

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

Cllr Alisa Flemming



# Our Vision *(as proposed in the draft CYPP)*

Working together to make Croydon a place where  
all children and young people feel safe, healthy  
and happy

# Early Help & Children's Social Care



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Children and Young People's Scrutiny 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020



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# Early Help & Children's Social Care

## Key Achievements

- Permanent, impactful senior and middle leadership is driving improvements across the whole service
- Transformed management oversight and supervision combined with manageable caseloads has created the conditions for social work to flourish
- The virtual school has improved rapidly, ensuring school children in Croydon's care get the best possible education
- EMPIRE has gone from strength to strength, now joined by the Care Leavers' Forum
- The BrightSpots survey, completed by over 300 children and young people, provides a real insight into the thoughts and wishes of children in our care, and will directly shape services as a result

# Early Help & Children's Social Care

## Challenges

- Improve the quality of work with children looked after and care leavers so it is consistently good
- Better prepare young people for independent adult life, starting earlier and tailored to their individual needs
- Work with our voluntary sector partners to ensure 16 and 17 year olds who present as homeless receive a better response
- Make sure families who would benefit from Early Help are able to access it swiftly
- Raise the quality of work with children in need and their families to the same standard as those with a child protection plan

# Early Help & Children's Social Care

## Future Plans- strategic priorities

- Recruitment and retention – a relentless focus
- Challenge our partners to hold risk more confidently
- Redesign the single point of contact and assessment service
- Care for every child looked after as if they were our own, and improve their experiences of care
- Maintain good performance, focus on quality
- Ensure all parts of the service respond equally well to vulnerable adolescents



# Youth Engagement



# Youth Engagement

## Key Achievements

- Legacy OnSide Youth Zone opened in September 2019
- To date over 31,000 visits by young people have been recorded
- 2 apprentices training 'on the job' at Legacy
- 3 senior members regularly support Junior sessions; volunteer programme to launch this year
- BrightSpots survey responded to by over 300 children and young people
- Young people directly involved in shaping services, adding checks and challenge: Young Director and Young Commissioners coming on stream this year
- Young Mayor
- Youth Congress – July 2020



# Education

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# Education

## Key achievements

- Above national attainment in key areas for the fourth consecutive year
- 86% secondary schools judged good or better by Ofsted with 33% outstanding; 86% of primary are good or better
- Permanent exclusions are below national and London averages, and similar LAs

# Education

- 0-25 SEND strategy launch in October 2019 was attended by young people, parents, partners and schools
- DFE and NHS challenge judged Croydon well-placed to continue strong delivery of the strategy across the borough

## Challenges

- Continued pressure on budgets – schools and DSG high needs block

# Education

## Future Plans

- Continue to work with schools to improve Ofsted outcomes
- Work with schools to reduce exclusions and challenge where movement between schools is inappropriate
- Support schools to develop more inclusive practice – Inclusion and Opportunity for all
- Develop more in-borough provision so more children attend good quality provision closer to home, including post-16
- Revise the DSG recovery plan to address cumulative and in-year overspend

# QUESTIONS ?

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