

	<p align="center">Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee September 2017</p>
Title	Early Years Performance Report – Progress Update
Report of	Strategic Director, Children and Young People
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix A: Progress Update Early Years Appendix B: DfE Dashboard preparation for 30 hours implementation
Officer Contact Details	Karen Pearson – Head of Early Years and Early Help Karen.pearson@barnet.gov.uk 0208 3592459

Summary

To provide the committee with an annual progress update in relation to the Early Years' service areas of Children's Centres and the Central Standards and Free Early Educational Entitlement Teams as requested at the CELS committee on 12th July 2016

Recommendations

That the Committee note the following:

- 1. The committee note the progress of the Early Years' service performance 2016/17**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 At the CELS committee on 12th July 2016 members requested that an annual progress report be presented with regard to the performance of the Early Years' service.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Due to the changes in legislation in relation to provision of free childcare and the importance of high quality early years provision, it is important that members are kept abreast with performance and development in this area

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 There are no alternative options presented as this is an update report on current delivery.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Once progress has been noted by Committee, the continuation of promoting and measuring the quality of the service performance will be led by the Early Years' Head of Service. This service reports to the Operational Director Children in Need of Help and Protection and is shared at the 0-19 Hub Development Board where the children's centre locality model is being built upon to develop a 0-19 hub model.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The council will continue to ensure a great start in life for every child and that young people are well prepared for adulthood.

- 5.1.2 This is in line with the following Council corporate priorities as expressed through the Corporate Plan for 2015-20, which sets out the vision and strategy for the next five years based on the core principles of fairness, responsibility and opportunity, to make sure Barnet is a place;

- Of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
- Where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure

- 5.1.3 The Central Early Years Teams are working with partners to help make Barnet the most family friendly borough, to ensure a great start in life for every child and prepare young people well for adulthood.

- 5.1.4 The teams provide quality assurance and work across a range of partners to improve standards in Early Years settings that are provided in schools and through partners in the voluntary, private and independent sector. The teams also provide brokerage and support for providers to increase their provision

for targeted two year olds and all three and four year olds in relation to the 15 and 30 hour offers and to parents who wish to access early education and child care for their under 5s. The team also support the children's centre localities by providing an Annual Conversation where the centres are measured against the existing Ofsted framework. The central data team provide data in relation to each localities community profile and needs analyses and report the performance of all areas of the service through to senior management and the Lead Member via the Delivery Unit Assurance reporting process.

- 5.1.5 The locality children centre model works to provide services and interventions for a good start in life for our youngest children, with a targeted approach for those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged. The model is one of multi-agency, integrated services and sees the children's centres as a vehicle of delivery across a whole locality rather than one building. In this way activities and services are delivered where families are, so that they are locally accessible. The centres also support building capacity within the community through engagement with local community organisations, childminders and through the volunteer schemes.
- 5.1.6 The localities are pivotal in providing early identification and intervention and as such staff are lead practitioners for CAFs and can also be a part of the Team Around the Child for children who receive statutory social work interventions. They provide early parenting and family support that encourage good attachment and early language development that supports 'school readiness' and positive educational outcomes. Working with partners, a range of health services are provided starting in the antenatal period with midwifery service and following birth through partnerships with health visitors and the Family Nurse Partnership. The centres support healthy eating, good mental health and good oral health so that children's life chances are improved.
- 5.1.7 To support families to move out of poverty, the localities provide support in accessing training and employment through working with Employment Advisors from JCP and Barnet College as part of our Families First (Troubled Families) work. The localities also support parents to access their entitlement to 15 hours of free early education for targeted 2 year olds and all 3 and 4 year olds and from September 2017 access to their free early education entitlement of 30 hours for those parents who meet the DfE criteria.

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

- 5.2.1 As this is a progress update report there are no additional resource implications arising directly from this report. The children's centre locality model has an agreed budget profile in 2016/17 of £1,948,962 for the council led centres and £257,102 for those centres led by school partners. Budgets have taken account numbers of under 5s in each locality and levels of deprivation. The central team's budget is £0 from the base budget and £449,508 from Early Years DSG.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 The Early Years' service is built upon effective multi-agency working and ensures universal and targeted delivery of early education, child care and children's centres in local communities across the boroughs three localities which are locally accessible services that families can reach and a targeted approach for children and families who are in need but less likely to access services.
- 5.3.2 Barnet's Early Years model supports building resilience with children and families early in a child's life in order to improve their education and health outcomes and therefore their life chances. It builds capacity and resilience in local communities through integrated work with local community organisations and through the volunteer programme.
- 5.3.3 The Early Years locality model supports and assists parents to access training and employment opportunities again building resilience in families and addressing issues of child poverty.
- 5.3.4 The Early Years model supports the needs of changing communities and newly-arrived families so that social isolation is reduced and such families have access to English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in order to support their child's school readiness and to fulfil their own aspirations in relation to future training and employment.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 Responsibility for Functions, Annex A, in the council's constitution states that the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee has the responsibility for powers, duties and functions relating to Children's Services. In addition to this, the committee has responsibility for overseeing the support for young people in care and enhancing the council's corporate parenting role.
- 5.4.2 Under the Childcare Act 2006, local authorities have various duties in relation to young children in their area. This includes a general duty under s.1 to improve the well-being of young children and reduce inequalities and specific duties to provide early years services in an integrated manner and to promote services to those parents who are unlikely to take advantage of them. Arrangements made in relation to early years services should include, so far as is reasonably practicable, arrangements for sufficient provision of children's centres.
- 5.4.3 The 2006 Act also contains a specific duty to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the provision of sufficient childcare to enable parents/carers to take up or remain in work, or to undertake education and training leading to work. In prescribed cases, such early years provision must be available free of charge.

