

Notice of Meeting of the

ASSEMBLY

**to be held on Wednesday, 13 September 2017
commencing at 7:00 pm in the
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Barking**



To all Members of the Council of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Date of publication: 5 September 2017

Chris Naylor
Chief Executive

Councillors and Senior officers are invited to attend a briefing by Cllr Maureen Worby, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health Integration, on a new vision for the Borough's mental health services. The Council is facing two major new opportunities to focus on improving the mental health of its residents and the pre-Assembly briefing will provide Members with a chance to explore what they will mean. This short presentation and discussion comes just ahead of World Mental Health Day on 10 October 2017. The briefing will take place in the Council Chamber from 6.00 pm until 6.45 pm.

Contact Officer: Leanna McPherson
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E-mail: leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Members are asked to declare any interest they may have in any matter which is to be considered at this meeting.

3. Minutes - To confirm as correct the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2017 (Pages 3 - 9)

4. Death of Former Councillor Darrin Best (Page 11)

5. Leader's Statement

The Leader will present his statement.

6. Appointments

The Labour Group Secretary will announce any nominations to fill vacant positions on Council committees or other bodies.

7. Appointment of Faith Representative Co-optees to the Children's Services Select Committee (Page 13)

8. Outcome of Joint Local Area SEND Inspection (Pages 15 - 29)

9. Motions

No motions were received.

10. Questions With Notice

11. Any other public items which the Chair decides are urgent

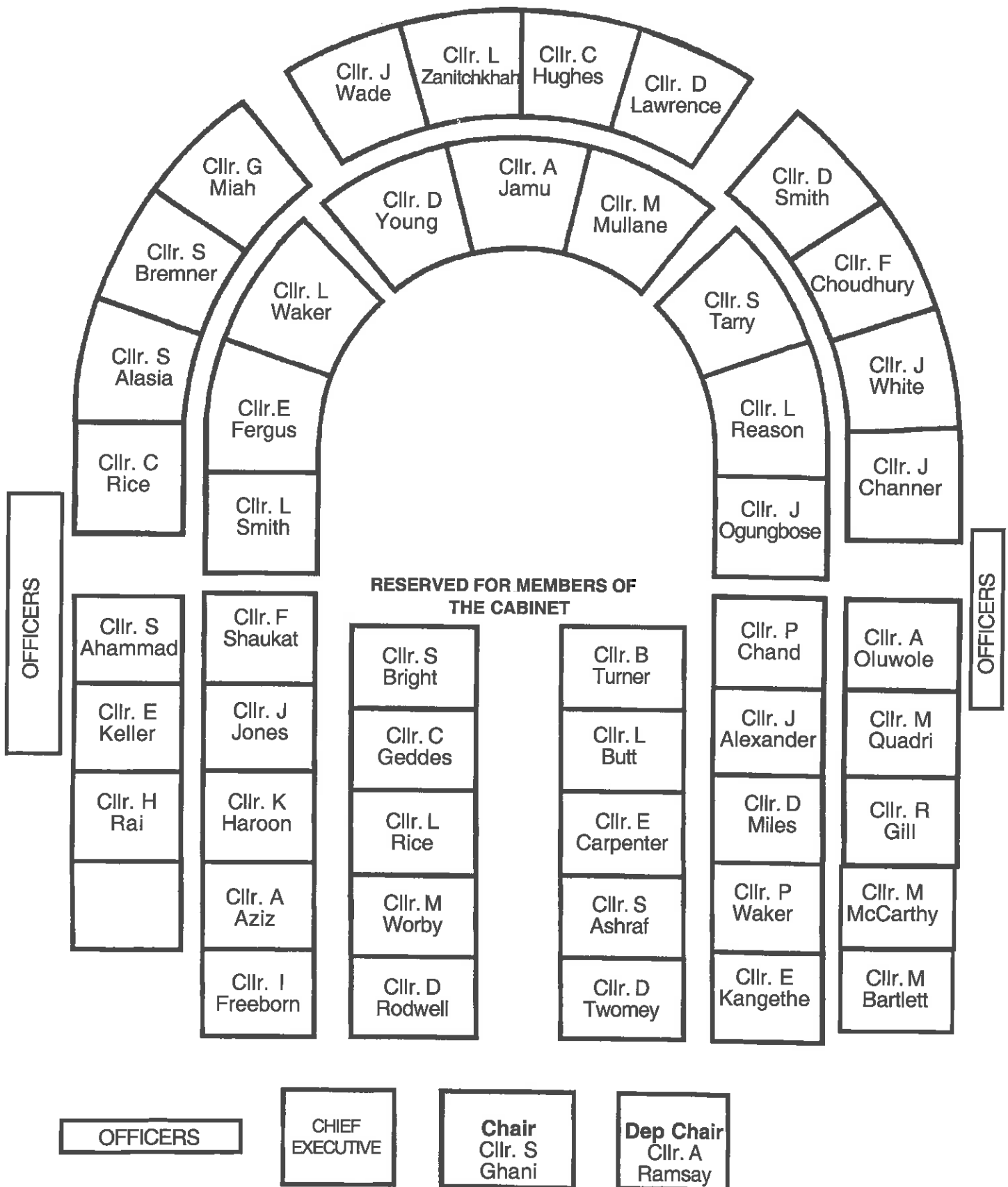
12. To consider whether it would be appropriate to pass a resolution to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the meeting due to the nature of the business to be transacted.

