

Dear Colleagues

Welcome back to the new half-term and I hope you managed to have a restful break to prepare for the rigours of the run-up to Christmas. Personally, I find this a depressing time of year as the clocks go back and there's six or seven weeks of the days getting shorter.

In the council, we have been spending (appropriate verb) a lot of time in the last couple of weeks finalising the mid-year budget position. This has focused on the stark numbers of the in-year budget pressures on Children's Services that are a product of long-standing structural budget problems that we are starting to surface and get to grips with. Colleagues will be familiar with SEND pressures that have been frequently rehearsed, but there are cost problems in social care (and not only in Early Help that we have also discussed before).

There is a real commitment from the new(ish) administration to deliver improvements in services for the people of Newham, but it's in a context of less and less money. Meanwhile – a controversial point for you all – school budget carry-forwards overall are very healthy. This won't go unremarked while we are looking for increased investment from the council in Children's Services.

I am sure these issues will be referred to next week at the Primary Partnership Board and the Newham Association of Secondary Heads meetings.

Finally, Sheringham Nursery School was inspected this week.

Best wishes

Terry Reynolds; Director of Education and Skills

Statutory and Traded Service Attendance Forums for schools: 9th November 2018

The Attendance Management Service (AMS) is now running two forums to help support the rollout of new statutory procedures, whilst ensuring schools that purchase packages of support from AMS have access to additional support.

Statutory Services Forum: 10:00 – Midday

It is important that schools attend the forum as there are a number of changes being introduced in relation to Children Missing Education, Attendance and Penalty Notices. We strongly encourage schools to send a representative to the meeting.

It is free of charge to attend, but places are restricted to two members of staff per school/setting.

Traded Services Forum: 13:00 - 15:30

The focus of this forum will be on Attendance and Preparing for Ofsted. Time will also be given to discuss the topics raised at the earlier Statutory Services Forum

Schools and Academies who are signed up for an SLA with the Attendance Management Service are able to attend free of charge. For the first time, schools and academies who are not signed up for an SLA are also able to attend, but there is a **small charge for doing so**.

[Please click here for further information and how to book your place](#)

Standards and Testing Agency / ESFA Updates

Standards and Testing Agency

• Primary assessment

- [Action: place KS1 and KS2 test orders on NCA tools by 23 November](#)
- [Publication: NCA tools managing access and troubleshooting guide](#)
- [Information: Analyse School Performance update](#)
- [Reminder: submit your school's 2018 to 2019 holiday dates](#)

Education & Skills Funding Agency

Information: teachers' pay grant allocations 2018 to 2019

The rates and [high level methodology for the teachers' pay grant for 2018 to 2019 and 2019 to 2020](#). (published 14th September)

The [teachers' pay grant allocations for 2018 to 2019](#) which cover the period September 2018 to March 2019. (published 24th October)

Information: understanding your data – a guide for schools, governors and academy trustees

ESFA have updated [understanding your data: a guide for school governors and academy trustees](#) with links to new and updated tools that help schools reduce costs pressures and make every pound count. Developed with the aid of non-executive directors who serve on boards and local authorities, the guide aims to support governors and trustees to challenge the executive teams in their school or academy.

If you would like to provide feedback on this resource or have suggestions about how it could be improved, please use the [online enquiry form](#). Please put "Understanding your data" at the top of your enquiry.

Legacy Youth Voice recruitment

This is a truly unique opportunity for young people from your organisation to be a part of Legacy Youth Voice, a young diverse group bursting with ideas and insights, helping to shape the future of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and creating opportunities for young East Londoners. The Legacy Youth Voice work with the London Legacy Development Corporation, who are responsible for Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to ensure that there are lasting legacy benefits.

What it is?

The Legacy Youth Voice are Representing, Engaging and Inspiring young east London by being the youth voice in and out for Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

Applicants should be:

- Aged 14 - 18 years
- Resident or studying in Hackney, Newham, Waltham Forest or Tower Hamlets

All applications must arrive by 5pm on Sunday 2nd December 2018.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Working Together Early Years Hub

Children in Newham are already benefitting from one of three Early Years Hubs funded by the Greater London Authority to improve children's life chances in London. Working Together, the Early Years Hub led by Newham's Nursery Schools in partnership with the Best Start in Life team, includes private and voluntary early years settings, childminders, schools, and the East London Early Years and Schools Partnership Teaching School Alliance.

