

Thurrock: A place of opportunity, enterprise and excellence, where individuals, communities and businesses flourish

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **8 March 2016**

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL

Membership:

Councillors James Halden (Chair), Yash Gupta (MBE) (Vice-Chair), Clare Baldwin, Leslie Gamester, Martin Kerin and Susan Little

Reverend Canon Darren Barlow, Church of England Representative
Patricia Wilson, Roman Catholic Church Representative
Myra Potter, Parent Governor Representative

Substitutes:

Councillors Joycelyn Redsell, Andrew Roast and Kevin Wheeler

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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2 Minutes	5 - 16
To approve as a correct record the minutes of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9 February 2016.	
3 Items of Urgent Business	
To receive additional items that the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
4 Declaration of Interests	

5 Items Raised by Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board

This item is reserved to discuss any issues raised by Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board.

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Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

Please contact Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer by sending an email to Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

Agenda published on: **29 February 2016**

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DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Breaching those parts identified as a pecuniary interest is potentially a criminal offence

Helpful Reminders for Members

- *Is your register of interests up to date?*
- *In particular have you declared to the Monitoring Officer all disclosable pecuniary interests?*
- *Have you checked the register to ensure that they have been recorded correctly?*

When should you declare an interest *at a meeting*?

- **What matters are being discussed at the meeting?** (including Council, Cabinet, Committees, Subs, Joint Committees and Joint Subs); or
- If you are a Cabinet Member making decisions other than in Cabinet **what matter is before you for single member decision?**



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

any of your registered interests and in particular any of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests?

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

- your spouse or civil partner's
- a person you are living with as husband/ wife
- a person you are living with as if you were civil partners

where you are aware that this other person has the interest.

A detailed description of a disclosable pecuniary interest is included in the Members Code of Conduct at Chapter 7 of the Constitution. **Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer about disclosable pecuniary interests.**

What is a Non-Pecuniary interest? – this is an interest which is not pecuniary (as defined) but is nonetheless so significant that a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard to be so significant that it would materially impact upon your judgement of the public interest.

Pecuniary

If the interest is not already in the register you must (unless the interest has been agreed by the Monitoring Officer to be sensitive) disclose the existence and nature of the interest to the meeting

If the Interest is not entered in the register and is not the subject of a pending notification you must within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the register

Unless you have received dispensation upon previous application from the Monitoring Officer, you must:

- Not participate or participate further in any discussion of the matter at a meeting;
- Not participate in any vote or further vote taken at the meeting; and
- leave the room while the item is being considered/voted upon

If you are a Cabinet Member you may make arrangements for the matter to be dealt with by a third person but take no further steps

Non- pecuniary

Declare the nature and extent of your interest including enough detail to allow a member of the public to understand its nature



You may participate and vote in the usual way but you should seek advice on Predetermination and Bias from the Monitoring Officer.

Vision: Thurrock: A place of **opportunity**, **enterprise** and **excellence**, where **individuals**, **communities** and **businesses** flourish.

To achieve our vision, we have identified five strategic priorities:

1. Create a great place for learning and opportunity

- Ensure that every place of learning is rated “Good” or better
- Raise levels of aspiration and attainment so that residents can take advantage of local job opportunities
- Support families to give children the best possible start in life

2. Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity

- Promote Thurrock and encourage inward investment to enable and sustain growth
- Support business and develop the local skilled workforce they require
- Work with partners to secure improved infrastructure and built environment

3. Build pride, responsibility and respect

- Create welcoming, safe, and resilient communities which value fairness
- Work in partnership with communities to help them take responsibility for shaping their quality of life
- Empower residents through choice and independence to improve their health and well-being

4. Improve health and well-being

- Ensure people stay healthy longer, adding years to life and life to years
- Reduce inequalities in health and well-being and safeguard the most vulnerable people with timely intervention and care accessed closer to home
- Enhance quality of life through improved housing, employment and opportunity

5. Promote and protect our clean and green environment

- Enhance access to Thurrock's river frontage, cultural assets and leisure opportunities
- Promote Thurrock's natural environment and biodiversity
- Inspire high quality design and standards in our buildings and public space

PUBLIC Minutes of the Meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9 February 2016 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors James Halden (Chair) and Andrew Roast (substitute for Susan Little)

Apologies: Councillors Yash Gupta (MBE) (Vice-Chair), Leslie Gamester, Martin Kerin and Susan Little
Patricia Wilson, Roman Catholic Church Representative

In attendance: Reverend Canon Darren Barlow, Church of England Representative
Myra Potter, Parent Governor Representative
Saania Ali, Youth Cabinet Representative
Sonny Tipping, Youth Cabinet Representative,
David Archibald, Interim Director of Children's Services
Andrew Carter, Head of Children's Social Care
Roger Edwardson, Interim Strategic Leader School Improvement, Learning and Skills
Frances Leddra, Strategic Lead, Safeguarding, Complex Care and Social Work
Michele Lucas, Interim Strategic Leader, Learning & Skills
Malcolm Taylor, Strategic Lead - Learner Support
Stephanie Cox, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting may be filmed and was being recorded, with the audio recording to be made available on the Council's website.

48. Minutes

The Minutes of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 19 January 2016, were approved as a correct record.

49. Items of Urgent Business

There were no urgent items of business.

The Chair updated the Committee regarding recent coverage concerning Palmer's College in light of an Ofsted inspection which indicated that students were not making the progress that would have otherwise been expected. He reported that this did not make Palmer's College a bad college but it did suggest that there were problems; as a result officers were due to meet with colleagues from the College to see if any support could be provided and it was agreed that the outcomes from this meeting would be reported back to the Committee at a later date.

The Chair further advised that the Committee would be moving into exempt session for the final item on the agenda, 'Learning from the Serious Case Review of "Megan"', as a precaution so to protect the identity of the individual concerned, however he hoped to ensure that the process was as fully transparent as possible by publishing a redacted audio recording in order to demonstrate how the Council and its partners were being held to account.

50. Declaration of Interests

Reverend Barlow declared a non-pecuniary interest in the general business of the meeting as his wife was a teacher at Thameside Primary School and he had children attending the Grays Convent School and Palmer's College. He was also Vice-Chair of the William Palmer Trust.

Myra Potter declared a non-pecuniary interest in the general business of the meeting as she was a member of staff at Palmer's College and had children attending Little Thurrock Primary School.

51. Items Raised by Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board

There were no matters raised for discussion by Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board.

The Chair informed the Committee that this item had been included as a standing item on the agenda for each meeting so that the Thurrock Local Safeguarding Board could refer a matter or cause for concern without delay for consideration.

52. Troubled Families Programme

The Head of Children's Social Care introduced the report which provided an update on the progress and performance of Thurrock's expanded Troubled Families Programme that aimed to assist 1160 more families by May 2020.

Councillor Roast queried how the target figure of 1160 families was determined and whether this was the maximum that could be offered support. In response the Head of Children's Social Care explained that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) set the minimum target figure of 1160 families for the scheme to be deemed a success, but that more could be assisted above and beyond that number.

The Committee were advised that during Phase 1 of the Troubled Families Programme Thurrock had exceed their target and helped to turn around the lives of more families.

Reverend Barlow highlighted that such cases were not easy to turnaround and that many families would require ongoing support to ensure that any positive progress made was sustainable in the long-term and expressed concern that the programme could become a simple tick-box exercise.

Members were assured that each case was reviewed by the Troubled Families Board and calculations made as to how long support was offered and what outcomes could be demonstrated in real terms. It was reported that Phase 1 of the Troubled Families Programme had only finished in May 2015 so that there still was further work to be undertaken in order to examine long term effects.

Councillor Halden observed that the scheme was clearly working but questioned how much money had been saved and how this compared to other local authorities, to which Members were advised that £1.3 million had been recharged and Thurrock was the only authority that had completed early in the eastern region.

Councillor Halden further questioned whether this work could be traded with other local authorities in order to generate income, in response the Head of Children's Social Care explained that this would be difficult as each local authority faced different issues and it was important that Thurrock focused on succeeding itself in order to maximise the payment by results benefits, although Phase 2 did offer more flexibility regarding traded services.

Reverend Barlow observed that he was uneasy regarding the payment by results aspect of the scheme and questioned whether this was a help or a hindrance to officers.

In response, the Head of Children's Social Care explained that he felt that the payment by results aspect of the scheme was a help as officers were required to evidence success, which had been something that previously the local authority had not been good at. He added that Thurrock had learnt a lot from the data set model used by the Troubled Families Programme and that officers were now looking at where the model could be better used across other services.

Councillor Halden requested that an update be provided to the Committee once the cost calculator was completed so that Members could be assured that an existing service was not simply being repackaged.

RESOLVED:

That the committee scrutinise the work completed on the Troubled Families programme and acknowledge the impact the programme has had on turning around the lives of children and adults in Thurrock.

53. Children's Mental Health

The Strategic Lead for Learner Support introduced the report which provided an overview of the current mental health needs of local children and the young people's population and set out the work of the commissioned service that aimed to improve access to a wide range of jointly funded specialist support with a focus on the most vulnerable children and young people.

Councillor Halden queried whether members of the Youth Cabinet were aware of the work that the Council was undertaking with partners in relation to improving Children's Mental Health.

The Youth Cabinet Representatives set out a number of projects the Youth Cabinet were undertaking in relation to Children and Young People's mental health which included the production of a video to raise awareness, and that NELFT (North East London NHS Foundation Trust) had hosted a number of good events; however were unaware of any other specific projects being delivered by the local authority.

The Committee were advised that the design and the delivery of the service was taking a less clinical focused approach and that a consultation had been undertaken with young people as part of the commissioning process.

Councillor Roast queried how Thurrock compared to other local authorities in terms of percentage of Children's Mental Health need, to which the Strategic Lead for Learner Support explained that Thurrock was broadly in line with regional averages however he would confirm the detail and report back to Members outside of the meeting.

Reverend Barlow questioned whether there was a variation in support offered between grant maintained schools and academies and was advised that academies commissioned varying types of support but that further assistance was provided to all schools through the Strategic Partnership group and Safeguarding Needs Forum.

Councillor Halden asked for clarification regarding the referral approach as he felt that young people did not always find it easy to discuss problems with School Councillors or GP's.

Members were advised that different access routes and a communication plan were in place with NELFT as it was recognised an informal approach and support among peers could be of benefit to those seeking help.

Councillor Halden praised the chaplaincy service offered at Gable Hall School.

The Youth Cabinet Representatives explained that Youth Cabinet had produced a video to raise awareness of mental health issues and of peer support networks. They were keen to explore further opportunities Youth Cabinet could help support Child and Young Person's Mental Health issues.

The Chair and Strategic Lead for Learner Support advised that they would be happy to attend a meeting of Youth Cabinet in order to explore a range of creative ways further support could be offered to young people.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That members receive further reports once data is available to enable scrutiny of the delivery of the new service offer with a focus on those groups most at risk.**
- 2. That member's note that the Corporate Parenting Committee will also receive reports on the access to support and services by looked after children.**

54. Cultural Entitlement - An update on the Trailblazer Programme

The Interim Strategic Leader for School Improvement, Learning and Skills introduced the report which set out the work of the Royal Opera House (ROH) in increasing the participation of Thurrock's children and young people as part of a cultural entitlement.

A publication by the Royal Opera House Bridge entitled 'The Paths We Take, Royal Opera House Bridge 2012 to 2015 and beyond' was tabled at the meeting which further demonstrated the good work that had been undertaken.

The Parent Governor Representative felt that schools adopted different approaches with publicising the programme and engaged with the cultural entitlement offer with varying success, and further remarked that in her own experience one school had been significantly more proactive than another in promoting school holiday programmes and events.

The Committee were informed that 28 out of a total of 52 Thurrock schools participated in the programme but that Head Teacher involvement and Senior Management team support was critical to success.

Councillor Halden commended the positive work but explained that he had hoped to see more evidence of strong cultural heritage, and was concerned that some children still did not have access to such cultural opportunities due to varying personal circumstances. He questioned how progress was monitored to ensure that all schools made the very best effort for young people.

Officers advised that the Royal Opera House facilitated the work of a range of cultural providers but affirmed that more could always be done to improve publicity.

Councillor Roast asked whether the programme was relevant to children's day nurseries and whether this could be rolled out to them. The Interim Strategic Leader for School Improvement, Learning and Skills acknowledged that he was unsure if the cultural offer could apply to nursery and pre-school settings but he welcomed the idea and stated that he would investigate and report back outside of the meeting.

Reverend Barlow queried what could be done differently to engage with the other 24 schools in order to get them on board with the programme. In response officers explained that they wanted a cultural champion in every school, or a cluster of schools, and to increase partnership working between schools.

It was further reported that the Cultural Entitlement Programme further built upon the work of the Committee in relation to Supporting Pathways into Work for Young People as successful apprenticeships had been delivered through the programme.

A Youth Cabinet Representative outlined the work that he had undertaken in offering apprenticeship advice for young people, some of whom had applied to the Royal Opera House for an apprenticeship.

The Committee were advised that story festival activities would be repeated through the Village Beach event.

The Chair proposed a new recommendation, which requested that officers obtain further information from Royal Opera House regarding the schools that had not been engaged with the programme and to determine the profile of children and young people who currently participated in activities so that further outreach could be undertaken with those who were under-represented.

The Committee indicated their agreement to the new recommendation, as they sought assurances that every effort was being made to improve outreach.

RESOLVED:

- 1. The Committee endorse the work of the Royal Opera House and encourage all Thurrock schools to participate in the challenge.**
- 2. As part of this cultural entitlement, the Committee is asked to explore new opportunities to secure funding from sponsors to widen access to arts and culture across the borough.**
- 3. That officers be instructed to seek more information from Royal Opera House regarding the schools which had not bought into the Cultural Programme and to establish the profile of children and young people who were currently engaged so that further work could be undertaken to improve outreach.**

55. Alternative Delivery Model for the Thurrock Youth Offer

The Interim Strategic Leader, Learning & Skills introduced the report which proposed the development of 'Inspire', the Youth Trust, as a staff mutual in order to respond to and take advantage of funding and partnership opportunities as a means to address social-economic, health and educational inequalities facing the young people of Thurrock.

The Committee were advised that financial due diligence had been undertaken, which was detailed in a previous report during the autumn, and that a business plan had been developed in conjunction with the Cabinet Office.

Councillor Halden observed that despite his initial scepticism regarding governance, he was comforted by the governance structure that was now in place but asked for assurances regarding the Shadow Body and whether they would be taking ownership of the legal questions raised in the report. In response the Interim Strategic Leader for Learning & Skills confirmed that the Shadow Body would be taking ownership of the legal questions which had been highlighted.

Reverend Barlow remarked that the report highlighted the benefits of the approach but questioned whether any drawbacks had been identified.

In response officers explained that some of the challenges had been the time constraints and capacity to deliver within a finite budget without missing income-generating opportunities, as other local authorities had been in contact to ask Thurrock to help deliver services.

The Chair remarked that he would be willing to attend a meeting of Cabinet to support the proposal for the alternative delivery model.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorse the recommendation to Cabinet on the development of 'Inspire', the Youth Trust, as a staff mutual having noted the opportunities and risks.**
- 2. That members endorse the recommendation to Cabinet to agree the stages outlined in this report and note that a commissioning report will be referred back to Cabinet for agreement as per current procurement regulations.**
- 3. That members note the recommendations to be made to Cabinet with regard to the provision to award a contract to a new mutual for three years in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.**
- 4. That it be agreed regular monitoring reports be referred to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee as appropriate as a part of the ongoing governance of the project.**

56. Work Programme

The Senior Democratic Services Officer advised that the Admissions Forum report would be removed from the work programme as the forum had been disbanded some time ago.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be agreed, subject to the change detailed above.

