

	Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee 21 February 2017
Title	Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding (CELS) Commissioning Plan - 2017/18 addendum
Report of	Commissioning Director – Children and Young People
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	Yes
Enclosures	Appendix A: Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Commissioning Plan - 2017/18 addendum
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Summary

In March 2015, the CELS Committee approved a five year Commissioning Plan for the period 2015-20, which sets out the Committee's priorities and outcome performance measures across its core areas of responsibility. All Theme Committees agreed five year Commissioning Plans.

This report presents updated targets for 2017/18 in an addendum to the Commissioning Plan (Appendix A).

Recommendations

1. That the Committee review and approve the addendum to the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding (CELS) Commissioning Plan for 2017/18 (Appendix A).

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The council's **Corporate Plan** 2015-20 was agreed by Full Council in April 2015. It sets the strategic priorities and direction for the council to 2020 and targets against which progress is measured. Each year, the priorities and targets are refreshed to ensure they remain focused on the things that matter most to the council. The 2017/18 addendum will be presented to Full Council on 7 March 2017 and will include the new priority on delivering quality services:
 - **Delivering quality services** – we strive to deliver services to the highest possible standard and to continuously improve this standard. We are committed to high quality customer service and being as transparent as possible with the information we hold and our decision-making.
 - **Responsible growth, regeneration and investment** – in an era of reduced Government funding, growth is necessary for councils to increase the local tax base and generate income to spend on public services. The council has an ambitious programme of regeneration, which aims to create new homes and jobs, and the proceeds of this growth will be reinvested in the borough's infrastructure and essential community facilities.
 - **Building resilience in residents and managing demand** – we will focus on the strengths and opportunities in our communities and target resources at those most in need. The council will support residents to stay independent for as long as possible through equipping people to help themselves and intervening early to address issues as they arise rather than waiting until they reach a critical stage.
 - **Transforming local services** – as a Commissioning Council our focus is on reaching the best outcomes for our residents whilst delivering value for money to the taxpayer. This means delivering differently and working with a range of public, private, and voluntary sector organisations to ensure we can meet our priorities.
 - **Promoting community engagement, independence and capacity** – we want to support residents and the wider community to become more independent and self-sufficient. This means residents having more of a say in the future of their local area, and where appropriate, taking on more responsibility for local services.
- 1.2 In 2015/16, each thematic Committee agreed a 5 year Commissioning Plan. The Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding (CELS) Committee agreed in October 2014 that the critical outcomes for Barnet's Children and Young People are as set out in the following table:

Priority	Key Outcomes
Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children and young people are safe in their homes, schools and around the borough, with an ability to develop healthy relationships with others. - When children are at risk, by intervening early the Council will improve outcomes for children, young people and families, enabling them to thrive.
Education	<p>Excellent school standards result in all children achieving their best, being safe and happy and able to progress to become successful adults.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Every child attends a good or outstanding school, as judged by Ofsted. ● The attainment and progress of children in Barnet schools is within the top 10% nationally. ● The progress of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils is accelerated in order to close the gap between them and their peers.
Health & emotional well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children and young people are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy. - Every child in Barnet has a great start in life, with the security and safety to grow in a nurturing environment. - Childhood in Barnet is safe and fun, with lots of opportunities to grow and develop through education, leisure and play. - Children and young people feel supported to achieve and engage, while developing their identities and resilience.
Preparation for adulthood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people are ambitious for their futures, ready for employment and contribute positively to society. - Young people with special educational needs or disabilities and their families are able to plan for their future and enable growth.
Parenting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All parents and carers are able to develop high quality relationships with their children, establishing effective boundaries and support physical and emotional well-being.
Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children benefit from reading, literacy and learning opportunities. - Adults benefit from reading, learning opportunities and easy access to the wider world of knowledge and information. - A range of outcomes are achieved by community groups through community spaces, access and resources.

1.3 Each Theme Committee is now being asked to agree a 2017/18 addendum to their plans, which sets out the Q3 position against 2016/17 targets and updated targets for 2017/18. This will give Committees the opportunity to review and consider their priorities for the year ahead and the associated targets against which progress will be measured. The addendum to the CELS Commissioning Plan for 2017/18 is provided at Appendix A. It should be noted

that the 'context for the commissioning plan' section is still to be inserted, as this reflects the introduction in the corporate plan which is still being finalised.

Summary of Q3 position against 2016/17 targets

- 1.4 Performance in 2016/17 to date has been strong across a number of areas, with no delayed commissioning intentions having a medium or high impact. Key progress in 2016/17 has included publishing a new Children and Young People's Plan, developing a new resilience model of practice and delivering a comprehensive training programme on Signs of Safety to support social work practice.
- 1.5 In terms of performance indicators, the percentage of children in LBB foster care has been successfully increased, enabling a higher proportion of looked after children to benefit from local provision. In the coming year there will be continued focus on reducing the percentage of children in external residential placements. The number of Common Assessment Frameworks opened in a quarter has been consistently high throughout the year, which demonstrates a partnership commitment to effective early intervention and prevention.
- 1.6 The Annual Educational Standards Report will be presented as a separate item to the Committee and this will cover the education performance against the targets.

