

Dear Colleagues

The deadline for these notes that Sheila Weeden rigorously polices (by being obviously disappointed rather than angry if I fail to meet it) is Thursday morning. That means I need to write them on Wednesday afternoon/evening. Right now the highlight (I use the word in its heavily ironic sense) of my week has been the Education Select Committee hearing that I attended on behalf of Newham on Wednesday morning.

It's still a surprise to me how time can seem so variable. I still remember how interminable the 1980 FA Cup Final was as I spent as much time looking at my watch as at the game after Sir Trevor scored in (I remember it well) the 13th minute. Well, Thursday morning's 90 minute session felt a whole lot longer. Generally, Select Committee evidence sessions last for about an hour. They also usually have around four witnesses. So 90 minutes for two witnesses (me and the DCS from East Sussex) was unusual.

And it was clear that, for different reasons, both authorities were or are on the committee's naughty step. It's not, of course, anything new that we all recognise that there is much improvement to be made in our provision of SEND services, so perhaps no surprise that we should be held to account for how we've implemented the SEND Reform legislation. It was also a reminder to me how differently Newham has provided for SEND. If we look at the data on outcomes, for primary pupils Newham SEND cohort achieves extremely well compared with other authorities, although the same comparative data are not as favourable for secondary pupils. One question from a member of the committee, having heard my description of how Newham operated, was whether Newham had the right approach and every other authority was wrong, or ...

What was interesting on reflection, was how little members seemed keen to explore funding (other than to question how Newham has used the SEND Reform Grant). I know from the evidence at other committee sessions that they have been told frequently that funding is insufficient. Perhaps they didn't need to hear that again, although both myself and the colleague from East Sussex repeated it. In the end, what counts is not my discomfiture, nor the theatre of the committee in the neo-Gothic surrounds, but whether we are bringing the improvement that's needed to our services to children and young people. In that, thanks to the efforts of the staff in the 0-25 SEND service working with schools, parents and families, I'm convinced that we are, even though there's a long way to go.

Part of that conviction stems from our monthly meeting with our DfE SEND adviser last week. This again, was a close examination of what's changing in the service as well as a chance to recognise how there are some things to celebrate. The East Sussex DCS, for example, was questioned about the high number of SENDIST cases from that authority (every one found in favour of parents) as well as the highest number of Local Government Ombudsman cases found against the council. But their SEND Area Inspection found no areas for improvement and OFSTED has recently judged their Children's Services outstanding. We, however, have very few tribunals and work hard to avoid them through mediation and our DfE SEND adviser commended our approach.

So that's my almost exclusively SEND focused week. Next time I'll try instead to shoehorn in some references to the book I'm reading (Ian McEwan's 'Machines Like Me' at the moment), plays I've seen ('The Three Sisters' at The Almeida and 'Death of a Salesman' at The Young Vic over the next week) or, I hope, some unbecoming gloating at Tottenham Hotspur failing. Some things do change.

Best wishes

Terry Reynolds; Director of Education and Skills

Open consultation - SEND and AP provision: call for evidence

In December 2018 the Secretary of State announced the intention to hold a call for evidence on the current funding arrangements for those with special educational needs (SEN), those with disabilities, and those who require alternative provision.

The ESFA accepts that the overall amount of funding available is the most pressing concern. However, this call for evidence is intended to help the ESFA understand how the current available funding is distributed, and what improvements to the financial arrangements could be made in future to get the best value from any funding that is made available.

The [call for evidence](#) will be open from now until 31 July 2019.

LBN Apprenticeship opportunity for young people

Newham Council's award-winning apprenticeship scheme has been running for over 25 years, and we have vacancies for new apprentices. This year the scheme has been extended to offer apprenticeships to Newham residents aged from 16-30 years.

An apprenticeship at Newham Council offers Newham residents the opportunity to gain new skills and qualifications while working.

Applications close 28th July 2019, and Apprenticeships start in September 2019.

For more information about the roles and eligibility and link to register your interest see the attached document [here](#).

Keeping Safe Pilot – deadline for referrals 17th May

Please be reminded that the deadline for primary schools to refer young people and their families to the new Keeping Safe Project is next Friday 17th May.

Further information about the pilot and the application process can be found [here](#). Please be reminded to return a copy of the Data Sharing agreement that was circulated to Designated Safeguarding Leads alongside your returns.

