



# Children & Young People Scrutiny Members Question Time



5 February 2019

**Cllr Alisa Flemming**  
Cabinet Member – Children,  
Young People & Learners



# Our Vision



**‘All Children and young people in Croydon will be safe, healthy and happy, and will aspire to be the best they can be. The future is theirs.’**

# Children's Social Care

## Context –

- Ofsted Children's Service Inspection delivered an inadequate judgement in July 2017.
- We have had 4 monitoring visits with overall themes of progress but also of inconsistent practice and improvements being slow and lacking momentum
- There have been significant changes in leadership in Children, Families and Education Services with the new Executive Director and Director starting in December 2018 and January 2019 respectively. Both are permanent and from previous good and outstanding authorities

## Key achievements

Page 3

- Key performance indicators across the service have improved generally including supervision, timeliness of assessments, timeliness and frequency of visits and children in need plans
- Investment has been made to reduce caseloads to 18 and in the main they are below this target, from a base of an average of 38. This is significant.
- Development of the Best Start Early Help Strategy and Gateway programme
- Children in Care Council has grown to up to 20 young people meeting regularly with increasing voice.

# Ongoing challenges

- Recruitment & retention of workforce, including management
- Rising numbers in care proceedings and children coming into care
- Focus on prevention and early intervention across organisations
- Inconsistent practice and compliance in planning, voice of the child, transfer of cases, quality of interventions
- Personal & Education Plans for children looked after

## What we are doing - Opportunities

Focus on;

- Prevention and locality work
- Recruitment and retention strategy
- Performance and practice – new weekly clinics
- Developing services to support young people to remain within the family
- Developing best practice on court work, delivering a new family group conference, court tracking and family and friend assessment teams with a new Head of Service.

“Education is the Most  
Powerful weapon  
which you can use to  
change the world.”

*Nelson Mandela*



# Education, Youth Engagement & Lifelong Learning

## Education -

- Pupil outcomes are now better than national averages at EYFS, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4
- 89% of Croydon's children attend a good or outstanding school compared to 86.5% nationally. 33% of Croydon's children attend an outstanding school, and almost 50% at secondary level
- Croydon's second Youth Congress identified crime and safety, mental health and employability, jobs and money as young people's top priorities



## Youth Engagement -

- Croydon's first Young Mayor William Awomoyi and Deputy Young Mayor Shay Williams were elected with more than 12000 11-18 year olds turning out to vote
- Choose Your Future has engaged over 3000 young people across the borough
- Legacy OnSide Youth Zone is nearing completion and will open its doors in the summer of 2019

## Challenges

- Pressures on school budgets
- Pressures on High Needs budget
- Lobbying central government for a fair deal for children in Croydon



## Opportunities

- Ensuring young people have the right information, support and guidance to choose the education pathway
- LSP two year focus on children across organisation's and departments
- Reducing NEET figures

# Inclusive Education for all

## SEN Strategy 2019 - 2022



- • **Inclusion** – schools and colleges increase participation of young people in, and reduce their exclusion from, the curriculum and the everyday life of the school or college.
- • **Dignity and independence** – children with SEND and their families feel welcomed.
- • **Choice** – children, young people and parents are supported in participating fully in decisions that promote young people's aspirations.
- • **Best Value** – effective use of resources for better outcomes, with pooled resources and integrated health, care and education pathways.
- • **Better outcomes** – young people with SEND achieve sustained employment, entering supported internships and/or living independently in their community in Croydon.

## Page 8