Our aim is to ensure that at least 75% of disadvantaged two year olds in Newham access a free early education place by 2020, so that they won't be left behind in future. Only 43% of eligible two year olds took up places in 2017, but funding from the Mayor of London for the Early Years Hub helped increase take-up to 56% this year. We are working together to improve the quality and inclusion of early education and increase the early years workforce in line with the creation of new places.

Working Together offers:

- A free Professional Development programme for early years practitioners
- A Mentor to support settings with self-assessment and action planning
- Network development meetings for settings
- Free pre-employment training provided by Protrain for those who want to work in early years education, including functional skills (Maths and English) courses, confidence and self-esteem building, and Teaching Assistant qualifications

Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz OBE and the Deputy Mayor of London, Joanne McCartney, will be launching Phase 2 of the Working Together Early Years Hub - the next two years of improving access, inclusion and opportunity across the early years education sector in Newham – at Sheringham Nursery School on 3rd December. **To find out more, visit the [Newham Nursery Schools website](#)**

Learning event on anti-poverty initiatives in schools 23 November, 12pm-3.30pm

The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), together with the Greater London Authority (GLA), would like to invite you to a learning event on what schools can do to tackle child poverty. The event is part of a wider research project.

Friday 23 November, 12pm-3.30pm (lunch will be provided). Location: City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA. Click [here](#) for more information.

Please RSVP to Sophie Howes, Senior Policy and Research Officer at CPAG by 31 October showes@cpag.org.uk

Risk of suicide: Safer Schools Prevention Project

PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide has secured funding to equip secondary schools in London with suicide prevention skills through a free training opportunity.

Young people spend the majority of their time at school, so in order to reach as many as young people as possible – and those that have care of them - teachers and school staff, PAPYRUS are seeking to run a project in secondary schools across London.

If you are interested in the project, find our more [here](#)

Information: EpiPen and EpiPen Junior shortage updated advice

Following guidance issued last week by the Department of Health & Social Care on the EpiPen shortages, please note the guidance provided in a [letter](#) from NHS allergy experts, which GPs are issuing to those affected.

Christmas Card Design Competition – last entry date 9 November 2018

Pupils at Newham schools are invited to take part in a very exciting opportunity to design the front of Newham Council's Christmas card this year. Designs for the cards should be submitted by Friday 9 November to Christmas Card Competition, Mayor's Office, 4th Floor, Newham Dockside, 1000 Dockside Road, London E16 2QU or scanned and emailed to mayor@newham.gov.uk. For full details click [here](#).

Training/Events

[Designated Safeguarding Leads Training](#)

Early Help Partnership Team
12 November 2018 9.30am – 4.30pm
| Location: TBC

Newham Educational Psychology Service - Parent drop-in Session. 40 minutes sessions.
6 November 2018 at New City Primary School between 3.30 -5.30pm. Click [here](#).

Calendar - Events and Deadlines

November 2018

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

Diary Dates & Deadlines

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|----------------------|---|
| 7 th Nov | Diwali |
| 9 th Nov. | Deadline - Apprenticeship Levy request form return |
| 9 th Nov | Deadline for school apprentice requests for Jan start |
| 9 th Nov | Attendance Forums |
| 9 th Nov | Christmas Card competition deadline |
| 23 rd Nov | Guru Nanak |
| 23 rd Nov | CPAG learning event on school anti-poverty initiatives |
| 3 rd Dec | Launch of Phase 2 Working Together Early Years Hub |

Key Contacts in Newham Council Children's Commissioning

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|----------------|---|--|
| Terry Reynolds | Interim Director of Commissioning, Education & Skills | terry.reynolds@newham.gov.uk |
| Dani Wade | Head of Commissioning, Education & Skills | dani.wade@newham.gov.uk |
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Email us at newhamconnect@newham.gov.uk You can also send us items for the newsletter
The newsletter copy deadline is Wednesday 12pm each week