

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JANUARY 2024

## PRESENT

Councillor D. Western (in the Chair).

Councillors R. Duncan (Vice-Chair), J. Bennett, Z.C. Deakin, S. G. Ennis, S. J. Haughey, E.L. Hirst, E.R. Parker, R. Paul, S. Procter, O. Sutton and D. Butt (ex-Officio)

### In attendance

Councillor K. Carter	Executive Member for Children and Young People
Karen Samples	Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance
Sarah Butters	Head of Education Places, Access, and Vulnerable Children
Janine Day	Director of Operations at Early Break
Shona Gallagher	SEND Improvement Lead
Aimee Hodgkinson	Public Health Commissioning Manager
Kate Shethwood	Public Health Consultant
Sally Smith	Lead for SEND and Inclusion
Harry Callaghan	Democratic Officer

## APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Acton, Jill McGregor, and Pamela Wharton.

## 34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

## 35. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Four questions were received for the meeting with the questions and responses below.

The first question was from Ms. Jones.

- 1. With the number of children from the local area attending Urmston Grammar diminishing over the last decade, resulting in now almost two thirds of UGS pupils coming from outside the local area, what is there being done around access to Urmston Grammar for children from West Trafford?*

The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance responded verbally in the meeting and the written response is below.

“Urmston Grammar school is an academy and therefore independent of Trafford LA. They operate according to their funding agreement between the individual

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academy trust and Secretary of State. There is no mechanism for an academy to return to local authority control.

An admissions authority is the body responsible for setting a school's admissions arrangements (i.e., how it will allocate places) and for some aspects of administering the admissions process.

Applicants wishing to be considered for admission to a Grammar School in Trafford must first be successful in the entrance examination for the preferred grammar school.

Any decisions regarding these arrangements sit solely with the school, not the LA."

The second and third question were received from Dr. Kelly. The statement asked to the officer was quite lengthy, and the responses below are regarding the two questions asked by the resident.

The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance provided a verbal response in the meeting and the written responses and questions can be seen below.

2. *What actions are the Council taking to ensure that Trafford schools are coding absences appropriately to ensure SEMH children are identified and supported as early as possible, AND ensure that parents are not subject to fines or prosecution for their SEMH child's non-attendance?*

"The Pupil Absence Team advises schools in accordance with the following:

The Department for Education (DfE) summary of responsibilities where a mental health issue is affecting attendance links to the DfE Working Together guidance stating that school staff should advise parents/carers to notify them on the first day the child is unable to attend due to illness. School staff must record absences as authorised where it is not possible for a pupil to attend due to illness (both physical and mental health related).

Our Trafford Emotionally based school non-attendance (EBSNA) guidance document states: the absence should be authorised if school is satisfied that the reasons given are genuine and should therefore be coded I (illness) in the school register. DfE guidance is clear that schools should authorise absence due to both physical and mental health related illness.

Our Trafford Model Attendance policy does not differentiate between types of illness but does state:

In the majority of cases, absences for illness which are reported following the school's absence reporting procedures will be authorised without the need for parents to supply medical evidence unnecessarily. In line with Department for Education guidance, if we do have a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness, we may ask the parent to provide medical

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evidence, such as a prescription, appointment card, or other appropriate form of evidence. If the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

For information, the House of Commons Education Committee report in September 2023 recommended that the DfE should introduce a mental health absence code and set clear thresholds for its use. These thresholds should ensure only serious cases of mental health problems necessitate absence. This will eliminate the need to repeatedly provide medical evidence in cases of known mental health difficulties.

Penalty Notices and prosecutions will only be considered by the Trafford Pupil Absence team as a very last resort in all cases of irregular attendance when the school has exhausted all appropriate supportive strategies in accordance with the Working Together agenda.”

3. *Will the Council take steps to ensure schools in Trafford recognise that parents have the necessary authority to decide whether their child is too unwell to attend school and that mental health is a valid reason for non-attendance?*

“From the Trafford Model Attendance Policy: Where a child has an emerging a pattern of non-attendance, we will discuss the reasons for absence with the child’s parent. We will invite parents to attend school-led Attendance Support meeting as an appropriate early intervention strategy. As part of this support, we may seek consent from parents and the pupil as appropriate to liaise with the child’s healthcare professional.

