LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

WARDS: All

REPORT TITLE

Young Inspectors Report 2024 and Progress Update on Recommendations from the Young Inspectors Report 2023

REPORT OF

Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion and the Director of Relational Practice

FOR SUBMISSION TO

DATE

Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee

14 January 2025

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report sets out the findings, key messages, and recommendations of the Young Inspectors inspection of the Virtual School for children looked after and previously looked after.

The main focus of the young inspection was:

- To find out about the experience of children and young people of the support they receive from the Virtual School.
- To identify main themes based on the feedback from focus group discussions with young people and members of the Virtual School staff.
- To develop recommendations for the Virtual School based on the feedback from these focus group discussions.

The conclusions that emerged from the Young Inspectors gave rise to six key recommendations for the Virtual School for children looked after and previously looked after.

The report also includes a summary of action taken to implement the Young Inspectors Report 2023 recommendations.

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information

No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.

Contact Officers:

Vikram Hansrani, Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion, 5 Pancras Square, London, N1C 4AG 02079743926 / Vikram.Hansrani@camden.gov.uk

Nana Bonsu, Director of Relational Practice, 5 Pancras Square, London, N1C 4AG 02076608497 / Nana.Bonsu@camden.gov.uk

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment on and note:

- 1. The Young Inspectors Report 2024 (Appendix 1).
- 2. Progress Update on Recommendations from the Young Inspectors Report 2023 (Appendix 2).

Signed:

Rashida Baig, Director of Children's Prevention, Family Help and Safeguarding

Date: 31 December 2024

Kasmida Baig

1. Purpose of Report

The Young Inspectors is an annual programme involving young people with lived experience of services, who are trained and supported to inspect our work and make recommendations aimed at service improvement. The Young Inspectors undertake research into the views of children, families and professionals - about services provided by social care and partner agencies responsible for safeguarding children.

Feedback gathered by the Young Inspectors provides a foundation to the recommendations for service changes and development.

In January 2024 CSF scrutiny committee has requested an update on the progress of the recommendations from the Young Inspectors 2023 to report to a future committee which is included in appendix 2.

2. Key questions for the Committee

We would welcome the Committee's feedback to shape next steps:

- What has struck you about the findings from the Young Inspectors on the support children in care get from the Virtual School with their educational experiences?
- We've revised the format of this report to better highlight the tangible changes resulting from the recommendations of the young inspector's report from the previous year (2023). What are your impressions of this new format? What aspects did you find effective, and how do you think it could be improved further?

3. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

The Executive Director Corporate Services has been consulted on this report and has no comment.

4. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

The Borough solicitor has been consulted on this report and has no comment.

5. Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Young Inspectors Report 2024

Appendix 2 – Progress Update on Recommendations from the Young Inspectors Report 2023

REPORT ENDS