57. Exclusion of Public and Press

The Chair advised all those present that due to the fact that this particular case was still active, unlike previous cases such as “Julia” which had been closed, it was important to respect and retain the anonymity of the individual concerned and therefore recommended that the item move into exempt session.

Members agreed to exclude the press and public for the remainder of the meeting during the consideration of the next agenda item, ‘Learning from the Serious Case Review “Megan”’ on the grounds that information could reveal the identity of an individual under paragraph 2 as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the item involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, paragraph 2 on the grounds that information was likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

At 8.05 pm the meeting moved into exempt session and the Chair requested that members of the Public, Press and Youth Cabinet Representatives leave the meeting room during consideration of the next item.

58. EXEMPT - Learning from the Serious Case Review "Megan"

The Head of Children’s Social Care firstly apologised on behalf of David Peplow, Independent Chair of the Thurrock Local Safeguarding Board (LSCB), who was unable to attend the meeting to present the report on behalf of the board.

The Head of Children’s Social Care introduced the report of Thurrock Local Safeguarding Board (LSCB), which set out the nature of the Serious Case Review covering the period from 2008 to 2013 and the reasons why the Serious Case Review was undertaken.

The Committee were advised that the Serious Case Review challenged agencies to look at their practices, such as how they were working together to deliver a coordinated approach, and questioned whether the persons involved had taken on board the history of the case rather than adopt what was referred to as a “start again” syndrome each time a referral was made.

It was noted that the Local Safeguarding Children's Board conference in 2014 focused on neglect and an adolescent toolkit had been developed in an attempt to challenge the misconception that adolescent teenagers were able to help themselves and remove themselves from the situation.

The Head of Children's Social Care assured Members that the landscape was now very different but recognised there was still learning to be done and that Social Workers and Professionals were currently piloting the NSPCC's (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) Graded Care Profile 2 in order to better assess care and identify neglect.

Particular reference was made to the process that had been undertaken for the Serious Case Review, that the publication had been delayed in order to further investigate medical evidence, and the matter had been referred to an Independent Risk Assessor as there were concerns that the young person could be identified from the report.

Councillor Halden expressed concern that despite multi-referrals no quality checks were made to determine whether any referrals had a tangible impact.

During the debate Members queried whether the persons involved in the failures of the case had any professional conduct action taken against them as a consequence, to which officers explained that the agency Social Worker involved had been referred to the professional body, the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), for review; however those staff from other agencies and partners were subject to their own professional codes of conduct and it was the responsibility of those agencies to progress this matter in accordance with their own policies and procedures.

It was recognised that the purpose of the Serious Case Review was not to apportion blame but to identify learning to ensure that a similar case could not happen again, however Members requested that the Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) ask colleagues and partners to share information that could be disclosed regarding any outcomes of professional conduct action taken so that the Committee could be assured that those involved were held accountable.

Reverend Barlow recognised that whilst the report was that of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and not of the Council, and as a result officers may not be best placed to answer, he highlighted that despite an apparent catalogue of failings such little change had been enacted and queried how aware the persons involved would have been of the detailed timeline of the case and what safeguards were in place for parents who wished to home educate.

A discussion took place regarding the issue of home elective education and the ability to establish a link to safeguarding concerns. Members expressed concern that a decision to home educate could result in a child receiving little or no education over a significant period of time, with no apparent checks and balances, and that it could effectively remove a vulnerable young person out

of the education system which could otherwise help to identify safeguarding concerns. It was felt that robust oversight was required to determine whether it was appropriate for those children and young people who had safeguarding concerns to be permitted to receive home education.

During the discussion officers made particular reference to the following key points:

- That legislatively parents had a right to educate their children at home and there were limitations on what actions the Local Authority could take unless there were suitable grounds to investigate matters further due to safeguarding concern, which had not been prevalent at the time in this case.
- That there were now procedures in place regarding elective home education and safeguarding issues.
- That arrangements for monitoring children had been tightened significantly and increased awareness of risks.
- That it was recognised the school could have provided more effective challenge and escalated the matter to Senior Management.

Councillor Halden observed that if legislative routes had been exhausted there were other options to escalate the matter further, such as through a judicial process.

A brief discussion took place on criminal action for child neglect cases, and in what circumstances would it be most appropriate, and legal, to take such action.

Councillor S. Little arrived at the meeting at 9.10 pm and was permitted to observe by the Chair.

Reverend Barlow asked the Head of Children's Social Care whether he felt the service was adequately funded and resourced, to which it was explained that there was adequate funding available but significant budget pressures at the present time based on the level of demand, however that the level of demand was changeable. Members were advised that there was a good Early Offer of Help service but it was important to continually monitor the level of caseloads; it was reported that the service had seen an increase in the number of adolescents entering the care system which had put additional pressure on budgets.

The Chair indicated that it was not standard practice for Serious Case Reviews to be referred to the Committee, however he felt that it was important that Members had the opportunity to scrutinise any action plan. As a result he proposed the following actions to be taken, which were agreed by the Committee:

- That the action plan from the Serious Case Review of “Megan” be referred to the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
- That the Head of Children’s Social Care to work with the Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board in order to ask partners whether any professional standards action had been taken against the persons involved in the case.
- That in light of the Committee’s concerns regarding the oversight of elective home education for those children and young people who were at risk of safeguarding issues, it be agreed that the Chair write to the Chief Executive to make her aware of such concerns.
- That officer’s be instructed to establish whether the Council needed to invest in digitising archives, in response to the fact that the LSCB had difficulty in obtaining information about referrals.

The Interim Strategic Leader for School Improvement, Learning and Skills advised the Committee that when parents moved into the Borough they were under no legal obligation to inform the local authority that they had children of school age.

In response the Chair suggested that this matter should be explored along with admission arrangements by the Admissions Manager, Colin Jones.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee consider and comment upon the report.

The meeting finished at 9.20 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk**

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8 March 2016	ITEM: 6
Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Youth Cabinet Activity and Impact 2015 / 2016	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision:
Report of: Patrick Kielty – Working with Youth Cabinet Michele Lucas – Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills	
Accountable Service Manager: Michele Lucas - Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills	
Accountable Director: David Archibald – Interim Director Children’s Services	
This report is: Public	

Executive Summary

This report sets the activities and events carried out by the Youth Cabinet in the past year and will highlight the impact to young people and the wider community. The report will include the consultations carried out and the projects that the Youth Cabinet have focussed on during the year.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To continue to support the work undertaken by the Youth Cabinet thus enabling young people to remain at the heart of decision making regarding youth related activities.**
- 1.2 To continue to support members of the Youth Cabinet in the development of an alternative vehicle for delivering youth related activities recognising the need to secure savings going forward, whilst ensuring young people remain at the heart of the regeneration agenda.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1.** The Thurrock Youth Cabinet was formed in 2006 with the aim of providing a voice for all young people in Thurrock. There are currently 42 members (between 11-19 yrs) representing local schools and youth groups. In addition since April 2014 a number of young people (11) have joined via the application process, which through the constitution, makes it open for any local young person to take part.

2.2. The Youth Cabinet carries out its work via a series of meetings, events and sessions. The following will have taken place between April 2014 and March 2015:

- 11 x monthly youth cabinet meetings
- 11 x monthly working groups
- 3 x UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) regional conventions
- 1 x UKYP annual sitting
- 1 x UKYP youth debate at the House of Commons
- 1 x youth debate at Thurrock Council (Democracy week)
- 1 x summer residential
- 1 x Thurrock Urban games
- 2 x teambuilding events
- 1 x civic dinner
- 2 x commissioning reviews
- 1x Youth Conference

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 The following are the key pieces of work the Youth Cabinet have undertaken in this time period:

3.2 It has grown rapidly in 2015 and we now have 42 members from across Thurrock. Below are some of the outcomes from the last year:

- **2015 UK Youth Parliament 'Make Your Mark' Ballot** - this is a national consultation open to all young people 11-18 years in the UK. Young people vote on their top issue (out of a choice of 10) and the issues with the highest number of votes are then debated by Members of Youth Parliament (MYP's) in the House of Commons. Following the debates all MYP's subsequently vote on what will be the 2016 UK Youth Parliament national campaign.

This work is led locally by the Thurrock Youth Cabinet. In 2015 there were 6,904 votes cast by Thurrock young people which equated to a voter turnout of 42%.

- **Supporting Pathways Group** – members of the Thurrock Youth Cabinet were represented on this group which looked at work experience and preparing young people for future employment. Both the young people on this group and the wider youth cabinet were involved in this work, the discussions which took place and the development of the recommendations that came out of it.
- **The Fairness Commission** – our Member of Youth Parliament was an active member of the Thurrock Fairness Commission – a group looking at the issue of fairness in Thurrock. The recommendations of this group have recently been published.

- **C2C Youth Panel** – the train operator has recently set up a youth panel to seek the views of young people about train travel and areas such as security, pricing and safety. The Chairperson of the Thurrock Youth Cabinet is a member.
- **Thurrock Peer Review** – as part of this review a group of youth cabinet members will be interviewed about their involvement with the council and their understanding of the growth agenda within the borough.
- **Planning Group** – this group has been set up in partnership with the council's planning department. Youth Cabinet members on the group will be developing their knowledge around planning and helping to ensure young people are aware of local developments and can play an active role in shaping these.
- **Staff Recruitment** – members of the youth cabinet continue to be involved in the recruitment of council staff working with children and young people. A youth cabinet panel was part of the recruitment for the Chief Executive and the same panel will be in place for the upcoming appointment of the Director of Children's Services
- **Thurrock Youth Conference 2015** – members both planned and delivered this annual conference in November with 80 young people attending from a variety of schools in Thurrock. Youth Cabinet members took responsibility for the running of the event which included chairing debates, facilitating workshops and organising the market stall area.
- **Inspire Youth Charity** – members have been involved in the proposals to set up a charity outside of the council to deliver youth related activities. This has taken the form of regular consultation and dialogue and has now developed to be a youth board which meets on a monthly basis and will be responsible for scrutinising future plans and working with the council of the developments of Inspire.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The Thurrock Youth Cabinet aims to give a voice to all young people in Thurrock and to ensure local young people are actively involved in democracy and decisions which affect them and their peers.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

The Youth Cabinet have been involved in a number of consultation exercises over the year to ensure that young people have a voice in the local decisions which impact both on themselves and the wider communities of Thurrock.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 This piece of work directly links with the 5 corporate priorities of Thurrock Council.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager

The support provided to the Youth Cabinet sits within the Thurrock Youth Offer, we will continue to work closely with the Youth Cabinet in relation to the councils savings over the coming year.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**
Education Lawyer

The Committee is asked to note the report content and continue to lend its support.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**
Community Development Officer

The Thurrock Youth Cabinet aims to represent the wider community of young people in Thurrock. It is a diverse group in terms of age (11-19 yrs), gender, ethnicity and disability – reflecting the make-up of young people residing in Thurrock. Numerous schools and local groups (including Sea Cadets & Scouts) and schools are represented and the Youth Cabinet has a close link with another local young people's forum: Thurrock's Children in Care Council.

Through its membership and activities the Youth Cabinet is committed to equality and diversity. The membership reflects the diversity of the local area and members run a number of events throughout the year to engage diverse groups (e.g. youth conference, outreach events, joint sessions with the Thurrock Children in Care Council). A number of Youth Cabinet members have trained as Hate Crime Ambassadors and are committed working in this area. In February 2015, the Youth Cabinet will receive a presentation on the newly formed Thurrock Fairness Commission, with a view to getting involved in this.

In terms of access the Youth Cabinet is open to any young people (11-19 yrs) living or been educated in Thurrock.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None

9. **Appendices to the report**

- None

Report Author:

Patrick Kielty
Participation Officer and Thurrock Youth Cabinet

Michele Lucas
Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills

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8 March 2016	ITEM: 7
Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Pupil Place Plan (2016-2020)	
Report of: Janet Clark, Strategic Lead - Operations, Resources and Libraries Unit	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key
Accountable Head of Service: David Archibald, Interim Director of Children’s Services	
Accountable Director: David Archibald, Interim Director of Children’s Services	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

The Authority has undertaken to publish an annual Pupil Place Plan (PPP) and the 2016 to 2020 version is available as a draft for discussion.

The Pupil Place Plan gives information about the supply of school places in the Authority and forecasts pupil numbers for the next five years, setting the context of the provision of school places in the Authority.

The Pupil Place Planning Sub Group, which is made up of head teachers, governors and Local Authority representatives requested for the PPP document to remain in its current format because it provides a clear and concise picture of pupil place planning across the Authority.

1. Recommendations:

1.1 That the comments of the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Pupil Place Plan and the draft forecasts be noted.

2. Introduction and Background:

2.1 Thurrock Council has a statutory duty to provide a school place for every child living in its area of responsibility, who is of school age and whose parents want their child educated in the state funded sector.

2.2 To aid meeting this statutory duty, the Authority undertook to publish an annual PPP. This document is used by many interested parties, including potential school sponsors and developers of new dwellings.

- 2.3 As population demographics are dynamic, it is necessary to continually review and update pupil place forecasts. Pupil place requirements are reviewed several times during the year and an annual report is published with the latest forecasts.
- 2.4 The latest draft PPP for the period 2016 to 2020 is attached for comment. The PPP gives information about the supply of school places in the Authority and forecasts pupil numbers for the next five years, with information on the changing context within which planning takes place.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The context within which the Council is required to plan school places is becoming increasingly complex and Thurrock Council has robust processes in place. We have a PPP team in place that meets every 2 weeks. The group is made up of officers from the PPP team, Finance, Admissions, Awards & Benefits, Transport & Early Years. This group reviews current positions, issues and forecasts. This allows the Authority to take the necessary action at the earliest opportunity to increase school places when required.
- 3.2 When schools become academies they are able to increase their numbers without agreement from the Authority within proscribed limits. The Authority is not permitted to open a new school without a competitive competition and the presumption is in favour of Free Schools, which take on average 3 years to bring to fruition.
- 3.3 During the last few years the Council has experienced a significant increase in the number of in - year applications from families moving into the Borough. The unprecedented number of applications for places in all year groups made during the academic year from families unknown to the Borough is very difficult to manage. Many of these families are arriving in Thurrock from London and abroad.
- 3.4 Thurrock Council is in a good position by having built strong working relationships with its schools and academies, to accommodate these large increases through carrying out a number of school expansions and the building of our first 5FE primary school (Harris Mayflower Academy) in conjunction with Harris Federation and the Education Funding Agency (EFA) in West Thurrock.
- 3.5 Thurrock is made up of a number of school planning areas, five for the primary sector: Aveley, Ockendon and Purfleet, Grays, Tilbury, Corringham and Stanford-Le-Hope and the Rural area. There are three in the secondary sector: West, Central and East, these larger planning areas provide more flexibility when considering pupil placement.
- 3.6 The Harris Primary Academy Mayflower new build will be ready for occupation in September 2016. This will be our first 5 forms of entry primary school in Thurrock. The school opened in September 2014 in temporary accommodation.

