Public Document Pack

Community & Children's Services Committee

Date: **TUESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2026**

Time: 1.45 pm

Venue: **COMMITTEE ROOMS - 2ND FLOOR WEST WING, GUILDHALL**

Members:

Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP (Chair)
Steve Goodman OBE (Deputy Chair)
Joanna Tufuo Abeyie
Munsur Ali
Matthew Bell
Simon Burrows
Deputy Anne Corbett
Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan D'Souza
Anthony David Fitzpatrick
Deputy John Fletcher
Dawn Frampton
Sarah Gillinson
John Griffiths
Mercy Haggerty
Adam Hogg
Amy Horscroft
Sandra Jenner
Shravan Joshi MBE
Laura Jørgensen (Co-opted Member)
Helen Ladele
Alderman Tim Levene
Tim McNally
Sophia Mooney
Leyla Ostovar
Deputy Nighat Qureishi
Beverley Ryan (Co-opted Member)
Stuart Thompson
Deputy James Thomson CBE
William Upton KC
Mark Wheatley
Deputy Ceri Wilkins
David Williams
Philip Woodhouse
Vacancy

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Ian Thomas CBE
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

NB: Certain items presented for information have been marked * and will be taken without discussion, unless the Committee Clerk has been informed that a Member has questions or comments prior to the start of the meeting. These for information items have been collated into a supplementary agenda pack and have been circulated separately.

Part 1 - Public Reports

1. **APOLOGIES**

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

3. **MINUTES**

   To agree the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous meeting held on 30 June 2026.

   For Decision
   (Pages 7 - 20)

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

   Members are asked to note the outstanding actions report.

   For Information
   (Pages 21 - 24)

5. **SUBSIDY OF 0-2 CHILDCARE FOR THE ALDGATE SCHOOL**

   Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services.

   For Decision
   (Pages 25 - 52)

6. **ALLOCATED MEMBERS TO THE CITY'S HOUSING ESTATES**

   Report of the Town Clerk.

   For Decision
   (Pages 53 - 56)

7. **FAMILIES IN THE CITY UPDATE**

   Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services.

   For Discussion
   (Pages 57 - 78)

8. **GOLDEN LANE LEISURE CENTRE UPDATE**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

For Discussion
(Pages 79 - 84)

9. **WARDMOTE UPDATES**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

For Discussion
(Pages 85 - 86)

10. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

To receive a resolution from the Policy and Resources Committee.

For Discussion
(Pages 87 - 88)

11. ***BARBICAN LIBRARY REFRESH WORKS**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

For Information

12. ***CQC ADULT SOCIAL CARE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME REPORT**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

For Information

13. ***OFSTED FOCUS VISIT INSPECTION OF CHILDREN SOCIAL CARE AND EARLY HELP**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

For Information

14. ***COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (NON-HOUSING) REVENUE OUTTURN FORECAST AS AT QUARTER 1, 2026/27**

Joint report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services; and the Chamberlain and Chief Financial Officer.

For Information

15. ***HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT P4 UPDATE**

Report to follow.

For Information

16. **UPDATES FROM SUB COMMITTEES AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

For Information

17. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

19. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

MOTION - That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

For Decision

Part 2 - Non-Public Reports

20. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

To agree the non-public minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 June 2026.

For Decision
(Pages 89 - 96)

21. **NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Members are asked to note the non-public outstanding actions report.

For Information
(Pages 97 - 100)

22. **MANAGEMENT UPDATE FOR THE CITY OF LONDON COMBINED RELIEF OF POVERTY CHARITY**

Report of the Managing Director, City Bridge Foundation.

For Decision
(Pages 101 - 110)

23. **RISK REPORT FOR THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION COMBINED RELIEF OF POVERTY CHARITY**

Report of the Managing Director, City Bridge Foundation.

For Decision
(Pages 111 - 128)

24. **FINANCE UPDATE AND DRAFT ACCOUNTS FOR CITY OF LONDON COMBINED RELIEF OF POVERTY**

Report of the City Bridge Foundation Finance Director (representing the Chamberlain).

For Decision
(Pages 129 - 156)

25. ***DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OR URGENCY POWERS**

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Information

26. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

27. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

Part 3 - Confidential Reports

28. **DIRECTOR OF LONDON PROGRAMMES**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

For Decision

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 30 June 2026

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 30 June 2026 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP (Chair)
Steve Goodman OBE (Deputy Chair)
Joanna Tufuo Abeyie
Munsur Ali
Matthew Bell
Simon Burrows
Deputy Anne Corbett
Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan D'Souza
Deputy John Fletcher
Dawn Frampton
Sarah Gillinson
John Griffiths
Mercy Haggerty
Adam Hogg
Sandra Jenner
Laura Jørgensen
Helen Ladele
Tim McNally
Leyla Ostovar
Deputy Nighat Qureishi
Beverley Ryan
Stuart Thompson
Deputy James Thomson CBE
William Upton KC
Deputy Ceri Wilkins
David Williams
Philip Woodhouse

Observing virtually:

Mark Wheatley

In Attendance:

Deputy Marianne Fredericks
Jason Pritchard
Gaby Robertshaw

Officers:

Sheena Etches	-	City Bridge Foundation
Jack Joslin	-	City Bridge Foundation
Judith Finlay	-	Executive Director, Community and Children's Services
Beverley Andrews	-	Community and Children's Services Department
John Barker	-	Community and Children's Service Department
Paul Barton	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Deborah Bell	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Peta Caine	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Helen Chantry	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Himmang Chemjong	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Simon Cribbens	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Hannah Dobbin	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Zoe Gayle	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Michael Gwyther-Jones	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Kirstie Hilton	-	Community and Children's Services Department

Chris Lovitt	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Rachel Talmage	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Ian Tweedie	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Greg Wade	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Ellie Ward	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Lisa Ward	-	Communications and External Affairs Department
Frank Marchione	-	Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Phil Black	-	Chamberlain's Department
Mark Jarvis	-	Chamberlain's Department
Jacqui Mckeating	-	Chamberlain's Department
Simon Molden	-	Director, The Sports Consultancy
Amelia Christopher	-	Town Clerk's Department
Scott Myers	-	Town Clerk's Department
Emily Slatter	-	Town Clerk's Department

The Chairman welcomed new committee members: John Griffiths, Adam Hogg, Tim McNally; and thanked departing member Alderman Sushil Saluja.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Anthony David Fitzpatrick, Shravan Joshi MBE, Sophia Mooney, Mark Wheatley (observed virtually) and Alderman Kawsar Zaman.

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Deputy Anne Corbett declared that she was a leaseholder living on the Golden Lane Estate.

Laura Jørgensen declared that she was a governor at The Aldgate School.

Tim McNally declared that he had been newly appointed as a governor of The Aldgate School.

Beverley Ryan declared that she was Co-Chair of Governors at The Aldgate School.

Deputy Ceri Wilkins declared that she was in receipt of the City's Childcare Accessibility Scheme funding.

David Williams declared that his children were at The Aldgate School.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous meetings held on 22 April 2026 and 5 May 2026 be approved as an accurate record.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Committee received the public outstanding actions report.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its contents noted.

5. **APPOINTMENTS TO SUB-COMMITTEES**

The Committee received the report of the Town Clerk. Officers explained that the vacant Allocated Member positions to the City's Housing Estates would be determined at July's Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee, to return to the Committee for approval. The Chairman asked that the new Members elected to that sub-committee consider whether they have capacity to take a lead role where required.

Regarding the Integrated Care Sub-Committee, the Chairman noted that once clarity had been sought on the NHS reforms, the Committee would appoint the three deputies at a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. Agreed the addition of one extra Member, appointing three Members to the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee from the Committee:
    - Adam Hogg
    - Tim McNally
    - John Griffiths
2. Agreed the appointment of three Members to the Safeguarding and Special Educational Needs Sub-Committee:
    - Shravan Joshi MBE
    - Tim McNally
    - David Williams
3. Elected the Chair of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee: David Williams.

6. **0-2 CHILDCARE PROVISION AT THE ALDGATE SCHOOL**

NOTE: It was agreed that this item be taken before the item on Golden Lane Leisure Centre: Preferred Design Option and Establishment of a Community Steering Group.

The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

The Chairman proposed a deferral of the report to September, which was seconded by Deputy Anne Corbett, and sought the Committee's views on a deferral. The reasons for a deferral were for the revised report to include further information, such as on sufficiency, and to provide assurance on the financial modelling, for all efforts to be made by officers and the school to consider any other opportunity for the school to cover the costs. September would still allow a full academic year for parents to seek alternative provision should the Committee decide not to continue with the financial support.

Members against the deferral noted the following points:

- That the situation had been going on for too long, a deferral would not be fair on the school, parents, or Portsoken residents. The report contained lots of information, no further information would change anyone's mind.

- The report should not have been received by the Committee if it was not ready; information would always be in flux.
- Was concerned by a delay in making the decision, noting that the reason for setting the timetable was that if a child was put in a baby room that would be for two academic years. For many people the provision was an important step in returning to work, it was difficult for the school to sell those places as long-term places.
- That the Committee made the same decision to defer a report on the matter around one year ago for more information to be provided, families would be let down by another delay; and had a lot riding on the decision.
- That some staff members had pay scales linked to the City Corporation's pay scales as it was a commissioned service and they needed certainty.

Members supportive of the deferral noted the following points:

- That the report was confusing, they welcomed time for Members to raise questions at the meeting and via email to the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services over the next week or so to obtain as much information as possible.
- That the focus must be on impact and equity. What would be the best use of £174,000 for the greatest impact for those families in most need, they were not confident that the report answered those questions.
- That there were many questions they did not know the answer to (which had been shared amongst Members not officers); further information was required so as not to make the wrong decision.
- That once that further information and assurance have been provided to Members, there was a sound case to fund the provision.
- The Deputy Chair noted that he had received some information that was not in the report that would be useful for the Committee to have in a revised report to make an informed decision.

Members asked:

- That should the report be deferred, a consideration be given to the school term times, noting the upcoming summer holidays; and an executive head would be covering maternity leave.
- Whether the current position could be summarised and what the previous position was, as that was where there was miscommunication and uncertainty.
- For clarity, noting that the current subsidy was up to £174,000 per year, however the proposal in the report was for £60,000. The Chairman clarified that the report asked whether the Committee was willing to fund £60,000 or to maintain its original decision.
- That should the report be deferred, there were some items that could be added into the report, having spoken to other Members and having been newly appointed as a governor there was additional information that was not reflected in the report.
- That should the report be deferred, for it to be titled 0 to 3 provision as that more accurately reflected the age of children concerned.

- That regarding the further information spoken about by other Committee members not included in the report, noted uncertainty whether that provided a material impact to the recommendations.
- That any additional information that other Committee members possessed should be discussed in the meeting to inform the decision. In response, the Chairman highlighted that the additional information required officers to do further work.
- That should the report be deferred, a Member Briefing be provided in advance of September's Committee meeting. For that to include information on subsidy-type provision in neighbouring London boroughs, how the provision was connected to the Government's approach around school-based nursery provision and the Best Start in Life approach.

A vote was taken on the proposal by the Chairman to defer the report, seconded by Deputy Anne Corbett, with 12 Members voting For the deferral, 12 Members voting Against the deferral, and no Abstentions. Under Standing Order 28 1.(c), as there was an equality of votes, the Chairman used her casting vote For the deferral.

RESOLVED: That the report be deferred to September's Committee meeting.

7. **GOLDEN LANE LEISURE CENTRE: PREFERRED DESIGN OPTION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY STEERING GROUP**

The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services. Officers explained that following a resolution made by the Committee at its May 2026 meeting, a period of further public engagement had been undertaken to explore and develop the design options. The report sets out the outcomes and findings of the engagement, reflected in a recommended new option: Option 1 enhanced. That option would keep the sports hall with an expanded health and fitness offer which has the potential to secure a financially viable operation over a ten-year contract. The option also retains a dedicated spectator seating area at the swimming pool. Appendix 3 of the report sets out a Business Planning Report in which the 'Option 1 enhanced' design was described as 'Option 3'. The Community Steering Group - Chair to be appointed - was proposed, and if agreed would meet monthly during the RIBA Stage 3 design period to discuss design issues in detail.

The public engagement undertaken to explore potential design options demonstrated overwhelming support for an option that retained the sports hall.

Members supported Option 1 enhanced, noting that it covers its own costs, and it was what people wanted as it retains the sports hall; they thanked officers for their hard work at pace, listening to Members and the community.

Regarding the financial sustainability, a Member asked what could be done between now and opening to give it the best chance of success such as growing engagement and membership. The Member welcomed the establishment of the Community Steering Group and stressed that user voice must be included in the governance before the delivery of the refurbishment.

A Member suggested more development work on the ten-year plan of the leisure centre, linked to the sports offered in open spaces, generating income through wider sports development. There was a need to reach out to groups that do not engage in sports, such as the elderly with health issues. There was also a need to look at what other local authorities were doing regarding a pricing model that would attract new members and increase income.

A Member thanked the Save Golden Lane Leisure Centre campaign group for ensuring that community needs were at the heart of the design. The Member asked for the Golden Lane Leisure Centre (GLLC) Independent User Group to continue to be engaged with the specificity of the design.

The Deputy Chair highlighted that it was an example of learning for the City Corporation, with the Committee revisiting its decision and the community engagement, which had enabled the Committee to rethink the direction taken, providing a better result. He thanked officers for their fast work and stressed the need to ensure that the energy continues, working more closely with the community to ensure its success.

A Member highlighted residents' concerns around the privacy screen and sought assurance that was fully private, enabling women only swimming. The Member noted that other neighbouring local authorities offered free swimming for women and people over sixty years old. The Member stressed the need for transport to be provided to those with mobility issues and noted that a local school had to travel a long way to Poplar to go to swimming.

A Member hoped that facilities for bigger groups in the changing rooms would be provided in the design, the Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee had asked for clarity on the guidance for changing facilities to be adopted in the design strategy to ensure inclusivity. The Member noted that the sports hall must be a vibrant space that people would be prepared to pay for. A Member pressed for the changing rooms to be reviewed, ensuring that those would not solely be shared open spaces.

A Member sought assurance of how the running of and management of the facilities would be monitored once the leisure centre reopens.

The Chairman was pleased to arrive at a point where the best design options were being considered, it had been clear from the outset that people wanted the sports hall to be retained; and to increase the gym space. The Chairman noted the need to understand what form the Community Steering Group and the (GLLC) Independent User Group would take once the leisure centre reopens, so those groups could continue to play a key oversight role. There was a need to encourage people to come back to the leisure centre once it reopens, demonstrating its excellent provision. There was also a need to build on the resident voice. The Chairman thanked officers for their hard work at pace and thanked the Committee for considering the enhanced option.

Officers noted that the questions around the future operation of the leisure centre were beyond the design consideration and confirmed that the Committee

would receive an update at a future meeting on the procurement of a provider and to discuss the future operation and delivery. The monthly meeting of the Community Steering Group would discuss the complexities in detail, for example regarding the changing rooms, seating and transport. The request around the privacy screen would be considered.

RESOLVED:

1. Noted the outcome of the recent engagement process.
2. Noted the design options discussed.
3. Noted the updated financial modelling.
4. Agreed the preferred design option: Option 1 enhanced.
5. Approved establishment of a Community Steering Group for the project.

8. **A REVIEW OF THE CITY CHILDCARE ACCESSIBILITY SCHEME**

The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services. Officers explained that the Committee was asked to decide whether to retain the scheme or implement an enhanced scheme from September 2026, which includes additional support for families already receiving the 30-hour entitlement, where there was more than one pre-school child in the family. Officers recommended option 2 as it widens access and eases childcare costs, especially for low-income families. There was funding available through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), an additional funding source might need to be identified should there be an increase in demand. The service would promote the scheme to maximise awareness.

The Chairman noted that the scheme was relevant to all families across the City and the aim was to be as supportive as possible, last year the Committee agreed to change the entry criteria.

The Deputy Chair sought clarity on the Government's provision of thirty hours of free childcare, believing that did not cover those that were unemployed compared to the City Corporation's scheme. Officers clarified that the Government's provision was for eligible families for children over nine months old, for single parent families or families with an income of less than £100,000, for thirty-eight weeks of the year. Regarding the City Corporation's scheme, there were three criteria for accessing it: two criteria were referrals by professionals for families receiving support from social care or other services, and referrals for children with additional needs that do not qualify for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP); the third criterion related to financial hardship, that covered those unemployed.

A Member believed that the City Corporation's scheme enabled families that already receive the 30 hours of free childcare and meet the criteria, could also receive 15 hours of free childcare during term time. That enabled families to work longer hours. Responding to the Chairman, officers clarified that the scheme was being extended to those unemployed and noted that applications were assessed on a case-by-case basis.

A Member asked how long people would be supported under the scheme in terms of getting back to work. Officers explained that support was not time

limited so as not to create a barrier, the only time limited factor to consider was the age of the child.

A Member asked how many respondents there were to the Spring/Summer 2026 Sufficiency Assessment, and how the City Corporation was speaking to local parents, asking whether their needs were being met. Officers explained that they would find out the number of respondents and explained that sufficiency assessments must be conducted twice a year. A Member requested that the percentages for respondents continue to be included going forward.