If you have any questions then please don't hesitate to contact Nasima Patel (Nasima.patel@newham.gov.uk) or Hannah Leask (hannah.leask@newham.gov.uk)

The Built Environment of the Future – 16 May 2019 - year 9-13 students invited

**Invitation for Year 9 -13 students to attend The Built Environment of the Future
Thursday 16 May 2019 10.00am- 2.45pm at the Crystal**

Introduced by Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz, the University College of Estate Management is delighted to invite Year 9 -13 student representatives and 2 staff or adult chaperones from every Newham school to two interactive talks delivered by top employers, industry leading speakers and influential thinkers.

For information/ to book a place click [here](#)

The [information sent to schools](#) is as follows:

Key stage 1

- **Action:** order braille versions of phonics screening check materials by 10 May
- **Reminder:** administer key stage 1 tests by 31 May

Key stage 2

- **Action:** prepare to administer key stage 2 tests next week
- **Action:** security of test materials
- **Action:** submit applications for timetable variations by 23 May
- **Information:** disruption to test administration due to European elections
- **Reminder:** preparing test rooms
- **Reminder:** guidance for returning key stage 2 test scripts for marking
- **Reminder:** monitoring visits guidance

Primary assessment

- **Action:** get in touch to participate in testing of new digital portal

[National curriculum assessments: practice materials](#) Practice materials for the phonics screening check, key stage 1 and key stage 2 national curriculum tests, including past test papers.

[Key stages 1 and 2: investigating allegations of maladministration](#) Procedures for investigating claims of cheating (sometimes called malpractice) in KS1 and KS2 national curriculum assessments and guidance for local authorities.

[How to report maladministration at key stage 1 and key stage 2](#) Reporting concerns, including cheating, about administration of KS1 and KS2 national curriculum tests (often called SATs), teacher assessments and phonics.

ESFA

Information: 16 to 19 funding - publication of the Care to Learn guide for the 2019 to 2020 academic year. The ESFA have published the [Care to Learn guide for the 2019 to 2020 academic year](#).

Care to Learn provides funding for childcare to help young parents (aged under 20) continue in education after the birth of a child. The guide sets out the eligibility criteria for young parents, childcare providers and education institutions. It provides information about the application process, the administration of the scheme, and the audit requirements, and some examples of good practice for institutions around raising awareness of the scheme and encouraging young parents to apply.

Information: 16 to 18 English and maths progress measures changes to 2020 performance tables

The ESFA have made changes to the 16 to 18 English and maths progress measure which will apply to 2020 performance tables. These are:

- increasing the relative progress points for attaining Functional Skills Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications so providers can further support students to take the level 2 qualification which is most appropriate for them.
- reflecting the new GCSE grading system and making the points consistent by moving from the old 8-point scale to the new 9-point scale, with each grade worth one point.
- recognising progress made between each entry level. Currently attainment of any entry level qualifications receives 0.4 progress points. From 2020 tables, Entry Level 1 will receive 0.25, Entry Level 2 0.5 and Entry Level 3 0.75 points. See the [16 to 18 accountability headline measures](#) guidance.

Information: Department for Education (DfE) funded governance professional development programmes. The ESFA encourage leaders and clerks of governing bodies to sign up for [academy and school governance professional development programmes](#). The governance leadership programme aims to build the capacity of governance leaders. It is available to those in governance roles including chairs, vice chairs or committee chairs.

Training/Events

[Primary Catholic Middle Leaders](#)

Day 6 of 9: Coaching and use of coaching to improve your leadership
St. Edward's Teaching School Alliance
Wednesday 15 May 2019 4 – 6pm

[Designated Safeguarding Leads Training](#)

Early Help Partnership Team
Monday 20 May 2019 9.30 am - 4.30pm
Ellen Wilkinson Primary School E6 4UP

Calendar - Events and Deadlines

May / June 2019

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Diary Dates & Deadlines

16 May 2019	The Built Environment of the Future. See here
17 May 2019	Keeping Safe Project deadline
27-31 May '19	Half Term
28 July 2019	Open consultation - SEND and AP provision: call for evidence



Email us at newhamconnect@newham.gov.uk

You can send us items for the newsletter

The newsletter copy deadline is

Thursday 10am each week

Key Contacts in Newham Council Children's Commissioning

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