- 3.7 The primary phase forecasts in the 5 year plan are calculated on the basis of known data regarding live births in Thurrock, the number of children already on roll in schools and the anticipated child yield from proposed housing developments in the planning system. However, our experience over the last three years of the scale of demand from families arriving in the Borough throughout the academic year has resulted in the need to include an element of additional places to meet this demand. In the 2014/15 academic year a further 5.6% of the total school population has arrived in the Thurrock from elsewhere. As at January 2016 the percentage of in year admissions from September 2015 is already 3.2%.
- 3.8 There is currently surplus capacity in the secondary phase and therefore the projections are based on known data of how many children there are in Thurrock schools and historic patterns of transfer. We anticipate that the surplus capacity in secondary schools will be required as the increased primary population moves through the system. The number of children the Borough retains between Year 6 and Year 7 is also likely to increase as neighbouring Boroughs schools fill up with their own increased primary population due to the general rise in pupil population. The need for secondary places will also be closely monitored with regards the impact of inward migration.
- 3.9 Due to high numbers of in year admissions in 2014/15 we have opened up a number of bulge classes in year groups across the Authority. In the main we have placed these where we are in the process of permanently expanding and are commencing building works. This reduces the need for temporary accommodation to be on the school's site for long periods of time. The scale of inward migration is difficult to manage, as we cannot know before they apply how many children need to be accommodated in which year groups. The situation is under constant review.
- 3.10 As part of the Council's drive to ensure a strategic and proactive approach to pupil place planning, a PPP Sub Group was set up with representatives from headteachers, governors and local authority representatives.
- 3.11 The sub group of the Schools' Forum set up to work with officers in reviewing and discussing PPP data is operating extremely well. Having the data open and transparent to all and with the authority promoting open dialogue has been welcomed. Schools and academies now feel more integral to the process and are happy to make recommendations for the Authority to consider. This has further strengthened relationships and trust between the Authority, academies and schools.
- 3.12 When comparing our forecasts for September 2015 in the previous version of the PPP document, to actual numbers admitted has proven to be accurate, and robust, which gives confidence in the projection methodology being used.

3.13 It is prudent to build in a number of surplus places to forecasts to allow the Authority to manage the demand for children entering Thurrock outside the normal admission rounds.

4. Reasons for Recommendation:

4.1 Section 14(1) of the Education Act 1996 places a legal duty on local authorities to secure sufficient primary and secondary school places for children in their area.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 The Schools' Forum Sub Group was consulted on the format of the new Pupil Place Planning Document. The draft Pupil Place Plan will be sent to governors, maintained schools, academies and the Free schools for consultation.

6. Impact on Corporate Policies, Priorities, Performance and Community Impact

6.1 The issues in this paper support one of the five strategic priorities in the vision of the Authority: *To create a great place for learning and opportunity* - by supporting families to give children the best possible start in life; and raising levels of aspirations and attainment so that local residents can take advantage of job opportunities in the local area.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: Kay Goodacre

Finance Manager

School places are funded through allocations of the ring fenced Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), and the levels of funding received by the Local Authority is determined on the basis of lagged pupil numbers from the preceding October school census. Any in-year growths therefore have to be met from top slicing the individual schools budgets, which can put some short term pressure on school finances. To ensure optimal use of resources, the Local Authority will need to ensure that the numbers of unfilled in-year places are constantly kept under review.

The Capital costs of providing the infrastructure to provide more School places are generally funded through Basic Needs Capital Grants, although there is continual pressure on these costs and in some cases there would be the need to borrow to support further development. These costs would be detailed within the Schools Capital plan

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: Lucinda Bell
Education Lawyer

S14 of the Education Act 1996 requires that a Local Authority secures sufficient schools in its area.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: Natalie Warren
Community Development and Equalities Manager

The Pupil Place Plan aims to inform the Thurrock Capital Programme to improve learning environments for young people, support improvements in standards, raise aspirations and give all children the best possible start in life.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental

None

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Pupil Place Plan (2015-2019)

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1 – Draft Pupil Place Plan (2016-2020)

Report Author:

Janet Clark

Strategic Lead - Operations, Resources and Libraries Unit

Commissioning, Policy, Performance & Support

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PUPIL PLACE PLAN

2016 - 2020

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**For the purpose of this document, data has been extracted from the
Autumn 2015 Census**

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the third edition of the Pupil Place Planning (PPP) document. To date the publication of this document has been welcomed and widely used by stakeholders such as developers, schools and academies and many others. The forecasts contained in this document are also used to inform the schools capital programme and to date we have delivered high quality projects that contributes to ensuring the delivery of good educational outcomes for the children of Thurrock.

Having this data has allowed us to review trend data on pupil numbers which helps with future forecasting. Thurrock continues to be a place of choice for families wishing to move into the area and this can be seen from the numbers of children requiring a school place.

We are very fortunate in Thurrock to have built strong working relationships with our schools and academies and this allows us to work in partnership with them when identifying locations where we can build in additional capacity for schools places. The Authority has arranged for a sub group of the Schools' Forum to be set up so that we can work closely with this group in reviewing data and options, This allows for total openness and transparency with decisions that are made when meeting the demand for additional places. This group has worked effectively over the last twelve months and has been welcomed by stakeholders. This has further strengthened the partnership working we have in place with our schools and academies.

It is hoped that this document continues to be of interest to all stakeholders and that the content is both useful and clear.

SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING

Over the last 4 years we have seen a steep increase in the primary population and these numbers are not subsiding and continue to increase. These numbers have risen by 29% in Thurrock schools. This edition identifies the pupil increase we have been experiencing over the last few years now feeding in to our secondary provision. This is a major issue going forward as we now need to increase secondary capacity. Officers have been in dialogue with the DfE with regards this issue and will be working with prospective sponsors to meet this demand.

The PPP document covers education for children in the age range of 4 – 16. Post 16 provision information is contained in Annex4.

Special and Additional Needs Educational provision and Early Years and Childcare provision are undertaken by another specialist area within Thurrock Council and are not covered in this document.

Thurrock Council has a legal obligation to provide a school place for every child of school age who live in the borough. PPP is a difficult art and can never be an exact science. Planning for school places begins with the acquisition of birth data which identifies the number of children that are born and the post code they live in and it is assumed that 4 years later they will enter the school system in a local school. There are a number of factors that are forever changing and need to be considered. In-year admissions, where children come into the Authority mid-year (outside the normal admission rounds) is very difficult to foresee and project. Numbers of children that have moved in to Thurrock from elsewhere in the country and those that have moved in from other countries can be seen on page 29

Thurrock's forecasting for school places to date has been robust and accurate with a 0.3% difference between forecasts and actual numbers admitted for September 2015. The difficulty with forecasting is that although forecasts are accurate we are not able to identify how old the children will be that move into the Authority and to what year group they will move into. This takes close monitoring and we need to be in a position at times to take swift action in opening up classes within certain year groups. Every effort is made to seek and offer a school place within reasonable travelling distance from the pupil's home.

Work is currently being commissioned to review the methodology of the calculation of child yield from new Housing developments within Thurrock. It is hoped that more up-to-date and robust formulae can be found to enable Thurrock to project the number of pupils produced from any given development. Thurrock currently does not project any child yield from a one bedroomed flat but the current economic climate suggest that this is not so. One other issue that has arisen, when working with our Awards and Benefits team, is that evidence reveals that families are moving in with other families within existing dwellings making it difficult for Thurrock Council to predict demand at local school level.

CONTEXT

Thurrock is located on the north bank of the river Thames, twenty miles east of central London and has 18 miles of river front. More than half of the land in Thurrock is designated Green Belt land.

Thurrock boasts a 21st century, forward-looking council, using modern management methods, leading an empowered workforce to deliver entrepreneurial services with all our partners to all of our communities. It is a place of opportunity, enterprise and excellence, where individuals, communities and businesses flourish. There are many exciting projects to be proud of, such as:-

- Thames Enterprise Port - providing 12,000 jobs with a £1.5 billion investment
- Thames Nature Park
- Development of Tilbury - providing 1,000 homes, 3,800 jobs and a £800 million investment
- Development of Grays –providing 4,500 homes, 1,600 jobs and a £650 million investment
- Development of Purfleet – providing 2,500 homes and a media centre, 2,800 jobs and a £1.5 billion investment
- Development Lakeside/Thurrock –providing 6,000 homes, 9,000 jobs and a £1.15 billion investment
- Improvements to the M25 at junctions 30/3
- High House Production Park -250 jobs and a £65million investment
- RSPB Rainham Marshes

Thurrock's population is 157,700, having grown by over 22.5% since 1990. Thurrock has a young population by national standards. There are 42,800 children under the age of 19 (26.8% of population) and 12,100 children are under the age of five. The number of 0 -19 year olds in Thurrock is set to increase to 50,500 by 2037. The distribution of children under 15 years of age is centred in the south of the borough in Tilbury, Chafford, North Stifford, West Thurrock and Ockendon.

The population is increasingly diverse. According to the 2011 census BME population was 15.7% – a significant increase from the 2001 census of 4.7%. Among school-age children, over one in four (26.5%) are from a black and minority ethnic group. The latest available data (2012) indicates that Thurrock may have a slightly higher population of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children than the national average (0.3% compared to 0.2%).

Thurrock's Community Strategy lays out the long-term vision and priorities for Thurrock. There are five priorities which are reflected in the council's Corporate Plan

and Medium Term Financial Strategy, as well as service strategies and plans. The five priorities which have cross-party political support are:

- Create a great place for learning and opportunity;
- Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity;
- Build pride, responsibility and respect to create safer communities;
- Improve health and well-being;
- Promote and protect our clean and green environment;

Much of the riverside area of Thurrock is highly urbanised with a mixture of industrial and residential development at the west and eastern ends of the Authority. The Authority is characterised by five main urban communities plus a large rural area containing five main villages. The urban communities are:

- Grays and the adjacent Chafford Hundred
- West Thurrock and Purfleet
- Stanford-Le-Hope and Corringham
- Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary
- Aveley and Ockendon

Thurrock also boasts a large retail park at Lakeside.

South Essex College opened in September 2014. The new £45 million Thurrock Campus is a state-of-the-art facility, located on Grays High Street in the heart of the town centre, with teaching facilities second to none, with specially designed workshops for construction and engineering, as well as art & design.

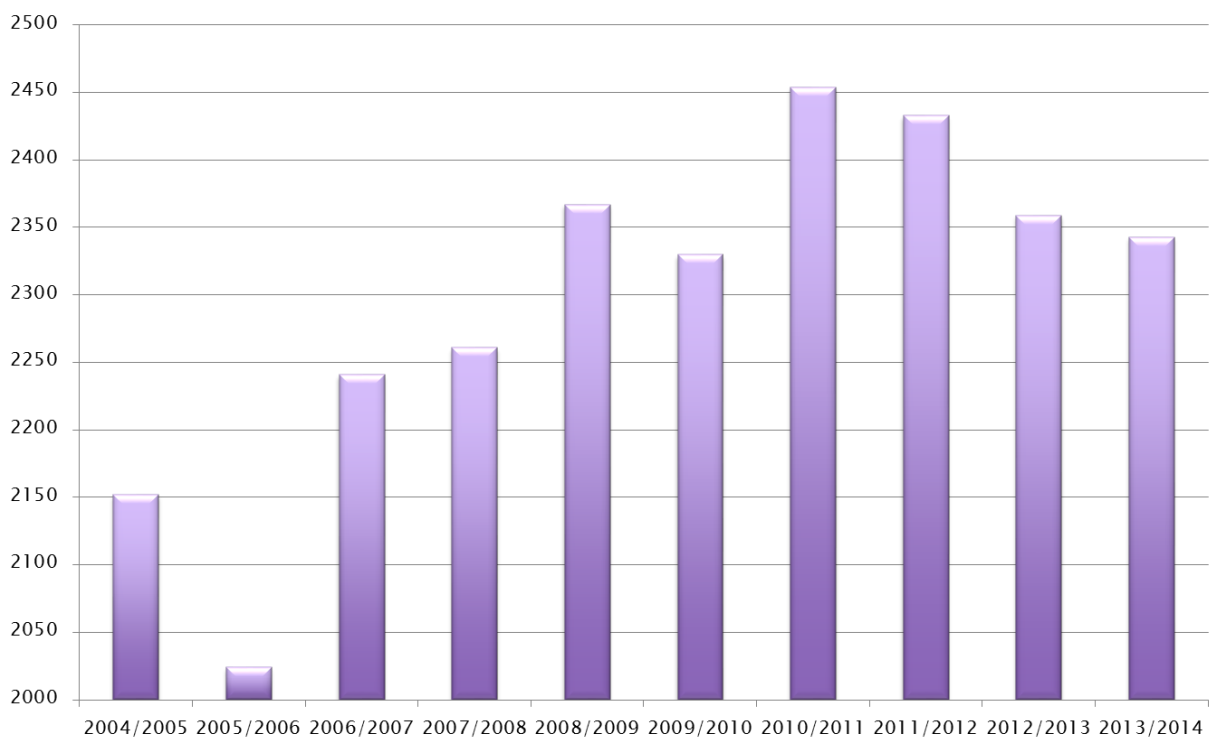
The residents of Thurrock benefit from good transport links. The M25 passes through the local authority area as does the A13 trunk road from London to Southend. There are also 7 railway stations in Thurrock on the line which connects Southend and Fenchurch Street in central London.

The table below demonstrates the conversion of live births in Thurrock to the actual take up of school places. This data enables Thurrock to project the place requirements for future years using the birth data available.

Year of Birth	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Number of live births in the authority	1,938	2,152	2,024	2,241	2,261	2,367	2,330	2,454
Year entering school at 4+	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Number of children admitted into reception	1,709	1,844	1,884	2,237	2,263	2,321	2,277	2,430
Historical uptake factor	83.85%	83.30%	92.57%	99.82%	100.09%	98.02%	97.90%	99.00%

The graph below highlights that Thurrock’s live births reached a peak in 2010/11 which was the September 2015 intake in reception.

BIRTH DATA OVER LAST TEN YEARS



SCHOOLS AND PLANNING AREAS

Schools

There are currently 39 state maintained primary schools in Thurrock and 10 state maintained secondary schools as detailed in the table below:-

	Academies	Community	Voluntary	Voluntary	Foundation	Free
		Schools	Aided Schools	Controlled		School
Primary Schools	23	7	5	1	1	2
Secondary Schools	9	0	1	0	0	0

Full details of the schools and the oversubscription criteria applied to each one is available in the Council's Admissions Book. This publication also contains information on making an application for a school place and can be accessed on the Council's website.

Each Academy, Free School and Voluntary Aided-School is its own Admissions Authority. The Council is the Admissions Authority for Community Schools and Voluntary Controlled Schools. In respect of Voluntary Aided Schools the governing body of the school determines admission arrangements. For Academies and Free Schools, the relevant Academy Trust is the Admission Authority. Each individual Admissions Authority applies its own oversubscription criteria to applications and determines which applicants to offer places to.

Applications for all state funded secondary schools in Thurrock are made via the co-ordinated admissions process which is administered by the Council.

PUPIL PLACE PLANNING AREAS

Thurrock Council has 8 schools planning areas, five for primary and 3 for secondary.

