

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

At a meeting of the **CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held on **MONDAY, 3RD SEPTEMBER, 2018** at 6.30 pm in Committee Room 1, Crowndale Centre, 218 Eversholt Street London NW1 1BD

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT

Councillors Oliver Lewis (Chair), Samata Khatoon, Stephen Stark, Abi Wood, Anna Wright and Co-opted Member Reverend Guy Pope

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ABSENT

Councillors Nasim Ali, Julian Fulbrook, Shiva Tiwar and Co-opted Members Imogen Sharp and Camden Youth Council representative

The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting. They are subject to approval and signature at the next meeting of the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee and any corrections approved at that meeting will be recorded in those minutes.

MINUTES

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Ali, Imogen Sharp and Councillor Taheri.

The Cabinet Members, Councillors Hai and Mason had also sent their apologies for absence.

To Note: All

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

There were no declarations made.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was announced that Kim Issroff a Co-opted Member since 2011 had resigned from the Committee. The Chair thanked Kim for her independent voice and great service to the committee.

To Note: All

4. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

5. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

6. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting and it was noted that:

- **Minutes, agenda page 11** The question mark in the sentence under the action point should be deleted
- A travel plan update would be circulated to members of the committee

**To Note: All
Action By: Executive Director Supporting People**

RESOLVED

THAT subject to the above change the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 July 2018 be approved as a correct record.

To Note: All

7. UPDATE ON PROVISIONAL SCHOOL EXAM RESULTS

The committee received a presentation from the Managing Director of Camden Learning with the 2018 provisional attainment headlines for early years foundation stage results, with key stage results from Primary (KS1 & 2 and Secondary (KS4 and 5), **Appendix A**.

The provisional information to the committee included the following:

- Provisional Foundation Stage Profile - good level of development
- Provisional Key Stage 1 (KS1) Reading - had narrowed the gap on 2017 national and London averages
- Provisional KS1- Writing, an increase on the 2017 results, above the national results for 2017 and closer to London results for 2017
- Provisional Key Stage One - Maths, above the national results for 2017 and closer to London results for 2017
- Provisional Key Stage Two - Reading, an increase on 2017 and well above the 2018 national results and above the London 2017 results

- Provisional Key Stage Two - Writing, an increase on 2017 and above the 2018 national results and above the London 2017 results
- Provisional Key Stage Two - Maths, an increase on 2017 and above the 2018 national results and above the London 2017 results
- Provisional Key stage Two - Combined, an increase on 2017 and well above the 2018 national results and also well above the London 2017 results
- Provisional Key Stage Four, results were largely in line with 2017 results (where comparable) and there is no national comparator available yet
- Provisional Key Stage Four - Entries, both reformed and unreformed GCSEs show Camden did better than the national average across all subjects
- Provisional Key Stage Five (A Level entries), Camden A* results at higher than the 2018 national results, Camden entries awarded A* - C higher than the national results

To Note: All

During consideration of the presentation the committee discussed the following:

- The moderating of the teaching in early years and good practice at other authorities were being looked at as a useful comparison an approach
- That the results for early years were reliant on families speaking English as a first language. What did a good level of development look like when pupils were working at different levels and all pupils were not school ready at the start of their education
- Schools were responsible for tracking the progress of their pupils, they knew their pupils well and knew who needed support. Progress was tracked and measured but the information was not held centrally. Detailed information on progress would be available at the February meeting on Achievement and Standards in schools. The progress of Camden children at school in other boroughs was not tracked by Camden
- The 1% of pupils indicated in the data was equal to 100 Camden pupils
- The difference in the levels of attainment at KS2 and KS4 was in part due to Camden being an importer of students at secondary school level. This meant that the children assessed at KS4 were a very different cohort to those that had been assessed at KS2
- More recently there had been an increase in the number of Camden residents choosing Camden schools for their children
- There were standards meeting at all schools. What was also needed was a forensic analysis of the data for children from Camden and those joining Camden schools. This needed to include progress monitoring and tracking, what interventions had been effective and how to improve performance and sharing good practice across schools. Was there a way to look at the data for just Camden children at KS2 and KS4 and track that progress?

Camden Learning (CL) was building on a foundation of good Camden Schools that had an established network of engagement across the family of schools. Camden Learning was growing in effectiveness and developing a system response to schools

issues, developing moderation and strengthening collegiality. There was a high level of commitment and motivation from teachers in Camden, with levels of professional development and incentives that made Camden very different to other boroughs. The maths results work was an example of building on the knowledge and experience in the borough and extending it across schools.

The committee thanked Christine Gilbert, Chair of the Camden Learning Board and Jon Abbey, Managing Director for the presentation, the information received and looked forward to the full and detailed Achievement and Standards report to the committee in February.

RESOLVED

THAT the presentation be noted.

