

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

30 October 2017

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 jonathan.moore@islington.gov.uk no later than Tuesday 24th October.

Update from the Executive Member

- I am continuing to lead a national campaign for action on County Lines drug dealing. I've take part in a BBC documentary, been on 5Live and File on Four to push the key messages. I am bringing together national children's charities at the Town Hall in November to share intelligence and agree a way forward for a national campaign. At Borough level, we are working with neighbouring boroughs to take a new approach to safeguarding young people caught up in these networks.
- Highbury Grove had a positive outcome from their Ofsted monitoring visit which is very welcome. There have been minimal teething problems since September and the City of London have been good partners during this difficult time for the school. Progress at Hungerford has also been good. St Mary's has been judged Good with Outstanding Features.
- Work will progress with the NEU and local parents for a campaign to dissuade Islington's eight Catholic Schools from joining a MAT. The Catholic Diocese have set out plans to invite governing bodies to join; we have clearly said that there must be a real consultation amongst parents at each school in which both sides of the argument are heard.
- I accompanied three care leavers and LBI officers for an event in Stoke to learn about bringing 'The House Project' to Islington. This is an exciting project which will enable a group of care leavers here to renovate vacant properties so they can be occupied by care leavers.
- We were delighted to open a new Youth Club, Soap Box in Old Street. It is being operated by Dragon Hall who are experts in bringing digital skills to young people. The facility includes a virtual reality cave, digital recording studios and 3D printing facilities amongst other things.

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.