A Member asked whether the referral pathways were obstructing parents, the 2021 census data noted that there were up to 60 births per year, whereas the applications varied from one to seven. The Member asked whether the scheme was publicised. Officers explained that new birth visits were conducted, the service was mindful of the scheme and its benefits and that would be promoted with health visiting colleagues and a campaign would be undertaken.

RESOLVED: Reviewed the Childcare Policy agreed in June 2025 and approved Option 2: Universal Needs for a revised and enhanced Childcare Accessibility Scheme from September 2026. The proposed change is the introduction of additional support for families already receiving the 30-hour entitlement, where there is more than one pre-school child in the family.

9. **STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND ANALYSIS AND FUNDING POLICY UPDATE**

The Committee received the report of the Interim Managing Director, City Bridge Foundation. Officers explained that the Stronger Communities Fund (SCF) was a small grants programme with an annual budget of just over £73,000. In 2025/26, there were 13 grants awarded. The team worked closely with the Community and Children's Services Department (DCCS) to identify gaps in provision that could be met through grant funding from the CIL Neighbourhood Fund. Members were asked to amend the policy to reduce the maximum Stronger Communities Fund to £10,000.

A Member highlighted that Portsoken had benefitted from the SCF, funding a coach trip from the estates to the seaside in summer. The Member thanked the officers for being helpful in providing support for people to apply for the grant. The application process had been streamlined and the reporting process was simpler; the Member encouraged people to apply as it provided a huge benefit.

A Member asked whether the management cost of such funds was kept in proportion, as there was a danger of an imbalance of spending too much time on administration. Alongside the larger CIL Neighbourhood Fund, there was an opportunity to have efficiencies and cross-subsidy in managing smaller grants.

A Member had reviewed the last six years and believed the average spend of the SCF was £33,000 per year, and as only half of the available fund was spent every year, the Member questioned the reduction of the maximum grant. A Member welcomed the flexibility in the current approach, enabling a higher amount of funding for an exceptional case, so questioned the reduction. A

Member noted that due to inflation and other costs increases, urged caution in removing the cap on the SCF. Officers explained the rationale for the reduction of the maximum grant to £10,000 was that the fund was oversubscribed, for example with repeat applicants and large applicants there was no space for new organisations to apply. That reduction would enable a stepping stones approach between the funds. That rationale was welcomed by Members. Officers clarified that in the last six years, most of the budget had been spent at around £73,000 for the SCF. Officers explained that this year, the number of applications had increased by 41% which was challenging, there were issues around ineligible applications, the use of Artificial Intelligence and the Greater London Authority had a similarly named programme.

A Member noted that Fusion Lifestyle no longer existed and asked where that grant currently sat and how was the City Corporation providing for those Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) children for sport and physical activity sessions. Officers explained that Fusion Lifestyle had fully delivered its fund, currently there was funding for SEND sports provision at the City of London School for Girls. The Member also asked about the grant for community cricket provision for children and asked how communities were aware of that and whether providing outreach was part of receiving the SCF. Officers explained that during the application process there would be a telephone interview with applicants talk to them about the project and outreach plans to communities. The panel of expert officers from DCCS provided that scrutiny and were in communication with the communities.

A Member noted that they were a trustee to the charity Positive Action Through Creativity and thanked officers for their support in the application process which had been simplified. The Member welcomed the grant awards for sports and youth provision; and asked for workshops to promote the funds. The team undertook outreach work and was happy to present to communities.

Officers explained that one of the bids funded through the CIL Neighbourhood Fund was for Hackney CVS to do work called VCSquared to support the voluntary and community sector to grow its capacity. There was a strong link with grants team who could inform organisations of grant opportunities.

RESOLVED:

1. Noted the recent grants awarded from the Stronger Communities Fund 2025/26 (Appendix 2).
2. Noted the analysis of the Stronger Communities Fund over the last six years, and its impact for City of London communities (Appendix 3).
3. Approved a reduction in the maximum SCF grant available from £15,000 to £10,000.
4. Approved the updated Stronger Communities Fund Policy (Appendix 4) and the SCF Officer Panel Terms of Reference (Appendix 5).

10. **ISSUE REPORT (WITH CHANGE REQUEST) - FIRE SAFETY PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2028-31**

The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services. Officers explained that the report related to essential fire

safety works required to all the residential housing estates and the additional expenditure requested was for critical surveys, exploratory works and investigations to inform the development of the programme. The multi-disciplinary consultant undertook a gap analysis of fire safety related documents, that revealed the absence of documents such as fire strategies.

A Member asked whether it was separate to the ongoing major works projects, as those included some fire safety work. Officers explained that it was part of the Housing Major Works Programme and was specific to fire safety related work across the portfolio. There was fire safety work included in Golden Lane Estate packages, elsewhere that was not the case. There was an uplift requested of £450,000 from within the £211 million budget.

The Deputy Chair sought assurance from officers that going forward they would do all they could to work within the existing envelope and not seek additional money. Officers explained that being at the outset for design development there was potential for costs to increase, however cost consultants were in place to manage that; there was contingency in the programme.

A Member referred to the RAG rating and asked whether the risk status was in relation to the programme or the risk of actual fires. Officers explained that it concerned project related risks, regarding overspend or programme extension.

A Member welcomed the additional funding for surveys as a lack of information had formed a lot of the work the housing team had been doing to fix the problems over many years. The Member noted that it would be good to think about when those surveys might need to be redone, building those costs in the budget going forward. The Member presumed that the new staff being recruited regarding the specialist regulatory knowledge would be in a position going forward to know the liability and ensure the works were up to standard. Officers explained that work was underway with colleagues from health and safety.

A Member queried when the missing documentation would be supplied as a matter of high priority. The Member asked what the Clerk of Works would oversee and when the role would be filled. Officers explained that the survey programme was scheduled for completion by October 2026. The Clerk of Works role would be filled in-house during the delivery phase, supported by external consultancy as the programme develops.

RESOLVED:

1. Approved an additional fees budget of £1,250,000 for preliminary surveys, Fire Strategies, reports and exploratory works.
2. Noted the revised total project budget of £12,450,000 (excluding risk).
3. Noted that this represents an uplift of £450,000 in the total fees, surveys and exploratory works budget from the Gateway 1 Report of May 2026.

11. ***DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMISSIONING AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services.

A Member submitted the following question in advance: Please could we have a focused information session for Members about the Community and Children's Services Committee (CCS) commissioning arrangements? Given the range, number and complexity of contracts managed by the CCS Committee Commissioning team, it would be helpful to know in more detail how the Commissioning team works with the Finance team in relation to procurement rules and value for money. In addition, how the 'health' of contracts is monitored and when contingency plans are created. Case studies would be helpful.

Officers explained that would be provided in the autumn.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its contents noted.

12. ***CITY OF LONDON STREET HOMELESSNESS OUTREACH AND SUPPORT SERVICE – STAGE 1 PROCUREMENT STRATEGY REPORT**
The Committee received the joint report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services; and the Commercial Director - Director of Commercial Change & Portfolio Delivery.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its contents noted.

13. ***CARERS STRATEGY 2023-27 UPDATE**
The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its contents noted.

14. ***REPLACING THE EMERGENCY SUPPORT SCHEME WITH THE CRISIS RESILIENCE FUND**
The Committee received the report of the Assistant Director, Financial Shared Services.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its contents noted.

15. ***DCCS HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING CHARTER (THE DCCS CHARTER)**
The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community & Children's Services.

RESOLVED: Noted the draft DCCS Health, Safety and Wellbeing Charter for information prior to implementation.

16. ***WARDMOTE UPDATES**
NOTE: Refer to the resolution concerning the item: 0-2 Childcare Provision at the Aldgate School which states that the report was deferred.

The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its contents noted.

17. ***SCHOOL ADMISSIONS UPDATE**
The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

A Member highlighted that there was no clarity where the local authority responsibility was, as The Aldgate School was the only school in the local authority and City of London Primary Academy Islington (CoLPAI) was not.

The Chairman clarified that CoLPAI formed part of the City of London Academies Trust.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its contents noted.

18. ***REVENUE OUTTURN 2025/26 - CITY FUND - COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE (CITY FUND) EXCLUDING HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)**
The Committee received the joint report of the Chamberlain; and the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

RESOLVED: Noted this revenue outturn report for 2025/26.

19. ***HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2024/25**
The Committee received the joint report of the Chamberlain; and the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

RESOLVED: Noted this outturn report for 2025/26.

20. **UPDATES FROM SUB COMMITTEES AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**
There were no updates received.

21. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no public questions.

22. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no public items of urgent business.

23. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**
RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

24. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
RESOLVED: That the non-public minutes of the previous meetings held on 22 April 2026 and 5 May 2026 be approved as an accurate record.

25. **NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**
The Committee received the non-public outstanding actions report.

26. **LEASEHOLDER LOAN SCHEMES - MAJOR WORKS**
NOTE: It was agreed that this item be taken before the item on Golden Lane Estate Major Works Renewal Programme - Phase 1: Crescent House Leaseholder Recovery and Discretionary Discount.

The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

27. **GOLDEN LANE ESTATE MAJOR WORKS RENEWAL PROGRAMME - PHASE 1: CRESCENT HOUSE LEASEHOLDER RECOVERY AND DISCRETIONARY DISCOUNT**
NOTE: During this item, the Sub-Committee agreed to extend the meeting by approximately twenty minutes, in accordance with Standing Order 39.

The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

28. **ISSUE REPORT (WITH CHANGE REQUEST) - GOLDEN LANE ESTATE MAJOR WORKS RENEWAL PROGRAMME - PHASE 1: CRESCENT HOUSE**
The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

29. **ISSUE REPORT (WITH CHANGE REQUEST) - GOLDEN LANE ESTATE MAJOR WORKS RENEWAL PROGRAMME - PHASE 2: ALL BLOCKS EXCLUDING CRESCENT HOUSE AND GREAT ARTHUR HOUSE**
The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

30. **BLACK RAVEN COURT - CITY OF LONDON PRIMARY ACADEMY ISLINGTON (COLPAI)**
The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

31. **BLACK RAVEN COURT (COLPAI)**
The Committee received the report of the Head of New Developments and Special Projects.

32. **WAIVER REPORT**
The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

33. ***NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX - SCHOOL ADMISSIONS UPDATE**
The Committee received the non-public appendix.

34. ***HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 10 YEAR MAJOR REPAIRS PLAN REVISED FORECAST**
The Committee received the joint report of the Chamberlain; and the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

35. ***DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OR URGENCY POWERS**
The Committee received the report of Town Clerk.

36. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no non-public questions.

37. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
There were no non-public items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 4.05 pm

Chairman

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PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS – COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE (CCS) – September 2026

No	Committee Date Raised	Initial Request and Pending Actions	Responsibility	Due Date	Progress Update
1	19/06/2025	**Corporation Childcare Policy and Family Service Arrangements:** Refer the remainder of the policy back to Officers to thoroughly reflect the requests from this committee as to alternatives - (for example meeting the broad policy objectives set out by a differential pricing model in affordable childcare at the Aldgate School) Seek the presentation at a future meeting of this committee of alternatives in the childcare policy which allow members to vote transparently on the future support for, or withdrawal of funding for affordable childcare to the Aldgate School.	Strategic Education and Skills Director	September 2026	Discretionary subsidy decision deferred until 8th September 2026 CCS Committee.
2	17/09/25	**Housing Services Asset Management Strategy:** To refresh the strategy in early 2026 following completion of the full stock condition survey programme.	Director of Housing	Quarter 2 2026/2027	Once the stock condition is complete – we have achieved 83% (16 June 2026) completion and are in the process of a final push to increase this further. Quality assurance is ongoing. We are looking to meet internally to assess the data in early July and then work through it with colleagues in Chamberlains. We then need to look at updating the asset management strategy. We intend to hold meetings at our largest estates to discuss the findings of the stock condition survey on an estate basis, when we are able. The stock condition survey is being used in real time for example instances of damp and mould discovered during surveys have been reported to the repairs team for

PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS – COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE (CCS) – September 2026

					action. Our aim is to present a refreshed strategy to HMASC at its meeting in September 2026.
3	10/11/25	**City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP) Annual Report 2024-2025:** A Member requested that the Annual Report for 2025/26 include comments on the City Corporation's Housing Service. It was also requested that it include reflections on the impacts of Awaab's Law, and actions taken by the City Corporation and London Borough of Hackney.	Director of Housing and CHSCP Senior Professional Adviser	End of September 2026	The 2025/ 2025 annual report will be published at the end of September 2026.
4	28/01/26	**Housing Revenue Account Position 2025/26:** Members queried the financial impact of delayed rental income from Black Raven Court and the financial effect of void properties, particularly those being held for major works and decant purposes. Officers also suggested that further detail would be considered by the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee.	Director of Housing	June 2026	An update on the position of the lettings at Black Raven Court and Sydenham will be presented to HMASC on 1 July 2026. Work is progressing to facilitate the CIPFA review of the HRA, the scope of the review is being finalised.
5	16/03/26	**Business Plan 2026-31:** *It was suggested to provide the benchmarks with other relevant organisations and comparators as referenced in the Plan, for example, the correlation from the previous year on the Department's achievements to better quantify impact *There was a headline presentation available on the results of the staff survey for the department, which would be shared with Members * It was recommended to provide links to relevant strategies already underway in the Plan – such as the Homelessness Strategy and the Housing Strategy Action Plan.	Head of Strategy and Performance	December 2026	The next staff survey is estimated to be sent out in September 2026. A headline presentation will be brought to December 2026 DCCS Committee.

PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS – COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE (CCS) – September 2026

6	16/03/36	**Families in the City:** A Member requested baseline data, such as how many families were being targeted for the Programme. It was said that future reports could provide this data, but roughly 1,000 children were being targeted in the City of London.	Director of People	Winter 2026	Census 2021 data reports that 1,975 children and young people aged 0-25 are residents in the City of London, of which 713 are 0-18. The Best Start Family Hub – City of London offer is open to all City of London residents and supports children and young people aged 0-18 and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) up to 25-years-old. Baseline data will be included in the next Committee report.
7	16/03/26	**Housing Inspection Survey Result:** A meeting with the Regulator was scheduled for April 2026 to review the improvement plan, which Officers intended to integrate into the two-year plan being submitted to Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee April 2026. The Regulator must sign off the plan. A report and accompanying action plan would then be presented to the Committee	Director of Housing	July 2026	An update on our engagement with the Regulator for Social Housing with a draft Improvement Strategy is on the agenda of the HMASC due to take place 1 July 2026.
8	30/06/2026	**Golden Lane Leisure Centre:** The Committee would receive an update at a future meeting on the procurement of a provider and to discuss the future operation and delivery.	Director of Commissioning	September 2026	A report will be brought to September committee.
9	30/06/2026	**City Childcare Accessibility Scheme:** A Member asked how many respondents there were to the Spring/Summer 2026 Sufficiency Assessment.	Strategic Education and Skills director	September 2026	There were 43 respondents to the spring/ summer 2026 sufficiency assessment.
10	30/06/2026	**Commissioning and Contract arrangements:** It was asked if the members could have a focused information session for Members about the Community and Children's Services Committee (CCS) commissioning arrangements? It would be helpful to know in more detail how the Commissioning team works with the	Director of Commissioning	Winter 2026	The has yet to be scheduled given the need to prioritise a member briefing on 0-2 childcare provision

		Finance team in relation to procurement rules and value for money. In addition, how the 'health' of contracts is monitored and when contingency plans are created. Case studies would be helpful.			

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Community and Children's Services Committee	**Dated:** 8 September 2026
Subject: Subsidy of 0-2 childcare for The Aldgate School	**Public report:** For Decision
This proposal: • **delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes**	Diverse engaged communities. Providing excellent services.
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	£ N/A
What is the source of Funding?	City Fund
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Yes
Report of:	Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services
Report author:	Deborah Bell, Strategic Director of Education and Skills

Summary

This report asks Members to decide whether to approve a reduced ongoing discretionary subsidy for The Aldgate School's 0–2 (rising 3) childcare provision, or to allow the existing subsidy to end from 31 August 2027. The provision is a legacy arrangement following the decommissioning of Children's Centre services and is registered, funded and inspected separately from the school's nursery and wider school provision.

The City Corporation has a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare for resident working parents and those entering work through education or training. The report sets out that alternative childcare provider capacity exists in the City, but that sufficiency would depend on continued availability in a changing local market. It also notes strong resident and service-user support for retaining The Aldgate School childcare provision, particularly because of its affordability, outdoor space and continuity for families.

The Aldgate School has revised its financial modelling and reduced the subsidy requested from up to £174,000 per year to up to £60,000 per year, plus a discretionary one-off pay protection staff cost of £66,070.02. The report states that alternative funding sources have been explored, that the school cannot lawfully cross-subsidise the childcare provision from its school budget, and that the reduced subsidy can be met from existing budget provision.

Members are therefore asked to approve the ongoing reduced subsidy, subject to annual review, availability of City Corporation funding and uptake by City resident children. If the subsidy is not approved, The Aldgate School's Governing Body has indicated that the 0–2 (rising 3) childcare provision will cease from September 2027, with associated redundancy costs falling to the City Corporation.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report, including further work undertaken with The Aldgate School, and revised childcare sufficiency in the Square Mile.

