



Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub Committee

Q&A – Cllr Alisa Flemming
Lead Member

22 March 2022

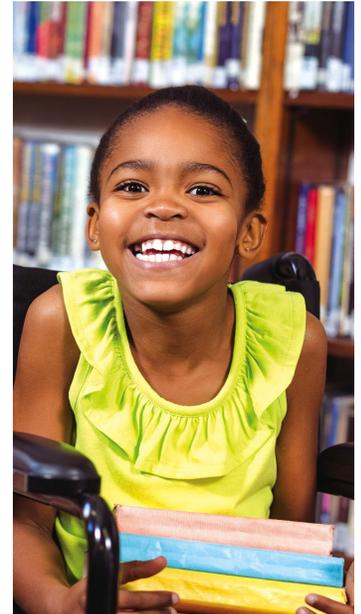
Progress update on regulatory visits

SEND Local Area Inspection

- Positive outcome
 - Self evaluation accurate
 - Judgement that leaders across the local area are aware of the strengths and areas that need continued development and are taking action in respect of these
- Local area partnership in place
- Overview/Plans for taking the actions forward:
 - Key themes in the letter identified and action planning in progress
 - Process to engage with stakeholders about SEND strategy

Early Help & Children's Social Care

- Recommendations from ILACS (2020) and Focused Visit (2021) included in the Continuous Improvement Plan
- 6 monthly update to the Improvement Board in January 2022 showed of the 20 actions 10 were complete 10 were in progress
- Challenges have included:
 - Maintaining momentum through senior staff changes, virtual working and spend reductions
 - Hidden Harm impact on children & families increasing demand for social care
- Opportunities include:
 - New Heads of Service in SPOC, Assessment, Young Croydon, Systemic Clinical Practice & Workforce Development are taking a fresh look at practice



Impact of spend reductions on children's services

Education

- Building back trading with education provision post-pandemic
- Ensuring sufficient capacity to identify and support more vulnerable children
- Children's centre procurement/contractual obligations



Early Help & Children's Social Care

- Ensuring sufficient expert capacity to tackle serious youth violence
- Retaining good staff through structural changes
- Competition for staff from across the London region; impact on caseloads in some teams
- Continued pressure of care experienced young people formerly UASC
- Managing increase in significant needs presented at CSC front door due to Covid impact

Pandemic legacies – what should we be looking out for in Schools, colleges, early years settings and education:

- Settings have experienced high levels of Covid since the beginning of the academic year but have been able to continue to deliver the **curriculum**. Settings are identifying some **gaps** in learning and ensuring provision to close any gaps.
- Key focus on **attendance**
- **EHE** numbers increased
- Food poverty: **FSM** vouchers provided to families during school holidays
- **Hidden Harm**, education provision key safeguarding role
- Impact on some CYP **Mental Health and Well-being** is being identified



Pandemic legacies – what should we be looking out for in Early Help and Children’s Social Care

- Continued increase of higher level needs presented for the first time as children have not been able to access services or their needs have not been recognised earlier
- Increase in severity of children’s mental health needs due to prolonged isolation, worries about Covid, bereavement experiences and gaps in service provision during the lockdown period
- Increase in parental needs for support re mental health, health, substance misuse, domestic abuse and the consequent impact on parenting plus children’s lived experiences
- Impact of poverty, food, fuel, housing and digital, all raising the risk of family breakdown / neglect or abuse of children triggered by stress

Vulnerable children and young people

- Increase in pull factors for children whose educational attendance has been low during the lockdown, prolonged isolation for teenagers and young adults, impact of poverty pulling CYP towards exploiters in return for money, ‘gifts’, a sense of belonging
- Increase in push factors with greater pressures on family life as set out above
- Disproportionate impact on Black families of poverty and exclusion in all forms contributing to push and pull factors for Black children



QUESTIONS?



Cabinet Member Children, Young People and Learning Q&A