



ISLINGTON

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 October 2019

SECOND DESPATCH

Please find enclosed the following items:

Item 2 Executive Member Update and Questions

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Cllr Kaya Comer Schwartz, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Adults.

Alex Smith

At the start of August, we received the terrible news that 16-year-old Alex Smith had lost his life in Munster Square in Camden. Alex was a resident of Brent at the time of his death but had lived in Islington previously. This latest tragic loss of a young person is a poignant reminder of how important our efforts with all our partners and across the council to: work with families, to provide a high quality youth offer and doing targeted interventions for young people involved in or at risk of criminality are. As well as continuing to roll out trauma informed practice training and make significant progress on reducing exclusions.

Educational Attainment

A-Levels

Despite a fall in A level results nationally, Islington's provisional A level results showed improvements on A*-B (+1.5% points), A*-C (+4% points) and all A level passes (+1.2% points) compared to the local authority's 2018 final figures.

GCSES

The Attainment 8 measure, which shows a pupil's average grade across eight of their best subjects, remains well above the national average. In the English Baccalaureate Islington's Average Point Score has improved and also remains well above last year's national. One in four pupils this year achieved three or more of the very top grades (7-9).

KS2 SATS

For the first time we are now at the inner London figure of 69. At the Higher than expected level, inner London was 14 and Islington was 15 so we are above inner London for that measure.

Procurement of Youth Hubs

Our youth provision is something we can be very proud that we have, despite financial pressures, protected. On the 17th October the Executive took the decision to move forward with the re-procurement of Soapbox and to grant a year's extension the contracts for Lift, Platform and Rosebowl in order to manage risk around any procurement being failed and to avoid there being a break in the offer for young people. This extension gives us the opportunity to think about how the provision is working currently and what our vision for them is in future.

Islington's Social and Emotional Mental Health Central Point of Access

I was recently proud to join Cllr Watts in launching Islington's Social and Emotional Mental Health Central Point of Access service. Given that an estimated 3,500 CYP aged 5 – 16 years have a diagnosable mental health condition in Islington; an estimated 6,250 young people aged 16 – 24 have a diagnosable common mental health condition in Islington as well as more than 3,000 CYP aged 0 – 18 accessed support across the range of services offered in 17/18. It is imperative that Islington Clinical Commissioning group and Islington Council work in partnership to provide mental health support based in what young people have said they need, is easily accessible and linked to our other youth services. I am looking forward to closely monitoring the outcomes of this service.

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