Summary of the 2017/18 priorities and targets

- 1.7 In line with the Children and Young People's Plan we want Barnet to be the most family friendly borough in London by 2020. Children, Young People and their families are safe, healthy, resilient, knowledgeable, responsible, informed and listened to. We will undertake another Young People's Perception Survey to find out what young people think about Barnet.
- 1.8 In the coming year we will prioritise reducing the demand for high cost interventions in a number of ways. We will continue to develop new models of social work practice and interventions in order to reduce the need for higher cost placements and the rate of adolescents in our care, especially in residential provision.
- 1.9 We will continue the reshaping of early intervention and prevention services, alongside our partners, to build the resilience of families, providing effective, targeted interventions to improve outcomes for children, young people and families and to reduce the demand for higher cost interventions. We will put hearing the voice of the child at the heart of all that we do, including through implementing the corporate parenting pledge.
- 1.10 On education, through the strategic partnership with Cambridge Education, we will continue to sustain and grow services. The partnership will build on the strong relationship with local schools to generate income growth by selling services to more schools and other local authorities

- 1.11 We will continue the integration of health, social care and education services and resources to improve the experience of receiving care and support for disabled children and their families and reduce duplication.

Next steps

- 1.13 The proposed addendum to the CELS Commissioning Plan, including updated targets for 2017/18, is set out in Appendix A. Members are invited to review and agree the document.
- 1.14 Following agreement, the Committee will receive a progress report during the year against this Plan and associated in-year targets. The Committee will be asked to agree updated targets for 2018/19 in March 2018 and this process will continue through to 2020.
- 1.15 Performance and Contract Management Committee will continue to review progress against the council's Corporate Plan, and overview of the performance of both internal and external Delivery Units. This Commissioning Plan will enable Performance and Contract Management Committee to focus on the key areas of performance for different service areas.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 A key element of effective strategic and financial management is for the council to have comprehensive business plans in place that ensure there is a clear strategy for addressing future challenges, particularly in the context of continuing budget and demand pressures (resulting from demographic and legislative changes), delivering local priorities and allocating resources effectively.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 There is no statutory duty to publish Committee Commissioning Plans but it is considered to be good practice to have comprehensive business plans in place for each Committee – which set out priorities and how progress will be measured – to ensure that the council's vision for the future is clearly set out and transparent.

4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Revisions to the Commissioning Plan will be communicated internally and with key stakeholders.

5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 This report invites Members to review and approve the addendum to the Commissioning Plan for 2017/18.

5.2 Resources (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 In addition to continuing budget reductions, demographic change and the resulting pressure on services pose a significant challenge to the Council. The organisation is facing significant budget reductions at the same time as the population is increasing, particularly in the young and very old population groups.

5.2.2 The Commissioning Plan has been informed by the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, which set a savings target of £53.9m from 2017-18 to 2019-20. The CELS Committee is expected to save £11.9m across its portfolio.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 All proposals emerging from the business planning process must be considered in terms of the council's legal powers and obligations, including its overarching statutory duties such as the Public Sector Equality Duty.

5.4.2 Annex A of the Responsibility of Functions, as outlined in the council's constitution, states that the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee has the responsibility for those powers, duties and functions of the council in relation to Children's Services. The committee therefore has the responsibility for commissioning activity that falls under the remit of Children's Service, giving cause for the setting of a Commissioning Plan.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 The council has an established approach to risk management. Key corporate risks are assessed regularly and reported to Performance and Contract Management Committee on a quarterly basis.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The general duty on public bodies is set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

- 5.6.2 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 5.6.3 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
- a) Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
 - b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
 - c) Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 5.6.4 The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- 5.6.5 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, the need to tackle prejudice; and promote understanding.
- 5.6.6 Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act.
- 5.6.7 The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 5.6.8 It also covers marriage and civil partnership with regard to eliminating discrimination.
- 5.6.9 In agreeing the Corporate Plan, the council is setting an updated strategic equalities objective and reiterating our commitment to delivering this. The strategic equalities objective is as follows:
- Citizens will be treated equally, with understanding and respect, and will have equal access to quality services which provide value to the tax payer.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.7.1 The original Corporate Plan and Commissioning Plans were informed by extensive consultation through the Budget and Business Planning report to Council (3 March 2015).
- 5.7.2 The consultation aimed to set a new approach to business planning and engagement by consulting on the combined package of the Corporate Plan, Commissioning Plans, and budget. In particular it aimed to:
- Create a stronger link between strategy, priorities and resources
 - Place a stronger emphasis on commissioning as a driver of the business planning process.
 - Focus on how the council will use its resources to achieve its Commissioning Plans.
- 5.7.3 To allow for an eight week budget consultation, consultation began after Full Council on 17 December 2014 and concluded on 11 February 2015. Further consultation on the budget for 2017/18 has been undertaken following Policy and Resources Committee on 1 December 2016.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 17 November 2016. Vision and Commissioning Priorities for 2017/18:

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s36060/Appendix%20A%20-%20Vision%20and%20Commissioning%20Priorities%20of%20the%20Children%20Education%20Libraries%20and%20Safeguard.pdf>