

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: ALL
REPORT TITLE Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families' response on the investigation into the impact of Covid-19 on the language development of Early Years and Key Stage 1 children in Camden	
REPORT OF Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee	DATE 13 March 2024
SUMMARY OF REPORT <p>In February 2023, a scrutiny panel report which investigated the impact of Covid-19 on the language development of Early Years and Key Stage 1 children in Camden was presented to the CSF Scrutiny Committee. The scrutiny panel was made up of elected members and co-opted members from the CSF Scrutiny Committee. The report requested that the Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families prepare a response to the recommendations from the investigation and to report back to the committee.</p> <p>The findings of this enquiry revealed that the Covid-19 pandemic had led to a language delay in Early Years in Camden, which could have ramifications for later academic attainment and is likely to disproportionately impact disadvantaged children. This report contains the Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families' response to these recommendations.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Panel's inquiry and praise for the service was gratefully received. Most recommendations are agreed upon. Several recommendations advocate for key members to communicate to national government about identified areas for improvement and/or additional funding. In light of this, Cllr Boyland, Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families, is actively engaging in ongoing discussions with Cllr Georgia Gould, Leader of the Council, on how best to take these recommendations forward.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p>	

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RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to note the report.



Signed:

Councillor Marcus Boyland, Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families

Date: 1 March 2024

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. In February 2023, a report which investigated the impact of Covid-19 on the language development of Early Years and Key Stage 1 children in Camden was presented to the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee. The findings of this enquiry revealed that the Covid-19 pandemic had induced a language delay in Early Years in Camden, which could have ramifications for later academic attainment, and which was likely to disproportionately impact disadvantaged children.
- 1.2. Following their enquiry, the panel outlined a series of 13 recommendations, which are listed in a table in Appendix 1, alongside the Cabinet Member's response on how these recommendations are being taken forward.
- 1.3. Several recommendations advocate for key members – The Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families, and the Chair of the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee – to communicate to national government about identified areas for improvement and/or additional funding. In light of this, Cllr Boyland, Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families, is actively engaging in ongoing discussions with Cllr Georgia Gould, Leader of the Council, on how best to take these recommendations forward.

2. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

The Director of Finance has been consulted on the contents of this report and has no comment to make at this time.

3. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

The Borough Solicitor has been consulted on the contents of this report and has no comment to make at this time.

4. Environmental Implications

This proposal has no environmental implications.

5. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Recommendations and Cabinet Members' Responses.

REPORT ENDS