- Approve further discretionary subsidy following revised financial modelling received from The Aldgate School. This will be subject to availability of funding from the City Corporation and uptake of City resident 0-2 (rising 3) year olds at the provision, to be assessed at annual review of the Service Level Agreement by officers and governors.

Main Report

Background

1. The Aldgate School operated the Children's Centre for more than 20 years. When the Children's Centre was decommissioned in 2025 as part of the wider response to national children's social care reforms, the 0–2 (rising 3) childcare provision previously delivered through the Centre remained as a separate legacy issue.

2. The 0–2 (rising 3) provision is the only not-for-profit provider in the City operated for children aged from 3 months until they become eligible to move into the school nursery class at age 3. The nursery class forms part of the school rather than the childcare provision, with wraparound care available where families require it. At The Aldgate School, the childcare provision operates in two rooms: babies aged 0 to rising 2, and toddlers aged 2 to rising 3. Each room is subject to different statutory staffing and space requirements. For example, the required staffing ratio is 1:3 for children under 2 and 1:5 for

children aged 2 to rising 3. The childcare provision is registered separately from the school, including the nursery class for children aged 3 and over, under Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted arrangements. It has separate admissions arrangements, funding streams and inspection arrangements.

3. Under Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006, the City of London Corporation must, so far as is reasonably practicable, secure sufficient childcare for working parents and for parents undertaking education or training to enter work who are resident in its area. This duty includes ensuring sufficient childcare places from 3 months old, shaping the childcare market so that provision is accessible, affordable, flexible and high quality, assessing local demand and supply, identifying gaps, and stimulating the market where shortages exist. This reflects the Department for Education's Early Education and Childcare guidance, April 2026.

4. Children's Social Care reforms began in 2023 under the previous government and are being rolled out at pace now nationally. This committee has been appraised of these reforms and the steps being taken in the City to ensure government policy is being implemented. Part of the national reforms landscape is the need for each local authority to develop Family Hub provision. A Family Hub is a package of services for families from pre-birth to 19 or 25 when a young person has special educational needs. Family Hubs are designed with early intervention and prevention of needs escalating at their core. Family Hubs include Best Start in Life services for the under 5s.

5. Following resident consultation in 2023, this Committee decided in 2024 to decommission Children's Centre services delivered by The Aldgate School. Best Start in Life services transferred successfully to the City Corporation in September 2025.

6. Regular reports to this Committee have shown progress on Family Hub and reform activity, including increased reach and engagement with children and families and work to establish a wider offer for children and young people up to age 19, or 25 where they have special educational needs. A further Family Hub report is also being presented to this Committee.

Current Position

7. On 30th June 2026, Members of this committee deferred a decision on whether to:

a. Approve an ongoing discretionary subsidy of up to £60,000 p.a. to support the 0–2 (rising 3) childcare provision delivered by The Aldgate School, plus £66,070.02 for pay protection commitments.
b. Or to retain this committee's previous decision made in June 2025 to cease discretionary subsidy to support the 0-2 (rising 3) childcare delivered by The Aldgate School.

Options

Option A – Approve reduced ongoing subsidy

8. Approve an ongoing discretionary subsidy of up to £60,000 per year to support The Aldgate School's 0–2 (rising 3) childcare provision, plus a one-off pay protection staff cost of £66,070.02. This would be subject to availability of funding from the City Corporation and uptake of City resident 0-2 (rising 3) year olds at the provision, to be assessed at annual review of the Service Level Agreement by officers and governors

9. If approved, the childcare provision would continue, with the subsidy reduced from the previous commitment of up to £174,000 per year.

Option B – Cease subsidy

10. Cease all discretionary subsidy for The Aldgate School's 0–2 (rising 3) childcare provision from 31 August 2027, implementing the committee's previous decision.

11. If this option is chosen:
    - The Aldgate School Governing Body has indicated that the provision will close from 1 September 2027;
    - parents and staff would need to make alternative childcare and employment arrangements;
    - the City Corporation would be required to meet redundancy costs for childcare staff amounting to £64,790.18. The pension strain cost of £29,726 would need to be met by the school's delegated budget. Redundancy costs are a snapshot. They are calculated as of 23rd July 2026; however, the City pay awards for this year have not yet been agreed at the time of writing. Members should note that that this will mean the redundancy cost and pension cost strain costs are likely to increase slightly.

Proposals

12. It is recommended that Option A – to provide a reduced ongoing discretionary subsidy – is approved.

13. The advantages of approving sustained subsidy for The Aldgate School's childcare provision are:
    a. It would support the City Corporation's duty to promote affordable childcare for residents. Appendix 4 compares fees with commercial providers. The Aldgate School will review its fees from April 2027, including revision of non-means-tested rates for non-City residents. As a voluntary aided school, this is a matter for Governors. London schools offering 0–2 (rising 3) childcare are rare and generally exist only where Children's Centres remain. The model delivered in Islington, for example, shows residents receiving means-tested subsidised fees while non-residents pay commercial rates.
    b. Appendix 5 shows that alternative childcare capacity appeared sufficient in July 2026. However, sufficiency depends on current providers' capacity remaining available, which cannot be guaranteed as places change regularly when children move area or age group. It should also be noted that worker numbers in the City continue to rise so access to commercial childcare close to workplaces for commuters may lead to additional strain on sufficiency in the future as office capacity continues to be developed. Planning activity in the City reached a record high in 2025, with the highest number of planning applications received in a decade and more than 500,000 square metres of office floorspace granted permission.
    c. Scope to increase affordable private, voluntary and independent (PVI) childcare in the City is limited by the lack of suitable premises, such as community centres, scout huts or church halls commonly utilised in other local authority areas.
    d. Many residents and service users have strongly supported retaining The Aldgate School provision, citing affordability, outdoor space and continuity of community support from early years through primary education. The existing model, which prioritises admission to City children and offers reduced rates based on income, would be sustained.
    e. The proposed subsidy of up to £60,000 per year, plus one-off pay protection staff costs of £66,070.02, would support residents in Portsoken, the City's least advantaged ward, and help meet the City's childcare sufficiency duty. Pay protection would move four affected staff from local to national pay rates, aligning them with other Church of England London Diocese schools and with non-teaching staff at The Aldgate School. Previous pay protection at the school has been provided for three years.
    f. Alternative subsidy sources have been duly considered and discounted. Charitable Trusts have been approached but are not minded to fund ongoing costs. The Freeholder has offered support, which is outside of their charitable objects, by requesting a contribution of £2000 per year to use the space.

g. The school cannot cross-subsidise the childcare from its Individual School Budget (ISB) under Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) conditions of grant 2026–27. Chamberlain's Department states "*the Individual School Budget is delegated for school expenditure, whereas funding for early years childcare forms part of the separate Early Years funding arrangements within the DSG framework. On that basis, Finance has advised that delegated ISB funding should not be used to subsidise provision for children below statutory school age.*
The conclusion is based on the overall statutory funding framework, the distinction between the Individual Schools Budget and the separate Early Years funding arrangements, together with the associated DfE guidance."

h. Although The Aldgate School receives and spends more per pupil than similar schools, it is the City's only state-funded school, sits outside the National Funding Formula and must fund services normally provided by local authorities elsewhere. These additional costs are shown in Appendix 2.

i. The revised financial model apportions relevant whole-school costs to the 0–2 (rising 3) provision and reduces them as far as possible, particularly leadership costs.

j. The £60,000 annual subsidy and pay protection costs can be met from existing budgets. The remaining £114,000 per year from the current £174,000 commitment would return to the local risk Family Hub budget, to include work at Artizan Street Library and Community Centre in Portsoken Ward.

k. The June 2026 Equality Impact Assessment (reviewed in July) found that available actions have been taken to minimise potential negative impacts if the provision ceased. If reduced subsidy is approved, the assessment supports a conclusion that there would be no negative equality impact.

14. The alternative option available to this Committee is to cease all discretionary subsidy for The Aldgate School's 0–2 (rising 3) childcare provision from 31 August 2027. This would implement this Committee's decision from 19 June 2025, which was made pending further financial analysis work by The Aldgate School and City Corporation officers.

15. That further work has now been completed. The subsidy requested has reduced from up to £174,000 per year to up to £60,000 per year. The Aldgate School would remain responsible for setting and managing its available budget, with City Chamberlain's officers continuing to monitor income and expenditure monthly.

16. For 2026-2027, the hourly rate for DfE Extended Childcare Entitlement allocated to all early years settings in the City of London is:

Age of entitlement	Rate per hour
3-4 year olds,	£8.50
2-year-olds (*both disadvantaged and working families*)	£11
Under 2 years	£15
Early Years pupil premium (EYPP)	£1
Deprivation supplement *(based on the IDACI post codes)*	£0.85

17. For The Aldgate School, this income is shown in Appendix 6.

18. Uptake of 0-2 (rising 3) childcare places at The Aldgate School as of the time of writing is shown in Appendix 3.

Key Data

19. Relevant key data is summarised below:

Area	Key data
Proposed annual subsidy	Up to £60,000 per year.
Previous subsidy commitment	Up to £174,000 per year.
Reduction in subsidy	65% reduction.
One-off pay protection cost	£66,070.02.
Budget impact	No additional revenue or capital spend required; costs can be met from existing budgets.
Funding source	City Fund, agreed with Chamberlain's Department.
Returned budget if Option A approved	£114,000 per year would return to the local risk Family Hub budget.
Current provision capacity	16 places total: 10 places for 2 to rising 3; 6 places for 0 to rising 2.
Current occupancy	16 children attending; no vacancies.
City resident children	8 of 16 children are City residents.
Waiting list	25 children total: 13 for 2 to rising 3; 12 for 0 to rising 2.

Corporate & Strategic Implications –

Strategic implications

20. This aligns with the Corporate Plan 2024-9 and the Community and Children's Services business plan.

21. Providing Excellent Services: Supporting people to live healthy, independent lives, and achieve their ambitions, is dependent on excellent services. Vital to that continued pursuit is enabling access to effective adult and children's social care, outstanding education, lifelong learning, quality housing, and combatting homelessness.

22. Diverse Engaged Communities: Across our residents, workers, businesses, and visitors, everyone should feel that they belong. Connecting people of all ages and backgrounds will help build diverse, engaged communities that are involved in co-creating great services and outcomes.

Financial implications

23. Services are delivered in the context of limited public funding and significant budget pressures. The proposal represents a 65% reduction in discretionary subsidy from Local Risk, from up to £174,000 to up to £60,000 per year. The Aldgate School understands that £60,000 is an upper limit that cannot be exceeded. Also see paragraph 13.g.

24. Dedicated School Grant is three distinct funding streams; Individual School Budget (ISB), Early Years (9 months to 4 years) and High Needs. The City Corporation retains the Early Years and High Needs funding centrally and distributes it in top-up funding for SEND and funding to all childcare providers in the City under the DfE Extended Childcare Entitlement Scheme, including The Aldgate School for 0-2 (rising 3) and 3/4 yr olds. This is in accordance with DfE regulations, endorsed and monitored by the Chamberlain's Department. The Aldgate School cannot cross subsidise the childcare from its school budget.

Resource implications

25. If Members decide to cease all discretionary subsidy from September 2027, £174,000 funds would be retained within centrally held Local Risk for Family Hub services as they develop.

Legal implications

26. The City Corporation is required to secure sufficient childcare in its area to meet the needs of City residents. Compliance with this statutory duty is

assessed bi-annually through the Sufficiency Survey, which is published on the City Corporation's Family Information Services webpages.

27. Section 8 of the Children Act 2006 permits local authorities to assist any person who provides childcare, this includes providing financial assistance. To mitigate against the risk of a successful public law challenge, decisions on discretionary spending should comply with the principles of good public law decision-making, including that they are procedurally fair, supported by and based on the available evidence and are proportionate and reasonable.

28. Section 36 of the Education Act 2002 provides that, in a voluntary aided school, the legal employer of the staff is the School's Governing Body. As such the Governing Body is directly responsible for hiring and dismissing all teaching and non-teaching staff.

29. Under the School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009, if the voluntary aided school's governing body and the local authority explicitly agreed in writing that the local authority would handle support staff appointments and contracts, the local authority (the Corporation acting in its capacity as local authority) must be involved in the dismissal. This is exceedingly rare in voluntary aided schools.

30. The City Corporation would be required to meet the redundancy costs for affected staff, currently shown as £64,790.18 subject to the caveats in paragraph 11 in this report, under Section 37 of the Education Act 2002, and in accordance with section 11.12 of the City of London Corporation Scheme for Financing Schools (revised February 2011), found at Education Policies - City of London (submitted 24/02/2021).

31. The default position, therefore, is that premature retirement costs must be charged to the school's delegated budget, while redundancy costs must be charged to the local authority's budget. In the former case, the local authority has to agree otherwise for costs to be centrally funded, while in the latter case, there has to be a good reason for it not to be centrally funded, and that cannot include having a no redundancy policy.

32. There is a Service Level Agreement (SLA) currently in place for the subsidy of the 0–2 (rising 3) childcare provision with the Governing Body of The Aldgate School. If Members approve ongoing reduced discretionary subsidy, a new SLA will have to be entered into with the Governing Body of The Aldgate School, and any conditions as to the funding of the subsidy must be agreed with the Chamberlain. The current SLA will expire on the 31 August 2027 unless terminated earlier in accordance with the terms thereof.

33. The complicated funding arrangements for maintained schools have been reviewed in conjunction with the Chamberlain; the school cannot cross-subsidise the childcare from its Individual School Budget (ISB) under Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) conditions of grant 2026–27. Officers have considered whether there is any discretion and determined that there is not.

34. The Aldgate School Governing Body has indicated that, if the Committee does not approve ongoing subsidy of up to £60,000 per year, the 0–2 (rising 3) childcare provision will cease from 1 September 2027.

Risk implications

35. Further delay in deciding whether to provide subsidy would reduce the time available for service users and staff to make alternative childcare and employment arrangements if the school's Governing Body ceases the provision.

Equalities implications

36. The Equality Impact Assessment prepared for Members in June 2026 (reviewed in July for currency) considered the 0–2 (rising 3) childcare arrangements in the City. It found that relevant actions had been taken to minimise potential negative impacts if provision ceased. The requirements of the Equality Act 2010 have been considered and will continue to be kept under review.

Climate implications – not applicable.

Security implications

37. Alternative use of the existing 0–2 (rising 3) childcare space at The Aldgate School has been considered from a safeguarding perspective. Alternative options were ruled out, as detailed in the June 2025 report on Children's Centre services and 0–2 (rising 3) childcare arrangements.

Conclusion

38. Members have considered this issue on previous occasions and have received further requested information to support decision-making between Option A and Option B. The decision is one of principle, balancing financial pressures, the reduced subsidy now requested by The Aldgate School, the value placed on the provision by residents and service users, and the City Corporation's childcare sufficiency duty.

Members are asked to decide whether to approve ongoing reduced subsidy or cease subsidy from September 2027.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Additional City Corporation funding for services provided at no cost to The Aldgate School
- Appendix 2 - Services that The Aldgate School funds from DfE Grant
- Appendix 3 - Enrolled children at The Aldgate School June 2026
- Appendix 4 - The Aldgate School and City providers' fees comparison
- Appendix 5 - Alternative full time childcare providers in the City as of July 2026
- Appendix 6 - Early Years funding allocation to The Aldgate School 2025-26
- Appendix 7 - Answers to Member specific questions from 30th June 2026
- Appendix 8 - Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

Background Papers

- 11 March 2024 - Community and Children's Services: City of London Children's Centre Services – Review
- 11 November 2024 - Community and Children's Services: City of London Children's Centre Services – Update Report
- 16 January 2025 – Community and Children's Services: Children's Centre Services and 0-2 childcare arrangements
- 19 June 2025 - Community and Children's Services: Children's Centre Services and 0-2 childcare arrangements
- 16 March 2026 - Community and Children's Services: Update on progress with 0-2 childcare provision at The Aldgate School
- 30 June 2026 – Community and Children's Services: Childcare Provision at The Aldgate School

Dr Deborah Bell
Strategic Director of Education and Skills
Department of Community and Children's Services
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Appendix 1

Additional funding for services provided at no cost to the school. These services are currently funded from the City of London central and local risk budgets		
Education Psychologist & SEND Advisory support	£14,000	25/26 cost. Education Psychology services remain provided at no cost to The Aldgate School. EP advice includes the statutory assessment work required for City resident children and additional non-statutory advice, training, and support to the school for the benefit of all pupils
LDBS Core Support Services	£3,064.71	25/26 School Improvement from the London Diocesan Board for Schools.
THEP membership	£3,514	25/26 Tower Hamlets Education Partnership membership fee.
Strings Project	£44,000	Instrument lessons for pupils
0-2 childcare subsidy	£174,000	Approved until 31 August 2027

Appendix 2
Services that The Aldgate School funds

- Additional school improvement services
- Speech & language therapy
- Behaviour support services
- Support to underperforming ethnic groups and bilingual learners
- Insurance
- School kitchen maintenance
- Staff costs for supply cover (for example, long-term sickness, maternity, trade union, and public duties)
- Licences and subscriptions other than those funded by the DfE
- Routine maintenance of the Grade 2* listed building.