5.4.4 The 2006 Act also requires local authorities to establish and maintain a service providing information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents in relation to the provision of childcare and the availability of services, facilities or publications which may be of benefit to parents, prospective parents, children or young people in its area.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 Family Services manages risk in accordance with the council risk management procedure. Risks are regularly reviewed so controls can be put into place in a timely fashion to reduce their likelihood and/or impact.

5.5.2 Barnet has a growing child population and the work of the Early Years' service will increase particularly in areas of regeneration. In order to continue to meet the needs of our youngest children and their families further development of the locality model and more integrated working with partners, particularly with the health visiting service and community providers, is essential in providing the best we can for what we can afford.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies **to have due regard** to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

5.6.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into everyday business.

5.6.3 The equalities characteristics of Barnet's population are taken into account in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services. This information, insight and data are also taken into account in extending the reach of services, for example in providing early years places.

5.6.4 Early Years services and provision, by their nature, impacts on parents of working age and children below school age more than other age groups. The delivery of the early years model impacts on women receiving maternity services and those parents wishing to return to training or work following having children. Early Years services are particularly important to lone parents, who are more likely to be female and families on low income where both parents where there can be social isolation and family/parenting support needs. In Barnet the areas of highest relative deprivation, such as Colindale, Burnt Oak, and West Hendon, have the largest proportion of black and minority ethnic groups. It has also been identified that the Jewish Community, largely based in Golders Green and Childs Hill, are less likely to make use of

the children's centres. Through an annual needs analysis and providing each locality with a community profile the needs of these and other target groups are considered when devising a strategy for engagement and delivery across the locality.

- 5.6.5 Across all 3 localities, further work is being undertaken with Community faith groups to further engage communities that have not accessed services regularly. Community leaders and professionals from faith groups are members of the advisory boards within the children centres; this enables them to be advocates for Children Centre services which in turn have seen an increase in attendance at services. Localities continue to be proactive in recruiting representation from other faith groups and community organisations. In addition contact has been made with all synagogues to explore service delivery from community based centres to further enable access to communities. Bell Lane children centre has strong links with the Jewish community and is the primary gateway into children centre services for the Jewish community in the South Locality. Kennedy Leigh Centre is also represented on the advisory board. In the south locality there is a good partnership with Barnet Refugee Service and also sessions delivered to support engagement with the Afghan community.

Various parenting groups are delivered across all localities, these include evidenced based programmes such as; Family Links, Incredible Years, Solihull and Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities.

2016/17 delivery:

East/Central - 67 activities 487 attendances

South – 25 activities 212 attendances

West – 12 Activities 80 attendances

- 5.6.6 Families where English is an additional language, are more likely to live in areas of higher deprivation and as such are more impacted on by provision in these areas. In Barnet, this is mostly concentrated in Colindale, Burnt Oak, and West Hendon. Parents of children with SEN or a disability often find it harder to locate early year's provision than other parents. It is anticipated that the continued early year's model will have a positive impact on these groups, as provision will be more targeted to groups with these protected characteristics.

- 5.6.7 Speech & language sessions are the primary groups delivered to engage families where a child has an additional need. In addition, East/Central delivers Open Door, a support group for parents/Carers of children with additional needs.

2016/17 delivery:

East/Central - 131 activities with 1048 attendances

South – 26 activities with 256 attendances

West – 11 Activities with 89 attendances

5.6.8 14 Syrian families with children under 5 accessed children centre services such as stay & play, baby group, health sessions, family support, ESOL (BSC). In addition Finchley Progressive Synagogue in East/Central hosted (with support from children centre) a weekly drop in and support session for Syrian families. The families continue to engage in services delivered directly and by partners.

5.6.9 ESOL and conversation cafés run across all localities. Courses are delivered in rotation at centres within each locality.

East/Central - 135 activities 892 attendances

South – 60 activities 617 attendances

West – 42 Activities 231 attendances

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 All consultation with regard to the new model had taken place prior to the Committee reaching its decision to implement the locality model. Work has taken place with parents and partners in each locality to identify need and develop integrated working; each locality has held locality planning days with partners to agree target areas, target groups and an integrated delivery plan. Each locality holds a termly Advisory Board meeting where parent and community representation is encouraged and enabled. Current representation by parents and community members is as follows:

South

- 1 x Parent Representative
- 1 x Faith Representative
- 2 x Voluntary Representative
- 1 x Councillor Representative

West

- Vice Chair – Parent Representative
- 2 x Community Representatives
- 3 x Faith Representatives

East/Central

- 2 x Community Representatives
- 2x Parent Representatives
- 1x School governor
- 1 x Councillor Representative