

# Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

9 January 2018

## Executive Member Questions

The Committee is invited to question the Executive Member on his work and the work of the Committee. An update from the Executive Member is set out below. The procedure for Executive Member questions is set out overleaf.

**Any questions that the Committee or members of the public may have should be submitted in advance to [democracy@islington.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@islington.gov.uk)**

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### Update from the Executive Member

- Yet again our young people show us how it's done. Our new Youth Council was elected on 51% turnout and nine of the 12 successful candidates are female. Particular congratulations to Honey Baker for being our first ever youth councillor to be re-elected, having first been elected at the age of 13. I'm looking forward to working with the new Youth Council.
- The campaign to end criminal exploitation of children in county lines took a major step forward this with front page coverage in The Times and further coverage on subsequent days. A group of charities including The Children's Society and Missing People have agreed to come together and form a campaigning coalition which I am co-ordinating. I have given evidence to the Missing Children APPG in Parliament on and feel that there is interest in this issue amongst members of the Home Affairs Select Committee. I will continue to lobby to further develop this interest.
- Chance UK urgently need more candidates to be mentors for vulnerable kids in Islington. If you can think of anyone who would be willing to take on this year long commitment please tell them to contact Chance UK.
- The final fair futures commission workshop was held in November and saw young people brainstorm ideas on how best to equip them for life and the world of work, with professionals from business, education, health, social and youth work sectors pitching in. This understanding has led to the emergence of some key themes that will inform the commission's recommendations on how to improve the lives – and life chances – of Islington's young people for generations to come. The draft recommendations include:
  - A guarantee for young people living or studying in the borough about the outcomes and support they can expect;
  - A better focus on work experience;
  - Making life skills in preparation for adulthood a reality;
  - A greater emphasis on youth leadership, social action and giving young people a say in planning and managing public spaces and housing;
  - Developing housing options for young people that allow them to pursue education and work, whatever their background;
  - Changing the approach to rules on estates, such as 'no ball games'.

The commission is formulating recommendations that take account of the severe budget pressures on the council, but also the opportunities afforded by its relationships with other organisations in the private and public sectors.

## **Procedure for Executive Member Questions at Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

- (a) Elected members and members of the public may ask the Executive Member for Children, Schools and Families questions on any matter in relation to the executive portfolio or the work of the committee.
- (b) The intention of the session is to complement and enhance the work of the committee. The Executive Member may submit written information in advance of the meeting to advise of his recent work and other topical and timely matters of relevance. The session is not intended to replace or replicate the questions sessions held at each ordinary meeting of the Council.
- (c) Questions should be submitted in writing to the committee clerk no later than three clear working days in advance of the meeting. Such questions will be notified to the Executive Member which may facilitate a more detailed answer at the meeting. Details of how questions should be submitted will be detailed on the agenda for the meeting.
- (d) Questioners should provide their name to enable this to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The minutes of the meeting will include a summary of the question and the response.
- (e) The Chair may permit questions to be asked at the meeting without notice.
- (f) The time set aside for questions shall be no longer than 15 minutes.
- (g) No individual may ask more than two questions at each meeting.
- (h) Where there is more than one question on any particular subject or closely related subjects, the Executive Member may give a joint reply to the questions.
- (i) The committee clerk shall have power to edit or amend written questions to make them concise but without affecting the substance, following consultation with the questioner.
- (j) An answer may take the form of:
  - A direct oral answer;
  - Where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
  - Where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner within 5 working days provided the questioner has given contact details.
- (k) Priority shall normally be given to questions notified in advance.
- (l) The Chair may permit supplementary questions to be asked. Supplementary questions must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.
- (m) A question may be rejected by the committee clerk, or the Chair at the meeting, if it:
  - does not relate to the executive portfolio or the work of the committee;
  - is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
  - is substantially the same as a question asked to the Executive Member at any meeting within the last six months;
  - requests the disclosure of information which is confidential or exempt; or
  - names, or clearly identifies, a member of staff or any other individual.