



Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee

Date

Title	New Administration Ambitions
Report of	Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Pauline Coakley-Webb
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Chris Munday, Executive Director for Children's Services

Summary

After the May 5th, 2022, elections the Council has a new Labour administration This paper sets out the administration's new aspirations, which relate to the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee's remit. These need to be developed into policy reviewed, and costed, and brought back to committee for implementation.

Officers Recommendations

- 1. Committee requests that the Executive Director for Children and Families develops a programme of work which embeds the aspirations of the new Administration and bring back to the next CES committee for agreement.**

1. Why this report is needed

- 1.1 After the May 5th, 2022 elections the Council now has a new administration. This paper sets out the aspirations of the new administration which relate to the CES Committee's remit. These commitments need to be developed into policy reviewed, costed, and brought back to committee prior to implementation..

- 1.2 The aspirations of the new administration that relate to the remit of this committee are as follows, and the Executive Director of Children and Families will develop service and deliver against these, reporting into this committee:
1. We will work towards 'Outstanding' Children's Services
 2. We will work to ensure a sustainable future for our maintained nurseries and all our schools.
 3. Following the pandemic, we will work to ensure all our children's education is supported and on track.
 4. We will work to provide more transitional housing for care leavers.
 5. We will work with parents and providers to increase access to affordable childcare and to provide more early help for children and families.
 6. We will develop a new vision for youth services

2. Reasons for recommendations

The new administration has been elected with aspirations which need to be developed into a coherent, costed policy. The paper sets out in brief the aspirations and the actions which will be undertaken to ensure that the Council's approach is developed to deliver an effective response.

3. Alternative options considered and not recommended

- 3.1 N/A

4. Post decision implementation

- 4.1 The Executive Director will work with the Lead Member, other officers and partners to develop a coherent work programme for implementation of the administration's aspirations. These will be reported back to committee.

5. Implications of decision

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 Family Friendly is a key part of the Barnet Plan for 2021-2025 with the vision of "Creating a Family Friendly Barnet, enabling opportunities for our children and young people to achieve their best". This is will be reviewed by the new Administration.

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

- 5.2.1 There are no resource implications in developing the workplan. There will be implications in the implementation of the plan and the levels of investment will need to

be considered in the light of the present budget envelope for the committee.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children under various legislation including the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004. They have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and, if this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing services appropriate to the child's needs. They also have a duty to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing services appropriate to the child's needs, provided this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare. They should do this in partnership with parents, in a way that is sensitive to the child's race, religion, culture and language and that, where practicable, takes account of the child's wishes and feelings. Under the Children and Families Act 2014, local authorities must consider how the child or young person can be supported to facilitate their development and to help them achieve the "best possible educational and other outcomes".

5.3.2 Local authorities have specific duties to care leavers under the Children Act 1989 as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The corporate parenting duties and powers under the 1989 Act include:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and,
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living

5.3.3 The Council's Constitution, Article 7 notes that the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee has 'Responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools and education.'

5.4 Insight

5.4.1 Family Services uses a comprehensive suite of performance information to support decision making, including local and regional datasets, audit and financial analysis. This information is scrutinised by Senior Leaders in a variety of forums including Placement Board, Performance Board, MTFS Board and in quarterly meetings with the

Lead Member for Children and Families, and the Chief Executive.

5.5 Social Value

5.5.1 All commissioning activity includes social value as a standard monitoring item.

5.6 Risk Management

5.6.1 Specific risk management is being carried out for Children and Young People's Plan. Any Family Services risks are recorded on the Family Services Risk Register and monitored each quarter by the Senior Leadership Team with escalations to CMT if necessary.

5.7 Equalities and Diversity

5.7.1 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

5.7.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

5.7.3 Equalities and diversity considerations are a key element of social work practice. It is imperative that help and protection services for children and young are sensitive and responsive to age, disability, race and ethnicity, faith or belief, sex, gender reassignment, language, maternity / parental status and sexual orientation. We continue to closely monitor this, as report appendixes notes, in our performance data.

5.8 Corporate Parenting

5.8.1 In July 2016, the Government published their Care Leavers' strategy Keep on Caring which outlined that the "... [the government] will introduce a set of corporate parenting principles that will require all departments within a local authority to recognise their role as corporate parents, encouraging them to look at the services and support that they provide through the lens of what a reasonable parent would do to support their own children.'

5.8.2 The corporate parenting principles set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;

- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and;
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

5.9 Consultation and Engagement

5.9.1 My Say Matters, the Family Services consultation and participation programme, has been launched and the first quarterly report will be published in July and available for the next CES committee.

5.10 Environmental Impact

5.10.1 N/A

6. Background papers

