Appendix 2

Update on Best Start for Life services following the decommissioning of the Children's Centre at The Aldgate School:

1. Following the transfer of the City's Children's Centre services from The Aldgate School to the City Corporation delivery model of Best Start in Life services in September 2025, there has been no increase in costs of delivery. This is caveated by the fact that The Aldgate School received one term's Children's Centre services funding for summer term 2025 which appears as an overspend from that budget for financial year 2025-26. This is a consequence of academic year and financial year budgetary arrangements. Availability of Best Start in Life services throughout the City has been well received by families who use the services as demonstrated in table a.

Sessions	% increase
Stay & Play Artizan Library	10%
Bumps & Babies (monthly sessions at Barbican Children's Library)	50%
Barbican Rhyme Time x3 weekly sessions	10%
Barbican Story Time	80%
Shoe Lane Rhyme time x3 weekly sessions	37%
Artizan Rhyme Time	8%

Table a. Increase in uptake from March 2025 to March 2026

Baby massage uptake has increased by 22% to date, although a March 2025 to March 2026 comparison is not available as the baby massage service was short-term delayed in recommencing due to staff training requirements.

Two new sensory room sessions have commenced at Smithfield Nursery with comparable uptake over the two fixed points used for this data unavailable until next term.

2. The Aldgate School acknowledges that the creation of a Family Hub service in the City, including Best Start in Life services, has disrupted the existing arrangements in place for over 20 years, and is a direct consequence of Government policy. Members have received reports on the development of the City's Family Hub at previous committee meetings and will continue to receive updates.