Appendix 3

Enrolled children at The Aldgate School childcare provision as reported by the school 26th June 2026 10.01hrs

	The Aldgate School Childcare 2 to rising 3	The Aldgate School Childcare 0 to rising 2
Total number of places available?	10	6
Number of children currently attending?	10	6
How many are City resident?	6	2
How many are attracting the DfE extended childcare offer?	5 (4 City)	5 (2 City)
How many are accessing the City Childcare Accessibility Scheme?	1	0
How many are on the waiting list?	13	12
How many vacancies are there?	0	0

Appendix 4 The Aldgate School and City providers' fees comparison 2025-26

Category	**0 to rising 2**	**2 to rising 3**
TAS City residents < £55K household income	£7.65/hr *21% less than non-residents*	£7.35/hr *22.45% less than non-residents*
TAS City residents > £55K household income	£8.70/hr *6.3% less than non-residents*	£8.40/hr *7.2% less than non-residents*
TAS Non-City residents	£9.25/hr	£9.00/hr
City located average provider fee (0–12 months)	£11.75/hr	£11.23/ph

Appendix 5

Alternative full time childcare providers in the City (except Global Kids which is 0.4 of a mile from The Aldgate School in Tower Hamlets), as of 3 July 2026.

Provider	Ward	Ofsted Grade	Additional comments	0-1 vacancies	1 to rising 2 vacancies	2 to rising 3 vacancies
Childcare at The Aldgate School	Portsoken	Good (June 2025)		0	0	0
Newpark Childcare Centre	Cripplegate	Outstanding (February 2020)	Recent inspection not yet published at the time of writing	Full until Autumn 2027	Full until Autumn 2027	Full until Autumn 2027
Barbican Playgroup	Cripplegate	Three expected standards and two strong standards (new Inspection framework)	This setting operates term time only.	N/A	N/A	0
City Child (Bright Horizon)	Cripplegate	Good (March 2024)	The Bright Horizon Group is currently subject to an Ofsted Welfare Requirements Notice (3rd July 2026). Outcome unknown at the time of report writing.	1 space	2 spaces	3 spaces
Smithfield House	Farringdon Within	Good (May 2023)	This setting is also a delivery site for the City Family Hub Network.	Full until January 2027	Full until January 2027	Monday - 4 spaces Tue-Thu – 3 space Friday – 4 spaces

Hatching Dragons	Aldersgate	Good (October 2024)	Currently planning to relocate. Location to be confirmed by December 2026	Monday – 4 spaces Tuesday – 2 spaces Wednesday – Thursday – 1 space Friday – 4 spaces		Monday – 13 spaces Tuesday and Wednesday - 12 spaces Thursday – 10 spaces Friday – 17 spaces
Global Kids	Tower Hamlets	Good (July 2023)		6 spaces	6 spaces	6 spaces

Appendix 6

Early Years DfE funding allocation to The Aldgate School 2025-26

Early Years Funding allocation to The Aldgate School for the childcare and nursery class 2025/26	
Budget Allocation	
£44,849.25	9-month-old Funding
£31,459.50	2-year-old funding
£206,033.25	3- and 4-year-old funding
£282,342.00	**Total**

Appendix 7

Answers to Member specific questions from 30th June 2026 not already answered in this or the Family Hub report

1. Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund (CILNF) has very strict criteria regarding beneficiaries which means they must be City residents or City workers. If The Aldgate School decided to apply for CILNF to sustain the 0-2 (rising 3) childcare, it would only fund the City resident children - with other funding required to support those who are resident outside of the City.

   Also, a CILNF application would have to demonstrate community priorities. Recipients would need to be identified as disadvantaged through Early Years SEND, Social Care & Early Help needs or financial disadvantage. Given the 0-2 (rising 3) childcare service is a universal offer, it is unlikely to be eligible for CILNF without some revised criteria to identify disadvantage.

2. Clear summary table showing the £ cost per City child using the services from 2023-2028 (forecast), provided by The Aldgate School 13 July 2026. Please note that numbers in childcare change throughout the year so this is a snapshot as at 1st of September only on each of the years requested to current date. September (as requested) is half way through the Childcare's financial year. Therefore, figures have had to be adjusted straddling both years. There is income to offset most of the costs. To unpick individual children's invoices over four years (income and residence varies as do children enrolled) is not possible given current staffing capacity. Total income has been offered as an alternative. It is not possible to forecast for 2027-28 as babies for September 2027 admission are yet to be born.

   Costs and income

	Figures taken from financial year end 2023	Figures taken from financial year end 2024	Figures taken from financial year end 2025	Figures taken from financial year end 2026	Future year - year end 31st March 2027
Number of children in provision as at the date requested (01/09)	15	16	13	14	No data available
Cost per child	£34,709.60	£35,960.16	£43,877.30	£36,214.18	No data available

No of City children	7	9	5	6	No data available
Cost per City children	£242,967.22	£323,641.46	£219,386.50	£217,285.11	No data available
No of Non-City children	8	7	8	8	No data available
Cost per Non-City children	£277,676.82	£251,721.14	£351,018.40	£289,713.47	No data available
Total **Expenditure** (fixed and variable costs) @ financial year end	£520,644.04	£575,362.60	£570,404.90	£506,998.58	No data available
Total **Income** @ financial year end	SLA £456,000 plus income of £111,721.34	SLA £456,000 plus income of £160,112.27	SLA £456,000 plus income of £222,168.07	SLA £294,000 plus income of £249,811.09	SLA £172,000 plus income (no data as yet)

3. Government policy, reflected in DfE capital funding for nurseries, is for increased Nursery Class provision for 3+ year olds only as distinct to childcare provision. The Aldgate School did not apply as they have an existing Nursery Class provision and any expansion of that would require consent and support of their freeholder.

4. The Aldgate School cannot draw on its own financial reserves to subsidise the 0-2 (rising 3) childcare as the reserves are drawn from Individual School Budget (ISB) and therefore ringfenced for the benefit of pupils of statutory school age only.

5. There is potential to further differentiate The Aldgate School's fees structure for non-City residents and based on means. This is a responsibility of the Governing Body and one which they will be undertaking for the financial year 2027-28.

6. Detail, as far as available, on the circumstances of the families currently accessing The Aldgate School childcare provision is shown in Appendix 3. The DfE Extended Childcare Entitlement is for working parents. Each parent (or the sole parent in a single-parent household) must have an adjusted net income of £100,000 or less per year. If either parent earns more than £100,000 adjusted net income, the family is not eligible for the working-parent entitlement. There is one family attracting the City's discretionary Childcare Accessibility Scheme funding. This is under Criterion 1, referral by a professional.

Appendix 8 Equality Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessment Form

Before completing this form, please refer to the Equality Impact Assessment Guidance documents and training materials

- EQIA Intranet Info hub
- EQIA Guidance

The Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) will identify how any proposed policies, practices, activities, service changes or procedures will impact or affect different groups or communities if implemented. It supports officers in assessing whether the impacts are positive, negative, or unlikely to impact each of the nine protected characteristic groups. The assessment will also demonstrate whether there are ways to proactively advance equity, equality, diversity and inclusion. An EQIA is required before you finalise your proposal, or it may not be legally compliant.

If you have any questions or need feedback on your analysis, please contact the EDI team: CSPT.EDI@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Section 1: To be completed by all

Proposal Title	Continuation of subsidy of the 0-2 (rising 3) childcare provision at The Aldgate School
Details of the lead officer completing the Assessment/ Role responsible for the completion of the EQIA	Kirstie Hilton Head of Service Education and Early Years
Department Responsible:	Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS)
Who has been involved in creating the EQIA: (please summarise/list stakeholders you have engaged with and how)	• The Aldgate School (data) • Education and Early Years Service
Date of Initial assessment:	May 2026

Dates of review (as applicable)	20 July 2026

1.PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

What does the proposal aim to achieve? Please outline your proposal below

- ➔ If no potential impacts are identified at this stage, proceed to **Section 3**
- ➔ If you believe there may be potential negative impacts, continue to **Section 2, Steps 2,3,4, and 5** to complete a full EQIA, then move to **Section 3**
- ➔ If you identified any positive impact, please record and monitor at **Section 2, Step 5,** then move to **Section 3**

Please feel free to attach supporting documents/ information

In June 2025, Members agreed a time-limited package of support for the school's 0–2 (rising 3) childcare provision, which runs until the end of August 2027.

Over recent months, City Corporation officers have met with the school's leaders and governors. Our shared aim has been to support the school as it developed a financially viable plan for the future and continuation of the 0-2 (rising 3) childcare. This included exploring options that make best use of available income, national entitlements and fees, and ensuring that costs are understood and appropriately allocated. The school will update families when there is firm news about the model it intends to take forward from September 2027.

The 0–2 (rising 3) childcare at The Aldgate School continues to operate unchanged. The City Corporation will keep working alongside the school so that families have clear information as plans are developed. The City Corporation will also continue to meet its duty to ensure sufficient childcare across the Square Mile and to support families who are eligible for help.

The proposal in this Committee report is to provide on-going funding (up to £60,000 per annum) to The Aldgate School to continue offering childcare places from September 2027.

Section 2: To be completed for a full EQIA

2. EVIDENCE AND IMPACT ANALYSIS

Please highlight the potential impact on these groups, actions taken to mitigate impact and advance equality, diversity and inclusion (include data/evidence upon which the analysis is based)
Protected Groups:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage & Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy & Maternity
- Race
- Religion & Belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

Additional Groups

- Socio-economic background
- Care leavers
- Carers & Parents
- Veterans

Where relevant note relevant intersectional impacts: where combinations of different group identities may result in unique or compounded impacts.

The continuation of the 0-2 (rising 3) childcare at The Aldgate School will positively impact the 16 families who currently use the provision (including 8 City residents) as well as local families wishing to use the provision post Summer 2027.

The City of London, along with other local authorities must plan, commission and oversee childcare provision, ensuring there are enough suitable places that meet the needs of working families and children with SEND, while supporting providers rather than replacing them. Our twice-yearly sufficiency assessment enables us to identify geographic gaps in provision and shortages for specific age groups as well as recognise any barriers affecting the take-up of places.

The Summer 2026 Sufficiency report has highlighted that City of London early years settings have an average of 30% of City children attending, which means resident families choose to send their children to other boroughs' settings.

- **Age** – The childcare will continue to provide early education and care for children aged 0-2 (rising 3) years, supporting the City's youngest residents and their families. The continued operation of the childcare will have a positive impact on children who access the provision and on parents/carers who rely on local childcare to work, train or study. There will be a neutral impact for those not eligible for the services provided by the childcare.

- **Disability** – The continued operation of the childcare will support children aged 0-2 (rising 3) years with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by maintaining access to inclusive early years provision. The setting will continue to work with families and relevant professionals to meet children's individual needs and ensure appropriate support is available. Currently we know of one child with SEND attending the childcare at The Aldgate School.

- **Pregnancy and maternity** – The childcare will continue to provide local childcare places for families with young children, including expectant parents planning future childcare arrangements and parents returning to work following maternity, paternity or parental leave. The ongoing availability of local childcare is expected to have a positive impact on this group. The Early Years brokerage service is always available to support new parents in identifying local childcare.

- **Sex** – The census 2021 data showed that the City of London population comprised of 4,722 males and 3,861 females (55% and 44% respectively). Research indicates that mothers of very young children are more likely than fathers to undertake caring responsibilities and are often more reliant on childcare provision to access employment, education and training opportunities. The continued operation of the childcare is therefore likely to have a particularly positive impact on women, while also benefiting fathers and other carers.

- **Race** – The continued availability of the provision will support equitable access to childcare for diverse communities and help ensure that local families can access childcare services within their area. There is also a nearby nursery, located in Tower Hamlets, which the Early Years team is working closely with and can support City families to access. This is expected to have a positive impact.

- **Socioeconomic background** – The continuation of the service, alongside the City Childcare Accessibility Scheme, will support families who require additional childcare assistance, including those experiencing economic disadvantage. Maintaining access to affordable childcare is expected to have a positive impact on lower-income families and support parents to access employment and training opportunities.

It is intended that there will be a neutral impact on the following characteristics:

- religion and belief
- care leavers/experience
- marriage and civil partnership
- gender reassignment
- sexual orientation

This proposal has no impact on veterans.

3. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Outline any consultation/engagement activity and additional information gathered not outlined above (if relevant)

Include information on stakeholders involved, and methods used for engagement / consultation.

Describe any further work required on proposals as a consequence of engagement/consultation (if relevant)

The City Corporation is working with the school so that families have clear information as plans are developed.

Further information will be shared with families in consultation with the school to ensure consistency of messaging.

DECISION MAKING (MITIGATIONS AND CHANGE)

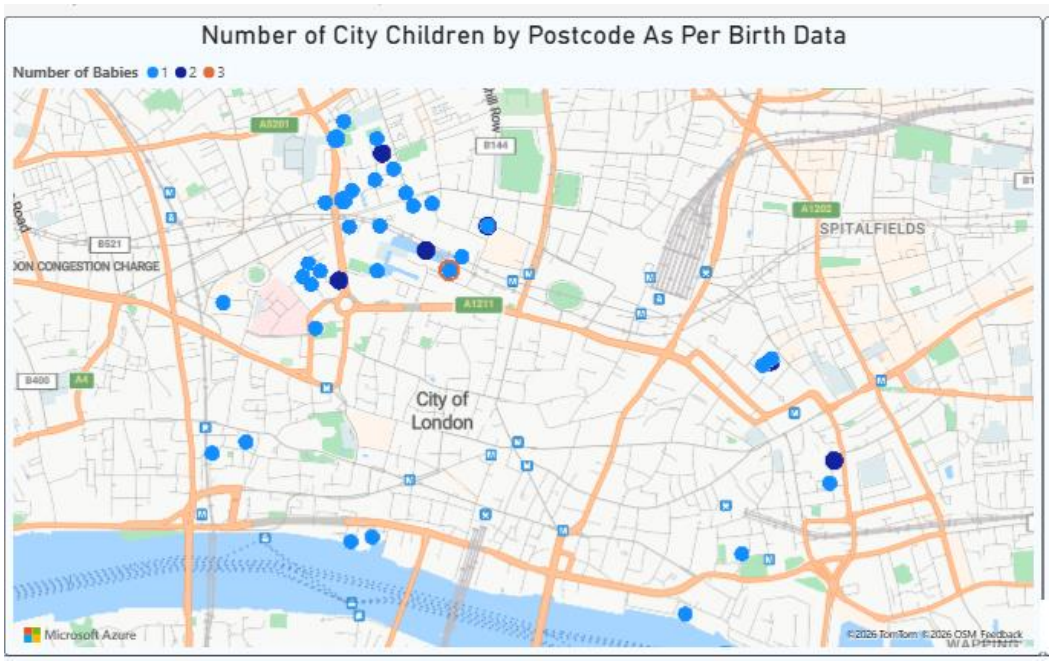
After completing steps 1-3, please outline your informed decision.

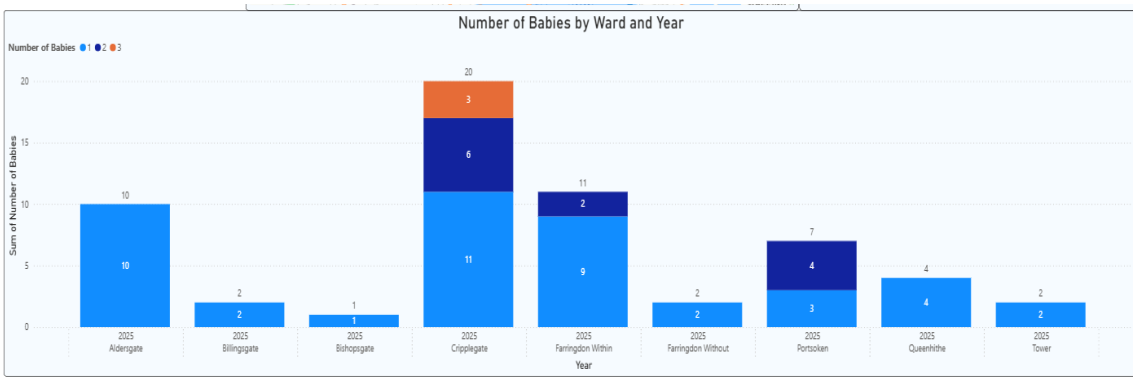
Possible outcomes could be that:

a. **No changes are required; there is no negative impact or discrimination**
b. **Available actions have been taken to remove or minimise potential negative impacts**
c. **Adjustments to the proposal to remove or minimise potential negative impacts – monitoring and regular review will take place to manage this with a view to taking further mitigation actions**
d. **Where a negative impact is identified that is not unlawful discrimination, or where discrimination can be objectively justified- justify and continue with the proposal: there may be other factors (such as other proposal aims or financial constraints) that make it reasonable to adopt the proposal, despite the negative impact – potential impacts will be monitored and kept under regular review. Please seek advice from/ the EDI team and the Legal team before making the decision.**

e. **You decide not to take the proposal forward.**

Contextual Information:
The City of London has, on average, between 40 and 60 new births a year. New Birth data for 2025 shows there were 59 new births registered in the City of London. As can be seen in the map and data set below, a high number of births are concentrated at the North West point of the City, with most births taking place in the Cripplegate ward.