Private Business

The public and press have a legal right to attend Council meetings such as the Assembly, except where business is confidential or certain other sensitive information is to be discussed. The list below shows why items are in the private part of the agenda, with reference to the relevant legislation (the relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended). ***There are no such items at the time of preparing this agenda.***

- 13. Any confidential or exempt items which the Chair decides are urgent**

BARKING TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER



SEATING PLAN FOR THE ASSEMBLY

Our Vision for Barking and Dagenham

One borough; one community; London's growth opportunity

Our Priorities

Encouraging civic pride

- Build pride, respect and cohesion across our borough
- Promote a welcoming, safe, and resilient community
- Build civic responsibility and help residents shape their quality of life
- Promote and protect our green and public open spaces
- Narrow the gap in attainment and realise high aspirations for every child

Enabling social responsibility

- Support residents to take responsibility for themselves, their homes and their community
- Protect the most vulnerable, keeping adults and children healthy and safe
- Ensure everyone can access good quality healthcare when they need it
- Ensure children and young people are well-educated and realise their potential
- Fully integrate services for vulnerable children, young people and families

Growing the borough

- Build high quality homes and a sustainable community
- Develop a local, skilled workforce and improve employment opportunities
- Support investment in housing, leisure, the creative industries and public spaces to enhance our environment
- Work with London partners to deliver homes and jobs across our growth hubs
- Enhance the borough's image to attract investment and business growth

Well run organisation

- A digital Council, with appropriate services delivered online
- Promote equalities in the workforce and community
- Implement a smarter working programme, making best use of accommodation and IT
- Allow Members and staff to work flexibly to support the community
- Continue to manage finances efficiently, looking for ways to make savings and generate income
- Be innovative in service delivery

MINUTES OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 19 July 2017
(7:11 - 8:24 pm)

PRESENT

Cllr Syed Ghani (Chair)

Cllr Syed Ahammad	Cllr Saima Ashraf	Cllr Melanie Bartlett
Cllr Simon Bremner	Cllr Sade Bright	Cllr Laila M. Butt
Cllr Evelyn Carpenter	Cllr Peter Chand	Cllr Josephine Channer
Cllr Edna Fergus	Cllr Irma Freeborn	Cllr Cameron Geddes
Cllr Rocky Gill	Cllr Kashif Haroon	Cllr Chris Hughes
Cllr Amardeep Singh Jamu	Cllr Jane Jones	Cllr Elizabeth Kangethe
Cllr Eileen Keller	Cllr Mick McCarthy	Cllr Giasuddin Miah
Cllr Dave Miles	Cllr James Ogungbose	Cllr Adegboyega Oluwole
Cllr Moin Quadri	Cllr Linda Reason	Cllr Faraaz Shaukat
Cllr Danielle Smith	Cllr Bill Turner	Cllr Dominic Twomey
Cllr Jeff Wade	Cllr Lee Waker	Cllr Phil Waker
Cllr Maureen Worby	Cllr Linda Zanitchkhah	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Sanchia Alasia	Cllr Jeanne Alexander	Cllr Abdul Aziz
Cllr Faruk Choudhury	Cllr Danielle Lawrence	Cllr Margaret Mullane
Cllr Hardial Singh Rai	Cllr Chris Rice	Cllr Lynda Rice
Cllr Darren Rodwell	Cllr Sam Tarry	Cllr John White

9. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

10. Minutes (17 May 2017)

The minutes of the Assembly held on 17 May 2017 were confirmed as correct.

11. Minutes of Sub-Committees

The Assembly received and noted the minutes of the:

Joint JNC Salaries & Conditions and Appointments Panel held on 10 May 2017;
JNC Appointments Panel held on 23 May 2017; and
JNC Appointments Panel held on 22 June 2017

12. Leader's Statement

At the request of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Growth and Investment, the Chair asked the Assembly to stand for a minute's silence for

number of tragic events that had taken place since the last meeting of the Assembly, namely the Manchester Arena bombing, the knife attack at London Bridge and Borough Market, the appalling tragedy at Grenfell Tower in Kensington and the terrible events outside Finsbury Park Mosque.

The Assembly stood for a minute's silence.

The Leader then presented a verbal statement updating the Assembly on a range of matters since the last meeting, including:

- The Councils response to the Grenfell Tower Fire. The Council had undertaken a huge amount of work locally to check that the Councils blocks were safe and to reassure borough residents whether they lived in Council, Housing Association or private rented accommodation;
- The Councils response to the news that two of the London Bridge attacked perpetrators resided in the Borough. The Council had re-doubled efforts on community cohesion and put in place a number of initiatives including a book of condolence, one minute's silence and supporting community events; and
- The results of the General Election, both locally and nationally, which took place on 8 June 2017. The Deputy Leader took the opportunity to welcome back the two local MP's, Jon Cruddas and Margaret Hodge, who were both returned with the highest number of votes they had ever received.

13. Appointments

There were no appointments.

14. Corporate Plan 2017/18

The Cabinet Member for Community Leadership and Engagement introduced a report to the Assembly on the Corporate Plan 2017-18.

The Corporate Plan set out the Council's vision and priorities for the next 12 months together with details of key achievements over the past three years, the Council's transformation programme and the performance monitoring regime for 2017/18.

The Assembly applauded the ambitious programme of the Corporate Plan against the backdrop of austerity measures coming from the Government and noted that, in comparison to other London Boroughs, the Council found itself toward the bottom of the league tables for 2016. The Chief Executive explained, however, that the direction of travel was positive and, through the Borough Manifesto, the Council was aiming to progress in all areas in the coming years.

The Assembly **resolved** to approve the Corporate Plan 2017/18 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

15. Treasury Management Annual Report 2016/17

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Growth and Investment introduced a report on

the Treasury Management Annual Report 2016/17 which set out the key areas of performance during the year.

