

Question Time: Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning

Cllr Alisa Flemming



Early Help & Children's Social Care



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Children and Young People's Scrutiny 2nd March 2021



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Early Help & Children's Social Care

Update

- Supported children and families through the Covid-19 pandemic, adapting day-to-day working to ensure clear continued oversight of children and families
- Experienced interim appointments providing continuity of leadership
- Continued service improvement and development e.g. SPOC transformation
- Quality assurance activity shows that the improvements in the quality of practice have been sustained

Early Help & Children's Social Care

Challenges

- Continuing to attract, recruit and retain high quality social care staff
- Reducing the cost of services to work within the council's available resources whilst retaining improvements
- Continued financial impact of the location of the Home Office point of entry, resulting in high numbers of unaccompanied children and care leavers

Early Help & Children's Social Care

Opportunities

Linked to the savings and growth proposals:

- Complete the transformation of the 'front door' to better engage with partners, manage risk and reduce referrals
- Work with partners including the voluntary sector and schools to reshape early help, simplifying the offer for families
- Sustain and build upon the systemic model of practice, embedding expertise within services
- Strategic commissioning focused on outcomes and value for money

Education



Education

Update

- Addington Valley Academy opening in a temporary site
- St Nicholas new building opened for delighted pupils and their families
- Cabinet approved the closure of Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior School
- A Level and GCSE grades were awarded by Centre Assessed Grades
- Schools remained open during the Lockdowns for vulnerable and key worker children and young people
- Welcomed colleagues from the Early Learning Collaborative to the Education directorate

Education – St. Nicholas Academy



Education

Challenges

- Pressures continues on High needs budgets overspend – DfE High Needs Management plan to be submitted following approval at School Forum.
- Ensuring that pupils fully return to schools.
- Massive increase in EHE
- Focus on ensuring that our pupils are on the right pathways and that they are not negatively impacted by the Pandemic
- Possible increase in safeguarding and mental health and well-being concerns following the extended time out of school

Education

Opportunities

- Widening the implementation of the 'new approach' to SEND inclusion funding with schools
- Closer working with schools to support Early Help
- Continuing the positive relationship with all our schools
- Develop our Early Years strategy alongside a redesign of the Children's Centre model

CFE Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/24

PROPOSAL	2021/22 (£,000's)	2022/23 (£,000's)	2023/24 (£,000's)
Reconfiguration of Early Help Services	(424)	(185)	-
Reconfiguration of Adolescent Services	(1,608)	-	-
Review of Children with Disabilities Care Packages	(384)	(384)	(384)
Reduction in the numbers of children in care	(794)	(1,654)	(1,385)
Review Support for Young People where Appeal Rights Exhausted	(295)	(560)	(142)
Improve Practice System Efficiency	(1,065)	(1,450)	(385)
Embed Systemic Practice Model	(272)	-	-
Release of one off investment / full year effect of savings from 2020/21	(1,462)	-	-
Staffing Review	(1,471)	-	-
Review Children's Centres Delivery Model	(660)	(240)	-
Reduce Non-Statutory Education Functions	(587)	(221)	-
Early Learning Collaboration Contract	(82)	-	-
Cease Family Group Conference Service	(203)	-	-
Croydon Music & Arts (CMA)	(126)	-	-
Children, Families & Education - Efficiencies	(9,433)	(4,694)	(2,296)
Children Looked After Placements - fund Demographic and Cost Pressures	8,211	85	77
Leaving Care - fund Demographic and Cost Pressures	2,031	-	-
Asylum Seekers Budget Correction	220	-	-
Children with Disabilities - fund Demographic and Cost Pressures	6,477	-	-
Realignment of Budgets where other funding sources have ceased	1,719	-	-
Realignment of Budgets from 2020/21	909	-	-
SEND Strategy - support inclusion and access to local provision	866	-	-
Children, Families & Education - Growth	20,433	85	77
Children, Families & Education - Net	11,000	(4,609)	(2,219)

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