Local Childcare

Out of the 16 children currently attending the childcare at The Aldgate School, 10 are in the toddler room (two to rising three), 6 of which are City residents. Six of the ten children will be moving to Nursery in September 2026.

There are a number of childcare settings accessible in and around the City of London (within 20 minutes walk of The Aldgate School):

- Global Kids Aldgate East, 52 Old Castle St, London E1 7AJ (7 minutes walk).
- Early Steps Nursery, 47 Hobsons Place, London E1 5HH (16 minutes walk)
- Hatching Dragons Nursery, Ferroners' House Ironmongers Hall Shaftesbury Place Off, Aldersgate St, Barbican, EC2Y 8AA, (20 min walk)
- Newpark Childcare Centre, 1 Barbican, London EC2Y 8DU (17 minutes walk)
- Barbican Playgroup, Andrewes House Barbican, London EC2Y 8AX (17 minutes walk)

Global Kids Aldgate East, Hatching Dragons Nursery, Newpark Childcare Centre, and Barbican Playgroup, accept the City Childcare Accessibility Scheme which provides financial support to City residents meeting certain criteria.

Children with Disabilities

We are active in supporting children with disabilities accessing childcare. Currently we know of one child with SEND attending the childcare at The Aldgate School. The child will be three in December 2026 and will therefore be able to move to the Nursery class. The Autumn Term 2025 Sufficiency Assessment has shown that all City of London settings provide inclusive environments for all children, including those with SEND. The Early Years Inclusion Fund and the Disability Access Fund can be claimed by settings to provide additional support and resources for children with SEND.

Pregnancy and Maternity

We receive regular information on new births from our health colleagues and ensure that home visits are offered to all new families. We work closely with health visiting teams to make sure families can access information about stay and play sessions and receive support in finding suitable childcare.

The Census 2021 – Conceptions in England and Wales 2021 – highlights that:

- of all the English regions and Wales, London has seen the biggest fall in conception rates over the last decade, decreasing by 20.9% since 2011
- the conception rate for women aged under 18 years has more than halved since 2011 when it was 30.9 conceptions per 1,000 women of the same age, down to 13.2 conceptions per 1,000 women of the same age in 2021
- In 2025, there were 59 births recorded in the City of London.

There are a number of childcare settings accessible in and around the City of London. Our Family Involvement Worker and Early Years Advisors can support parents to find childcare settings that best meet the family's needs.

Sex

Census 2021 data showed that the City of London population comprised of 4,722 males and 3,861 females (55% and 44% respectively).

The Sharing of childcare and well-being outcomes: an empirical analysis report, published 15 January 2021 *explains that women are more likely to provide care during any given day and spend more time providing care compared to men. This gender gap is especially noticeable during the weekday, for caring alone, and routine care. In other words, when men take part in care, it is mostly done jointly with their partners, during the weekend, or providing enrichment care.*
This gender gap was especially prevalent among parents with pre-school aged children (under 5) where mothers were spending 2 to 3 times as much time providing care, especially on weekdays, and for routine and solo care.

This means that the continuation of the Childcare at The Aldgate School may have a bigger positive impact on women than on men.

There are also several childcare settings accessible in and around the City of London (within 20 minutes' walk of The Aldgate School) and the Early Years Advisors as well as the Family Involvement Worker are available to provide support in finding childcare places. The City Childcare Accessibility Scheme is currently being accessed by a majority of women.

Race

The Census 2021 records ethnic group not race. The City of London resident population is predominantly white. The largest minority ethnic groups of children and young people in the area are Asian/Bangladeshi and Mixed – Asian and White. A health needs assessment for the population aged 0-25 for the City of London and Hackney (2022) highlighted that 'The City of London has…higher levels of ethnic diversity in Portsoken ward, including a large Bangladeshi community, and the remainder of the City less diverse'.

In 2021, 7 in 10 City of London residents identified as White. More specifically, White British residents make up the City's largest ethnic group, making up a larger proportion than the London average

The ethnic group which has seen the greatest increase in size is the Asian residents, growing from 13% to 17% . This follows the general trend observed in London

Northern and western areas mirror the City's overall ethnic makeup. However, central and eastern areas show distinct demographic differences. For example, City Central & East has a larger proportion of Indian residents (8%).

The eastern area has highly concentrated diversity. In Middlesex Street and Mansell Street, 1 in 4 residents identify as Bangladeshi and this area has the highest proportion of African residents

The childcare at The Aldgate school serves the local population which includes families from several different ethnic background, including Asian/Bangladeshi and Black. Global Kids Aldgate East and Early Steps Nurseries reflect a rich diversity of cultures and backgrounds among both staff and families, creating a welcoming environment for everyone.

Socio-economic background
The City Childcare Accessibility Scheme will continue to offer financial support to City residents meeting the following criteria:

- Criterion 1: Referral from professionals delivering services to families.
- Criterion 2: Referrals from professionals for children with additional needs but not eligible for an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.
- Criterion 3: Referrals from early years/ settings for families needing financial support. This criterion is aimed at parents who have a joint combined income of less than £60,000 net per annum and savings not exceeding £30,000.

Currently there are seven City of London families benefitting from the scheme. Of these, one currently attends the Childcare at The Aldgate School. There will be a neutral impact for those not eligible for the services included in this project.

Gender Reassignment
92.1% of the City of London population that completed the Census 2021 stated their gender as being the same as their sex registered at birth. 7.4% of respondents did not provide an answer to the question about gender identity. 0.4% identified as gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given, trans woman, trans man or non-binary.

It is expected that there will be a neutral impact from the proposal on this protected characteristic.

Marriage and civil partnership
The Census 2021 records legal partnership status. In the City of London for residents aged 16 and over (8,003):

- 4,594 never married and never registered a civil partnership
- 2,435 married or are in a civil partnership

- 172 separated, but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership
- 559 divorced or dissolved a civil partnership
- 243 widowed or surviving a civil partnership

It is expected that there will be a neutral impact from the proposals on this protected characteristic.

Sexual orientation
The Census 2021 data available for City of London residents aged 16 and over (8,008) shows that:

- 6,348 identified as straight or heterosexual
- 607 as gay or lesbian
- 185 as bisexual
- 15 as pansexual
- 5 as asexual
- 8 as queer
- 10 as all other sexual orientations
- 830 didn't answer that question

Data is not available for children and young people aged 15 and below.

It is expected that there will be a neutral impact of the proposals on this protected characteristic as childcare is available and accessible to all children, parents, and carers.

Care leavers
The City Corporation data states that at the end of April 2025, there were 46 City of London care leavers. No care leaver has a child currently attending the Childcare at The Aldgate School.

Therefore, there will be a neutral impact of this proposal on care leavers.

5.MONITORING AND REVIEW

How will you monitor and review the impact (positive or negative) of the proposal once it has been put into effect, if so, how? What are the timescales for reviewing the EQIA once proposals are implemented?

This may take the form of an action plan.

We will monitor:

- The uptake of the City Childcare Accessibility Scheme
- Access to the brokerage service offered by the Early Years Team

- Any complaints received directly by Officers as well as via the call centre and the EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk email inbox.

This will include quantitative data (e.g., demographics, usage, etc.) and qualitative feedback (e.g., Sufficiency Assessment, complaints or compliments received by the EEY Team on childcare availability).

This Equality Impact Assessment will be reviewed each year, including in Summer 2027.

Section 3: To be completed by ALL

6.RECORDING YOUR DECISION AND SIGN-OFF

1. Submit to your line manager for review and sign-off
2. Submit to Director or Chief Officer (as relevant) for sign-off
3. Where possible, share the final document with the corporate EEDI team

Sign off

1. Officer completing the EQIA

Name	Kirstie Hilton
Job Title	Head of Education & Early Years Service
Date	20/07/26
Signature	K. Hilton

2. Line Manager

Name	Deborah Bell
Job Title	Strategic Director of Education & Skills
Date	
Signature	D. Bell

3. Senior Manager or Chief Officer

Name	
Job Title	
Date	
Signature	

Once this form has been signed off, please send a copy of the form to the EDI Team: CSPT.EDI@cityoflondon.gov.uk

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Community & Children's Services Committee	**Dated:** 8 September 2026
Subject: Allocated Members to the City's Housing Estates	**Public report:** For Decision
This proposal: • **provides statutory duties** • **provides business enabling functions**	N/A
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of:	Town Clerk
Report author:	Amelia Christopher, Governance Officer

Summary

This report seeks the approval of the Community and Children's Services Committee to the Allocated Member positions determined by the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee at its meeting on 1 July 2026, filling vacancies left by the Committee at its meeting on 5 May 2026 when it agreed appointments for the 2026/27 Civic Year.

The vacant positions: Lambeth, Southwark and Tower Hamlets and a further vacancy: Hackney that arose at the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee meeting on 1 July 2026, were determined at and subsequent to that meeting.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Approve the vacant Allocated Member positions to the City's Housing Estates, as determined by the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee at and subsequent to its meeting on 1 July 2026:

    - Hackney - John Griffiths
    - Lambeth - Mercy Haggerty
    - Southwark - Deputy Ceri Wilkins
    - Tower Hamlets - Deputy John Fletcher

Main Report

Background

1. The Allocated Members Scheme, which has been in operation since 2000, matches Members of the Community and Children's Services Committee with one or more of the City's Housing Estates. Nominations are required at the start of each civic year to determine the Allocated Member for each estate for the ensuing year.

2. At its first meeting of the new civic year on 5 May 2026, the Committee appointed Allocated Members to the City's Housing Estates, however three positions were unfilled: Lambeth, Southwark and Tower Hamlets. The Committee resolved that those vacant positions would be determined by the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee at its meeting on 1 July 2026 and would return to the Committee for approval.

Current Position

3. At its meeting on 1 July 2026, the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk to determine the vacant Allocated Member positions to the City's Housing Estates.

4. Several expressions of interest from Sub-Committee members were received for the vacant positions: Lambeth, Southwark and Tower Hamlets. Furthermore, during the discussion, a Member stood down from Hackney leaving that position vacant.

5. The Sub-Committee resolved that the following Members be approved to the vacant Housing Estates:

    - Southwark - Deputy Ceri Wilkins
    - Tower Hamlets - Deputy John Fletcher

6. The Sub-Committee resolved that John Griffiths and Mercy Haggerty were to agree which of the remaining vacant Housing Estates (Hackney and Lambeth) they would be allocated.

7. Subsequent to the Sub-Committee meeting on 1 July 2026, confirmation has been received that John Griffiths would take the Hackney position, and Mercy Haggerty would take the Lambeth position.

8. The final list of Allocated Members is therefore:

    - Islington - Deputy Anne Corbett
    - Hackney - John Griffiths
    - Lewisham - Sandra Jenner
    - City of London - Golden Lane Estate - Deputy Ceri Wilkins
    - Middlesex Street Estate - Deputy John Fletcher
    - Southwark - Deputy Ceri Wilkins
    - Tower Hamlets - Deputy John Fletcher
    - Lambeth - Mercy Haggerty

Proposals

9. Members of the Community and Children's Services Committee are asked to approve the Allocated Members to the City's Housing Estates listed in the recommendation.

Conclusion

10. Members are asked to approve the vacant Allocated Member positions to the City's Housing Estates so that all positions are filled. This will enhance representation, improve coordination, streamline decision-making, and foster stronger community engagement.

Appendices

None

Background papers
Community and Children's Services Committee, 5 May 2026 - Item 6: Appointment of Sub-Committees.pdf (and various appendices)

Community and Children's Services Committee, 30 June 2026 - Item 5: Appointments to Sub-Committees.pdf

Housing Management & Almshouses Sub-Committee, 1 July 2026 - Item 6a: Allocated Members to the Citys Housing Estates.pdf

Amelia Christopher
Governance Officer
Town Clerk's Department
E: amelia.christopher@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committees: Community and Children's Services Committee	**Dated:** 8 September 2026
Subject: Families in the City Update	**Public report:** For Discussion
This proposal: • **delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes** • **provides statutory duties**	Diverse engaged communities. Providing excellent services.
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of:	Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services
Report author:	Rachel Talmage, Head of Children's Social Care and Early Help – Families in the City Programme Lead Hannah Dobbin, Families in the City Programme Manager

Summary

This is the fourth Families in the City programme update report for Members of the Communities and Children's Services Committee. Families in the City is the Department of Community and Children's Services and partners' response to national government reforms; Families First Partnership (FFP) reform around a move to Family Help services and the development of Best Start Family Hubs for children and young people aged 0–19 years or up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

We are now in Phase 2 of the programme which initially ran from September 2025 to June 2026 and has now been extended to March 2027. The development of the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network, which includes Best Start in Life services

for 0–5-year-olds, continues to build on our online offer and the delivery of services at sites across the City of London.

Developments in the FFP workstream are focused on preparation for a shift to a Family Help system.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. National government reforms are driving transformational change in service delivery for children, young people and families. The Department for Education (DfE) continues to publish guidance and requirements on FFP and Best Start Family Hub requirements which are driving progress.

2. The Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network brings together services for children and young people aged 0-19 or up to 25 for young people with SEND. Within this, there is a focus on the 0-5s, SEND and targeting the most deprived local areas.

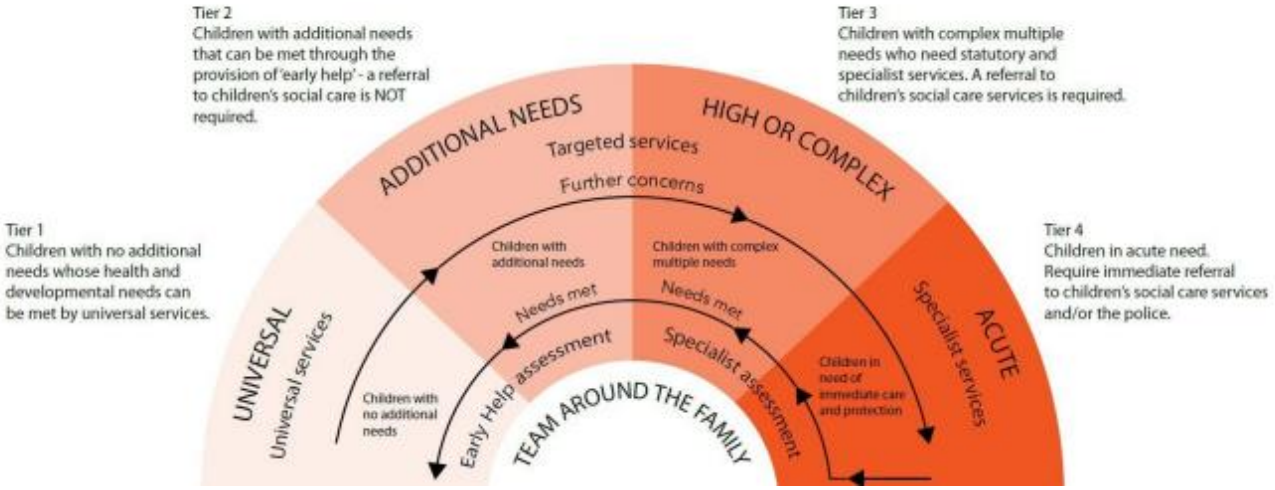
3. Phase 1 of the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network development ended on 1 September 2025. The offer included:

    - a virtual information and advice offer on our Family Information Service website. There are dedicated Best Start Family Hub webpages providing information on activities and services for children, young people and their families
    - a pilot in-person support offer to help families navigate the Best Start Family Hub, available from the Guildhall every Monday during September to December 2025. A telephone translator offer was available if needed to support families
    - services continued to be delivered in person at various sites – including our libraries and community centres – across the City of London.

4. Phase 2 began in September 2025 and has primarily responded to DfE's requirement within the given timescales. Information from DfE on its expectations around the Best Start Family Hub model has been included in Appendix 1. This includes a main, physical Best Start Family Hub that should be in the most deprived area and the network sites around it. It also shows the wider offer that is expected around the key 0-5-years Best Start in Life offer.

5. The DfE's FFP programme requires local authorities to create an integrated system to 'support more children to stay safely with their families and see better outcomes'. This involves the review and design of a Family Help system that merges Early Help and Children in Need systems.