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Growth and Investment drew the Assembly's attention to the following key points:

- Investment income for the year was £4.6m (2015/16: £3.7m) compared to a budget of £2.1m;
- The Council's average interest return of 1.42% for 2016/17 was 0.83% higher than the average London Peer Group return and 0.73% higher than the Local Authority average return;
- The value of investments as at 31 March 2017 totalled £232.9m;
- The value of long-term borrowing as at 31 March 2017 totalled £457.3m;
- The value of short-term borrowing as at 31 March 2017 totalled £85.0m;
- The Council did not breach its 2016/17 authorised borrowing limit of £855m or its Operational Boundary limit of £745m; and
- The Council complied with all other set treasury and prudential limits.

The Assembly were pleased to note the role of scrutiny was recognised within the report and noted that the Treasury Management Strategy was a living document that had to be planned and flexible for the future.

The Assembly **resolved** to:

- (i) Note the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2016/17;
- (ii) Note that the Council complied with all 2016/17 treasury management indicators;
- (iii) Approve the actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2016/17;
- (iv) Note that the Council borrowed £60m from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) in June 2016 to fund capital expenditure;
- (v) Note that on 31 March 2017 a number of Loan Facility agreements were agreed between the Council and a number of Council owned Special Purpose Vehicles; and
- (vi) Maintain the delegated authority to the Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Growth and Investment, to continue to proportionally amend the counterparty lending limits agreed within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement to consider the additional cash holdings resulting from borrowing from the European Investment Bank and the PWLB.

16. Motions

The Chair announced that, in accordance with the rules relating to Motions set out in Part 2, Chapter 4, Paragraph 10.6 of the Council, Constitution, as Councillor Rodwell was not present at the meeting his motion titled "Theresa May and the Democratic Unionist Party" was withdrawn.

The following motion was moved by Councillor Carpenter and Seconded by Councillor P Waker:

"This Council is appalled by the Government's decision to take education spending to an historic low by cutting £8.9bn in real terms from the national schools' budget.

Research by the National Union of Teachers and the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, building on analysis carried out by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, shows that over the next 5 years schools in Barking and Dagenham are set to lose an average of £312,198. Every primary school and all but one secondary school in the Borough is projected to lose funding, in what equates to an average cut of £461 per pupil by 2021/22.

This Council is particularly concerned about the Government's decision to cut the Education Services Grant (ESG) by £600m, which will see Barking and Dagenham lose £1.8m of education funding in 2017/18 alone.

The ESG is used to fund school improvement and essential services in our local schools, such as support for children with special educational needs who require occupational therapy. It will be reduced from £3.4m in 2016/17 to £1.6m in 2017/18, and we believe that this cut amounts to nothing more than a cost shunt from Central Government on to Local Authorities.

This Council believes that these cuts will result in unavoidable impacts on teaching and learning, putting at risk the improvements to outcomes for children that we have made in recent years.

This Council therefore calls on the Government to commit to maintaining per-pupil funding, reverse the £600m cut to the ESG and think again on its proposals for education funding."

The Assembly voiced its support of the motion and expressed concern over the immense pressure schools were facing due to reducing budgets and an increasing population.

The motion was put to the vote by way of a show of hands and **carried**.

17. Questions With Notice

Question 1

From Councillor Freeborn

Will the relevant Cabinet Member update the Assembly on what action the

Council has taken in response to the Grenfell Tower tragedy in north Kensington?”

Response

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Growth and Investment gave a detailed response outlining the work that had been undertaken which included:

- The Council had responded to requests from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for mutual aid;
- All fire risk assessments for Council-owned high rise residential buildings of eight stories or more had been reviewed;
- A review of all Council-owned high rise residential buildings with cladding had been undertaken;
- The Council had been liaising with owners/leaseholders who had responsibility for high rise residential buildings of more than five stories to ensure that any buildings with cladding were safe; and
- Home safety visits had been undertaken on all Council-owned residential blocks of more than five stories.

Question 2

From Councillor Haroon

Can the Leader explain what impact the result of last month’s General Election will have on the Council and local residents?

Response

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Twomey advised that there were both positive and negative outcomes for the Council and local residents following the General Election on 8 June 2017.

Councillor Twomey suggested that the election result was a vindication of Labour’s anti-austerity message, adding that since 2010 the Council had to save over £135m just to balance the budget, which could not continue going forward and the election result was the message sent to Theresa May.

The Council would welcome any let up in austerity measures however, in referencing the £1bn deal that Government had recently entered into with the Democratic Unionist Party, the Cabinet Member expressed concerns that the current Government could not be trusted.

Question 3

From Councillor Ahammad

Members will no doubt be as shocked and saddened as I was to learn that two of the perpetrators of the London Bridge terror attack lived in our Borough. Can the relevant Cabinet Member outline what the Council is doing to promote community cohesion in response to last month’s terrible events?

Response

The Cabinet Member for Equalities and Cohesion reiterated the proactive steps taken by the Council which the Deputy Leader had referred to earlier in the meeting.

The Cabinet Member commented that community cohesion was one of the targets in the Borough Manifesto and building on this, the Council were in the process of developing a Cohesion Strategy.

Several activities would be taking place in the borough through the coming months, including the summer events programme which would provide an opportunity for residents to come together and the “We Stand Together” conference due to take place in October 2017.

Question 4

From Councillor Miah

Will the relevant Cabinet Member update the Assembly on what progress is being made to stop illegal ‘road racing’ events from taking place in the borough?

