2 Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 23 January 2014, Early Years Provision Task and Finish Group – Final Report