To Note: All

8. 2018 ANNUAL SCHOOL PLACES PLANNING PROCESS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director Supporting People that provided information on planning projections and the 2018 current capacity and pressures within the borough, projected future demand and any likely impact of changes in neighbouring boroughs. This report was part of the statutory duty to ensure that there were sufficient school places in the Camden local authority area for every child who wanted one.

In response to questions the committee was told that:

- The map referred to on page 99 of the agenda for the Holborn area had been included to show key development sites in the area but was very out of date. It was agreed that an plan providing updated information would be circulated to the committee

Action By: Executive Director Supporting People

- Abacus Belsize Primary School was a Free School that the council had worked collaboratively with but as a free school there was no funding relationship with Camden Council.

To Note: All

RESOLVED

THAT the report be noted

To Note: All
Action By: Executive Director Supporting People

9. SCHOOL ABSENCE AND EXCLUSION

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director Supporting People that provided an update on school attendance figures for Camden, benchmarked against London and national data.

In response to questions the committee was told that:

- There was a clear correlation between school attendance and attainment. A Department of Education Study in 2012 had shown that for every 17 days of school absence it reduced exam results by 1 GCSE grade. Camden Learning would be carrying out a detailed analysis of the correlation between absence and attainment in Camden Schools
- The leadership and school approach were key to the ownership of this issue and how it was addressed. There were a range of approaches in schools but the absence levels in Camden compared to other London boroughs was poor
- Persistent absence data was available from each school and the issue was considered on a case by case basis with the aim of finding the right range of support for each child. This report had looked at the issue from a performance lens but behind each figure was a child and their family
- Not attending school had a detrimental effect on attainment and was a proxy indicator for other issues that might be affecting children and their families
- The links to safeguarding issues had been highlighted as part of the Youth Safety Taskforce. The report to the scrutiny committee in December, on safeguarding, would include information on absence, the referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and the use of early help/fixed penalty fines
- The Camden Learning analysis would be reported back to this scrutiny committee
- Being away from school, part of the day, for a medical appointment was not recorded as an absence

To Note: All

The committee also received a presentation, **Appendix B** that provided an update on school exclusions in Camden. It included:

- Rate of Permanent Exclusion
 - National and Inner London - secondary schools
 - Camden and other London boroughs - secondary schools
- Secondary Fixed Term Exclusions
 - London Borough of Camden
 - Camden, National and Inner London
- Rate of Fixed Term Exclusions, Camden and Neighbouring London boroughs - secondary schools

- Rate of Permanent Exclusion
 - National and Inner London - primary schools
 - Camden and other London boroughs - secondary schools
- Count of Fixed Exclusions
 - London Borough of Camden - primary schools
 - National and Inner London - primary schools
- Rate of Fixed Exclusion - Camden and other London boroughs- primary schools
- Percentage breakdown of Exclusions by Gender of Excluded Pupil
- Ethnic breakdown - Camden Permanent and Fixed Exclusions
- Current tools for reducing exclusions. Action plan for reducing exclusions
- Key Stage 4 Alternative provision programme
- Restarting Camden Centre for Learning's Key Stage 3 REACH programme
- Primary Re-integration satellite programme

In response to questions about the presentation the committee was told that:

- Schools were under increasing financial pressures but they were working collaboratively to manage resources and meet the challenges of supporting pupils that needed the support of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)
- Camden Schools continued to take an inclusive and collective approach and had not excluded pupils to improve their performance figures. Camden head teachers had a number of strategies to jointly manage resources and to meet the needs of pupils. The approach in Camden had been developed and nurtured over a number of years was not typical of all boroughs
- An update from Camden Centre for Learning on the attainment of the pupils at the PRU would be included in the Achievement and Standards report at the February meeting

RESOLVED

- i) THAT the report and the presentation at Appendix B be noted
- ii) THAT the Camden Learning review on absence would be added to the scrutiny committee's work programme

**To Note: All
Action By: Executive Director Supporting People**

10. CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

The committee considered a report that set out the work programme for the municipal year 2018/19 and

RESOLVED

- (i) THAT information on excluded and absent children be included in the December agenda report - Young People at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and Criminal Exploitation
- (ii) THAT an update on the Camden Learning review on school absence be included in the Achievement and Standards report at the February 2019 meeting
- (iii) THAT early years provision and childcare be included in the report on Schools Funding for the March 2019 meeting.

**Action By: Executive Director Supporting People
To Note: All**

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE MEETING DATES

It was noted that the next meeting of the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee would take place on **Tuesday 23 October 2018** and the following dates were also noted:

Thursday 6 December 2018
Monday 18 February 2019
Thursday 28 March 2019

To Note: All

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECIDES TO CONSIDER AS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

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The meeting ended at 8.55pm

CHAIR

Contact Officer: Donna Alexander-Morrison

Telephone No: 020 7974 5319

E-Mail: donna.alexander-morrison@camden.gov.uk

MINUTES END