Response

The Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Community Safety advised that the first Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) came into effect on 30 June 2017 which allowed the Council and police to ban activities such as:

- Speeding;
- Driving in convoy;
- Racing;
- Performance Stunts;
- Sounding horns (if public nuisance was caused);
- Revving engines; and
- Wheel Spins.

Question 5

From Councillor Chand

Following recent reports in the media that the Department for Work and Pensions is planning to close Dagenham Job Centre, does the Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Development share my concerns that this is yet another example of the Government withdrawing support for those who need it most?

Response

In response, the Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Development agreed this was a reduction in support to the vulnerable residents in the

Borough and was disappointed that he had not received a response from the Department for Work and Pensions to his written request in February to explore opportunities to co-locate the Job Centre with Council staff.

Supplementary Question

Councillor Chand enquired as to whether the Cabinet Member would join Jon Cruddas MP's campaign to save the Job Centre.

The Cabinet Member confirmed he would.

Question 6

From Councillor Quadri

Will the Cabinet Member for Community Leadership and Engagement provide a progress update on the Council's plans to develop a Good Neighbour Guide?

Response

The Cabinet Member for Community Leadership and Engagement advised that the Good Neighbour Guide was being developed over the summer to create a shared understanding of what it meant to be a resident in the borough and to encourage neighbours to come together.

Councillor Ashraf advised that residents were being asked to vote for their top five actions and were invited to add their own comments. The consultation was online and residents were being approached at the various festivals taking place over the summer.

The Cabinet Member confirmed the closing date for responses was 14 August 2017.

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ASSEMBLY**13 September 2017**

Title: Death of Former Councillor Darrin Best	
Report of the Chief Executive	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
Report Author: Leanna McPherson, Democratic Services Officer	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2852 E-mail: leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk
Accountable Director: Fiona Taylor, Director of Law and Governance	
Accountable Strategic Director: Chris Naylor, Chief Executive	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The Assembly is asked to note with deep regret that former Councillor Darrin Best suffered a heart attack and passed away on 11 August 2017 at his home in Bulgaria. He was aged 51.</p> <p>Mr Best was first elected as a Councillor for the Village Ward in 1990 and served until his resignation in 2004. During his time on the Council he served on a number of committees including the former Finance, Education, Planning and Development, Housing, Establishment and Social Services. He also served as Deputy Chair on the Health and Consumer Services and the Assembly.</p> <p>As a ward Councillor Mr Best played an active role on his local Community Forum (River, Village and Goresbrook). He also served as a School Governor for Leys Primary School between 1993 and 1997.</p> <p>Mr Best was a Bachelor of Arts and a Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing (M.C.I.H).</p> <p>At the time of preparing this report, repatriation arrangements were being made and details of the funeral will be circulated in due course.</p>	
Recommendation	
The Assembly is asked to stand for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.	

Background papers used in the preparation of this report: None

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ASSEMBLY**13 September 2017**

Title: Appointment of Faith Representatives (Church of England and Roman Catholic Church) Co-optees to the Children's Services Select Committee	
Report of the Chief Executive	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
Report Author: Masuma Ahmed, Democratic Services Officer, Scrutiny, Law & Governance	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2756 E-mail: masuma.ahmed@lbbd.gov.uk
Accountable Director: Fiona Taylor, Head of Law and Governance	
Accountable Strategic Director: Chris Naylor, Chief Executive	
Summary:	
<p>The faith representative positions on the Children's Services Select Committee (CSSC) are currently vacant as a result of the previous representatives', Ingrid Robinson (Church of England) and Glenda Spencer (Roman Catholic Church), terms of office expiring in July 2017.</p> <p>As stated in Part 2, Chapter 8 of the Council's Constitution, and in accordance with the Education Act 1996 and the Local Government Act 2000, the CSSC should include a Church of England Diocesan Board of Schools representative and a Roman Catholic Westminster Diocesan Schools Commission representative, appointed by the Assembly. Statutory co-optees have voting rights in respect of education matters only.</p> <p>Nominations to fill the vacancies were sought by Democratic Services in August 2017. The Church of England Diocese of Chelmsford and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brentwood have once again nominated Ingrid Robinson and Glenda Spencer, respectively, to fill these positions.</p>	
Recommendation(s)	
<p>The Assembly is recommended to agree the appointment of Ingrid Robinson and Glenda Spencer to the positions of Faith Representative Co-optee (Church of England) and Faith Representative Co-optee (Roman Catholic Church), respectively, on the Children's Services Select Committee for a term of four years.</p>	
Reason(s)	
<p>To ensure that the Council's Scrutiny function is in accordance with the Council's Constitution and legislation.</p>	

Background Papers used in the Preparation of the Report: None.

List of appendices: None.

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ASSEMBLY

13 September 2017

Title: Joint Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Inspection in Barking and Dagenham	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health Integration	
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
Report Author: Vikki Rix, Head of Performance and Intelligence, Children's Care and Support Commissioning	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2564 E-mail: vikki.rix@lbbd.gov.uk
Accountable Director: Chris Bush, Commissioning Director, Children's Care and Support	
Accountable Strategic Director: Anne Bristow, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for Service Development and Integration	
Summary In March 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission conducted a joint local area inspection of Barking and Dagenham to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the disability and special educational needs (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. This report introduces and appends the inspection findings, published on 21 June 2017.	
Recommendation(s) The Assembly is recommended to: (i) Note the findings of the SEND inspection, as detailed in the letter at Appendix A to the report; and (ii) Note the development of a multi-agency Local Area SEND Action Plan to address the identified areas for improvement and improve outcomes for children and young people with disabilities in Barking and Dagenham.	
Reason(s) The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the outcome of the joint Ofsted/Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of Barking and Dagenham's effectiveness in implementing the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.	

