

# Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

3 March 2016

## Executive Member Questions

The Committee is invited to note the below update and question the Executive Member on his work and the work of the Committee.

**Any questions that the Committee or members of the public may have should be submitted in advance to [jonathan.moore@islington.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.moore@islington.gov.uk) no later than Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016.**

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### Executive Member Update – February 2015

**Cllr Joe Caluori, Executive Member for Children and Families –**

- **Mount Carmel**, a Catholic Secondary Girls School in the North of the Borough is set to close and reopen as a non-denominational mixed gender Academy. The Catholic Diocese has taken this decision because the School has been seriously under enrolled for some time and will run a large deficit in 2016/17. We agree that the future need for non-denominational secondary school places, especially the need for places for boys, means that we need to keep a school on that site. Clearly our preference would be to open a new Community School, but we are legally prohibited from doing so. We will be working to influence the Regional Commissioner to choose a provider who works in and had experience of Islington, and supporting staff and families at Mt Carmel during the transition.
- **Lough Road**. Following an inconclusive end to the consultation with parents, children and staff, a decision was taken not to close Lough Road, which currently provides day time activities and a small amount of overnight respite care for children and young people with both physical disabilities and severe learning disabilities. Instead, we have run a new co-operative process with parents to decide the future direction for services at that site. As a result we will continue to operate the day services from Lough Road, but it will no longer provide overnight respite breaks, which will instead be covered by our family based respite service. The saving from this will be reinvested in early intervention outreach for families to help them better manage behaviour in the home.
- **CSE awareness**. The Safeguarding Board need to do more to communicate the risks of peer to peer CSE and harmful sexual behaviours to young people, but unless these risks must be communicated in an authentic way that will be credible with young people. I have convened a group including representatives of Schools, the police, social care and Arsenal to design a competition for pupils at Islington schools to write a script for a short film aimed at the peers and their parents. The winning films will be professionally produced and used in awareness raising activity across the Borough.
- **And finally...** I'm delighted Islington was granted the highest level baby-friendly award by Unicef at an event at the Whittington Hospital. They were hugely complementary of our work on breast feeding and the positive impact it's had on families. This clearly vindicates our continued support for the breast funding peer support scheme.

## 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 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.