

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

22 September 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.

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 Friday 16th September 2016.

Executive Member Update

A-Level results

Islington's Sixth Form Consortium (IC6) have once again done really well in their A-level results and vocational qualifications – with a record 100 per cent pass rate in A-level English.

This year 70.3 per cent of exam grades were A*-C, and 42.1 per cent of A level entries were graded at A*-B. More than half of vocational qualifications were at either Distinction (D) or Distinction* (D*) with several students achieving the highest-possible triple D*. The overall pass rate in A-level and equivalent vocational qualifications in Islington was 96.5 per cent.

GCSE results

We had a strong set of results this year, with a slight increase in the percentage of pupils getting 5 A-Cs including English and Maths. There is still a high level of variability between individual schools that needs to be addressed with two schools performing below national expectations for attainment although in line with expected progress from pupils starting points. In a difficult year, huge credit should go to teachers and pupils for a strong set of results amid a national picture of falling grades.

Youth

Details of how we are using our new £500k fund for intensive interventions for those being drawn into youth crime in 2016/17 were published in a paper that went to Policy and Performance Committee before the summer break. We are working with providers now to make sure our commissioning strategy for the next three years is right before going out to tender in January.

Over the summer we also held a massive deliberative research event at Lift to help us shape our universal youth services over the next three years. The event was co-designed by our Youth Council and was attended by young people and many local organisations. Some fantastic ideas came out of the day, which will feed into our strategy.

Ladbroke House

The Meller Educational Trust has been named as the providers bidding to run a new Free School on the old London Met site at Ladbroke House in Highbury. I have serious concerns about the possible impact of this new school in neighbouring schools Highbury Grove and Highbury Fields, in terms of pupils numbers, but also of the impact on the local community. If this scheme were approved up to 3000 secondary and sixth form pupils would be dispersing at the end of each day, and that is before you consider the primary schools around Highbury.

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, Young People 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.