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Between 27 March and 31 March 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of Barking and Dagenham, to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. The inspection was led by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors from Ofsted, supported by a team of inspectors including an Ofsted Inspector and CQC children's services inspectors.
- 1.2 During the 5-day inspection, the inspection team sought the views and opinions of children and young people, their parents and carers. This was undertaken during visits to schools, early years settings and colleges and through meetings with individuals and groups. A webinar was also used by the inspectors to gather feedback from parents of children and young people with SEND in the local area.
- 1.3 Inspectors also visited a range of providers and spoke to leaders, staff and governors about how they were implementing the special educational needs reforms. Inspectors looked at a range of information about the performance of the local area, including the local area's self-evaluation. Inspectors met with leaders from the local area and a wide range of documentation and performance data across education, health and social care were reviewed as part of the inspection. A small number of Education, Health and Care Plans were also audited.
- 1.4 On 9 May 2017 HMI Ofsted sent Anne Bristow, the Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for Service Development and Integration, a draft inspection letter outlining the findings of the inspection, including some areas of strengths and areas for further development for factual accuracy checks. Senior Local Authority and CCG officers were provided with the opportunity to highlight factual inaccuracies in the draft letter, before its final publication. 2 inaccuracies were raised by the local area and agreed by Ofsted in the final report.
- 1.5 The local area received the final joint inspection letter from Ofsted and the CQC on the 21 June 2017. This letter details the inspectors' key findings and outcomes in a narrative of areas of strength and areas of development, rather than a specific grading. Barking and Dagenham's Local Area SEND Inspection letter is attached to this report at Appendix A.

2. Main Findings

- 2.1 Overall, the outcome of Barking and Dagenham's inspection was positive. The inspection letter highlights many strengths across education, health and social care, in terms of the support that is offered to children and young people with SEND and their families. Inspectors praised partners' commitment to reform and effective implementation. The local area's governance and accountability were identified as strengths and inspectors praised the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board and elected Members in holding leaders to account for improving outcomes in a local area which is rapidly changing. Collaboration between healthcare and local authority staff and personnel in settings, schools and colleges was also viewed as a significant strength. Strong relationships with providers were commended, which allow effective monitoring of the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

- 2.2 In terms of development, the inspectors noted that insufficient numbers of parents and young people know about, or use, the Local Offer to find advice and help. Whilst the inspection noted that education, health and social care professionals contributed to the local area self-evaluation with priorities identified, detailed targets and timescales are not incorporated into plans. Inspectors noted that there is a lack of clarity about how some aspects of services will be jointly commissioned.
- 2.3 An area for development has also been identified about the capacity in providing therapies such as speech and language, occupational and physiotherapy, due to issues with recruiting and training staff, which leads to delays in EHC plans. EHC plans themselves, it was reported, do not consistently benefit from appropriate input from health and social care. As a result, the detail of the support that children need and how this will be provided is, at times, insufficient. The level at which parents' and young people's views are considered is also variable. Some parents and young people said that they did not feel fully engaged in, or informed about, the process.
- 2.4 The low proportion of young adults who have learning disabilities in training and employment was also identified as an area for development. The local area has identified this and is taking the initiative by leading a project to support employers to understand how they can provide paid employment opportunities for young people. A strong feature of this work is the partnership with Barking and Dagenham College, which is starting to support young people to find employment.
- 2.5 The full inspection report at Appendix A details the findings across three categories; identifying need, meeting need, and improving outcomes.

3. Next steps

- 3.1 In response to the findings of this inspection, an action plan is currently in development. The action plan will be brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board, and will seek to further improve the offer for children and young people with disabilities and/ or special educational needs in Barking and Dagenham.

4. Financial Implications

Implications completed by Katherine Heffernan, Group Manager, Service Finance

- 4.1 This report informs the Board about the recent inspection – as such there are no financial implications arising directly out of this report. The Council and its partners are developing an action plan in response to the inspection. The financial implications of the plan will be assessed as part of its development. It is unlikely that there will be additional resources provided and so the actions will need to be funded from existing budgets through prioritisation.

5. Legal Implications

Implications completed by Lucinda Bell, Education Lawyer

- 5.1 This report asks that members note and discuss the SEND inspection report and the current development of a multi-agency Local Area SEND Action Plan. No decision is required.
- 5.2 The legal context for this inspection are contained in the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted joint document “The Framework for inspecting local area in England under section 20 of the Children Act 2004” (the Act).
- 5.3 New duties on local areas regarding provision for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities are imposed by the Act and amplified in regulations and in the statutory Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years’. The duties came into force in September 2014.
- 5.4 Ofsted and CQC are required to carry out their inspection work in ways that encourage services they to improve, be user-focused and be efficient and effective in their use of resources. Inspectors will use their professional judgement to assess whether the overall evidence gathered causes them sufficient concern to recommend that a written statement of action be produced.

