

## Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update May 2026

### Scrutiny Review – Additionally Resourced SEND Provision

The overall aim of the scrutiny review is to receive an update on the implementation of the transfer from September 2025 and engage with secondary schools to secure additional applications from the secondary sector, exploring the barriers to the schools becoming Additionally Resourced Provision (ARPs) and identifying ways in which we may overcome this to secure the provision required for children and young people in the borough. Not having a full complement of secondary schools taking up the places risks undermining the effectiveness and reach of this key element of the local SEND Strategy and means that there may be implications for children upon transition to secondary that there may not be the same type or level of support available to them, potentially creating pressure on special school places and missed opportunities for inclusive education in mainstream settings. The Select Committee will therefore be exploring the following key lines of enquiry as part of the review:

- How will the transfer improve the outcomes for children with special educational needs across our Borough?
- How does the project support the Council's vision and strategy for SEND provision?
- What does DfE Guidance tell us?
- Will the changes ensure that there is sufficient and suitable educational provision for SEND pupils in both primary and secondary?
- What are the barriers to secondary schools becoming additionally resourced provision? How can the number of ARP placements in secondary be increased?
- To what extent do families and schools understand the changes and how will they be engaged during implementation?
- Can lessons be learnt from the primary ARP model and the higher uptake?
- Is the funding provided to ARP adequate and sustainable for them to provide the support needed?

The Select Committee's review was paused to understand the implications of the anticipated White Paper. Now that the White Paper has been published, the Select Committee will be receiving a presentation at its May meeting on the implications of the White Paper and consider how this links to the Select Committee's review work.

### Scrutiny Review – Children Not in School

A draft scope and project plan and introductory presentations was considered at the November meeting.

Children not in school covers a range of scenarios where a child is not accessing a full-time education. The range of reasons a child may not be accessing a full-time education at a school is vast and covers:

- All reasons for absence from school including authorised absence, unauthorised absence
- Pupils on reduced/part-time time tables
- Pupils who are accessing Alternative Provision not in a registered school (whether arranged by the school or the local authority)
- Pupils receiving Home and Hospital Provision
- Pupils who are CME (Children Missing Education)
- Children who are EHE (Electively Home Educated)
- Children who have no school base and are EOTAS (Educated Other Than at School)

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- Children who move into the borough and are waiting for a school place

Strengthened systems for Children Not in School has the potential to:

- improve attendance further
- improve pupil outcomes
- reduce associated anti-social and criminal activity
- reduce demands on community safety resources

Evidence sessions have been held on respect of the different categories of CNIS focusing on safeguarding and Members visited home and hospital and electively home educated pupils. The April meeting considered the summary of evidence from the review and the May meeting will consider a draft of the final report.

### Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance

<b>Key Issues / Problems or concerns</b>	<p>At its April meeting, the Select Committee received an overview report for children's social care on key achievements, challenges and emerging issues for 2025/26.</p> <p>Key achievements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strengthening of social work practice confirmed during the focused ILACS visit</li> <li>• The Launch of the Integrated Front Door</li> <li>• Preparedness for Children's Social Care Reforms</li> <li>• Increasing workforce stability</li> </ul> <p>Challenges included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in complexity of need</li> <li>• Sufficiency and budget pressures</li> </ul> <p>Emerging issues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children' Social Care Reform</li> <li>• Development of the Regional Care Cooperative</li> <li>• Youth Justice Modernisation</li> <li>• Best Start in Life Strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Problems or concerns</b>	None
<b>Requests for more information</b>	None

### Monitoring

<b>Key Issues / Problems or concerns</b>	<p>Outstanding monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships - A further progress update to be scheduled in due course</li> <li>• Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment - Ongoing</li> </ul>
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## **Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update May 2026**

<b>Next Scrutiny Review</b>
Alternative Provision

<b>Remaining 2026-2027 Meetings (all 5.00pm unless stated)</b>
13 May 2026 17 June 2026 15 July 2026 16 September 2026 14 October 2026 11 November 2026 16 December 2026 13 January 2027 10 February 2027 17 March 2027