The Primary planning areas are detailed in the table below:-

Primary Planning Areas

<p style="text-align: center;">Aveley, Ockendon and Purfleet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aveley Primary • Benyon Primary • Bonnygate Primary • Dilkes Academy • Holy Cross Catholic Primary • Kenningtons Primary Academy • Purfleet Primary Academy • Shaw Primary Academy • Somers Heath Primary 	<p style="text-align: center;">Grays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belmont Castle Academy • Deneholm Primary • Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred • Harris Primary Academy Mayflower • Little Thurrock Primary • Quarry Hill Academy • St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary • Stifford Clays Primary • Thameside Primary • Tudor Court Primary • Warren Primary • West Thurrock Academy
<p style="text-align: center;">Tilbury</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chadwell St Mary Primary • East Tilbury Primary & Nursery • The Gateway Primary Free • Herringham Primary Academy • Lansdowne Primary Academy • St Mary's Catholic Primary • Tilbury Pioneer Academy • Woodside Academy 	<p style="text-align: center;">Corringham and Stanford-Le-Hope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbots Hall Primary Academy • Arthur Bugler Primary • Corringham Primary • Giffards Primary • Graham James Primary Academy • St Joseph's Catholic Primary • Stanford-le-Hope Primary
<p style="text-align: center;">Rural areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulphan C of E Primary • Horndon on the Hill C of E Primary • Orsett C of E Primary 	

The planning areas for the Primary phase are shown on the map in Annex 5. The Primary phase forecast whole school summary is shown in Annex 7. The Primary Reception summary forecast is shown in Annex 8.

The Secondary planning areas are detailed in the table below:-

Secondary Planning Areas

<p style="text-align: center;">West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Ockendon Academy• Ormiston Park Academy	<p style="text-align: center;">Central</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Gateway Academy• Grays Convent High School• The Hathaway Academy• Harris Academy Chafford Hundred• William Edwards School
<p style="text-align: center;">East</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gable Hall School• Hassenbrook Academy• St Clere's School	

The planning areas for the Secondary phase are shown on the map in Annex 6.

The Secondary phase whole school summary forecast is shown in Annex 9.

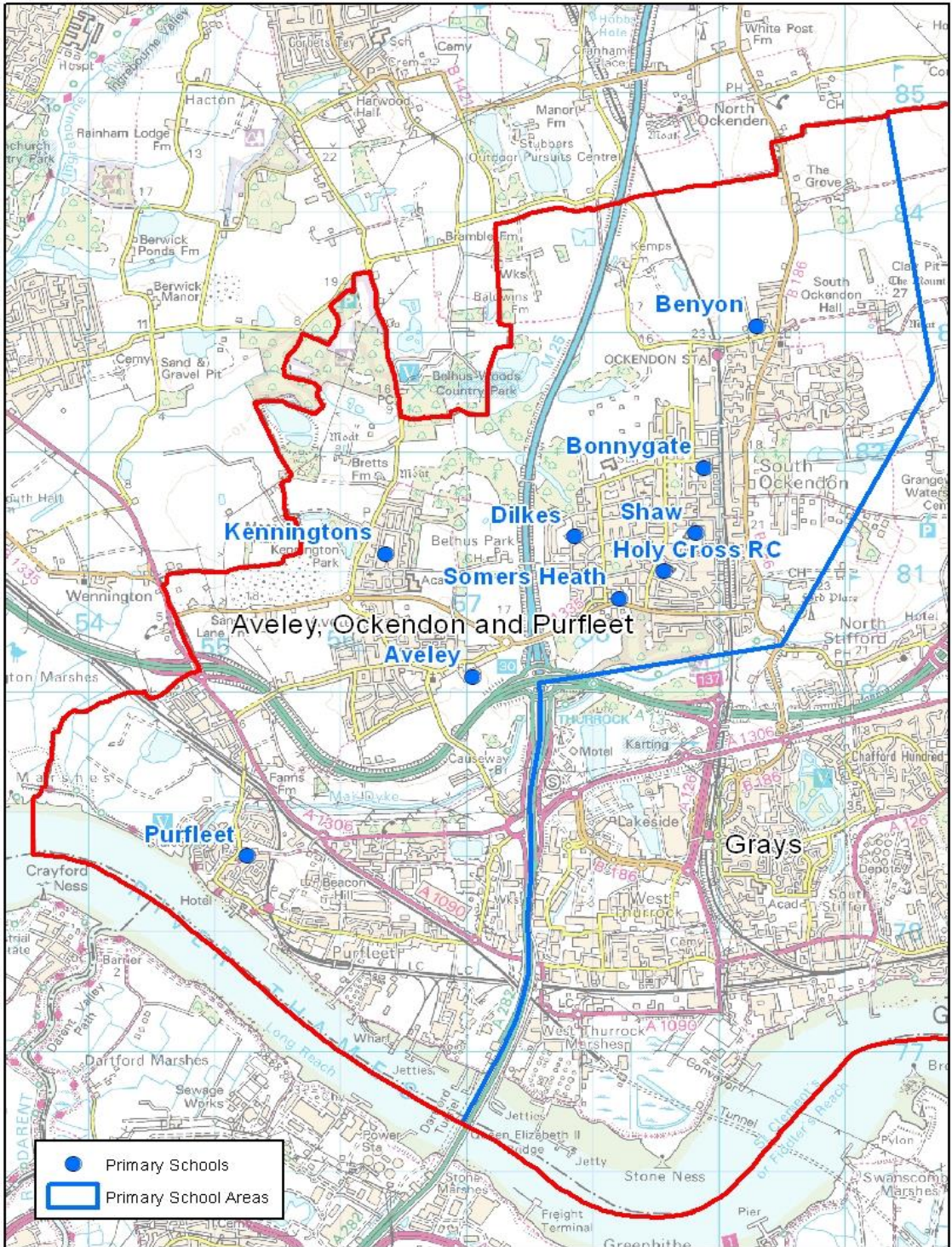
The Secondary Year 7 summary forecast is shown in Annex 10.

PRIMARY FORECASTS

Pupil place projections for each of the revised planning areas are set out in the following pages.

The whole school projections for each primary school planning area have been calculated using birth data which is projected to calculate reception numbers along with the actual number of children on roll in the schools in the October 2015 census, adding the pupil yield from housing developments and then adding an additional element of places to cater for in-year admissions. This degree of additional places is required to enable schools to absorb the number of pupils we anticipate will arrive in Thurrock from elsewhere in the UK and abroad in the September 2016/17 academic year and beyond. It also allows a margin to facilitate a degree of parental preference. The impact of inward migration will be closely monitored and forecasts adjusted accordingly.

Full details of the methodology used to determine the pupil place forecasts for the primary phase are set out in Annex 1.



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Scale 1:55,000

Aveley, Ockendon & Purfleet

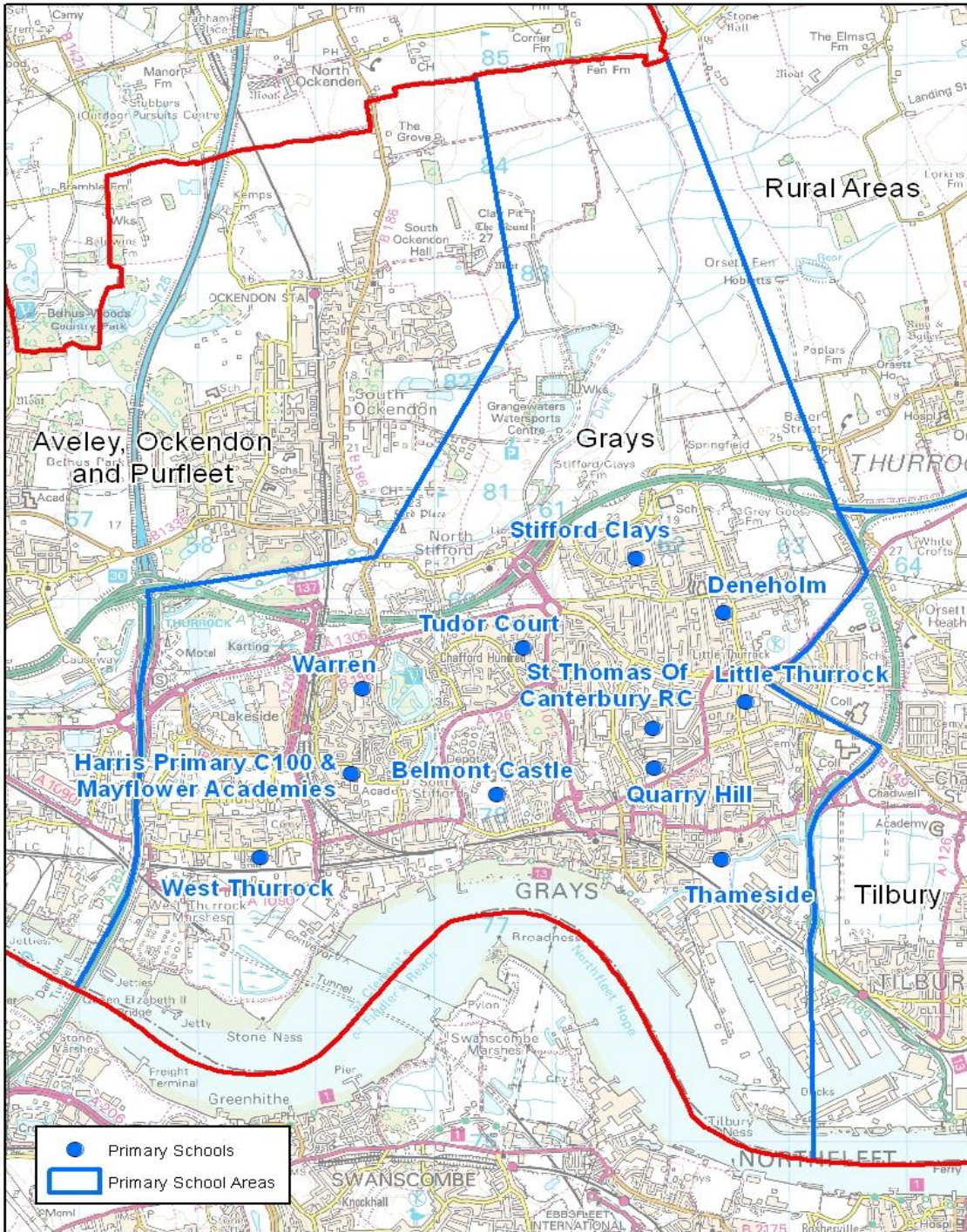
Aveley, Ockendon & Purfleet		WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Aveley	420	422	422	413	415	414
Benyon	210	217	204	204	216	218
Bonnygate	420	388	445	475	487	475
Dilkes	420	416	428	428	433	436
Holy Cross	315	275	277	278	281	284
Kenningtons	420	456	504	523	512	530
Purfleet	630	485	507	528	552	555
Shaw	420	400	401	395	396	392
Somers Heath	420	248	251	249	254	248
In Year Admissions		231	241	245	248	249
	3,675	3,538	3,680	3,738	3,794	3,801

Aveley, Ockendon & Purfleet		RECEPTION FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Aveley	60	54	60	60	61	59
Benyon	30	37	26	31	32	32
Bonnygate	60	59	73	85	68	71
Dilkes	60	55	73	62	63	63
Holy Cross	45	45	45	45	45	45
Kenningtons	60	79	75	79	80	78
Purfleet	90	85	73	75	81	79
Shaw	60	51	61	54	56	56
Somers Heath	60	38	34	28	34	34
In Year Admissions		35	36	36	36	36
	525	538	556	555	556	553

The above forecasts include the child yield from proposed developments at: Aveley Football Ground, Mill Road, Former Ford Factory, Arisdale Avenue, Green Plus Ltd - Arisdale Avenue and Aveley Village Extension south of B1335

Holy Cross will reduce its PAN to 210 from September 2017

Somersheath school will increase by 210 places becoming a 2 FE school in September 2016



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Scale 1:60,000

Grays

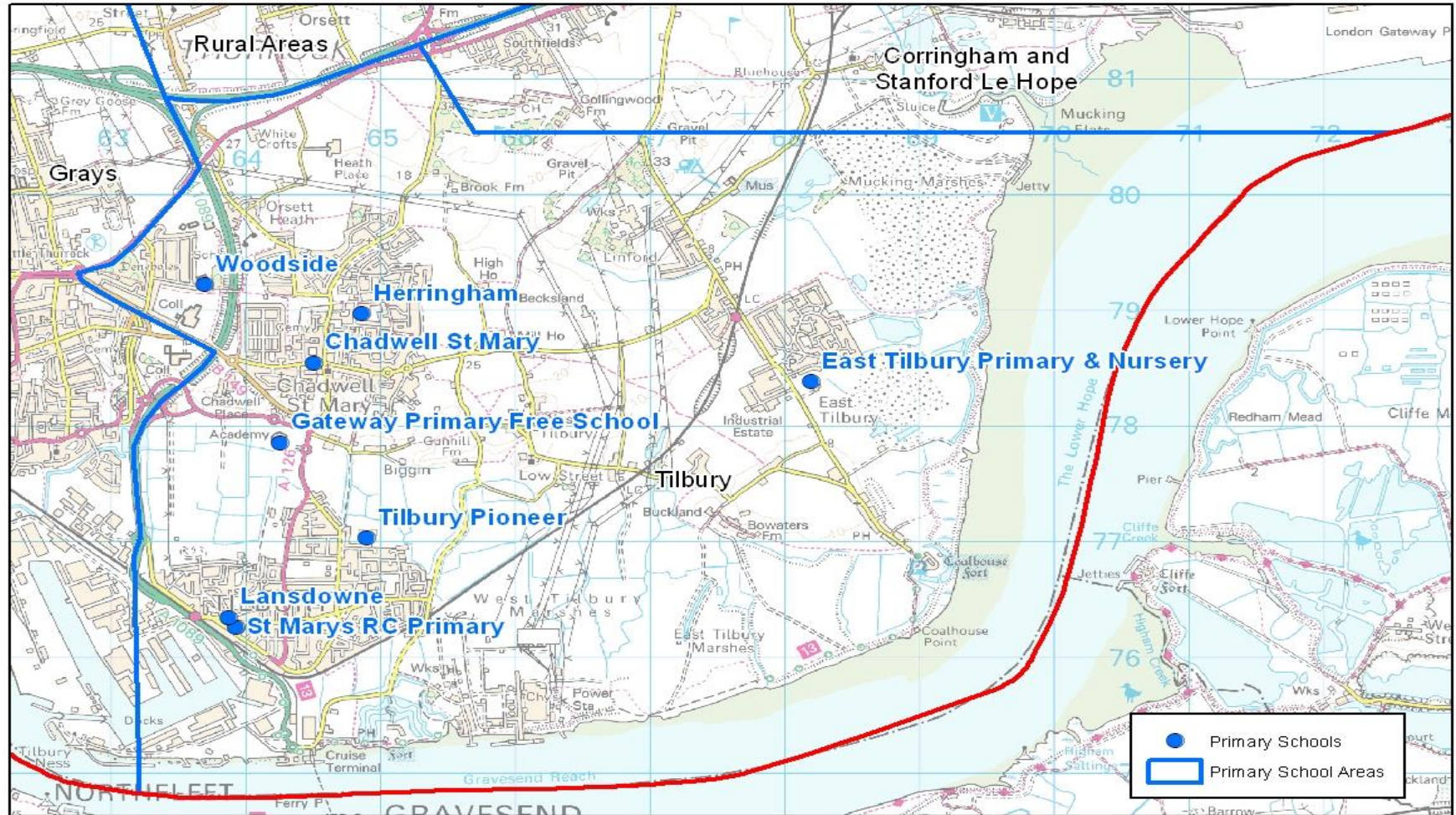
Grays		WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Belmont Castle	630	716	704	673	641	644
Deneholm	420	408	434	440	446	453
Harris Chafford Hundred	630	609	592	559	538	517
Harris Mayflower	1,050	256	346	436	526	616
Little Thurrock	630	630	642	629	633	634
Quarry Hill	420	511	512	491	475	460
St Thomas'	630	625	625	626	627	627
Stifford Clays	630	708	724	754	747	741
Thameside	840	658	673	667	682	678
Tudor Court	840	806	825	804	794	784
Warren	420	440	435	422	422	420
West Thurrock	420	560	607	561	563	563
In Year Admissions		485	498	494	497	493
	7,560	7,412	7,617	7,556	7,591	7,630

Grays		RECEPTION FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Belmont Castle	90	102	90	87	92	93
Deneholm	60	54	84	66	65	67
Harris Chafford Hundred	90	74	74	57	66	68
Harris Mayflower	150	90	90	90	90	90
Little Thurrock	90	95	99	77	92	91
Quarry Hill	60	73	63	67	69	68
St Thomas'	90	90	90	90	90	90
Stifford Clays	90	108	110	120	109	112
Thameside	120	94	102	86	96	95
Tudor Court	120	117	111	99	108	109
Warren	60	64	57	59	60	60
West Thurrock	60	87	107	78	87	90
In Year Admissions		73	75	68	72	66
	1080	1,121	1,152	1,044	1,096	1,099

The above forecasts include child yield from proposed developments at: Land Part of Little Thurrock Marshes, Thurrock Park Way Tilbury Essex, Bannatyne's Health Club, Howard Road, Chafford Hundred, Former Factory Units, Schoolfield Road, and Land South of West Thurrock Way Lakeside.