6. Other Implications

- 6.1 **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment** - The 2016 JSNA identified that:
 - The proportion of children identified with special educational needs is lower in Barking and Dagenham than nationally.
 - There has been a downward trend in the number of children with special educational needs without statements
 - The numbers of children with severe disabilities is growing nationally
 - In Barking and Dagenham this means paying particular attention to our disadvantaged residents and our Asian and Black African communities because they have a higher prevalence of young disabled children
- 6.2 **Health and Wellbeing Strategy** - Responding to the findings of this SEND inspection will support the Health and Wellbeing Board in improving the following key themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy: improvement and integration of services, care and support, and protection and safeguarding.
- 6.3 **Patient/Service User Impact** - The effective response to the findings of the SEND inspection, detailed in Appendix A, will improve those services available to residents with special educational needs and disabilities.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None

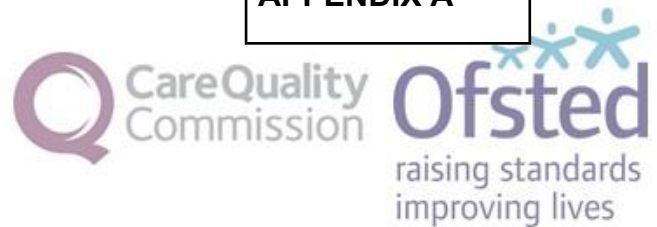
List of Appendices:

- **Appendix A:** Joint local area SEND inspection in Barking and Dagenham report, 21 June 2017

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APPENDIX A



21 June 2017

Mrs Anne Bristow
Strategic Director, Service Development and Integration (Deputy Chief Executive)
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
Town Hall
1 Town Square
Barking
IG11 7LU

Mr Conor Burke, Barking and Dagenham Clinical Commissioning Group, Chief Officer
Ms Joy Barter, Joint Local Area Nominated Officer
Ms Vikki Rix, Joint Local Area Nominated Officer

Dear Mrs Bristow

Joint local area SEND inspection in Barking and Dagenham

Between 27 March 2017 and 31 March 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Barking and Dagenham to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

The inspection was led by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors from Ofsted, with a team of inspectors including an Ofsted Inspector and children's services inspectors from the Care Quality Commission.

Inspectors spoke with children and young people who have disabilities and/or special educational needs (SEND), parents and carers, and local authority and National Health Service (NHS) officers. They visited a range of providers and spoke to leaders, staff and governors about how they were implementing the special educational needs reforms. Inspectors looked at a range of information about the performance of the local area, including the local area's self-evaluation. Inspectors met with leaders from the local area for health, social care and education. They reviewed performance data and evidence about the local offer and joint commissioning.

This letter outlines our findings from the inspection, including some areas of strengths and areas for further improvement.

Main findings

- All partners in the local area show a high level of commitment to implementing the reforms and to working together to best meet the needs of children, young people and their families. Where successful partnerships between education, health and social care are in place, they are making a positive difference to the timeliness and quality of provision to meet children's and young people's needs. These provide good models for the future developments needed.
- Governance is strong. Responsible elected members together with the Health and Wellbeing Board successfully hold leaders to account for improving outcomes in a local area which is rapidly changing. Leaders of healthcare services and the local authority understand the needs of the community and appropriate plans are in place to develop sufficient educational and healthcare provision through to 2020.
- A significant strength in implementing the reforms is the quality of collaboration between healthcare and local authority staff and personnel in settings, schools and colleges. Detailed analysis of information ensures that the local authority understands how well both pupils identified for special educational needs support and those eligible for education, health and care (EHC) plans are doing. These good-quality relationships are building capacity and developing the expertise necessary to meet children's and young people's needs.
- The local area involved parents at the initial stages of setting up the local offer. However, not enough parents know about or use it to find advice and help. Advocacy information and advice services (Barking and Dagenham Carers and Barnardo's) and 'Just Say', the parents' forum, provide much valued advice and support to families. The forum also works at a strategic level to influence how the reforms are implemented. Despite this, some parents do not have access to the information and support they need.
- Through the strong relationships established with providers both within the local area and where placements are made beyond it, leaders monitor the safety and well-being of children and young people. The regular review of the appropriateness of provision means that changes are made quickly when children and young people are considered to be at risk.
- Where the local area reviews specific aspects of provision, the views of young people and parents are effectively sought. For example, the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum, which includes representatives who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, has presented to council members on the challenges of managing mental health issues. Parents have been specifically consulted on the improvement of short-break provision.

- Education, health and social care professionals have contributed to the local area self-evaluation. The findings of this inspection reflect the priority areas identified. Detailed targets and timescales are not incorporated into plans and there is a lack of clarity about how some aspects of services will be jointly commissioned. Consequently, it is difficult to know how well the local area is on track to achieve its aspirations for children, young people and their families.
- The capacity to provide therapies such as speech and language, occupational and physiotherapy is hindered by difficulties in recruiting and training staff who can deliver these services sufficiently to a population that has grown rapidly. Consequently, some EHC plans are delayed and some families spend too long waiting for the support they need. Healthcare funding has been allocated to the 2017/18 budget to recruit further staff to address these issues.
- EHC plans do not consistently benefit from appropriate input from health and social care. The detail of the support that a child needs and how this will be provided is, at times, insufficient. The level at which parents' and young people's views are taken into account is variable. Some parents and young people said that they did not feel fully engaged in, or informed about, the process.

The effectiveness of the local area in identifying children and young people's special educational needs and/or disabilities

Strengths

- Processes for the identification of need are effective. They draw on parents' concerns and on school assessments which are moderated by the local authority. In the early years, healthcare and education draw on a range of information about children to identify when they have additional needs. Healthcare professionals recognise that further work is needed to improve take-up of the universal offer for assessments. When triggered, social care identification of need is effective and timely.
- Effective pathways are in place for the identification of needs as part of neonatal screening by midwifery services. Health visitors use nationally recognised tools to support identification of need during the assessment process, which is undertaken as part of the healthy child programme.
- The health visiting service offers families flexible ways of working to assist them in accessing the healthy child programme. For example, appointment times are offered outside standard daytime working hours to accommodate working families. Early notification of the one-year checks has also been introduced. These strategies have resulted in the increased uptake of the one-year checks and resulting early identification of need.

