

APPENDIX A: VISION AND COMMISSIONING PRIORITIES OF THE CHILDREN, EDUCATION, LIBRARIES AND SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

Children

- The vision, set out in the Children and Young People's Plan, is to make Barnet the most 'Family Friendly' borough in London by 2020, where children, young people and their families are safe, healthy, resilient, knowledgeable, responsible, informed and listened to. At the core of this vision is a resilience-based approach.
- There will be a resilience-based model of practice embedded across our work and our partners' work with children and families, identifying issues early and supporting them to build their resilience.
- Safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable children and young people will be resilience based effective and robust, with greater interface, including sharing information, between services.
- The social care workforce will be equipped and enabled to understand the importance and meaning of purposeful social work in Barnet and the organisational culture, systems and tools will support the delivery of high quality social work.

Education

- Education in Barnet will remain among the best in the country, with enough early years and school places for all and with all children achieving the best they can, and the council's excellent relationships with schools will be maintained.
- Barnet will continue to have primary and secondary schools that are amongst the best in the country, with the council recognising that this is why many people choose to live here.
- The attainment and progress of children in Barnet schools will be within the top 10% nationally and the progress of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils will be accelerated

Libraries

- Barnet is a great place to live and we want a **21st Century library service** that is in tune with the **changing lifestyles of our residents**.
- Libraries are a universal and unique service, offering **learning opportunities** from the early years and through retirement.
- Our ambition is for libraries to:
 - Help all children in Barnet to have the **best start in life**, developing essential **language, literacy and learning skills** and developing a love of **reading** from an early age.
 - Provide residents with the skills to **live independently**; to improve their **health and wellbeing**; and to **get a job and progress whilst in work**.
 - Bring people together, acting as a **focal point for communities** and assisting resident groups to **support their local area**.

COMMISSIONING PRIORITIES

Over the next five years, the council will need to **continue to save money from across all services** - including libraries - to meet an **overall budget gap of £98.4m to 2020**. The CELS Committee is expected to save **£11.9m** across its portfolio.

Children

- The effective **safeguarding of the borough's vulnerable children and young people** is, and always will be, at the heart of what the council does. As the council changes and local services evolve, **this commitment will not change.**
- We are working with our social workers and the wider workforce to implement resilience based **model practice**, using a range of tools such as Signs of Safety, supporting children and families to build their resilience so that they can achieve better outcomes.
- We will develop our practice in work with and for adolescents at risk
- We will put hearing **the voice of the child** at the heart of what we do, including through implementing the newly developed corporate parenting pledge.
- Children's social workers, as professionals, need to be at the heart of driving effective practice which **gets things right first time for children, young people and their families**
- We will consider **working with neighbouring authorities** and across London to drive good practice and efficiencies
- We're working with providers to deliver **high quality early education places** for 2,3 and 4 year olds
- Children placed with foster carers in Barnet tend to have better outcomes than those placed in residential care. The cost is also considerably **lower than the cost of placing a child in residential care.** We're increasing the size and effectiveness of our in-house foster care service, helping a greater number of children and young people to **move to foster care placements.**
- The financial challenges facing the council means all services are being carefully looked at. However, as well as the need to make savings, it is also an opportunity to look at how we can **deliver services differently and better.**
- We're exploring opportunities to develop a **social work-led, not-for-profit organisation** to provide some services for children and young people
- We will **re-commission our CAMHS services** with the Clinical Commissioning Group ensuring that resilience based practice is embedded in the new arrangements.
- We will **re-commission children's therapy** services with the Clinical Commissioning Group, ensuring a more integrated, community focused and resilience based service is provided.
- We will **improve and re-commission the Looked After Children health assessment pathway** with the Clinical Commissioning Group.
- We will **redesign the Health Visiting and School Nursing services** to ensure integration with wider family services in order to make best use of our resources, respond to policy change and to provide families with a joined up offer of support that is provided at the right time, in the right place and is resilience based.
- We will work with the Clinical Commissioning Group to **implement the new pathway for children with complex needs** to ensure we are providing packages of care closer to home, avoiding the need for high cost out of county placements. Where a placement is the best option we will work in partnership to ensure the best possible placement and care package is provided.

Education

- At the heart of our resilience based approach we will work with schools to establish a new Education Strategy for Barnet focussing on improving outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people
- School Improvement Partnerships are operating across the borough, leading a schools-led self-sustaining school improvement system, enabling schools to challenge and support each other, sharing best practice to ensure all schools are good or outstanding.
- Improving the range of alternative education support for children and schools is continuing, with schools leading a new multi-academy trust that will, over time, bring together the borough's current offer to develop an improved spectrum of support for children at risk of underachieving in school.
- There is a focus on improving services that support schools and families to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and in particular, improving and developing communication and partnership working with parents/carers and young people building their resilience. We will continue to develop appropriate and timely education, health and care plans where required to better co-ordinate services around the needs of each child.
- To build resilience we will extend our close working with schools that identifies and provides early support to young people at risk of not making a successful transition into either education, employment or training to working the Barnet and Southgate college to identify and support vulnerable college leavers.
- The partnership with Cambridge Education is **guaranteed to save the council £5.4 million by 2019/20**. This will be achieved through a mixture of efficiency measures, and income growth as a result of marketing and selling services to more schools and to other local authorities
- To maintain local authority education support functions in the face of the challenging financial climate, we've entered into a strategic partnership with Cambridge Education to sustain and grow services. Through the governance structure of the partnership, Barnet schools will help shape its growth and development, enabling schools to commission the services they need, including academies and free schools. 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

Libraries

- We are **maintaining the same number of libraries (14)**, as well as the **home, mobile, schools, archive** services and an extended **digital service**.
- We are **increasing access to libraries** by using new technology to **provide self-service opening hours** across the service, alongside a reduction in **staffed opening hours**.
- We are harnessing local community support through **more volunteering opportunities in libraries**, with four Partnership libraries to be run by residents and community organisations. Financial support will also be maintained for the borough's two community libraries.
- We are **maximising the income we generate** through better commercial and other use of library buildings. The remodelling of buildings to implement the new approach will take place during 2017.
- We will explore funding opportunities to promote culture and arts (such as local lotteries) as part of an emerging culture and arts strategy.