It is at the school’s discretion whether to authorise an absence, based on the individual circumstances of each case. We accept that mental health issues are a main driver of illness absence in schools and as such we work closely with schools to ensure that they offer appropriate advice to parents where mental health may be a reason for absence. Such advice may include for school to introduce an Individual Healthcare Plan agreeing to reasonable adjustments to a pupil’s timetable ( closely monitored and reviewed by all parties), using the EBSNA toolkit to identify the reasons for absence as early on as possible, and to signpost to appropriate agencies, for example, the School Nursing service, Educational Psychology, counselling services, Early Help, CAMHS, and/or a potential referral to our Medical Education Service.”

The final question was also received from Ms. Jones.

The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance provided a verbal response in the meeting and the written response can be seen below.

4. *Can the Council consider providing a fully non-selective secondary school in Urmston to both avoid discrimination faced by non-Catholic*

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*families forced to separate siblings and improve provision for LGBTQ+ pupils who may not thrive in a single sex setting?*

*Could a non-selective school be provided through either:  
Removing the selective status of UGS, given that only 10% of local children are admitted there currently or converting one or both single sex schools to co-educational?*

*If so, would either change need to be Council or parent driven and how can this be affected if the latter is the case?*

“There are two routes to setting up a new school. The local authority route needs to be clear that a new school is needed in that locality (i.e., based on the number of spaces required).

There is insufficient demand to establish a new school in this locality and therefore an application would be unsuccessful.

The selective status of Urmston Grammar School cannot be removed by the local authority. It is an academy and therefore Councils have no powers to direct academies to change their status.

The department’s National and Regional directors and their teams, together with the education and skills funding agency, provide robust educational and financial oversight of all academy trusts.”

### **36. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

### **37. SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Public Health Consultant introduced the report which had been circulated with the agenda. The report detailed the developments and leadership ongoing around substance and alcohol use for young people and how the Director of Operations at Early Break was in attendance to add detail to the wider programmes of work. The Public Health Consultant highlighted to the Committee that there was a new alcohol substance misuse and gambling group formed in Trafford that reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board, which had a nearly finalised action plan.

The Director of Operations at Early Break spoke to the work ongoing at Early Break and how focused they were on prevention, and not just to deliver treatment services, which they felt would strengthen the report. The Director of Operations pulled out the highlights of this work. This included working with families and operating a structured approach, working closely with young people with parents who had experience of substance misuse. Further to this, the Committee were informed of a group in the Northwest, chaired by Early Break, which looked at new

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and existing substance issues and collaborated closely with academics across the region to look at what education needs to be pushed out.

The Director of Operations also spoke of referral performance, which was now better than in 2019/20. The Committee were reassured that data showing an increase in use of the youth offending service was not a concern, rather that it was due to a designated officer now in place to support young people. Other themes such as outreach, pathways for cared for children, and recent earning of the Rainbow flag, which showed accessibility for LGBTQ+ young people to access the service was also shared.

The Public Health Commissioning Manager spoke of the emerging substances for young people. The Committee were informed that work was ongoing around youth vaping which had become a more prevalent issue in recent years. This included teaching the associated risks of vaping in schools and providing webinars to parents alongside education colleagues. Feedback from these webinars were shared, with education around unregulated vapes being required being a common theme. The Committee were also referred to ongoing research projects on youth vaping. The Public Health Commissioning Manager also mentioned the increasingly emerging substance use of ketamine, with work ongoing alongside physical health colleagues to raise awareness of the dangers of ketamine use.

The officers were thanked for the report and Councillors were offered the opportunity to ask questions.

Councillor Paul asked if the services liaise with Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to remove access to drugs and alcohol. The Director of Operations responded that Early Break had started getting referrals from GMP as part of the service aim for early intervention and prevention. It was also added that a group of young people, who had developed training and creative resources called 'stressed out brain,' which worked with young people to find what messages would be helpful to get the issue of substance misuse across. The Public Health Commissioning Manager mentioned that GMP were also in attendance at the Alcohol, Gambling and Substance misuse partnership.