- The inclusion team provides detailed advice and training to all education providers regarding the identification of need. Identification is confidently made against the same benchmarks across the local area. The proportion of new EHC plans completed within the 20-week timeframe is well above the national average. Importantly, members of the EHC plan panel from education, health and social care are budget holders, so decision making is immediate and action is taken quickly.
- Additional scrutiny identifies any children and young people, either with SEND support or who have an EHC plan or statement, who require crisis support or who are at risk of exclusion. The placement panel, which meets fortnightly, effectively considers those who are at risk and, where necessary, makes rapid decisions about resources and provision to enable them to continue learning with the right support.
- Transition between different phases of education is well supported. Local area staff work closely with settings, schools and colleges to ensure that the handover of information is managed carefully. Special educational needs coordinators from a receiving school meet face to face with colleagues and children at review meetings. This ensures that they understand a child's or young person's needs and make appropriate provision ready for them to start the next stage of their education journey.
- Children looked after are offered fast tracking to healthcare appointments. The timeframe from initial referral to commencement of treatment is currently no more than four weeks. This includes specialist child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) intervention for children and young people placed out of the area.
- An identified practitioner works with children missing from education and those who are educated at home. The role allows for home visits to be undertaken to develop health care plans for children educated outside the school setting. Assessments undertaken are shared with the GP and the local authority. This process supports the identification of children and young people who are not at school and who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- Through the local area's responses to the reforms and increasingly collaborative working, the identification of need is more effective. While there is still more to be done, particularly to support older pupils in schools, the number of appeals resulting from dissatisfaction with assessments or plans has reduced year on year. It is well below the national average.

Areas for development

- The speed of transition from statements to EHC plans has been below the national rate. Although this is now accelerating and the quality of identification of needs within the plans is improving, some children and young people still have to wait too long for their plans. Parents said the 'tell it once' principle of the SEND reforms is not well implemented in some instances. Some feel that they have to share their story too many times to get the help and advice they need.
- Except for the most vulnerable pupils, where identification is effective, social care needs are not regularly recognised or addressed in plans. This means that some children and young people and their families do not always receive the level of help and support they need.
- Healthcare professionals do not routinely review how their assessments are addressed in plans. This means that in some cases, the right actions and support are not in place. The lack of availability of therapist advice due to limited capacity means that some children's and young people's needs are not identified in a timely way. This leads to a delay in the provision of support and is a source of frustration to parents.
- Parents are unaware of personal budgets. They said that they do not have enough support to help them understand what they are for and how they can use them. In order to support parents in understanding some ways they can use the additional funding available to them, the local area is providing an online offer. Through this, parents are given a budget to purchase activities and resources for their children.
- There is a downward trend in meeting the 20-day initial health assessment targets. Where reasons are given for this, they relate to a lack of paediatrician availability and parents not attending appointments. The clinical commissioning group (CCG) and healthcare trust have identified these delays as unacceptable.
- Children who have sensory disorders receive no funding to access occupational therapy specialist services. This prevents them from making the progress they are capable of unless individual providers or parents purchase this expertise themselves.
- The health visiting service is not meeting targets for undertaking mandatory assessments at 12 months and at two years. This limits the ability to identify and assess children's needs, including of the most vulnerable groups.

The effectiveness of the local area in meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities

Strengths

- The local area has an in-depth understanding of the quality of provision for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Future needs are analysed and plans to meet these are in place. The local area's vision for inclusion is lived through the investment it is making into new provision in partnership with providers, for example, with the new all-through and special school and the planned development of respite provision for children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs at a primary school.
- The wide range of portage services is targeted effectively at supporting families with young children who have identified additional needs. Services are enhanced well where health visitors refer families to the service and work in partnership to secure children's well-being.
- In collaboration with parents, young people and professionals, leaders have implemented a 'preparing for adulthood' pathway which identifies the support and options available to young people between the ages of 14 and 25. This is helping to raise expectations for young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities to achieve success and live fulfilling lives as valued members of their local community.
- The partnership with providers is very strong. Settings, schools and additional resource providers benefit from the local area's quality assurance processes. These maintain and improve the quality of provision, including compliance and safeguarding practice and procedures. The inclusion team works regularly with schools to analyse how well the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities are met. Providers say that the local area responds rapidly with advice and resources when they raise concerns.
- The local area's comprehensive training offer, professional networks and conferences mean that education staff skills are continually updated. The impact of collaboration between staff in schools, and particularly the leaders in additionally resourced provisions, is considerable. Pupils' needs are met well and behaviour is managed effectively.

- An overwhelming strength of the provision for children and young people who have special educational needs is the quality and extent of additionally resourced provision. An increasing number of schools and colleges have additional specialist provision on site. The local area carefully monitors these providers and supports leaders and staff to share their expertise. Educational psychology support to them is well resourced. Children's and young people's views are taken into account and they benefit from good teaching and the increased understanding of their needs that these placements provide. Outreach provided by the provisions, for example, Hunter's Hall support for speech, language and communication, develops staff knowledge and understanding of particular needs across the local area, as well as supporting practitioners to improve their practice.
- The expertise within the area's special school also plays an important role in securing the quality of provision in the local area. It is used to develop provision through on-site and outreach staff training and through their engagement in the establishment and development of additional specialist provision. Links with the Riverside Bridge project are enhancing the capacity to meet the needs of children and young people with high-level needs.
- The information and advice services commissioned by the local area, Barking and Dagenham Carers and Barnardo's, provide effective independent guidance and support for parents when they need it. Parents value the help it gives them, particularly to deal with the challenges they face in understanding and managing their children's needs.
- 'Just Say', the parents' forum, is also valued by both parents and professionals. The forum's work with the local authority to develop policies that take account of parents' views and needs is effective, as are the face-to-face events and training opportunities they provide both centrally and at individual settings and providers.
- Where healthcare practitioners are fully engaged in education, health and care planning, their work is effective in enabling children and young people to achieve positive outcomes. For example, in one EHC plan, speech and language input provided clear support strategies which reflected the child's voice.
- Health visitors are trained in perinatal and infant mental health. The increased knowledge and skills gained from this training supports families who may be coping with the emotional impact of a diagnosis of increased need and vulnerability for their child.
- The Heathway Centre acts as a 'one-stop shop', providing support to families with children aged 0 to 18 years across the local area. The centre currently supports in excess of 1,700 families with children who have additional needs. When capacity allows, both speech, language and communication and occupational therapists provide advice as part of the core offer. An offer of 'plain communication' has also been developed to help improve children's communication skills before an assessment takes place.

