

MAYOR OF LONDON

Gareth Bacon AM

Chairman
Budget and Performance Committee
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

Date: 19th January 2017

Dear Gareth

Further to the Mayor's letter of 12th January, I set out additional information you requested on the GLA.

Supporting children and early years learning and development and childcare provision

Affordable, quality early years education supports children's learning and development and helps narrow the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers. It can also help reduce poverty by increasing maternal employment rates and pay. The Education and Youth team is working with colleagues in Health, Economic Business Policy Unit, and Diversity and Social Policy to help ensure young Londoners get the best start in life.

The GLA held a Childcare and Early Years Conference at City Hall in November where stakeholders were asked for their views on how the quality of early years education can be improved, how London's parents' need for childcare and early years education can be addressed, and what can be done to tackle the cost of childcare and increase supply. This, together with previous consultation, has informed the **proposed** programme work areas below. The GLA will be undertaking further consultation over the next month before these are finalised, and the Committee's views would be welcome.

1. *Improving the quality of early years education*

Promote early years careers

Some 43% of nurseries reported that they could not recruit new entrants with the required qualifications and just 13% of staff in the PVI (Private, Voluntary & Independent) sector are graduates. To help with this, the Mayor is proposing to:

- Promote early years careers and develop an early years staff talent pipeline;
- Support pre-apprentices to improve basic skills and gain employment in early years;
- Develop approaches to encourage more graduates into early years careers; and

- Develop a programme to improve English and maths support for the early years workforce.

Support new leaders of early years settings

Evidence shows that professional development improves the quality of early years education. That is why the Mayor is proposing to:

- Develop a programme to provide coaching, mentoring and higher level qualifications to potential early years setting leaders.

Develop Mayor's early years hubs

There is limited sharing of good practice and joint work between different early years settings. There is evidence that sharing good practice between settings has a positive impact on outcomes. To help with this, the Mayor is proposing to:

- develop a new collaborative approach to deliver high quality childcare across early years settings through a hub approach where settings (to include schools, childminders and PVI) work together in more than one borough to improve the quality of early years.

Healthy early years

Good health in the early years is important because of its influence on school readiness and future life chances. There are considerable child health inequalities across London. Children across London experience a huge variation in the quality of their early years experiences and this, in turn, creates further inequalities in their life-long health and life chances. The GLA has consulted on extending the successful Healthy Schools London programme to the early years to develop a potential pan-London Awards scheme that would support and recognise early years' setting achievements in child health and wellbeing and school readiness (under-fives). Once funding is secured, a pilot will be developed with full rollout in 2017/18.

2. *Addressing London parents' need for childcare and early years education*

Uptake of free early education is below average in London. In 2015, 46% of eligible 2 year olds took up a free early education place in London, compared with 58% nationally. The Mayor wants to help address this by:

- Working to improve parents' awareness of childcare and early years support; and
- Supporting the piloting of innovative approaches to meet demand for specific groups of parents.

3. *Tackle the cost of childcare and identify opportunities to make more space available for childcare provision*

In the capital parents with under 5s pay on average 36% more for part-time and 30% more for full time childcare. The Mayor wants to play a role in addressing this, which is why he is proposing to:

- Call on all Local Authorities to complete borough-wide annual childcare sufficiency audits and meet their statutory duty to ensure sufficient provision;
- Call on the government to increase the amount London providers are paid to offer 30 hours of free early education;
- Seek to place a requirement on Local Authorities and other planning bodies in the updated London Plan to ensure new developments include affordable childcare, where appropriate; and
- Encourage the GLA group and other public bodies to lead by example and include space for childcare on development sites and employers to consider offering on-site provision.

DEE programmes funded from revenue which are coming to an end

DEE programmes funded from revenue which are ending in 2016-17

- Employer-led apprenticeship project: £919k in 2016-17
- London City Airport: £385k in 2016-17
- MRF: £467k in 2016-17
- High Street Fund: £759k in 2016-17
- OLF: £25k in 2016-17.

DEE programmes funded from revenue which were ending but for which 2017-18 budget provision is now being made

- Infrastructure investment plan: £220k in 2016-17
- Skills devolution: £175k in 2016-17
- MedCity: £393k in 2016-17.

DEE programmes funded from revenue which were profiled only for 2016-17 but for which delivery is likely to fall over a number of future years

- London Enterprise Fund: £2,080k (likely to be slippage to 2017-18)
- Digital Skills: £5m, comprising £3m GLA confirmed and £2m ESF subject to confirmation (likely to be slippage to 2017-18 and 2018-19)
- Growing Places Fund: £4,329k originally profiled for 2016-17 (likely to be slippage to 2017-18 and 2018-19)
- FE Capital: £1,419k originally profiled for 2016-17 (likely to be slippage to 2017-18 and 2018-19).

Yours sincerely,



David Bellamy
Chief of Staff