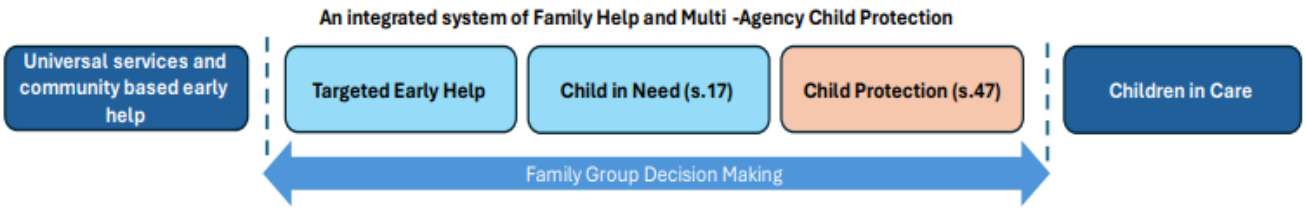
6. The current continuum of need reflects four tier levels:



7. To provide Members with a sense of scale, in the City of London at the end of April 2026 there were:

   - 13 children and young people open to Early Help (Tier 2) – 5 of which had an Education, Health and Care Plan (ECHP)
   - 12 children in need (Tier 3) – 3 of which had an EHCP
   - 17 children receiving Short Breaks support (Tier 3)
   - 0 children with Child Protection Plans (Tier 4)
   - 8 children in care
   - 44 care leavers

8. The DfE sets out its vision for a reformed system as an integrated system, shown in the graphic below:

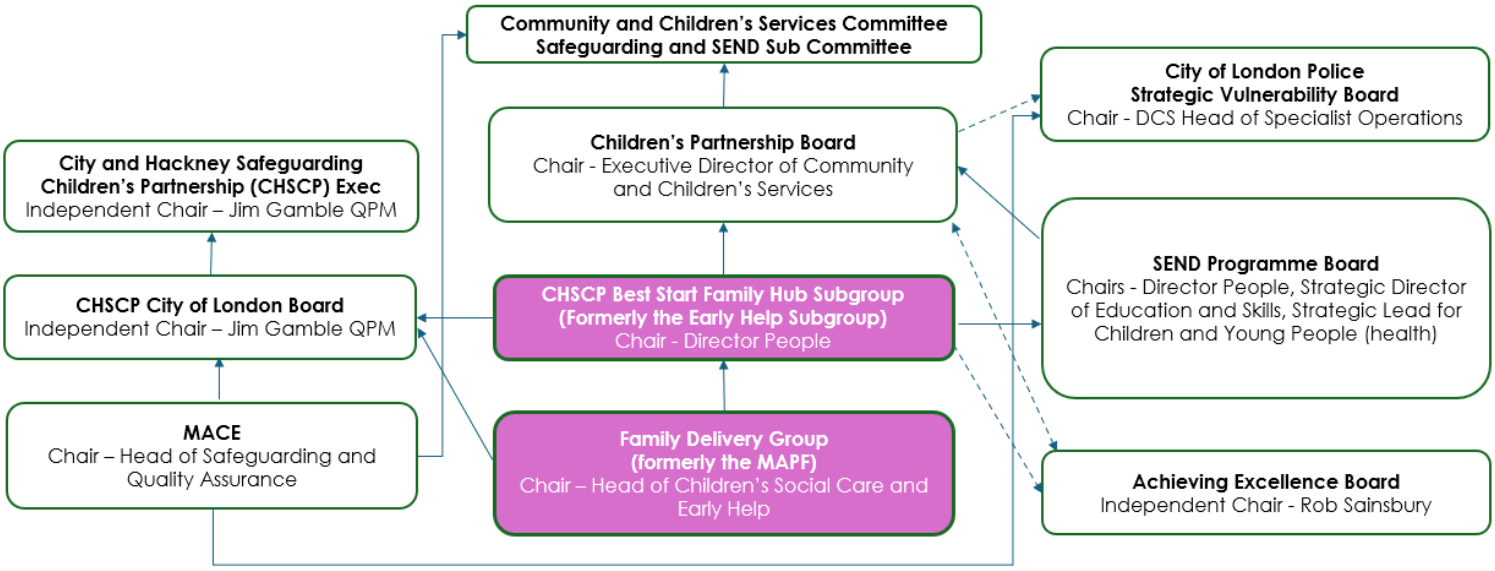


9. The reforms are an opportunity to build on our outstanding Children's Social Care and Early Help services. A focus on the best possible outcomes for children and families will be retained throughout the implementation of the Families in the City programme.

Current Position

Governance arrangements

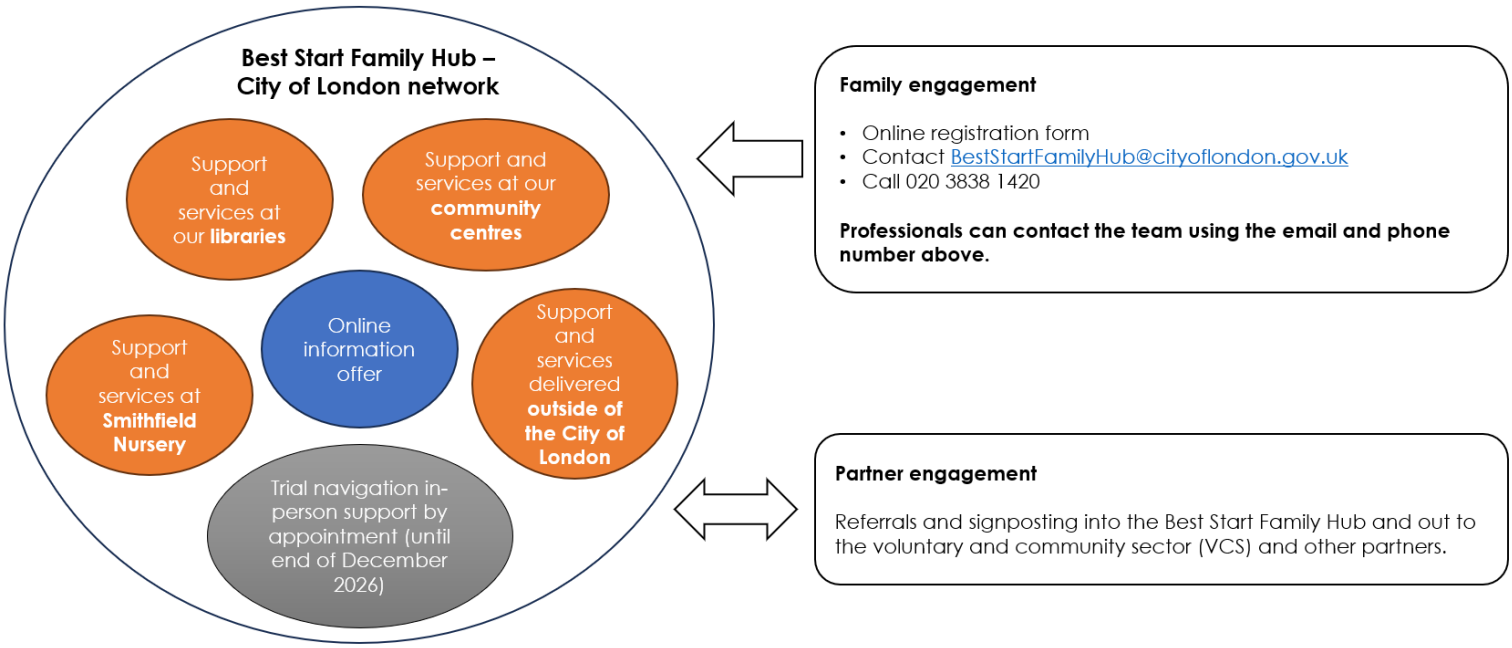
10. The City Corporation has reviewed the governance structure around the Families in the City programme to recognise a move to business as usual from 1 September 2026. The Families in the City Board will cease but the functions and partnership focus within it will be absorbed into a revised structure shown in the diagram below. The Early Help Subgroup will become the Best Start Family Hub Subgroup and the Multi-agency Practitioners Forum (MAPF) will become the Family Delivery Group. This retains both senior level, strategic engagement and a space for professionals to share learning and develop practice.



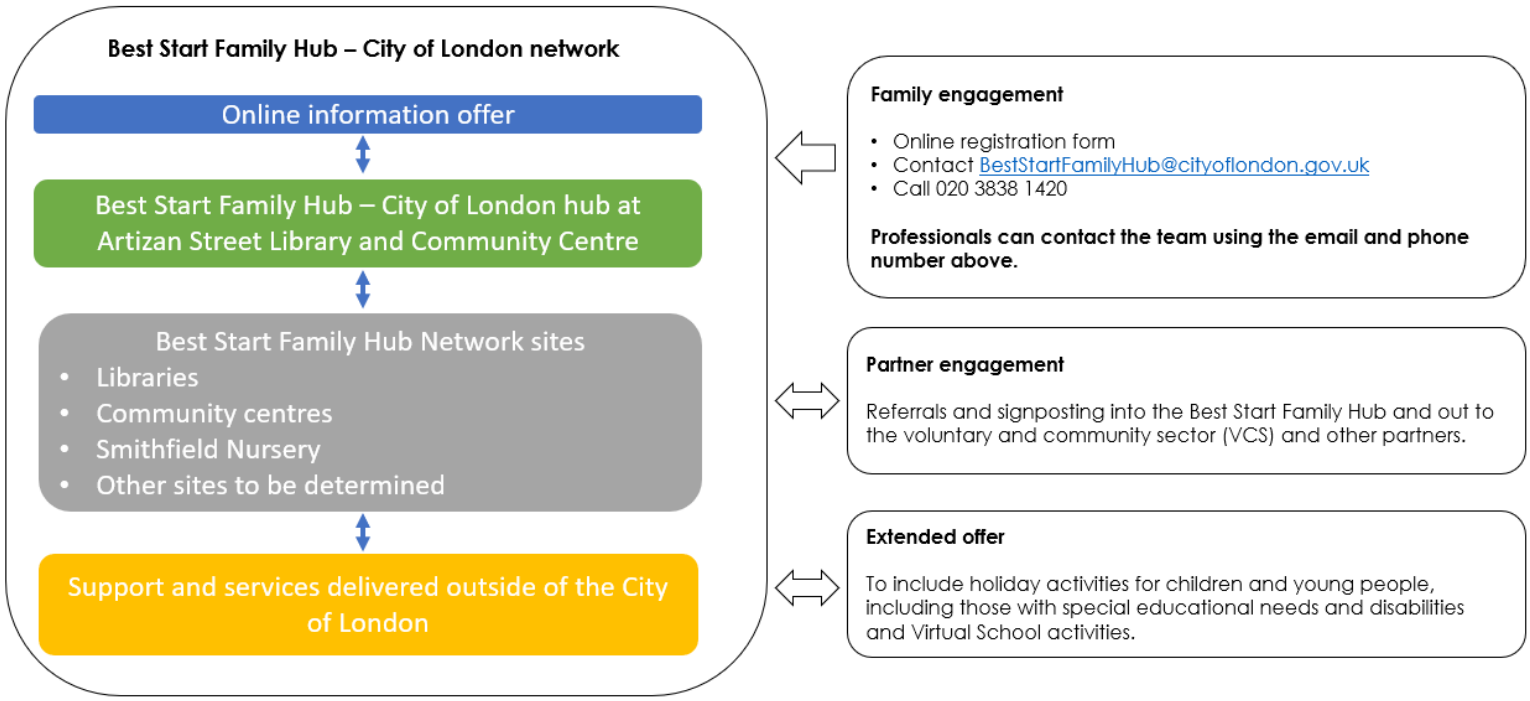
Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network development

11. The Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network brings together online and in-person services and support for children and young people aged 0–19 or 25 with SEND, and their families. In the City of London, the Best Start Family Hub Network offer also includes support for care leavers and our Virtual School cohort (children and young people – up to 25 years old) who have a social worker or who have previously been supported by social care).

12. The Best Start Family Hub – City of London is being developed in phases. The current model is:



13. The model we are currently aiming for by 2028 - subject to any further changes to requirements by DfE and completion of the hub within the Artizan Street Library and Community Centre (ASLCC) - is:



14. Information on how to access the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network offer has been made available online on the City of London Family Information Service website. Families can contact the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network directly or be signposted by a professional. Between 1 April and 9 July 2026, seven people registered to find out more about services. This included two families with new babies, signposted to the Education and Early Years Service. There have also been phone call enquiries to a dedicated Best Start Family Hub – City of London phone number but the volume is currently not logged.

15. The City Corporation's 0-25 Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network offer brings together existing support and services including:

- a community-based universal offer including Health Visiting service, stay and play sessions across libraries, and baby massage
- parenting support including an Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) parenting programme delivered by a parent facilitator supported by Early Help and Social Care, parenting programmes and infant feeding support
- therapeutic and systemic support for children, young people and families aged 0-25 (with SEND) provided by City Chorus
- SEND and inclusive provision including statutory short breaks, Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS - free, independent information, advice and support service) and COLTALE and Verbo (online speech and language platforms)
- holiday and enrichment activities
- youth services
- adult education and skills programmes

16. The Best Start in Life offer for 0–5-year-olds is a key part of the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network. Activities and support continue to be delivered at multiple sites across the City of London.

'It is very valuable to City parents to have the Bumps and Babies session [at the Barbican children's library]… I am also appreciative of the Stay and Play session at Smithfield Nursery as a new session for the western part of the City… new ideas such as outdoor sessions would be welcomed.'
City of London parent

17. The Best Start in Life offer is open to families who live within the City of London: 46 new families in the City registered for the Best Start in Life service between September 2025 and June 2026. In June 2026, 76 City of London resident families were registered for Best Start in life Services, 46 of these had registered between September 2025 – June 2026.

18. Families accessed:

- Stay and Play sessions
- Bumps and Babies sessions
- Monthly Infant Feeding sessions at Barbican Library and ASLCC
- Baby clinics at ASLCC

- Baby Massage
- Rhyme Time and Story Time activities across City of London libraries

19. Appendix 2 provides a breakdown of engagement with the Best Start in Life offer.

20. The DfE requires all local authorities to deliver evidence-based parenting and home learning environment programmes. In the City of London, these will be the Peep Learning Together and Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities (SFSC) programmes. Peep Learning Together forms a key part of the City Corporation's school readiness offer and supports wider ambitions to improve early language development and good levels of development which aligns with DfE ambitions around school readiness. SFSC complements this by strengthening parenting confidence, family relationships and emotional wellbeing.

21. A dedicated workforce development role has been created (funded by a DfE grant) to implement delivery of these programmes and additional quality assurance. Key achievements to date include:

    - completion of Peep Learning Together Train-the-Trainer training
    - completion of SFSC facilitator training
    - delivery of practitioner Peep training
    - completion of pre-implementation observations at Shoe Lane Library and Barbican Children's Library
    - development of a safeguarding and Family Hub practice training offer for library staff
    - start of workforce skills auditing to identify existing safeguarding knowledge and development needs

22. This specific workforce development activity will continue until March 2027 with delivery to families planned to start in Autumn 2026. It is anticipated that by March 2027, Peep Learning Together will be embedded across the City of London libraries' Stay and Play and Rhyme Time provision, reaching families through 11 regular weekly sessions. The aim is to support at least 20 families through the SFSC programme by March 2027, with further families expected to benefit through social workers applying SFSC approaches and techniques within their one-to-one work with parents and carers.

23. Intended outcomes of the evidence-base programmes include:

    - improved parenting confidence
    - improved family relationships and enhanced parent-child interaction
    - stronger home learning environments
    - improved language and communication development
    - increased school readiness
    - greater access to evidence-based support
    - improved integration across Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network services

24. Other key elements of the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network include:

- at the end of April 2026, there were 17 children receiving short breaks support and 13 children open to Early Help
- holiday activities continue to develop as part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. Successful Christmas and Easter clubs were delivered in partnership with the community-based organisation KABs. Attendance by children from the global majority was high and the number of children with SEND increased from 23% at Christmas to 29% at Easter. Summer holiday clubs are planned from 27 July to 14 August 2026 with a continued focus on accessible activities including games, arts and crafts, and trips to Tate Modern, Hampstead Heath Secret Garden and St Paul's Cathedral
- the recommissioned youth service went live from April 2026. The service offers a range of activities and support for young people and a new information, advice and guidance (IAG) worker is in place. Between April and June 2026, 24 City young people attended youth services sessions.
- SENDIASS at Tower Hamlets is commissioned to deliver free information and advice for families with children with SEND from the City. Families can be referred by a professional or self-refer. From April to June 2026, 11 cases were supported and 43 parent consultations were delivered
- City Chorus is commissioned to provide therapeutic groups for families with children experiencing adverse life events, to help improve outcomes for the whole family. From April to June 2026, 13 new families were seen by the service and 17 one-to-one sessions were delivered

Site developments

25. The DfE requires every local authority to operate two different kinds of sites:

- **'Best Start Family Hubs** will be warm, welcoming, inclusive and play-friendly spaces at the heart of local communities. They will act as one-stop shops where families can drop in, make connections and get trusted information and advice. Nationally we are aiming for 70% of hubs to be located in the 30% most deprived areas.'
- **'Best Start Network Sites** will be other, trusted, community locations that extend reach. They will deliver at least one Best Start Family Hub or Healthy Babies service on a regular, sustained basis – for example, related to health, early years education, parenting, or early SEND support – and can connect families with others. These sites might be early years settings, including specialist settings and schools, libraries, health and faith venues, leisure and recreation centres, and other voluntary, community or faith venues, private and public buildings. They should be identified as part of the Best Start network.'

26. As agreed at Families in the City Board, Children's Partnership Board and previously shared in Committee papers, the ASLCC will be developed and refurbished as our Best Start Family Hub. This builds on its existing offer for

families and young people and reflects DfE guidance that hubs should be in the most deprived areas.