Harris Mayflower will increase to a 5FE school from September 2016. They have been filling up from reception upwards since September 2014. Their intake for September 2014 and September 2015 has been 90 reception places in each of these years.

Thameside Will increase to a 4 FE school in September 2016.



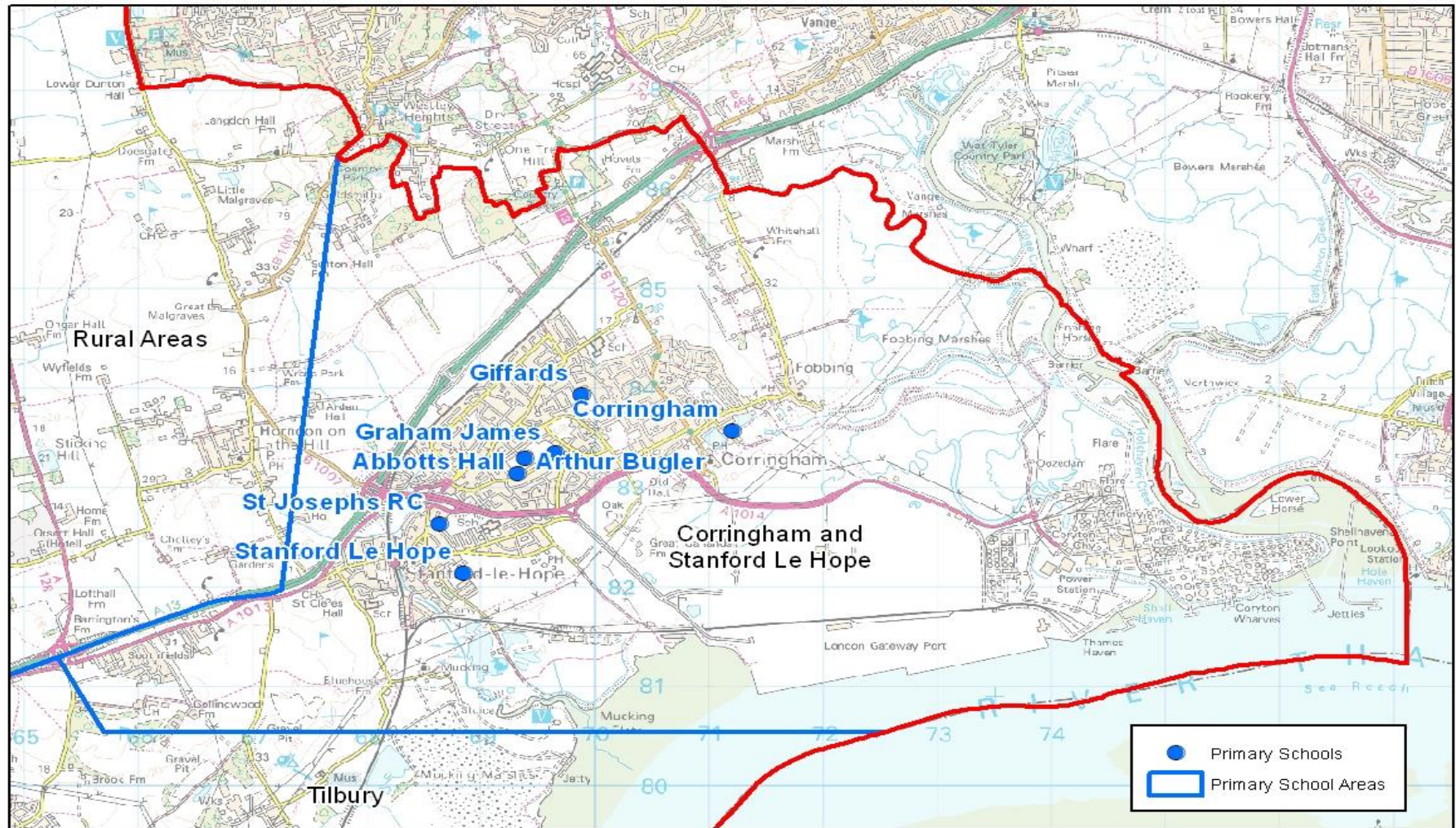
Tilbury

Tilbury		WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Chadwell St Mary	210	204	208	224	227	231
East Tilbury	630	598	623	597	577	565
Gateway	420	482	450	420	419	420
Herringham	420	413	411	407	404	402
Lansdowne	630	613	622	619	616	615
St Mary's	210	239	230	226	216	213
Tilbury Pioneer	420	268	313	353	349	347
Woodside	630	553	566	613	638	640
In Year Admissions		236	240	241	241	240
	3,570	3,606	3,663	3,700	3,687	3,673

Tilbury		RECEPTION FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Chadwell St Mary	30	25	33	45	33	34
East Tilbury	90	91	77	68	78	79
Gateway	60	60	60	60	60	60
Herringham	60	58	55	58	57	57
Lansdowne	90	84	94	91	81	88
St Mary's	30	30	30	30	30	30
Tilbury Pioneer	90	62	45	40	49	49
Woodside	90	93	73	108	94	92
In Year Admissions		35	33	34	34	34
	540	538	500	534	516	523

The above forecasts include child yield from proposed developments at:
Former St Chads School, St Chads Road

Woodside Academy will increase to a 3FE school in September

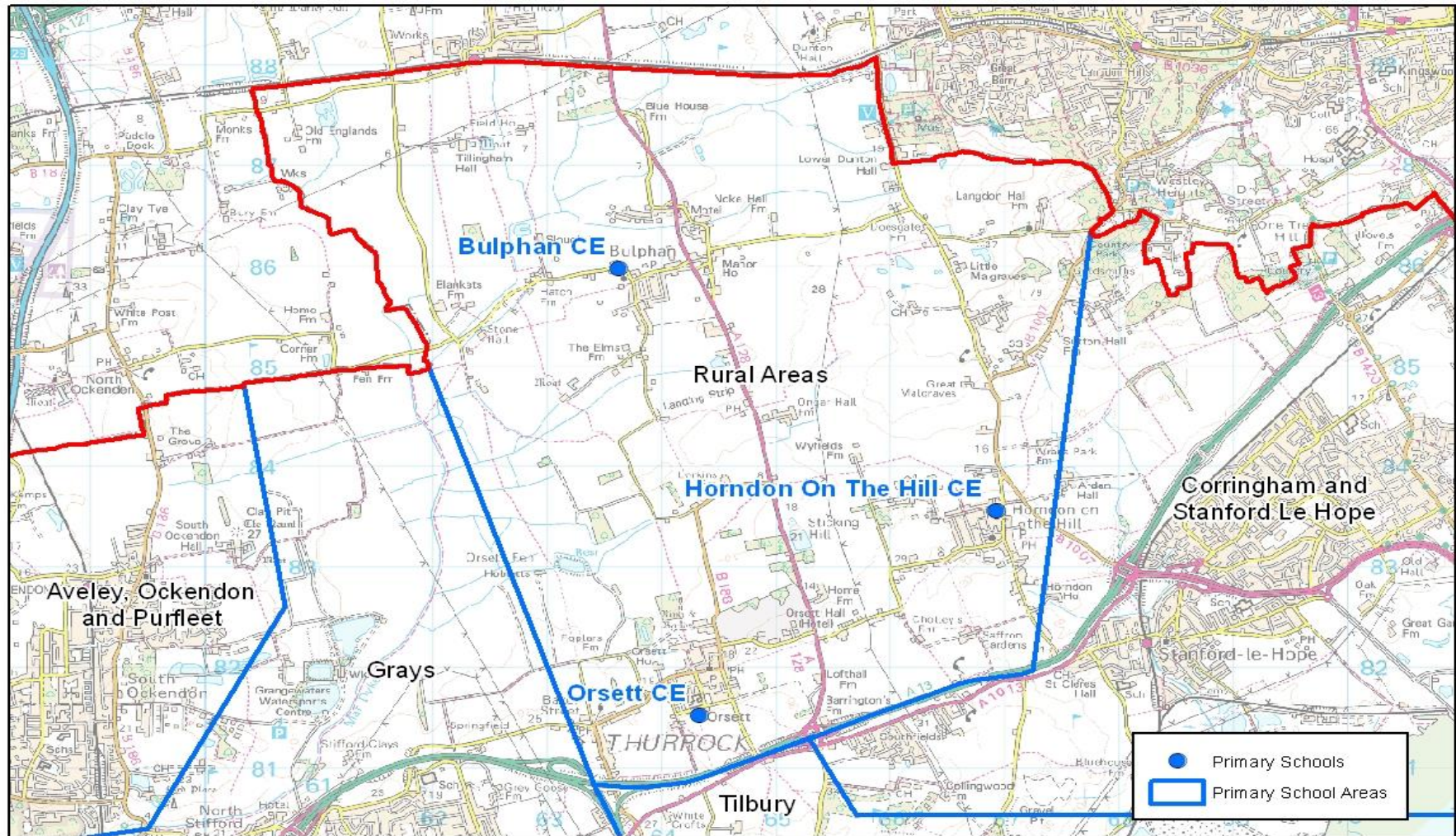


Corringham and Stanford Le Hope

Corringham & Stanford le Hope		WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Abbots Hall	210	209	201	197	194	190
Arthur Bugler	420	409	399	409	406	404
Corringham	420	409	401	402	402	399
Giffards	420	461	493	484	405	399
Graham James	420	317	323	316	320	306
St Joseph's	210	253	244	237	229	220
Stanford-le-Hope	420	357	363	349	344	335
In Year Admissions		169	170	168	161	155
	2,520	2,584	2,594	2,562	2,461	2,408

Corringham & Stanford le Hope		RECEPTION FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Abbots Hall	30	28	23	26	27	26
Arthur Bugler	60	50	51	70	58	57
Corringham	60	50	50	66	60	57
Giffards	60	60	49	53	55	54
Graham James	60	34	37	36	42	37
St Joseph's	30	30	30	30	30	30
Stanford-le-Hope	60	46	44	58	49	49
In Year Admissions		21	20	24	22	19
	360	319	304	363	343	329

The above forecasts include child yield from proposed developments at:
 Land Adjacent A13 Railway Line And Southend Road, Land Adjacent To The
 Railway Line, Manorway & West of Victoria Street.



Rural Area

Rural		WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Bulphan	84	102	101	94	89	85
Horndon-on-the-Hill	210	197	189	194	190	191
Orsett	210	221	204	189	184	177
In Year Admissions		36	35	33	32	32
	504	556	529	510	495	485

Rural		RECEPTION FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Bulphan	12	12	12	12	12	12
Horndon-on-the-Hill	30	27	21	32	27	27
Orsett	30	37	14	17	25	23
In Year Admissions		5	3	4	4	4
	72	81	50	65	68	66

The above forecasts include child yield from proposed developments at: Tylands Farm, South Hill, Langdon Hills and Land Adjacent to Thatched Cottage Baker Street

The live birth data for this planning area indicates that there will be a small shortfall in Reception places in September 2016. It is expected that any excess demand will be met in other planning areas.

Primary Forecast Summary

The pressure in the primary phase is being managed and will continue to be regularly monitored closely. The inward migration experienced in recent years appears to have had a more significant impact on primary places than secondary places. This may be because we have had surplus places in our secondary schools which could absorb the newcomers or it may be that the families arriving in Thurrock have younger children.

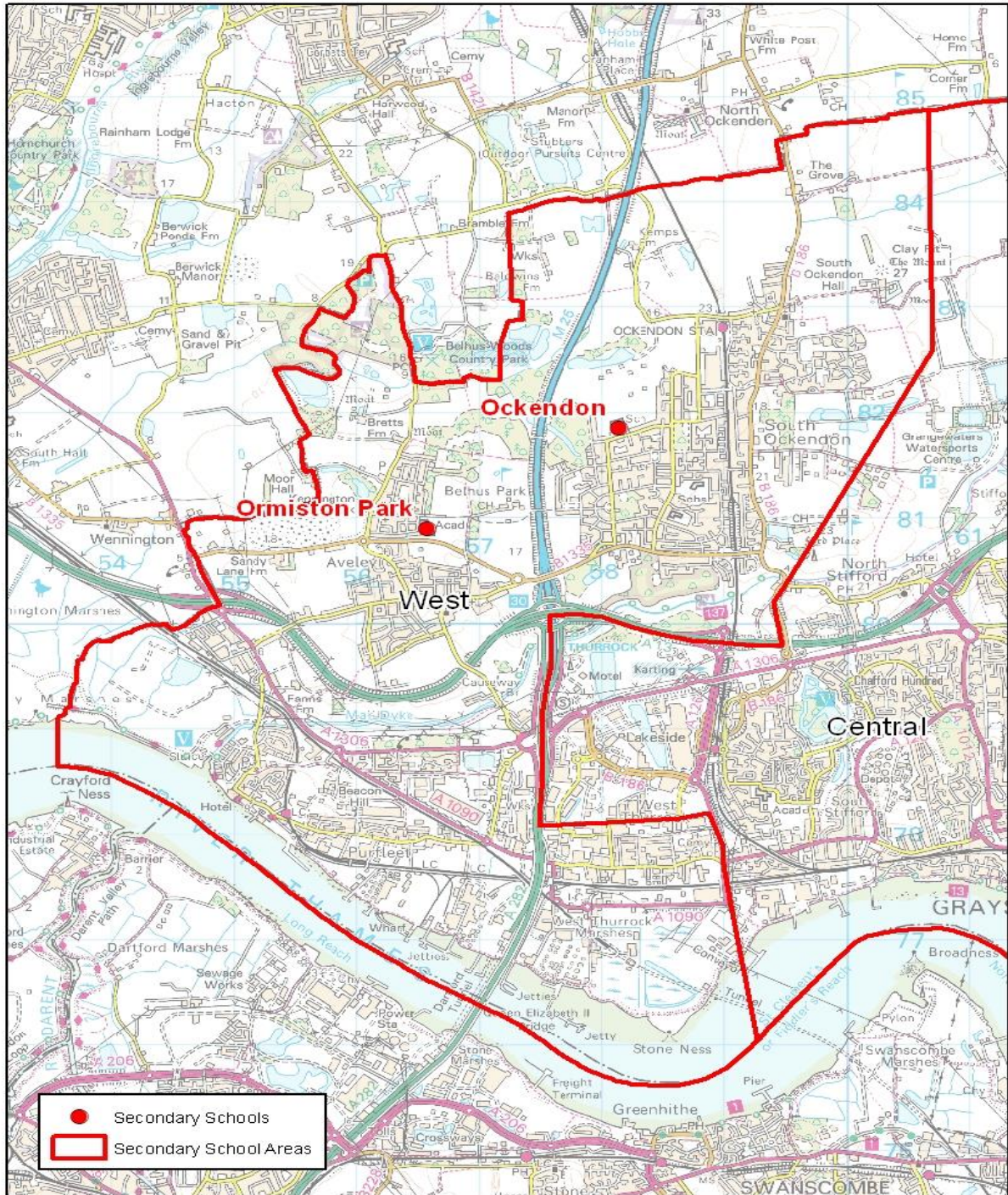
The ONS 2011 census data demonstrates that Thurrock has a significant population under 19 years. The largest percentage of the adult population is of child bearing age and therefore it is unlikely that the demand for school places will reduce in the near future.