Councillor Bennett asked how they recognise children who have a gambling problem. The Operations Director identified that it was difficult, with one of the preventative measures involved being looking at children who were heavily involved with gaming and the relationship this had or could have had with gambling. The Public Health Consultant added that understanding was more limited than alcohol and drugs. However, there was good training from people with a lived experience of gambling issues, which had received funding from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

Councillor Ennis referred to page six, table two of the report, which outlined a breakdown of substances Trafford young people referred to Early Break reported using, with the figure for cocaine rising from 7% in 2019/20 to 15% in 2022/23 and enquired why this had happened. The Director of Operations at Early Break responded that during lockdown, dealers began offering the drug at much lower

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quantities than grams. She felt that it was a collaborative issue, which had not been helped by its association with wealth.

The Chair followed this question by asking if the service splits figures by different areas, and whether different drugs were used more prominently in wealthier or more deprived areas. The Director of Operations responded that cocaine was an issue across the borough, not just in the wealthier areas. The Chair asked further if this led to an increase in crime. The Director of Operations responded that it did lead to further criminal exploitation. The Public Health Consultant added that there had been a violence needs assessment submitted to the Home Office, which looked at taking a public health approach to violence reduction, which had provided some trends.

Councillor Duncan asked whether partners were working with headteachers and families to help tackle the rise in drug use over recent years, and wondered if this was linked with the rise in vaping. The Director of Operations mentioned that the link was there as vaping had exploded over recent years. They mentioned work ongoing with schools, especially safeguarding leads within schools, and that all the work Early Break does cooperates with the family. In terms of families, the Public Health Commissioning Manager expanded on the hidden harm audit which was being developed, and aimed to make sure that services were asking the questions around the whole family and the impact of hidden harm.

Councillor Procter also raised concern at the rise in ketamine usage and how this would be dealt with. The Director of Operations at Early Break responded that they were leading on this regionally, looking at the evidence, harms, and information that was given to young people, whilst also ensuring that it was credible to maintain trust with young people accessing the service.

Councillor Parker asked if work was being done around the rise in colourful vaping shops on the high street. The Public Health Commissioning Manager added that public health pays toward a trading standard post that looked at this and forms part of their work. The Public Health Consultant noted recent Government policy on vaping, and the hope that that this would reduce the colours and marketing of vaping. It was also mentioned that colleagues in trading standards and regulatory services, were very much on board with dealing with this issue.

Councillor Hirst asked whether there was different substance misuse with older adolescents compared to younger children. The Director of Operations responded that the older age range was much higher when Early Break started work on substance use, with the work on early intervention playing a role in supporting bringing this down. Councillor Hirst followed this by asking if there were a smooth transition when a young person turns twenty-one and began accessing adults' services, or were they held onto. The Director of Operations informed the Councillor that young adults do tend to stay with Early Break until they turn twenty-five and transition into adults' services.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

### **38. SEND INSPECTION REPORT**

The SEND Improvement Lead introduced the report on behalf of the Corporate Director for Children's Services, which provided an overview of the SEND Inspection Framework, the activity that took place during the inspection in October 2023 and summarised the findings and subsequent actions. The previous inspection had taken place in 2017 under a different framework.

There were three possible outcomes from the inspection, and the outcome for Trafford was that arrangements led to inconsistent outcomes for young people. The SEND Improvement Lead shared that, as highlighted in the report, the Council had to produce a comprehensive self-assessment during the inspection process. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) had fed back on this, that Trafford knew their service well, with the evaluation accorded with what they had found of the experience of children. The SEND Improvement Lead shared the next steps following the report which included a strategic improvement plan that needed to be published by the 14<sup>th</sup> February and an upcoming meeting with the Department for Education (DfE) as part of their monitoring arrangements.

The Committee were shared some of the positives and areas for improvement in the report included below.

The inspection had been clear that there were passionate people in Trafford working hard with children and young people who were ambitious in wanting to improve experience, however, the self-assessment had shown that translation of this into strategic intent and practice on the ground was too inconsistent.

