

Children and Young People Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 22 November 2011

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

Task and Finish Review of the Impact of the Introduction of the Early Intervention Grant

This officer led Task and Finish Review of the Impact of the Introduction of the Early Intervention Grant has now concluded with all three stands having reported to Cabinet. The Select Committee have provided independent challenge in respect of the three work streams: Integrated Youth Support Services, other EIG related services/back office support and early years.

The Committee received a report on the consultation feedback and recommendations in respect of the early years work stream at their meeting on 26 October 2011. The proposals will deliver a more targeted partnership-based service with the commitment to early intervention and support.

The Select Committee supported the recommendations for redesigning Early Years Services in the borough, following discussion around the key issues set out below:

- the extent to which the Council had to abide by the DfE guidelines regarding the number of children centres by population;
- the process of setting “reasonable” charges;
- a recognition that targeted families in affluent areas would not be able to access “closed” sessions in other areas. However, it was noted that there may be some flexibility where capacity existed;
- any partner organisation would need to be subject to robust checks as part of the procurement process;
- there should be a distinction between staff working in the Home Visiting Team (who will transfer into the Children and Young People Operational Service) and social workers.

Forward Programme

The Select Committee’s EIT review of School Effectiveness will commence on 23 November.