The Council will continue to monitor the impact of inward migration in order to respond to changing circumstances.

Future additional places will almost certainly be required across the Local Authority.

SECONDARY FORECASTS

Whole school forecasts for each secondary planning area has been calculated using formulae to calculate transition rate from year 6 to year 7 and the current numbers on roll in schools on the census data from October 2015 and by also adding the pupil yield from any developments. An additional element has been added in to allow for in-year admissions.



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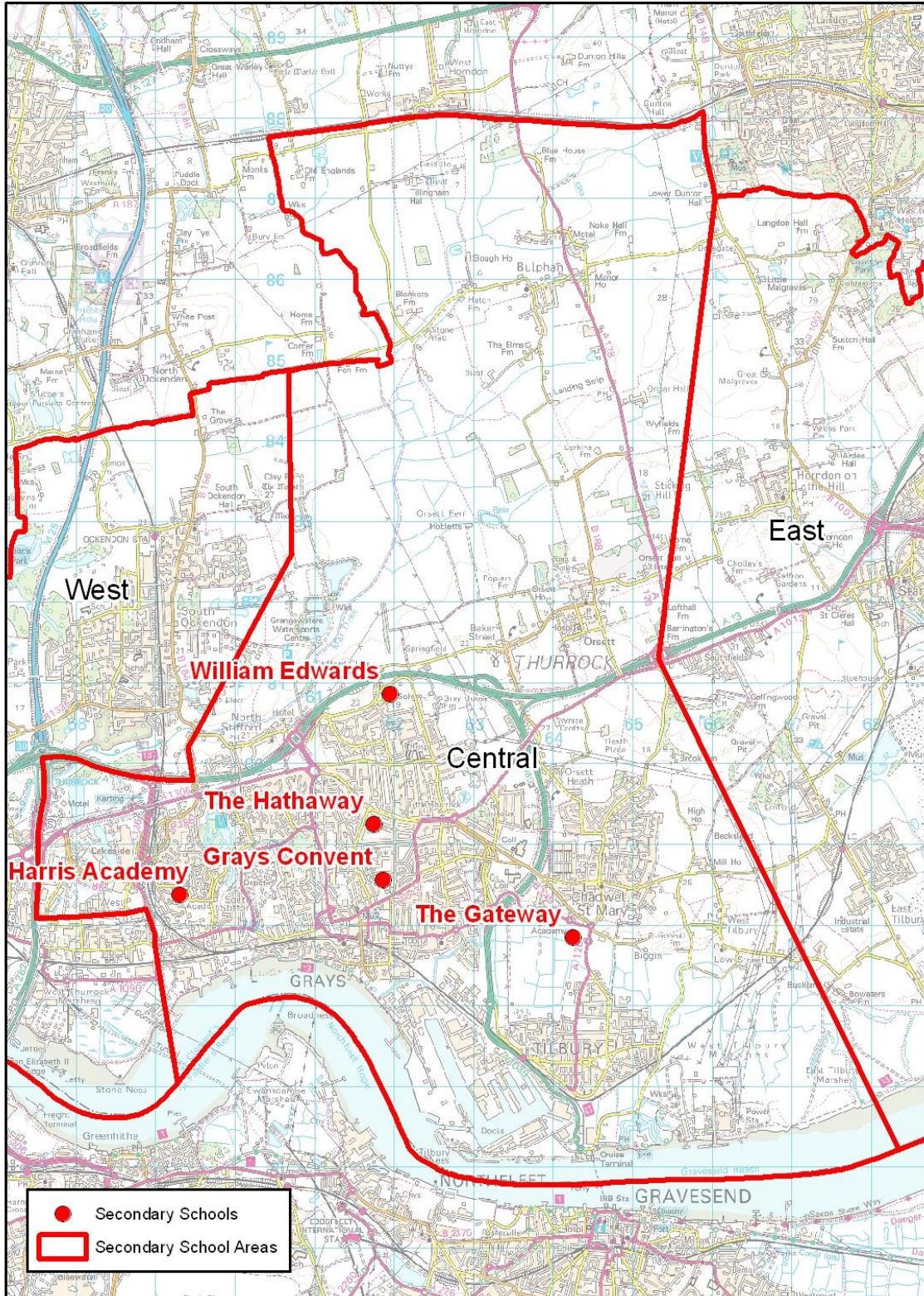
West Planning Area

West Planning Area	WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST					
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Ormiston Park Academy	900	491	531	545	540	556
The Ockendon Academy	990	1,094	1,136	1,196	1,249	1,287
In Year Admissions		109	114	121	125	129
	1,890	1,694	1,781	1,862	1,914	1,972

West Planning Area	YEAR 7 FORECAST					
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Ormiston Park Academy	180	138	142	132	115	118
The Ockendon Academy	210	243	238	266	266	274
In Year Admissions		24	24	27	27	27
	390	381	380	398	381	392

The above forecasts include child yield from developments including those proposed at: Former Factory Units, Schoolfield Road, Land South of West Thurrock Way Lakeside, Aveley Football Ground, Mill Road and Aveley Village Extension south of B1335

The Year 7 forecast for The Ockendon Academy indicates that there are more potential applicants in the catchment area than the school's Planned Admission Number can accommodate. However, there will be places available at Ormiston Park Academy to meet the need for Year 7 places in this planning area in September 2015 and beyond.



- Secondary Schools
- Secondary School Areas

Central Planning Area

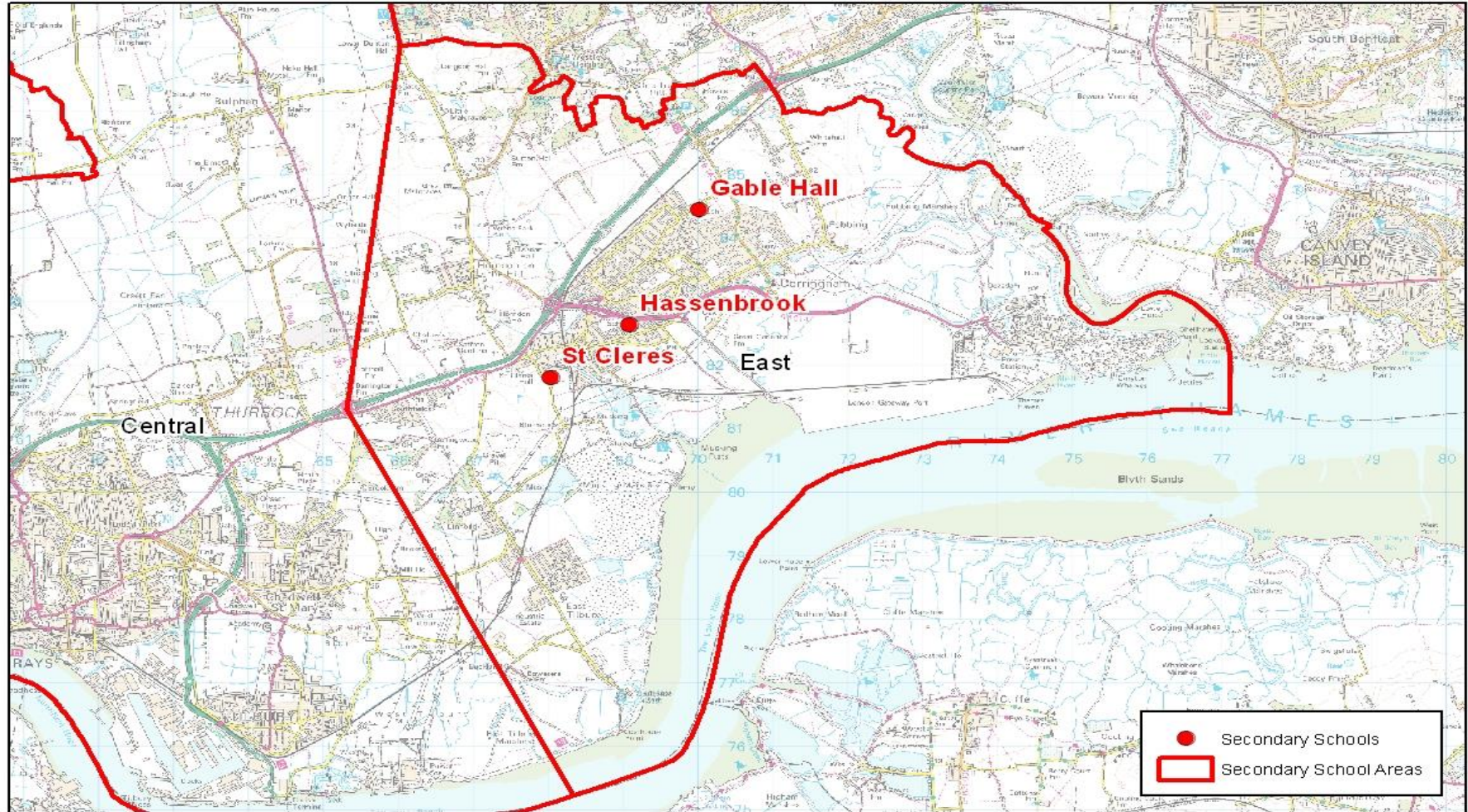
Central Planning Area	WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST					
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Grays Convent	620	531	536	582	614	633
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	900	930	930	948	973	1,002
The Gateway Academy	1,020	1,024	1,066	1,099	1,121	1,155
The Hathaway Academy	900	738	794	887	946	975
William Edwards	1,210	1,221	1,232	1,254	1,270	1,308
In Year Admissions		309	317	333	345	355
	4,650	4,753	4,875	5,103	5,269	5,428

Central Planning Area	YEAR 7 FORECAST					
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Grays Convent	124	119	117	131	131	135
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	180	196	192	207	208	213
The Gateway Academy	210	222	219	246	239	246
The Hathaway Academy	180	194	195	216	202	208
William Edwards	250	257	255	273	271	278
In Year Admissions		67	66	73	74	76
	944	1,055	1,044	1,146	1,125	1,156

The forecasts above include child yield from proposed developments including those at: Bannatyne's Health Club, Howard Road, Chafford Hundred, Star Industrial Estate, Linford Road, Chadwell St Mary, South East Essex College, Wood View Grays, Grays Gas Holder Site, Land Part of Little Thurrock Marshes, Thurrock Park Way Tilbury Essex, Little Malgraves Farm, Lower Dunton Road, Bulphan,

William Edwards have increased their intake by 10 pupils for September 2016

Harris Academy Trust continues to pursue a site for a new secondary school with the intention of opening in September 2017.



East Planning Area

East Planning Area	WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST					
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Gable Hall	1,270	1,328	1,386	1,443	1,460	1,504
Hassenbrook Academy	550	475	492	536	587	605
St Clere's	1,065	1,138	1,177	1,221	1,237	1,274
In Year Admissions		203	209	220	230	237
	2,885	3,144	3,264	3,420	3,514	3,620

East Planning Area	YEAR 7 FORECAST					
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Gable Hall	272	303	318	352	311	320
Hassenbrook Academy	110	114	112	125	125	129
St Clere's	231	260	263	276	264	271
In Year Admissions		45	44	49	49	50
	613	722	737	802	749	770

The forecast for the East Planning Area include child yield from developments at: Land Adjacent A13 Railway Line And Southend Road, Land Adjacent To The Railway Line, Manorway & West of Victoria Street, Bata Land Adj. Bata Avenue, East Tilbury and Land at St Cleres Golf Club

Secondary Forecast Summary

The demand for secondary places is increasing and will continue to do so over the next few years. Thurrock Council are detailed discussion with the DfE on how this shortfall of places can be met. There will be further discussion held with secondary schools and academies over the forthcoming months. Sufficient places will be available for September 2016 intake.

AUTHORITY WIDE ISSUES

Although mentioned previously, Thurrock’s live births are slightly decreasing and the main factor for pupil increases in both the primary and secondary phases are the in-year admissions. The table below details the increases of in-year admissions outside the normal admission rounds.

Academic Year	No. of children requiring a primary school place outside of the normal admission round who arrived in Thurrock from abroad. “In Year Admissions”	No. of children requiring a primary school place outside of the normal admission round who arrived in Thurrock from elsewhere in the UK. “In Year Admissions”	Total
2012/13	181	455	636
2013/14	189	585	774
2014/15	242	698	940
2015/16*	136	432	568
* NB 2015/16 figures for months only.			

The figure for “In Year” applications from families arriving in the Authority for the 2015/16 academic year shown above was accurate in January 2016. However, it is possible that the final figure may surpass that for 2014/15.

Planning for the children arriving in Thurrock is difficult as we do not know who they are, how old they are, and therefore, which year groups they will apply for until they make contact with School Admissions. Some may require Reception and Year 7 places, but many will require places in other year groups. This introduces the potential of bulge classes in year groups other than Reception and Year 7 as we have experienced this year.

With the unpredictable demand for places from outside of Thurrock and additional element of pupil places has been added to each planning area within the Authority.

ANNEX 1: PUPIL PLACE FORECASTING METHODOLOGY

The statutory obligation for all Local Authorities is to provide sufficient school places. Thurrock Council regularly reviews all data, trends and builds a robust analysis of pupil planning to ensure a place for all pupils that live in Thurrock either at normal admission rounds or the unforeseen “in-year” admissions.

The unprecedented levels currently experienced for in-year admissions has put pressure on school places but with the excellent relationships we have with our schools and academies, Thurrock Council has been able to meet these pressures.