Furthermore, the inspection highlighted that there was good work in terms of parental engagement and through the Lived Experience Advisory Panels (LEAP). The inspection had made clear that the children's voice was not the strongest in Trafford and was to be an area of focus to improve, with work also to be done on improving the systems response to neurodiverse children and young people.

Signs of improvement had shown in educational healthcare plans (EHCP), however, some variability in the service remained. Further to this, support in preparation for adulthood had been an issue in Trafford for a long time and this was highlighted in the inspections, with work on this needing acceleration.

The Committee were provided with the next steps following the inspection, with an ambition's plan being produced, and were offered the opportunity to ask questions. The Committee were also offered the opportunity to receive the action plan at future meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Ennis asked if the officers could elaborate further on each of the six work streams behind the six pillars within the ambitions plan. Secondly, what efforts beyond the parent carer forum were being made to reach new SEND experienced families, and how they will improve. Furthermore, Councillor Ennis asked if the Committee could have access to the SEND data dashboard.

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The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance responded positively to the ambitions within the plan and that those were identified as the correct ambitions to have by the inspectors. Each ambition had an ambition lead, who attended a steering group which had them reporting back on the pace, traction and activity that sat behind the individual ambitions, with KPIs in place which fed into the data dashboard. The Director informed that they could bring the data dashboard in future updates. The inspection, however, had found that the strategic work compared to what was taking place on the ground was not consistent across the board. The Director for Education Standards, Quality, and Performance proceeded to provide the Committee with the themes of each ambition.

The SEND Improvement Lead recognised that there was not an equal spread of parental engagement across the Borough. The parent carer forum had a massive role to play in driving engagement, with regular conversations happening to see how it could be improved to also engage with families who may want to engage on a more individual level. On the data dashboard, the SEND Improvement Lead added that in some areas the service was rich in data, whilst in others it was underdeveloped, with work ongoing to improve this.

Councillor Procter raised concern on not listening and reacting to the voices of children well and enquired as to what the plans were to do this more effectively. Councillor Procter asked further what plans were in place to ensure consistently good annual reviews.

The SEND Improvement Lead recognised that despite some lovely examples coming through in the inspection, there was a mapping exercise taking place to improve learning from these positive experiences and spread this across. There was also a need to resource improving children's voices as to drive practice it needs support and would not happen by itself. The service was also aware that improvement needed to be made to make sure children across various levels of need were having their voice heard, as the ability to use voices varied. The workforce also needed to be confident and able to engage with children with SEND.

The Lead for SEND and Inclusion responded that there was some good practice on annual reviews, however, monitoring on completing the circle on a review had not been there with action planning around improving reviews sitting within ambition three. The Committee were shared some work that had begun on improving this, especially for children moving from year six to seven.

Councillor Sutton asked whether the Council were already aware of the issues with neurodiversity and early identification, and the time between identification and response prior to the inspection, with some cases taking years. Secondly, Councillor Sutton asked what awareness the Council had to additional barriers, such as children living in Trafford but attending school in another authority, and what was being done to overcome this. Councillor Sutton also asked about the Council's knowledge of individual schools who were coding SEND absences properly.



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The SEND Improvement Lead assured that the Council was aware of the issue between identification and response. It was clear that there was going to be difficult partner conversations, with a mismatch in resource for diagnosis and the process that takes place. The Council was aware that this was an issue that needed to be dealt with but recognised that it will likely remain an issue in the meantime. The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance added that a commissioning strategy was going to be developed at pace, aiming to raise awareness of bringing the right level of service to the need required. There was also work to be done on workforce development to ensure that schools could meet the needs of children and young people.

In response to the second question, the Lead for SEND and Inclusion responded that there was an aim to develop a contact list for people across Greater Manchester to help navigate cross border issues. Further, speech and language therapists have an agreement that they will work across borders, however, this was a challenge in other services. When requesting data from schools in other local authorities, the Lead mentioned that this was received when requested.

In response to the final question, the Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance mentioned that red, amber, green (RAG) ratings were in place for schools, to monitor how they were coding emotionally based school non-attendance (EBSNA). Those that fall below average on performance were then contacted.