- Learning disability provision based at Queen's Hospital is developing and strengthening transition processes for young people moving to adult services. Where young people have complex needs, planning starts early, sometimes when young people are as young as 12. Young people's and families' fears about transition are better addressed as a result.

Areas for development

- The extent to which parents' views are taken into account when plans are made to meet their child's needs, and professionals from education, health and care work together, is variable and in some instances underdeveloped. Parents who face barriers to communicating easily with professionals and some who require access to a range of services do not receive the level of support they need.
- The quality of EHC plans is inconsistent. The processes put in place to secure a plan are effective, but contributions from professionals to create well-focused targets and to identify specialist help vary too much. This is sometimes because insufficient detail from specialist reports is included in the plans. As a result, there is a risk that children and young people do not receive the level of specialist support they need to enable them to do as well as they can.
- The level of knowledge and understanding of the SEND reforms is variable across healthcare practitioners. This means that their ability to support parents through established processes can be limited.
- Too few families are seen during the antenatal period by health visitors. This is a culmination of the lack of practitioner capacity and gaps in the administrative processes between organisations. The current position means that there is a risk that early identification of need might be missed and access to support is less timely.
- Post-diagnostic support on the autistic spectrum disorders pathway is not equitable. Access to support relies on a local charity to which parents make a financial contribution in order to gain access to help. This potentially limits the availability of support to the most vulnerable groups of children.

The effectiveness of the local area in improving outcomes for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities

Strengths

- The local area has set a clear aspiration for all providers to be judged by Ofsted to be good or better and for educational standards, including those of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, to exceed those achieved across London. This is above the standards achieved nationally. Through a time of significant population change and growth, the proportion of good and better providers and the standards achieved by children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities have improved.
- At the end of the early years, the effective work of agencies and settings means that the proportion of children identified as requiring SEND support and with an EHC plan reaching a good level of development has risen year on year. Parents receive effective support and advice at this early stage through the specialist providers and children's centres. The local area identifies and resources appropriate school placements and transition to these is managed carefully.
- The inclusion team analyses how well all pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities are achieving. Children's and young people's progress in reading, writing and mathematics is carefully tracked through school. While significant gaps between pupils' attainment and that of other pupils nationally remain, collated evidence shows that across the area, the majority of pupils are making good progress from their starting points.
- New initiatives are in place, for example, the location of health and well-being hubs in schools, the appointment of family liaison officers and training for staff in emotional well-being. These are supporting improvements in addressing children's and young people's social and emotional health and enabling them to remain in school and access learning.
- While a very small number of young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities attain five A*–C grades at GCSE, there has been a sharp increase in the proportion of pupils achieving five GCSEs at A*–G.
- Almost all pupils identified as receiving SEND support move on to, and remain in, an education destination. The proportion of young people achieving a level 2 or level 3 qualification is increasing. This means that more young people are becoming suitably qualified to seek paid employment.
- Fixed-term exclusion rates, for children and young people identified as receiving SEND support, and those who have an EHC plan, are well below the national rates. Attendance rates have improved to be in line with national averages.

- The local area is working to improve how well it achieves local provision for local children and young people. Historically, placements have been made out of the area because there has been insufficient specialist support. In the last three years, the proportion of children and young people placed out of the local area has reduced by half because the provision and quality of specialist support have improved.
- The proportion of young adults in settled accommodation is well above the national average. This is because education, health and social care partners work very effectively to ensure that needs are met and appropriate provision to support young adults' transition to independence is made.
- The learning disability provision for children in the Queen's Hospital is recognised by families as a positive force in ensuring that their children have equal access to the services they need. Visual and written communication aids have been developed to help provide care to children living with autistic spectrum disorder. This promotes trust and improved communication between practitioners and patients. GP surgeries have been asked by the CCG to prioritise seeing children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities attending practices for clinical appointments. This is an example of an improvement initiated by parental feedback through the parents' forum.

Areas for development

- Education, health and social care partners are not clear enough about the long-term intended outcomes of their work. The lack of shared targets means that it is difficult for all participants in delivering the reforms to be sure that they are sufficiently improving children's and young people's life chances and well-being.
- While some young people access a range of wider opportunities, which helps their social development, for example through the 'Ab Phab' youth club and 'The Vibe' youth centre, not enough parents and young people know about the range of opportunities available to them through the local offer.
- The proportion of young adults who have learning disabilities in training and employment is low. The local area has identified this and is taking the initiative by leading a project to support employers to understand how they can provide paid employment opportunities for young people. A strong feature of this work is the partnership with Barking and Dagenham College, which is starting to support young people to find employment.

Yours sincerely

Prue Rayner
Senior Her Majesty's Inspector

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Clinical commissioning group(s)
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