

Appendix 2: Interview session notes from meeting with officers from Camden Learning and Camden Council

This is evidence gathered by Cllr McNamara and Headlam-Wells from meeting the following people:

- Stephen Hall, CEO Camden Learning
 - Eve Stickler, Director of Early Intervention and Prevention, Camden Council
 - Leonie Holt, Early Years Advisory Teacher, Camden Learning
 - Debbie Adams, Head of Early Years Service, Camden Council
 - Cathy Pajak, Early Years Locality Leader, Camden Council
 - Kay Williams, Early Years Quality Support and Training, Camden Council
1. General agreement, from both local teachers, Heads, parents and governors that there is a language development issue for Early Years children post Covid. We were directed to Ofsted Reports 2020, 2021, 2022, Literacy Trust surveys with parents and emerging data: Camden, pan - London and national, indicating the same issue.
 2. Concern that such language delay will have a knock-on impact with reading development
 3. Acknowledgement that there is considerable between school variation across Camden in terms of standards data, namely disadvantaged pupils suffered most as a result of the pandemic and that responsibility and accountability for Early Years is split between Camden children's centres, Camden schools with nurseries and Private, Voluntary or Independent (PVI) nurseries, child minders, Stay and Play etc.
 4. Possible further question/key line of enquiry- to what extent has Covid stopped children accessing the services they need e.g., Speech and Language therapy? Some parents are paying privately for help, schools are struggling to find extra resources for children because of squeezed budgets.
 5. Concern about government standards expectations regarding levels of progress remaining the same, when the baseline on entry has changed for some children. What is needed is more time to help children to catch up.
 6. *First Thousand Days* project should begin to help pick up language acquisition delays and provide some support
 7. *Camden Kids Talk* strategy and *Wellcomm* programme already being piloted in some schools – is being rolled out to all Camden School nurseries - is being used by Health Visitors – so is integrated into the *First Thousand Days* project - a national project.