Councillor Duncan raised concern over online interaction and meetings and felt that if parents were told that meetings would be in person, attendance would happen. The SEND Improvement Lead responded that parent and carer engagement was mostly face to face. However, it was clear that a diverse range of engagement was important to suit needs of individual children. Meetings had also taken place with special school heads to look at how best to garner the voice of the young people. The Lead for SEND and Inclusion added that diversity in offer was important, something that had been seen in tutoring.

Councillor Ennis enquired as to why health professionals do not receive the EHCPs that they fed into as this made them unable to cross check their professional advice. Secondly, Councillor Ennis felt that the strength of feeling around issues in transition to adulthood was not replicated in the report and hoped that this would be being worked on in future plans. Finally, the Councillor felt that educational psychology (EP) was spoke of a service which was performing well, which he felt was divorce from reality, wondering if the officers had any thoughts.

The Lead for SEND and Inclusion answered that there was work being done to improve sharing of draft EHCPs but felt that it was about ensuring decent quality assurance of advice coming from health professionals, so plans would not need to be checked because everyone would be aware of what was within them. It was felt that the plans should be getting shared, however possibility of feedback at that point was limited due to the timeliness of reports.

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The SEND Improvement Lead assured Councillor Ennis that the strength of concern around preparation for adulthood (PfA) was heard, with work being done to improve this, including a PfA workshop. However, it was important that people knew that it was a work in progress.

In response to the Councillor's final question the Director for Education Standards, Quality, and Performance was aware that teachers were having issues with accessing the EP service. The service had been through staffing issues over the previous year, with maternity cover and recruitment difficulties. Assurances were given that the team was now up to capacity and aiming to balance out need, but that difficulties were still being faced.

Councillor Hirst issued concern with timescales, with the issues of transition to adulthood and the voice of the child being issues six years ago when they sat on the corporate parenting board. Councillor Hirst wanted to know if there was any timescale to bring parents faith back into the service.

The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance recognised that work had been done recently to strengthen governance arrangements. An individual had been hired with a wealth of expertise to help this. OFSTED were confident that with those arrangements, the service was in a place to have a grip on previous issues. The SEND Improvement Lead added that the SEND system was very stretched, with a need to measure pace of improvement, whilst also making sure parents and carers were aware of what challenges were going to be faced.

The Executive Member for Children and Young people paid tribute to the officers in attendance for their individual work and the work done by their teams, recognising that improvements were not near the end, but that plenty of work had already taken place.

Councillor Haughey highlighted earlier reference that the service was now fully staffed, despite issues of low employment rate, and raised concern as to whether with increased numbers of young people with SEND could the service slip backwards. The Director for Education Standards, Quality, and Performance responded that the service was aware that it needs to work within its means regarding staffing. However, assurance was given that the governance arrangements that were in place, would not allow the service to slip back. The Lead for SEND and Inclusion added that the inspection had highlighted issues within the whole service, and that everyone was aware of the part they had to play to drive improvement.

The Chair mentioned finally an appetite of members to do further work on SEND Tribunals and transition to adulthood, and asked if the Committee would be interested in completing a piece of task and finish work in one of these areas. The Committee agreed to explore moving this.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the report be noted.

- 2) That the results of the ambitions plan, next steps following on from the inspection, and the SEND data dashboard, be brought to future meetings of the Committee.
- 3) That the Committee explore establishing a task and finish group on either SEND tribunal or preparation for adulthood.

### **39. SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING**

The Head of Education Places, Access, and Vulnerable Children spoke to the report which outlined the Councils approach to school place planning in the borough and was shared as part of the agenda.

The Head of Education Places, Access and Vulnerable Children shared key statistics and information from the report. Firstly, the Council had secured significant amounts of education contributions through section 106 agreements in areas where large levels of development was taking place. This contributed to basic need money which the Council receives from the Department for Education (DfE). Pupil forecasting and accuracy remained strong. Furthermore, regarding entry to reception, 94% of children received first school preference. The Committee were referred to decreasing birth rates in Trafford, which would result in less need for primary school places in some areas of the Borough. However, the Committee were informed that this was expected to be offset in other areas of the borough due to migration into Trafford, with significant spikes of in year school applications in 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Secondly, the Head of Education Places, Access and Vulnerable Children spoke of the pressures of sufficiency for places at secondary schools in the borough, which was especially an issue in the Central and South of the borough. This was seen in the number of first choice schools offered to young people and families (75%) being much lower than the national levels (82%). The strategy to support families on this issue in recent years had been to provide tailored advice, to make sure that they apply for all their local non-selective schools, so to protect as many places as possible for Trafford residents. The Committee were informed that this had largely been a successful position.