27. ASLCC would retain its library function and access for the whole community. The Best Start Family Hub – City of London will sit as a branded space/offer within the ASLCC. Priorities include making that space as family-friendly as possible and suitable for the co-location of staff (e.g. across Early Years, Family Help, Public Health and other commissioned services), and delivery of required Best Start Family Hub services.

28. DfE grant funding is being used to engage an architect and design company to complete an initial assessment and options report on the development of ASLCC. The company has been given the DfE guidance so that it is aware of requirements on local authorities and understands that engagement with families will be key to any refurbishment plans. Additional funding will have to be sought for any capital investment.

29. Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network support and services are already delivered at community settings including our libraries, community centres and Smithfield House Children's Nursery. A process to formally identify and brand Best Start Network Sites – initially our libraries and Smithfield House Children's Nursery - is underway. These Network Sites will retain their names and existing functions but additional DfE branding will be introduced as required by national guidance.

30. This approach ensures that the City Corporation is meeting DfE requirements while continuing to provide families with access to a range of support and services across the City of London.

Engaging families in the development of the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network and activities

31. Parent and carer feedback continues to inform the development of activities and support for families. In April 2026, the Best Start in Life team delivered a Plant and Grow workshop at ASLCC following feedback from parents in the Portsoken Ward that many of them lived in flats and would like the opportunity to plant with their children. The session was facilitated by the Head Gardener of Westminster Abbey and attended by eight adults and eight children. Of the parents and carers that attended:

    - 100% enjoyed the session and found it very knowledgeable and useful
    - 100% said that this was their children's first experience of planting and potting plants
    - 100% said they would do more planting at home
    - 100% said they had gained some new knowledge on planting and gardening

32. The Best Start in Life team is planning another workshop in the Golden Lane/Barbican area to be delivered before the end of March 2027.

“I have always enjoyed planting and since I had my children, I stopped doing this... Today’s session made me so happy… and it was so nice to do this with my children! I liked that we could take our plants home with us to watch them grow... Thank you for putting this workshop on for us” (Parent)

33. The Best Start in Life team held a coffee morning on 10 July 2026 at the Barbican Library to gather feedback on the 0-5 offer. One parent attended and was provided with information and initial advice by the Early Years team. The parent shared that they had engaged with some of the support on offer including Infant Beast Feeding which they described as **“utterly marvellous and saved and started my breastfeeding journey positively.”**

34. Representatives from the Education and Early Years Service attended The Aldgate School’s Summer Fete on 10 July 2026. Key feedback from more detailed conversations with several parents and carers included:

    - most parents had not heard of the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network or ‘outreach’ as a term but they were keen to understand what support is available where and when, and some recognised the branding from other local areas
    - parents responded positively once the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network was explained, with strong interest in accessing local support and services
    - positive feedback was received on the Family Information Service website, particularly the regularly updated ‘What’s On’ section
    - positive feedback was received on the Best Start in Life/Family Hub activities timetable and how it helped families plan activities
    - feedback on a Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network leaflet included that it clearly explained the different types of support available and that parents and carers appreciated having all information presented in one place. Some parents and carers suggested that the leaflet would benefit from making Family Hub locations more visible. This feedback will be shared with communications officers to inform the development of promotional materials

35. Parents at The Aldgate School Fete were signposted to a wide range of support including around parenting advice and family support, SEND, housing and finances, and health services. In addition, opportunities were identified to strengthen partnerships with community providers and expand culturally appropriate provision, particularly for Bengali-speaking families.

36. Officers continue to review the approach to engaging young people and families across the City of London in the development of the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network, including the option of developing an advisory group. Opportunities to engage will continue throughout the coming months, with a focus on developing the Outreach Strategy and the refurbishment of ASLCC.

Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network development funding

37. The City Corporation continues to receive national government funding to deliver statutory provision for children, young people and families.

38. The development of the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network and implementation of the FFP reforms are funded by dedicated DfE grant streams. DfE provides grant conditions and regular reporting on spend is required.

39. In 2025/26, the City Corporation was given a DfE Best Start Family Hub development grant of £95,880, of which £23,795 was spent in 25/26 on refurbishing the ASLCC and investment in additional workforce development capacity. DfE agreed that the remaining £72,085 can be carried over into 2026/27. This must be spent on the refurbishment of ASLCC as the City of London's Best Start Family Hub and continued investment in the dedicated workforce resource.

40. The Best Start Family Hub development 2026-29 total grant is £264,000. For 2026/27, the breakdown is £84,500. Within it, this has allocations for programme delivery, home learning environment and parenting programmes, and children with additional needs. There is also a small capital allocation. The City Corporation has submitted a costed delivery plan to DfE as required. This is an iterative plan that provides assurance and accountability against national requirements.

41. There is also DfE grant money specifically for Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) profile assessment support; £18,000 for 2026-29: £6,000 for each financial year.

42. The City Corporation continues to work within existing budgets. Any additional funding allocated to the development of Best Start Family Hub – City of London services would have to align with the stage of development and DfE requirements. Funding decisions would consider:

    - progress against DfE requirements and where we could strengthen existing or developing activity
    - the City of London's Best Start Local Plan (focuses on 0-5s) action to work with partners to identify the needs of local families and gaps in current provision, and implement a joined-up approach to addressing any gaps – with a particular focus on vulnerable families, e.g. children with SEND, families in overcrowded accommodation, families with English as an additional language, and fathers
    - findings of the City of London Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which is in development
    - insight from families on their experiences and thoughts on support and services for City of London residents

43. Any development or spending decisions would be underpinned by equity, equality, diversity and inclusion with a focus on achieving the best possible outcomes for all children, young people and families.

Next steps for the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network

44. The next stage of the development of the Best Start Family Hub – City of London will include and reflect:

- the development of ASLCC as the Best Start Family Hub and formalisation of Network Sites
- exploration with partners, including Health, of co-location and delivery of services in the City of London
- six-month progress review of the Best Start Local Plan (focus on 0-5s as required by DfE) in September 2026
- development and implementation of an outreach strategy (required by DfE to be live from 1 November 2026)
- consideration of DfE data requirement implications on existing systems and reporting
- development of publicity material to better promote the offer and engage families across the City of London
- alignment with FFP reform.

45. Officers will continue to have monthly meetings with the DfE regional representative about what can be delivered within the resources allocated and the City of London's unique context, while also meeting reform requirements.

FFP reform implementation

46. The FFP development workstream continues to evolve in response to national government reform and the City Corporation remains compliant with DfE reporting requirements.

47. The DfE has stated that local authorities must have an operational Family Help service by the end of March 2027.

48. A focus has been on how to ensure that our data systems can deliver against the FFP requirements. Mosaic is the case management system used by the City Corporation's Children's Social Care and SEND services. We are exploring additional, dedicated resource to support a Mosaic upgrade in the Autumn to ensure that we have the necessary systems and processes in place.

49. The Children's Social Care practice standards have been updated to reflect the principles of the reforms and a session was held with Children's Social Care and Education and Early Years staff around Family Group Decision Making (FGDM). This relates to a key principle within the reforms that families should be offered FGDM as early as possible and at key points so that families have the option to be central to decisions made about them.

50. Other progress includes a test and learn approach which has been applied to Tier 2 and 3 work with families, where qualified social workers and alternatively qualified staff work across the Tiers. This builds on our existing practice and

provides families with a consistent professional. Positive feedback has been shared by professionals taking part in the test and learn.

51. The City Corporation has also been working with the City of London Police, Health and the London Borough of Hackney colleagues to form proposed arrangements for a virtual Multi-agency Child Protection Team (MACPT) which is required by the reforms.

52. An Ofsted Focus Visit in July 2026 acknowledged positive progress around implementation of the FFP reforms: 'relationship-based practice is a notable strength, with continuity of worker frequently prioritised to promote stability and sustained engagement and reduce possible change and disruption for children. This makes a positive difference to families and is in line with 'Families First' ambitions.'

FFP implementation funding

53. The City Corporation received DfE grants totalling £60,000 for 2025/26 to implement the FFP reforms. The majority was spent on additional programme resource. £6,177 has been carried over into 2026/27 and will be used to support a Mosaic (Children's Social Care case management system) upgrade to ensure alignment with DfE requirements. For 2026-29, dedicated FFP funding of £98,846 sits within the Children, Families and Youth Grant, and this breaks down to around £30,000 for each financial year.

Next steps for FFP implementation

54. The next stage of implementing the FFP reforms will focus on the workforce and the data system upgrade. This is essential infrastructure that will inform decision-making around processes and practice, and will align with the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network development.

Options

55. There are no options for the CCS Committee to consider.

Proposals

56. There are no proposals for the CCS Committee to consider.

Key Data

57. In response to a Member's request that baseline data is shared, Appendix 3 provides Census 2021 data on children and young people who live in the City of London.

58. Officers are considering data and system requirements for the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network in line with DfE requirements. There are currently limitations around data and insight due to existing systems.

59. Current insight on the seven registrations to find out more information about Best Start Family Hub – City of London services between 1 April and 9 July 2026, indicates that the majority live in the North West of the City of London, with a few in the East.

60. Out of the 76 City families registered with Best Start in Life 0-5 services in June 2026, 67 live in the Cripplegate, Aldersgate, Portsoken and Farringdon Within Wards. 9 families live in the Portsoken Ward.

61. Data on income and employment status of families as part of universal engagement with the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network is not collected. This type of data is not asked for until a formal family assessment is done.

62. However, data for the Best Start in Life 0-5 service between September 2025 and June 2026, shows that of the families that registered:
    - 49 were employed
    - 17 were unemployed
    - 12 were on parental leave
    - 11 were self-employed
    - 1 was on a career break
    - 11 were in receipt of Universal Credit

63. It is worth noting that DfE requires each local authority to produce a Best Start Family Hub Outreach Strategy by 31 October 2026. This should set out how local authorities will reach groups facing specific barriers (identified locally) and/or health inequalities and maximise take up of services.

64. The City of London's Outreach Strategy will reflect the national focus on delivery and engagement in the most deprived areas – the east of the City of London – and reaching those who are not currently engaged with support and services. Target groups, such as children and young people with SEND and families from Global Majority communities, will be identified.

65. The Outreach Strategy will be accompanied by an action plan and agreed by the Best Start Family Hub Sub-group and the Children's Partnership Board.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

66. The following strategic implications are relevant to this report.

    - **Strategic implications –** Families in the City aligns with objectives within the Corporate Plan 2024–2029 to deliver excellent services and a diverse, engaged community. It will align with the vision of the Children and Young People's Plan which is due to be revised in 2026. It sits alongside SEND reform and the national Youth Strategy. Governance arrangements are changing from 1 September 2026.

    - **Financial implications –** Financial information is included in the report. Financial implications will remain monitored, and additional funding will need to be sought if

necessary.

- **Resource implications –** These are still being assessed.

- **Legal implications –** Developments will need to ensure that the City of London Corporation continues to deliver all statutory functions and requirements.

- **Risk implications –** A Families in the City risk and issues log is reviewed at Families in the City Board meetings moving to the Best Start Family Hub Subgroup from 1 September. Risks are escalated to Children's Partnership Board if appropriate.

  Risks around lacking the data and systems for both FFP implementation and Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network development have been acknowledged and data system working groups set up to co-ordinate activity in response to this, working with the Access Group and Mosaic Advisory Group and taking on board national and other local area learning.

  Regarding the development of the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network, risks identified include:
  - funding for the programme is not sufficient – officers are working within DfE grant allocations and conditions. Additional funding will be sought if required, e.g. for capital works
  - stakeholders, particularly families, are not clear on what the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network offer is and how to access it – key messages and a communications plan remain iterative to allow continued alignment with DfE guidelines. More promotional materials will be developed, some produced in different languages to meet local needs
  - services are not accessed equally by families – Equality Impact Assessments were completed at the start of the programme and did not identify any negative impacts. These will be regularly reviewed. The Outreach Strategy will focus on engaging families who are not already accessing support and services. Services will continue to be delivered at different sites across the City of London.

- **Equalities implications –** Equality Impact Assessments were developed at the start of the programme and will remain as live documents. Individual assessments will be completed for specific projects as required, e.g. the Outreach Strategy and development of the ASLCC as the Best Start Family Hub.

- **Climate implications –** none.

- **Security implications –** none.

Conclusion

67. Families in the City continues to progress at pace as we move deeper into implementation and start to shift to business as usual. The Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network is becoming increasingly established and work will continue to promote and embed it across communities. Implementation of the FFP reforms continues with a commitment to have a Family Help service operational by the end of March 2027. The focus remains on ensuring children, young people and families get the right support when they need it.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – DfE Best Start Family Hub model expectations
- Appendix 2 - Breakdown of engagement with the Best Start in Life offer
- Appendix 3 – Census 2021 data for the City of London

Background Papers

- 16 March 2026 – public paper updating Members on Families in the City
- 17 September 2025 – public paper updating Members on Families in the City
- 1 July 2025 – public paper updating Members on Families in the City
- 11 November 2024 – non-public paper providing an update on the City of London Children's Centre Services
- 5 May 2023 – public paper asking Members to note that an independent City of London Children's Centre Services Review would take place
- 11 March 2024 – non-public paper on the City of London Children's Centre Services Review
- 13 December 2023 – non-public paper on the City of London Children's Centre Services and Family Hub Development

Rachel Talmage
Head of Children's Social Care and Early Help
and Families in the City Programme Lead

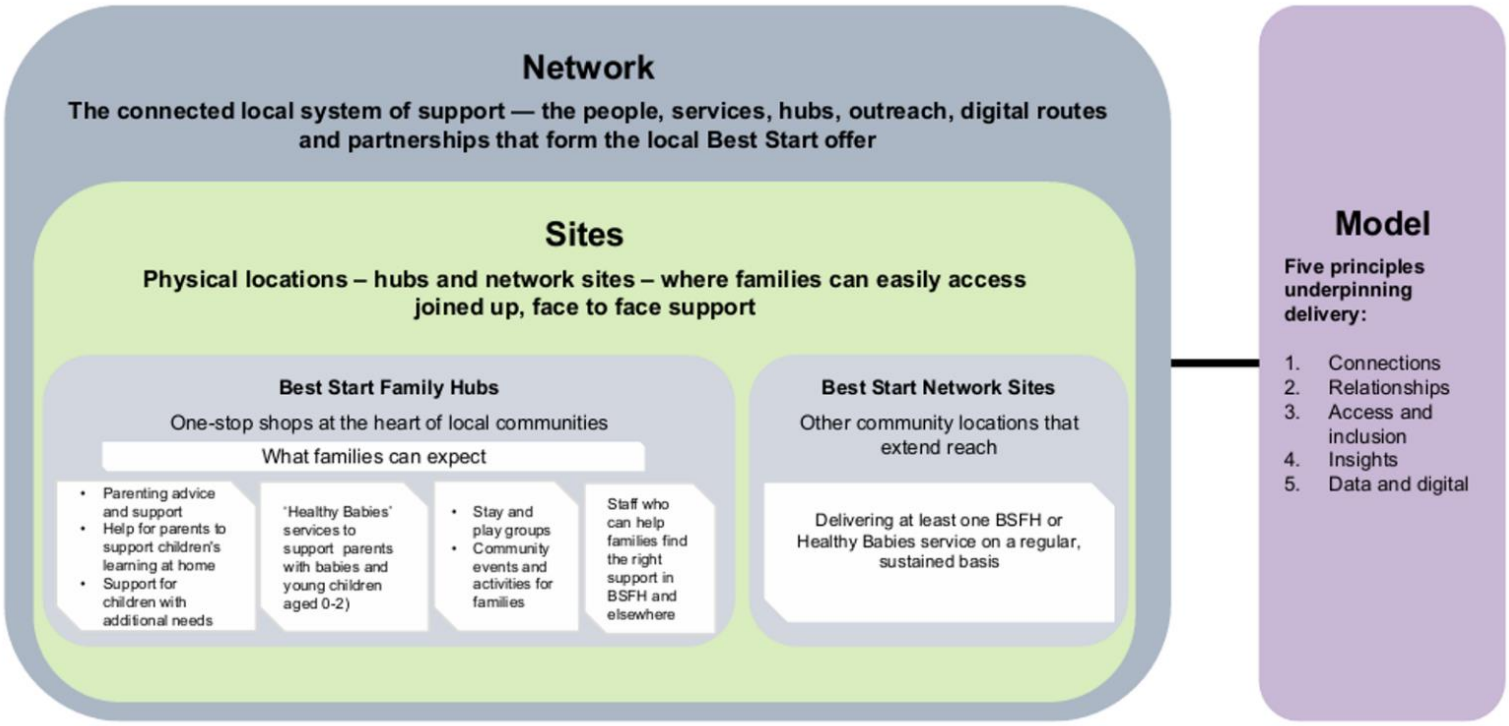
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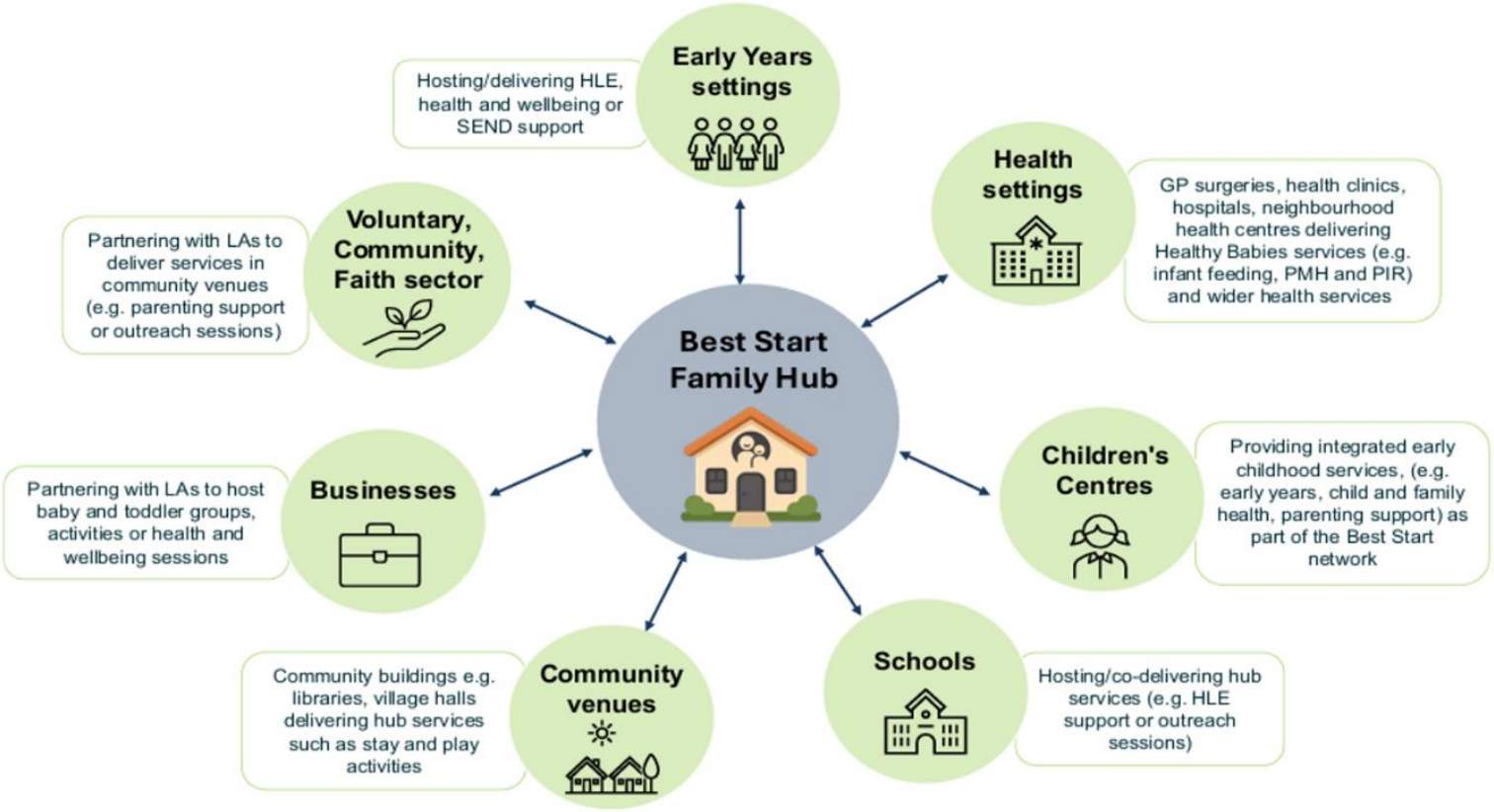
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Appendix 1 – DfE Best Start Family Hub expectations