Primary Forecasts

Thurrock Council uses live birth data provided by the health service which forms the basis of calculating the place requirements four years later. This data contains post codes where the child lives which are then allocated to a school in that area to calculate places required in that schools planning area.

Whole school forecasts are based on pupil census data, this provides actual pupil numbers in each year group. The number of children calculated from any building development is added to this to then calculate the number of school places required. An element of additional places is then added to cater for in-year admissions.

The building developments that are taken into consideration in this edition of the PPP document are listed under each planning area.

There is a project team made up of officers from various departments in the authority that play a part in PPP that meet up every two weeks to review forecasts and any emerging issues. This allows the Authority to be proactive in taking any necessary action to meet growing pressures for school places.

Secondary Forecasts

With the high level of primary school places we have we know that these will feed through to our secondary schools. When calculating year 7 forecasts we use existing primary numbers. Trend data shows us that we have an average transfer rate of 92%, meaning 8% of our children go elsewhere, usually to neighbouring Authorities. Thurrock has no secondary provision for Catholic boys who tend to move out of the area to attend secondary school.

The Year 7 forecasts in this document were arrived at by examining the conversion rate from Year 6 to Year 7 for the last three years. This is the number of Thurrock Year 6 children who went on to become Year 7 students.

Having established the predicted number of Year 7 students for each school, we then addressed the child yield from housing development.

We know the predicted number of children in each area likely to arise from development but we cannot know how old they will be or which year group they will require. We therefore assume that some of the children generated by new development will require primary places and some secondary places.

A number of places are therefore added to the whole school predictions for both primary and secondary at the schools in the areas where the development is due to take place. If a major development falls between two or more schools the child yield is divided between the schools.

Inward Migration

In recent years Thurrock has experienced an increase in the number of children applying for a school place "In Year". These arrivals during the academic year are difficult to manage as we do not know how many of each age group will arrive. The extent of inward migration in recent years indicates that 6% of school places are required in the primary phase to ensure that the new arrivals can be accommodated. It is not clear if the same extent of provision is required in the secondary sector.

The forecasts are not constrained by the physical accommodation available in the schools in the planning area and therefore indicate where pressure on places is likely to arise.

ANNEX 2: SPECIAL AND ADDITIONAL NEEDS

In September 2014 Education, Health and Care Plans were introduced for children and young people aged 0 – 25. This is a new way of working to allow the identification of children and young people’s needs, bringing together Education, Health and Social Care support into one plan. It is based on a more family focused approach with a stress on the individual goals for children, improving their opportunities for education and employment.

For children who currently have a statement of special educational needs, their statement and support will remain in place until it is converted to an Education, Health and Care Plan. The Local Authority has until April 2018 to convert all statements to EHCPs. The SEN service will work with families to transfer the statement according to the Transition Plan which can be found on the website.

Further information on the new Education, Health and Care Plans can be obtained from the Council’s website www.askthurrock.org.uk/kb5/thurrock.

Provision

The Council has two schools for children who have special needs and are unable to achieve their potential in a mainstream setting.

School	Status	Needs Met	Age Range	Number of Places
Beacon Hill Academy	Academy	Severe and profound learning difficulties	3 to 19	72
Treetops School		Moderate learning difficulties and Autism	3 to 19	276

Beacon Hill Post 16 Unit caters for students with severe and profound and multiple learning difficulties from 16 to 19. The Unit is located on the site of Treetops School in Grays. Students follow a personalised, accredited curriculum which promotes independence and transition to lifelong learning in the community.

Treetops is a day special school for pupils between the ages of 3 and 19. The school caters for children and young people with moderate learning difficulties and autism. The school is located in Grays and is an Authority maintained school.

In addition there are a number of mainstream schools with specialist provision in the Primary Sector:

School	Type of Provision	Age Range	Number of Places
Warren Primary	Resource base for pupils with hearing impairment	4-11	14
Stanford Le Hope Primary Academy	Resource base for pupils with visual impairment	4-11	5
Corringham Primary Academy	Resource base for pupils with speech and language difficulties	4-11	20
Harris Primary Academy	ICAN resource base for children with speech, language and communication needs	Nursery age	5FTE
Dilkes Primary Academy	Resource base for pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties	4-11	10
Lansdowne Primary Academy	Resource base for pupils with social communication/moderate learning difficulties	4-11	8

Secondary phase schools with specialist provision are:

School	Type of Provision	Age Range	Number of Places
Ormiston Park Academy	ASCEND unit (BESD)	11-19	15
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	Resource Base for pupils with speech, language and communication impairment	11-19	20
St Clere's School	Resource Base for pupils with visual and hearing impairment.	11-19	6 in VI Unit 11 in HI

Support is offered to students with special needs post 16 years at Palmers Sixth Form College and South Essex College.

ANNEX 3: PROVISION FOR PUPILS OUT OF SCHOOL

The Olive Academy provides a broad curriculum to a diverse group of young people across three sites: The Phoenix Primary Centre, the Culver Secondary Centre, the Tuition Centre based at the Culver site and the Assessment Centre.

The service provides education for children and young people who have experienced difficulty learning for a variety of reasons. Each of our sites caters specifically for the identified needs of individual students aged between 5 years and 16 years.

The Academy also provides support to students in mainstream schools who experience difficulties and are at risk of exclusion.

Admission to the service is by referral only. All referrals are made via the Council's Access and Inclusion Officer. The service is currently supporting 119 students.

Further information on the Olive Academy can be obtained from the Council's website.

ANNEX 4: POST 16 PROVISION

The 2008 Education Act raised the age of participation for young people in England. Those born on or after 1st September 1997 must remain in some form of education or training until their 18th birthday. This may be:

- full time education at school or college,
- an apprenticeship or traineeship,
- part time education or training as well as being employed, self-employed or volunteering for 20 hours per week or more.

Thurrock Council works in partnership with schools and colleges and other providers to plan provision for post 16 education and training. Young people can pursue a wide range of both academic and vocational courses in a range of settings.

Four secondary schools in Thurrock currently offer post 16 education; Gable Hall, Hassenbrook and St Clere's schools form the Stanford and Corringham 6th Form consortium and between them provide a range of academic and vocational courses.

The Ockendon Academy Studio School and 6th form is a 14 to 19 school offering a range of academic qualifications in addition to work based training. Applications for work based training places in the Studio School should be made via the Council's school admissions team. There are currently 35 places in the Studio School and this number will increase in future.

The table below provides the number of students in Thurrock school 6th forms at November 2014. Stanford and Corringham 6th Form Gable Hall, Hassenbrook and St Clere's consortium.

Gov	School	12	13	14	Post-16 Total
CA	Gable Hall	160	63		223
VA	Grays Convent				
CA	Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	136	119		255
CA	Hassenbrook Academy				
CA	Ormiston Park Academy	49	43	8	100
CA	St Clere's				
CA	The Gateway Academy				
CA	The Hathaway Academy				
CA	The Ockendon Academy	38	30		68
CA	William Edwards School				

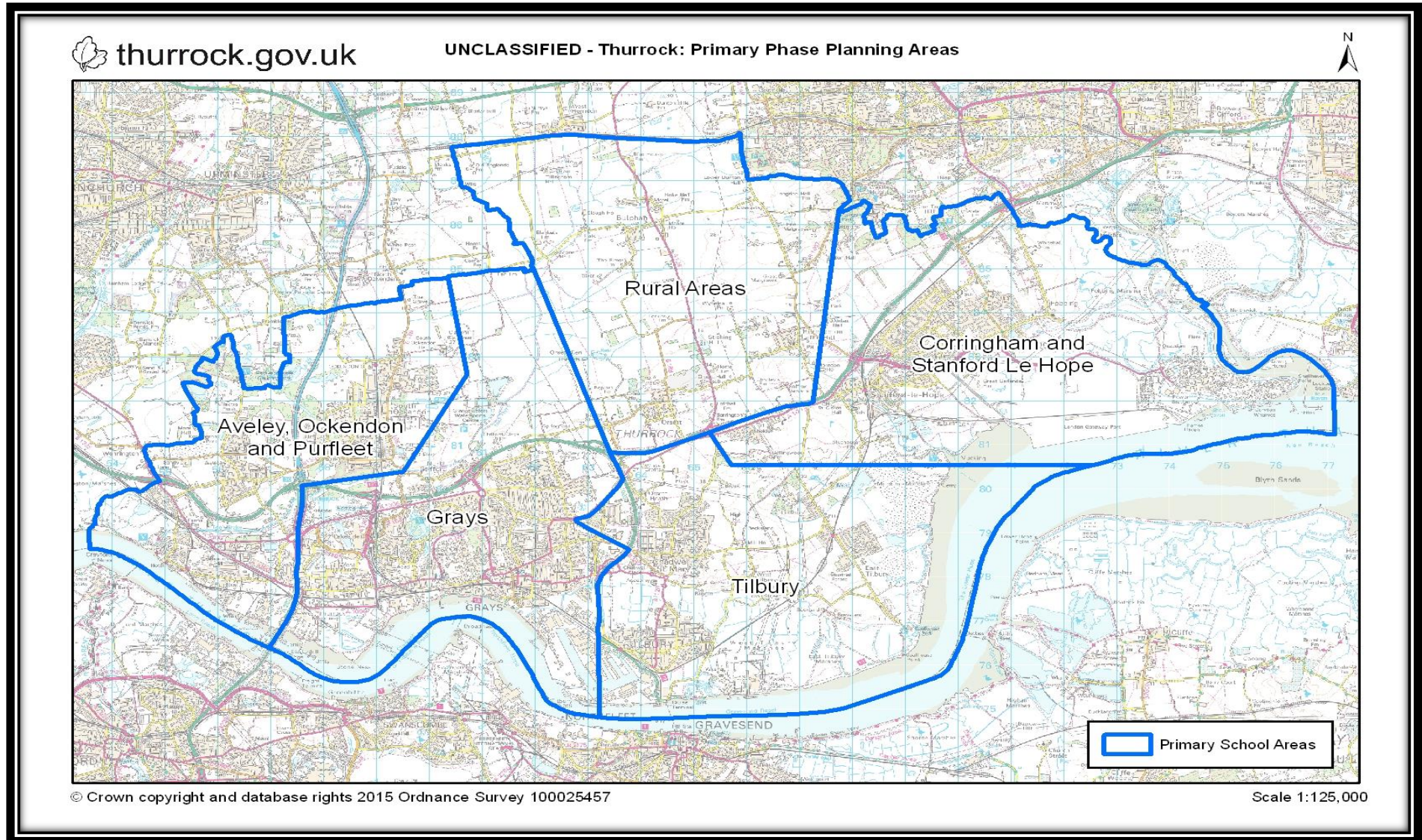
TOTALS	383	255	8	646
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Palmers College in Grays is a 6th form college and offers a range of A level, BTEC and secretarial courses to over 2000 students. Find out more about the courses on offer on the college website www.palmers.ac.uk

The recently opened South Essex College of Further and Higher Education in Grays offers a wide range of training opportunities which lead to accredited qualifications. Young people can study anything from bricklaying to costume design.

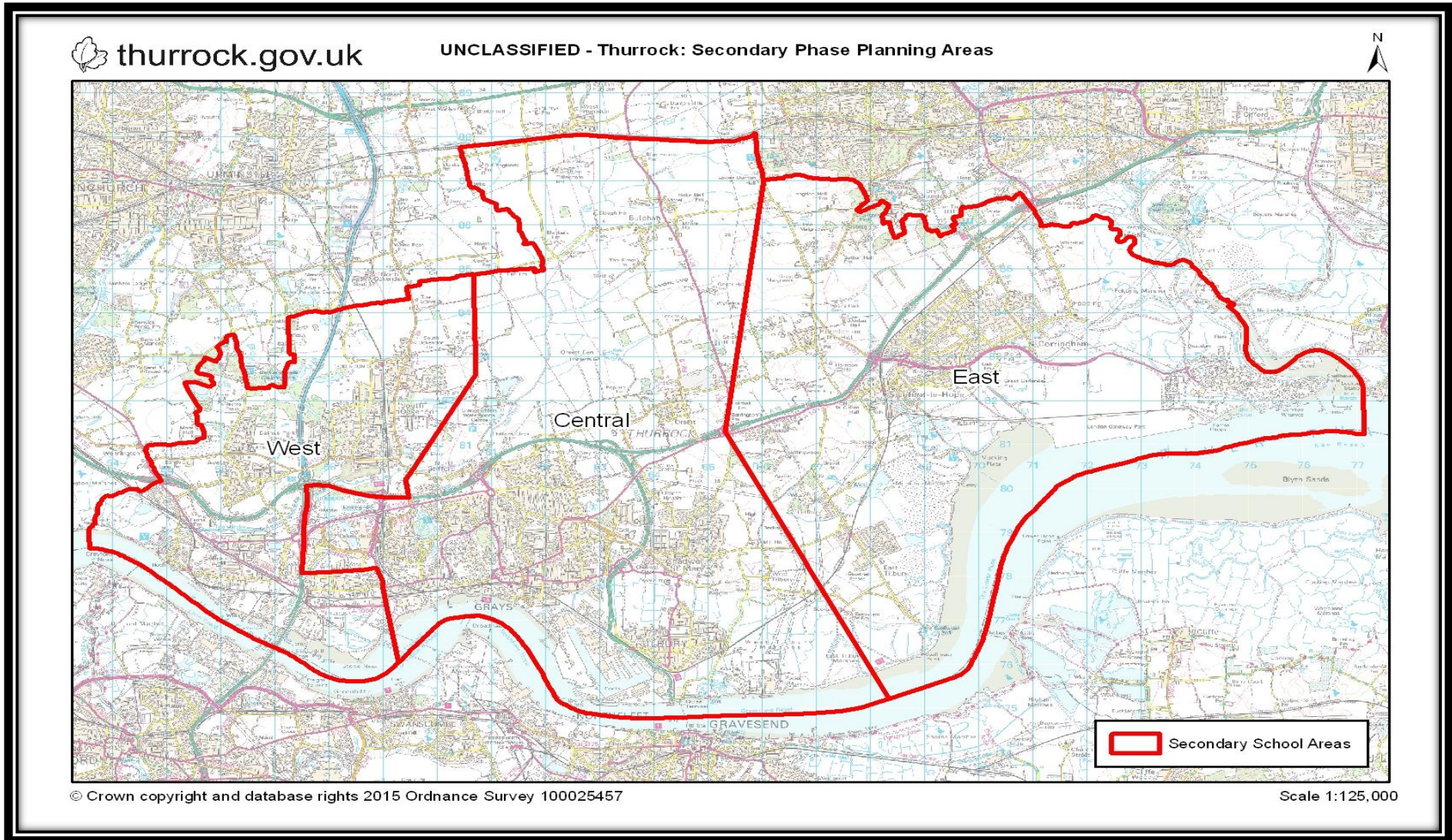
Full details on the opportunities available to Post 16 students can be found on the UCAS Progress website www.ucas.com.