Finally, the Head of Education Places, Access and Vulnerable Children highlighted access to selective schools from out of borough families, with this seeing a 1% increase in 2023, with 363 children in year seven. In non-selective schools there were ninety-four out of borough children in schools in Trafford in year seven. The Head of Education Places, Access and Vulnerable Children did mention to the Committee that there were 211 Trafford residents choosing to access schools outside of the Borough. Reassurance was given that the Council was confident in the strategies in place to protect as many places as possible for Trafford residents.

The Committee were offered to ask any questions.

Councillor Duncan asked how the Council prioritises school preference. The Head of Education Places, Access and Vulnerable Children responded that parental

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preference was the priority, with the highest possible preference offered as they could. The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance added that when looking at sufficiency planning and whether further places were required, this data had helped to support the generating of further funding.

Councillor Deakin enquired whether section 106 agreements included in the report were for the financial year to date and if the discrepancy between the amount taken for primary and the amount taken for secondary could be explained. The Head of Education Places, Access and Vulnerable Children responded that it was not measured to a financial year, rather a cumulative total since the Council had been using its current methodology. They added that the difference was from the methodology used to calculate the numbers and was linked to the surplus number of secondary places in three schools in Partington, Stretford and Flixton.

Councillor Procter's first question referred to section 1.4 of the report and priority to remove vertically grouped classes and asked why due to the benefits for children of different abilities being grouped together. The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance responded that funding arrangements that inform a school budget could be complex and as such may not have been the best option in terms of staffing a school. It was further added that it also had its operational issues.

Secondly Councillor Procter asked why the expansion of Davyhulme Primary school was being kept as a future option, when a commitment was made in the planning of nearby Trafford Waters to build a school. The Head of Education Places, Access and Vulnerable Children responded that planning permission for the school was now approved 9 years ago and was still something being worked through, with several changes made to projections of pupil place planning in this time. She added that the planning was for a single-entry primary school, something the DfE no longer did due to financial challenges, and concluded that strategic thinking was to be needed moving forward when considering the school in Trafford Waters. The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance added that feasibility of expansion was considered for all schools and that was why Davyhulme was considered at the time. Reassurance was given that this was only an option, and not something to progress unless they really had to.

Councillor Sutton asked whether Willow's Primary school's intervention space would be reopened as the use of Broomwood for this ended that year. The Head of Education Places, Access and Vulnerable Children responded that additional classroom had been achieved in the short term and a decision would be made at the end of March depending on capacity.

Councillor Ennis asked if there was data to support a new school in South of the borough due to proposed expansions forthcoming in the area. The Head of Education Places, Access and Vulnerable Children responded that the Council had explored creating a new school in the South, but this did not currently meet the necessity. The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance added that to build the smallest of secondary schools, you need demand of 750

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places and when discussions were had with the DfE it was determined that the demand was not there. However, Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance did mention that feasibility was constantly taking place in the South of the borough. The Executive Member for Children and Young People added that consistent lobbying took place with the DfE, which was unsuccessful.

Councillor Paul asked where the increased demand for school places from developments in New Carrington and Timperley wedge would attend and if there were any statistics on this. The Head of Education Places, Access and Vulnerable Children responded that regarding New Carrington, a full and detailed analysis had been done with an expansion of Broadoak expected to deal with the issue. She also mentioned that there was an appetite to expand the three primary schools in the area, however, with the time the development will take, these plans were likely to be down the line. Regarding Timperley wedge, the lowest rising birth rates were in the area, so the plan would be to utilise the projected surpluses.

The Chair thanked the officers for the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.32 pm and finished at 8.46 pm.