



Report of: Chair of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting of	Date	Ward(s)
Executive	22 July 2021	All
Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt

**Subject: Strategy Underpinning the Transition from COVID-19
– Findings of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report requests that the Executive receive the report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee following the completion of its review of the Strategy Underpinning the Transition from COVID-19. A response to the recommendations set out in the report will be considered at a future meeting of the Executive.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee be received.
- 2.2 That the Executive Member's response be reported to a future meeting of the Executive, including having due regard to any relevant implications of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.

3. Background

- 3.1 The review took place between September 2020 and March 2021. The overall aim was to assess both the long and short-term impacts of COVID-19, the measures implemented as a result of COVID-19, including innovative forms of learning, and the lessons that have been learned in order to make recommendations to:

- Reverse the effects of COVID-19 on attainment, safeguarding, equalities, youth safety and justice.
- Prepare for future spikes/waves of Covid-19 and also develop plans for a COVID-free landscape.

3.2 The Committee also agreed to the following objectives:

- To examine the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people.
- To explore the development of different types of learning, support offered to parents/carers and their experiences.
- To analyse the ways in which COVID-19 impacted upon the work of Children’s Services and how services were adapted during lockdown.
- To evaluate the work already undertaken to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and identify how this could be developed further.
- To use national research and literature to identify best practice in the response to COVID-19.
- To produce workable recommendations for the council and schools to deliver improvements in educational outcomes across schools after lockdown and support those who have suffered abuse and/or neglect during lockdown.

3.3 In undertaking the review, the Committee met with young people, parents of early years children, headteachers, council officers, community leaders and others to gain a balanced view. The Committee also considered local and national data and a variety of documentary evidence. This final report has an emphasis on learning due to the immediate impacts that were experienced. It is anticipated that as we move into a post-Covid world, further impacts will be more visible.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

The proposals in the report need to be costed before a response is made by the Executive.

4.2 Legal Implications

Relevant legal implications will be considered as part of the response to the review.

4.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:

There are no environmental implications or contributions to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030 at this stage. Any environmental implications and contributions to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030 will be identified as part of the Executive Member response.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and

foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The Committee has had regard to any equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses during the course of the review. Details of any such implications are set out in the appended report. A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed as the Executive is only asked to receive the report at this stage. The impact on residents will need to be fully considered as part of the Executive response to the review, at which point a Resident Impact Assessment will be completed if required.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

Fifteen recommendations have been made in response to the evidence received. These are related to mental health and wellbeing, learning and pedagogy, funding, communications and developments post-COVID. The Committee would like to thank all the witnesses that gave evidence in relation to the review. The Executive is asked to endorse the Committee's recommendations.

Appendices:

- Strategy Underpinning the Transition from COVID-19 Scrutiny Review – Report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Background papers:

- None.

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Chair of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Date

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