DfE (2026) Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Guidance for Local Authorities April 2026 to March 2029.







Wider services

Services for children aged 5+ and young people

- Youth services – universal and targeted
- Youth justice services
- School attendance
- Holiday Activities and Food

Health and Wellbeing

- Health visiting (0-5)
- Public health (0-19)
- Mental health
- Maternity, midwifery and neonatal
- Nutrition and healthy growth
- Oral health improvement
- Screen time
- Smoking cessation
- Substance misuse support
- Vaccinations

Financial and other assistance

- Birth registration
- Debt advice, money and welfare advice
- Food support
- Fuel poverty
- Housing
- Parental leave and pay
- Social welfare advice services

Wider family support services

- Armed forces families
- Children affected by parental imprisonment
- Reducing parental conflict
- Support for adoptive, kinship and foster families
- Support for separated and separating parents/carers
- Targeted family support- family help

Safeguarding

- Domestic abuse
- Tackling child sexual abuse and exploitation

Appendix 2 – Breakdown of engagement with the Best Start in Life offer

Sessions	1 September 2024 to 30 July 2025	1 September 2025 to 30 July 2026
Stay & Play at Artizan Street Library and Community Centre (ASLCC) (Tuesday and Friday)	Adults: 383 attended Children: 399 attended	Adults: 412 attended Children: 437 attended
Bumps & Babies at Barbican Library (Thursday)	Adults: 20 Children: 20	Adults: 28 Children: 27
Stay & Play and Rhyme Time at Smithfield House Children's Nursery (Wednesday)	N/A	Adults: 34 Children: 34
Baby Massage at Smithfield House Children's Nursery (Monday)	N/A	Adults: 52 Children: 53
Sensory Room Smithfield House Children's Nursery (Friday)	N/A	Adults: 10 Children: 10
Rhyme Times at Barbican Library (Monday, Friday, Saturday)	2752 engagements (adults and children)	2889 engagements (adults and children)
Story Time at Barbican Library (Monday)	329 engagements (adults and children)	462 engagements (adults and children)
Rhyme Time at Shoe Lane Library (Tuesday and Wednesday)	1200 engagements (adults and children)	1416 engagements (adults and children)
Stay & Play and Rhyme Time at ASLCC (Thursday)	133 engagements (adults and children)	187 engagements (adults and children)

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Appendix 3 – City of London children and young people data

Numbers of children and young people living in the City of London

Census 2021 data shows there are 1,727 children and young people aged 0-24 in the City of London, of which 762 are 0-19-years-old. Breakdown:

- 213 are aged 4 years and under
- 159 are aged 5 to 9 years
- 206 are aged 10-15 years
- 184 are aged 16-19 years
- 965 are aged 20-24 years

Census 2021 data also provides analysis by lower-layer super output area. This includes:

Area	Age groups				
	0-4	5-9	10-15	16-19	20-24
Area that includes the Barbican estate	33	24	29	24	100
Area that includes the Golden Lane estate	39	32	36	18	96
Area that includes Middlesex Street near Aldgate	52	45	44	79	118

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

At the end of June 2026, there were:

- 25 children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans living in the City of London
- 44 children and young people receiving special education needs (SEN) support in their schools

Births

Census 2021 data shows that in January to December 2024, the City Corporation had the lowest total fertility rate (0.32) compared with all local authorities in England. This has been the case since 2021. In 2025, NHS Digital reported approximately 69 live births for City of London residents, up from 45 in the previous year. Since 2023, 0 still births have been recorded.

Ethnicity

The Census 2021 records show that the City of London resident population is predominantly white. The largest minority ethnic groups of children and young people in the area are Asian/Bangladeshi and Mixed – Asian and White. The City of London has a relatively small Black population, less than London and England and Wales. Children and young people from global majority groups account for 41.71%

of all children living in the area, compared with 21.11% nationally. White British residents comprise 57.5% of the total population, followed by White-Other at 19%.

A health needs assessment for the population aged 0-25 for the City of London and Hackney (2022) highlights:

- ‘The City of London has…higher levels of ethnic diversity in Portsoken ward, including a large Bangladeshi community, and the remainder of the City less diverse. There is also a notable higher proportion of children and young people coming from white non-British backgrounds in the City of London compared to Hackney and London.’

Sex

Census 2021 data showed that the City of London population comprised of 4,722 males and 3,861 females (55% and 44% respectively).

Socio-economic background

The City and Hackney health and wellbeing profile states that 12% of the City of London’s children live in low-income households. A health needs assessment for the population aged 0-25 for the City of London and Hackney (2022) highlights:

- the City of London’s ‘intense pockets of deprivation’
- ‘several factors contribute to the likelihood of a child in London to be living in poverty. These include being from an ethnic minority (other than white) background, having a large family and living in a single-parent family. A child born into poverty is more likely to have a low birthweight, do worse at school and to have poor physical and mental health in the long term.’

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee: Community and Children's Services Committee	**Dated:** 8 September 2026
Subject: **Golden Lane Leisure Centre Update**	**Public report:** For Discussion
This proposal: • **delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes**	Diverse Engaged Communities Providing Excellent Services
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	NA
What is the source of Funding?	NA
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	NA
Report of:	Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services
Report author:	Greg Knight, Head of Commissioning, Community and Children's Services

Summary

This report updates Members on both the procurement activity being undertaken to secure a new leisure management contract and progress with the Golden Lane Leisure Centre (GLLC) refurbishment programme.

The procurement approach has been approved, is informed by market engagement and specialist leisure advice, and will use Sport England industry-standard documentation tailored to the City Corporation's requirements. It will secure a specialist leisure operator to manage the refurbished centre and deliver accessible, affordable and inclusive services for the City's communities. The Invitation to Tender will be published in December 2026.

The refurbishment remains on track through the detailed design stage, with public consultation and planning submission scheduled for autumn 2026.

The GLLC Steering Group has been established and is providing community and stakeholder input into the refurbishment programme and future leisure service provision.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the procurement approach and timeline to award the new leisure management contract for GLLC.
- Note the key dates for the GLLC refurbishment programme.
- Note the continued engagement with the GLLC Steering Group on both the procurement and refurbishment programmes.

Main Report

Background

1. The procurement of a new leisure operator is being progressed alongside the GLLC refurbishment programme to secure an accessible, affordable and inclusive service for the City's residents and wider community. The operator will be responsible for the management of GLLC, including programming, pricing, concessions, community access, customer service, asset management, planned and preventative maintenance, and performance reporting. The mobilisation of the new service contract is aligned to completion of the refurbishment programme.

Current Position

GLLC Leisure Management Contract Procurement

2. Key procurement activities and dates are summarised below:

- Finalising tender documentation: September – November 2026
- Invitation to tender: December 2026 – February 2027
- Evaluation and moderation: March 2027
- Contract award: April 2027
- Contract mobilisation: May 2027
- Service commencement: Upon completion of the refurbishment programme

3. The procurement strategy has been completed and signed off by the Department's Category Board. The strategy confirms the recommended procurement option to outsource the management of the centre under the Procurement Act 2023. The contract duration is 10 years, with an optional extension of up to five years.

4. The strategy has been developed in response to extensive preliminary market engagement feedback, and sets out the evaluation criteria balancing technical quality, commercial and responsible procurement to enable award to the Most Advantageous Tender. The approach will prioritise service quality, community outcomes, value for money and responsible procurement commitments.

5. The Sports Development and Exercise on Referral Services are being developed as additional elements, with award subject to the City Corporation's discretion. This reflects the different and shorter-term funding arrangements for these elements. The approach will allow bidders to set out method statements to deliver these services, including associated costs. The Sports Development element will also be considered alongside an in-house model being developed by the City Corporation's Sports Team, enabling an informed decision on the preferred service model.

Sport England Industry-Standard Documentation

6. The Sports Consultancy continues to provide procurement support, drawing on expertise in leisure management contracts, market testing, benchmarking, service specification development and evaluation criteria. The Sports Consultancy is supporting officers in developing tender documentation, technical questions, contract schedules and utilities provisions.

7. The procurement will use Sport England's industry-standard Leisure Services Delivery Guidance and Leisure Operator Contract documentation, tailored to GLLC-specific requirements. This will ensure a market-recognised framework for delivering leisure services, including contract, service specification and performance monitoring arrangements.

8. The specification will include target programming and protected sessions for the City's communities.

Stakeholder and GLLC Steering Group Engagement

9. Officers are working with stakeholders across the City Corporation to confirm key requirements and ensure relevant departments are engaged in shaping the service specification and deliverables.

10. Officers are working collaboratively with the GLLC Steering Group to provide community and user input into the refurbishment and future service designs. The refurbishment work includes reviewing proposed spatial arrangements to ensure that the design reflects the needs and priorities of centre users and wider stakeholders, while remaining in line with the latest standards. Service engagement includes identifying priorities, protected usage, access and affordability, programming, priority outcomes, future engagement and reporting.

GLLC Refurbishment Programme

11. The refurbishment programme is continuing through the design development phase (RIBA Stage 3), following the decision by the June Community and Children's Services Committee to proceed with Enhanced Option 1. This option retains the sports hall while extending the existing gym facilities, supporting the long-term financial sustainability of the centre. The project team is currently developing the design and supporting documentation, with a planning application on track for the targeted October 2026 submission, wider public engagement scheduled for mid-September 2026, and statutory public planning consultation following submission.

Alternative Provision

12. The alternative provision arranged by the Department to ensure continuity of service for key user groups during the temporary closure of GLLC continues. CitySport hosts a range of Young at Heart activities, including table tennis, line dancing, ballroom dancing, Tai Chi, gentle exercise, short mat bowls and pickleball, providing continued access to structured physical activity programming. SEND provision also continues, with multi-sports, football and gym sessions at CitySport, in addition to swimming lessons delivered in partnership with Hackney Anaconda Swimming Club.

13. Discussions with neighbouring local authorities have progressed to support City of London residents' access to Adult Exercise on Referral services. Officers are finalising arrangements, with the service offer expected to be mobilised by October 2026.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – The refurbishment and procurement approach will secure the future of GLLC, contributing to strategic aims linked to excellent service provision, engaged communities and improved health and wellbeing.

Financial implications – Financial implications are addressed within the refurbishment programme and procurement strategy, which identifies an approach to secure the Most Advantageous Tender.

Resource implications – Resource requirements and implications of the refurbishment, procurement and service delivery are fully considered.

Legal implications – Legal Services is engaged in reviewing the tender documentation and lease arrangements to ensure quality and compliance for the leisure management contract.

Risk implications – Key risks are being managed through the project risk registers and internal governance.

Equalities implications – The refurbishment programme and procurement documents are being developed to promote inclusive access for key user groups, supported by the completion of Equalities Impact Assessments.

Climate implications – The refurbishment programme and procurement address utilities, consumption and sustainability requirements within the improved facilities and new service operation, in line with the Corporation's Climate Action Strategy commitments.

Security implications - None.

Conclusion

14. The GLLC refurbishment programme and procurement of the new leisure management contract are progressing, with key milestones remaining on track. The procurement strategy draws on specialist leisure expertise and industry-standard documentation to secure a high-quality service. Engagement with the GLLC Steering Group is ongoing to ensure the refurbishment and future service reflect community priorities and user needs.

Appendices

- None

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City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee: Community and Children's Services Committee	**Dated:** 8 September 2026
Subject: Wardmote Updates	**Public report:** For Discussion
This proposal: • **delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes**	Diverse engaged communities. Providing excellent services.
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	£ 60,000 p.a.
What is the source of Funding?	City Fund
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Yes
Report of:	Judith Finlay Executive Director of Community and Children's Services
Report author:	Deborah Bell Strategic Director of Education and Skills

Summary

At the Grand Court of Wardmote on 12 May 2026, the below resolution arising from annual wardmotes 2026 was received concerning the Community and Children's Services Committee:

E - Ward of Portsoken – 18 March 2026

b) RESOLVED, that the Ward of Portsoken notes the deep concern among residents, parents and families regarding the future of childcare provision at The Aldgate School. This Wardmote further notes the particular importance of early years childcare provision, especially within the Aldgate and Portsoken area, which is identified in City Corporation reports as the most deprived area in the City of London and as experiencing higher levels of need, where access to affordable, high quality childcare is essential in supporting families and giving children the best possible start in life. Accordingly, this Wardmote

resolves to request that the City of London Corporation retains and continues to support early years childcare provision at The Aldgate School beyond 2027.

Main Report

Background

At its meeting on 30 June 2026, the Committee considered the Wardmote Updates item which asked that Members decide on the matter under the agenda item 0-2 Childcare Provision at The Aldgate School.

However, as the Committee resolved to defer the 0-2 Childcare Provision at The Aldgate School report to September's Committee meeting, the Wardmote Updates report also returns to the Committee for consideration.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the resolution and decide on the matter at this committee meeting under agenda item Subsidy of 0-2 childcare for The Aldgate School.

Dr Deborah Bell
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To:	**COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE**	8 September 2026
From:	**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**	9 July 2026

Appendix 6 – Draft Resolution to any/all Grand Committees with Sub-Committees

"That in the interests of demonstrating effective decision-making, the Policy & Resources Committee resolved:-

To instruct that any and all Grand Committees of the Court of Common Council that choose to appoint sub-committees, consider in earnest the benefits of empowering said sub-committees to take decisions without unnecessary recourse to the relevant Grand Committee, with a view to balance due diligence with efficiency."

Committees with sub-committees:

- Barbican Centre Board
- Board of Governors of the City of London Freemen's School
- Board of Governors of the City of London School
- Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls
- City of London Police Authority Board
- Community & Children's Services Committee
- Corporate Services Committee
- Education Board
- Finance Committee
- Planning & Transportation
- Policy & Resources Committee

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