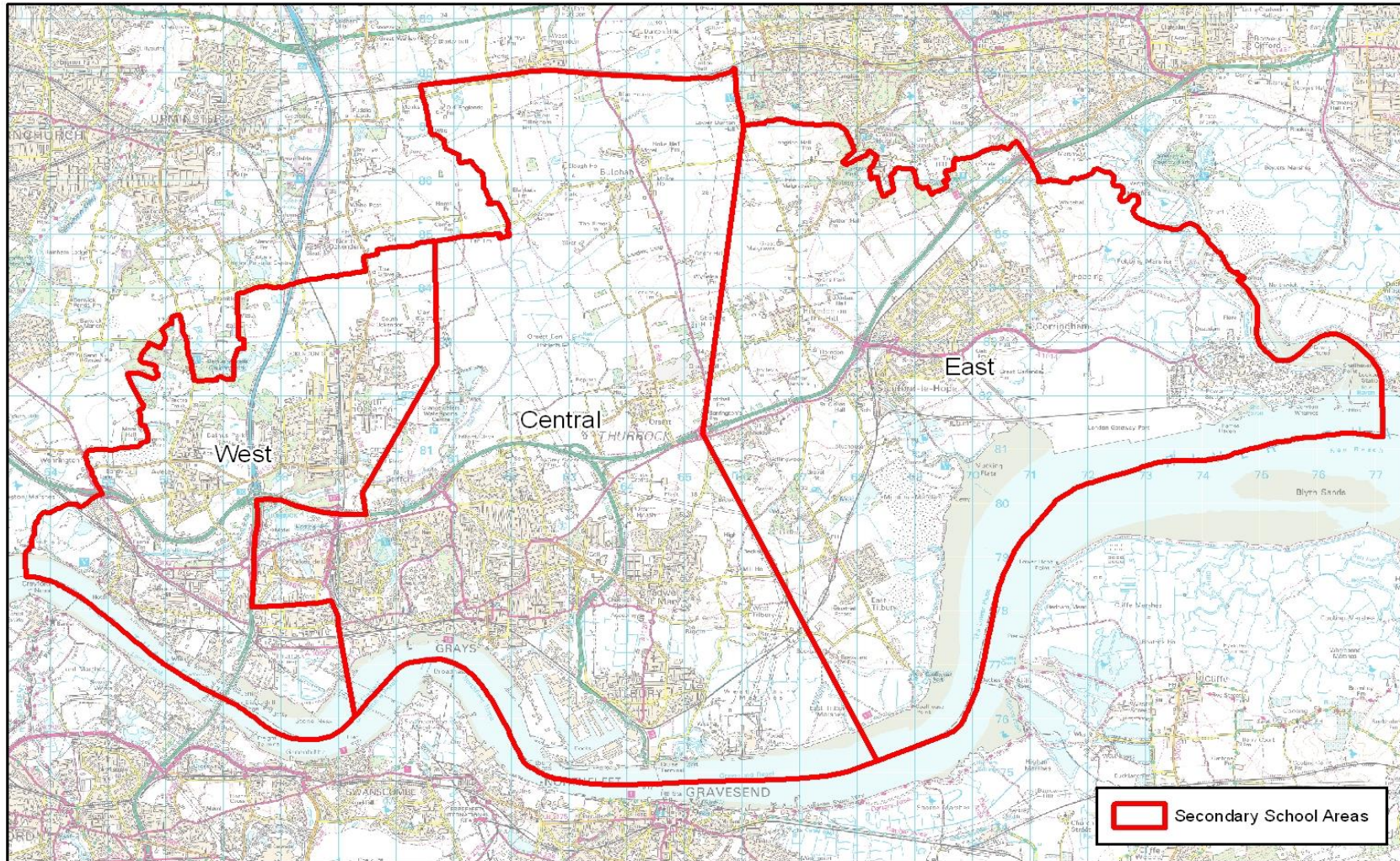
ANNEX 5: MAP PRIMARY PHASE PLANNING AREAS



ANNEX 6: MAP SECONDARY PHASE PLANNING AREAS

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ANNEX 7: PRIMARY FORECAST WHOLE SCHOOL

Aveley, Ockendon & Purfleet		WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Aveley	420	422	422	413	415	414
Benyon	210	217	204	204	216	218
Bonnygate	420	388	445	475	487	475
Dilkes	420	416	428	428	433	436
Holy Cross	315	275	277	278	281	284
Kenningtons	420	456	504	523	512	530
Purfleet	630	485	507	528	552	555
Shaw	420	400	401	395	396	392
Somers Heath	420	248	251	249	254	248
In Year Admissions		231	241	245	248	249
	3,675	3,538	3,680	3,738	3,794	3,801
Grays		WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Belmont Castle	630	716	704	673	641	644
Deneholm	420	408	434	440	446	453
Harris Chafford Hundred	630	609	592	559	538	517
Harris Mayflower	1,050	256	346	436	526	616
Little Thurrock	630	630	642	629	633	634
Quarry Hill	420	511	512	491	475	460
St Thomas'	630	625	625	626	627	627
Stifford Clays	630	708	724	754	747	741
Thameside	840	658	673	667	682	678
Tudor Court	840	806	825	804	794	784
Warren	420	440	435	422	422	420
West Thurrock	420	560	607	561	563	563
In Year Admissions		485	498	494	497	493
	7,560	7,412	7,617	7,556	7,591	7,630
Tilbury		WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Chadwell St Mary	210	204	208	224	227	231
East Tilbury	630	598	623	597	577	565
Gateway	420	482	450	420	419	420
Herringham	420	413	411	407	404	402
Lansdowne	630	613	622	619	616	615
St Mary's	210	239	230	226	216	213
Tilbury Pioneer	420	268	313	353	349	347
Woodside	630	553	566	613	638	640
In Year Admissions		236	240	241	241	240
	3,570	3,606	3,663	3,700	3,687	3,673

PRIMARY FORECAST WHOLE SCHOOL CONTINUED

Corringham & Stanford le Hope		WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Abbots Hall	210	209	201	197	194	190
Arthur Bugler	420	409	399	409	406	404
Corringham	420	409	401	402	402	399
Giffards	420	461	493	484	405	399
Graham James	420	317	323	316	320	306
St Joseph's	210	253	244	237	229	220
Stanford-le-Hope	420	357	363	349	344	335
In Year Admissions		169	170	168	161	155
	2,520	2,584	2,594	2,562	2,461	2,408
Rural		WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Bulphan	84	102	101	94	89	85
Horndon-on-the-Hill	210	197	189	194	190	191
Orsett	210	221	204	189	184	177
In Year Admissions		36	35	33	32	32
	504	556	529	510	495	485

ANNEX 8: PRIMARY FORECAST RECEPTION

Aveley, Ockendon & Purfleet		RECEPTION FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Aveley	60	54	60	60	61	59
Benyon	30	37	26	31	32	32
Bonnygate	60	59	73	85	68	71
Dilkes	60	55	73	62	63	63
Holy Cross	45	45	45	45	45	45
Kenningtons	60	79	75	79	80	78
Purfleet	90	85	73	75	81	79
Shaw	60	51	61	54	56	56
Somers Heath	60	38	34	28	34	34
In Year Admissions		35	36	36	36	36
	525	538	556	555	556	553
Grays		RECEPTION FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Belmont Castle	90	102	90	87	92	93
Deneholm	60	54	84	66	65	67
Harris Chafford Hundred	90	74	74	57	66	68
Harris Mayflower	150	90	90	90	90	90
Little Thurrock	90	95	99	77	92	91
Quarry Hill	60	73	63	67	69	68
St Thomas'	90	90	90	90	90	90
Stifford Clays	90	108	110	120	109	112
Thameside	120	94	102	86	96	95
Tudor Court	120	117	111	99	108	109
Warren	60	64	57	59	60	60
West Thurrock	60	87	107	78	87	90
In Year Admissions		73	75	68	72	66
	1080	1,121	1,152	1,044	1,096	1,099
Tilbury		RECEPTION FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Chadwell St Mary	30	25	33	45	33	34
East Tilbury	90	91	77	68	78	79
Gateway	60	60	60	60	60	60
Herringham	60	58	55	58	57	57
Lansdowne	90	84	94	91	81	88
St Mary's	30	30	30	30	30	30
Tilbury Pioneer	90	62	45	40	49	49
Woodside	90	93	73	108	94	92
In Year Admissions		35	33	34	34	34
	540	538	500	534	516	523

PRIMARY FORECAST RECEPTION CONTINUED

Corringham & Stanford le Hope		RECEPTION FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Abbots Hall	30	28	23	26	27	26
Arthur Bugler	60	50	51	70	58	57
Corringham	60	50	50	66	60	57
Giffards	60	60	49	53	55	54
Graham James	60	34	37	36	42	37
St Joseph's	30	30	30	30	30	30
Stanford-le-Hope	60	46	44	58	49	49
In Year Admissions		21	20	24	22	19
	360	319	304	363	343	329
Rural		RECEPTION FORECAST				
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Bulphan	12	12	12	12	12	12
Horndon-on-the-Hill	30	27	21	32	27	27
Orsett	30	37	14	17	25	23
In Year Admissions		5	3	4	4	4
	72	81	50	65	68	66

TOTALS	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
PRIMARY NUMBERS	17,829	16,539	16,899	16,885	16,849	16,828
In Year Admissions		1,157	1,184	1,181	1,179	1,169
	17,829	17,696	18,083	18,066	18,028	17,997

ANNEX 9: SECONDARY FORECAST WHOLE SCHOOL

West Planning Area	WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST					
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Ormiston Park Academy	900	491	531	545	540	556
The Ockendon Academy	990	1,094	1,136	1,196	1,249	1,287
In Year Admissions		109	114	121	125	129
	1,890	1,694	1,781	1,862	1,914	1,972
Central Planning Area	WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST					
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Grays Convent	620	531	536	582	614	633
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	900	930	930	948	973	1,002
The Gateway Academy	1,020	1,024	1,066	1,099	1,121	1,155
The Hathaway Academy	900	738	794	887	946	975
William Edwards	1,210	1,221	1,232	1,254	1,270	1,308
In Year Admissions		309	317	333	345	355
	4,650	4,753	4,875	5,103	5,269	5,428
East Planning Area	WHOLE SCHOOL FORECAST					
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Gable Hall	1,270	1,328	1,386	1,443	1,460	1,504
Hassenbrook Academy	550	475	492	536	587	605
St Clere's	1,065	1,138	1,177	1,221	1,237	1,274
In Year Admissions		203	209	220	230	237
	2,885	3,144	3,264	3,420	3,514	3,620

ANNEX 10: SECONDARY FORECAST YEAR 7

West Planning Area	YEAR 7 FORECAST					
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Ormiston Park Academy	180	138	142	132	115	118
The Ockendon Academy	210	243	238	266	266	274
In Year Admissions		24	24	27	27	27
	390	381	380	398	381	392
Central Planning Area	YEAR 7 FORECAST					
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Grays Convent	124	119	117	131	131	135
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	180	196	192	207	208	213
The Gateway Academy	210	222	219	246	239	246
The Hathaway Academy	180	194	195	216	202	208
William Edwards	250	257	255	273	271	278
In Year Admissions		67	66	73	74	76
	944	1,055	1,044	1,146	1,125	1,156
East Planning Area	YEAR 7 FORECAST					
School	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
Gable Hall	272	303	318	352	311	320
Hassenbrook Academy	110	114	112	125	125	129
St Clere's	231	260	263	276	264	271
In Year Admissions		45	44	49	49	50
	613	722	737	802	749	770

TOTALS	PAN	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20
SECONDARY NUMBERS	9,425	9,591	9,920	10,385	10,697	11,020
In Year Admissions		621	640	674	700	721
	9,425	10,212	10,560	11,059	11,397	11,741

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8 March 2016	ITEM: 8
Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Report on Entry into Higher Education in Thurrock	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision:
Report of: Kate Kozlova-Boran – Engagement Manager Michele Lucas – Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills.	
Accountable Service Manager: Michele Lucas - Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills	
Accountable Director: David Archibald – Interim Director Children’s Services	
This report is: Public	

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the current entry of Thurrock young people into Higher Education. We request that the Committee note the challenges in accessing the data around entry into HE.

The report provides statistical information on entry to HE nationally and locally to give Committee Members the opportunity to consider how we can work in partnership with all interested parties in relation to increasing entry into HE from Thurrock young people.

This report also outlines ways in which the Local Authority is looking to support young people in accessing Russell Group Universities – utilising funding from the Education Commission.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the development of a strategy to raise entry into Higher Education for Thurrock Young People be endorsed.**
- 1.2 That the progress of the TAP (Thurrock Top Achievers Programme) in Thurrock be monitored.**
- 1.3 That a partnership approach involving London Universities, Essex University, colleges, primary and secondary schools and Thurrock Careers be supported in order to identify innovative ways in which the uptake of Higher Education could be increased in Thurrock.**

- 1.4 That the Committee support the development of an ‘Inspire – Into University’ event for Year 12 students in Thurrock to provide inspiration, support and guidance around entry into Higher Education and the opportunity to undertake higher level apprenticeship programmes.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Government has recently raised the issue of differential rates of participation in higher education. The overall aim of this report is to present national and local statistics on entry to HE. The research has cited social class, ethnicity, gender and parental education as contributory factors that may influence a young person's likelihood of entering higher education.
- 2.2 The latest statistical data shows that national numbers enrolling into Higher education have been decreasing since 2010.

3. Findings

- 3.1 The national statistics from HESA (Higher Education Statistics Agency) has identified a decrease in the numbers of young people accessing higher education across the country outlined in the table below:-

Students by level of study 2000/01 to 2014/15			
Year	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Total
2014/15	1727895	538180	2266075
2013/14	1759915	539440	2299355
2012/13	1803840	536440	2340275
2011/12	1928140	568490	2496635
2010/11	1913940	589070	2503010
2009/10	1914835	578915	2493750

The current applications for 2015 have seen a 4% rise in the number of applications in 2015.

The report makes the conclusion that though the number of young people applying to universities has increased; the number of young people enrolling has decreased. HESA do not hold information on the reasons why this trend is noticeable, however it should also be recognised that a number of young people are choosing a higher apprenticeship route which enables them to both gain a degree as well as earning a salary.

Recent examples of this are two young people from one of our local schools, who have been offered higher level apprenticeship programmes with a city bank.

Local Picture

The Department for Education statistics for Thurrock, which are only available for 2013 are outlined below:-

The statistics identify that nationally 58% of young people progress into HE with 17% progressing into Russell Group Universities and 1% into Oxbridge (58%, 17%, 1%).

Data 2013	HE	RG	Oxbridge
Harris Academy	54%	13%	0%
Palmers College	46%	4%	0%
South Essex College	23%	0%	0%
Stanford & Corringham 6 th Form	49%	12%	0%
Ormiston Academy	0%	0%	0%
Ockendon Academy	no statistical information for 2013		

Thurrock Careers Profile data

2013	397 young people
2014	371 young people
2015	344 young people

The above table data analysed figures taken from the Thurrock Careers database, Profile, and have identified that in the last three years entry into HE has declined. We attribute this decline to the raise of government tuition fees to £9000 per annum. However, these statistics do not include young people who reside in Thurrock but receive education outside Thurrock (approximately 260 young people in any one annual cohort). As outlined earlier in this report we have a number of young people who access higher level apprenticeship programmes when they have completed their A level studies.

4. Education commission – funding to support Progression into Russell Group Universities.

Working in partnership with the 11-19 Strategy Group we have recently been successful in securing funding to run a programme with the aim of encouraging young people to apply to Russell Group Universities – the project details are outlined below:-

- 4.1 Top Achievers' Programme (TAP) in Thurrock is a pioneering initiative funded by Thurrock Council. The programme aims to mentor and position selected high-achieving students from across Thurrock sixth-forms and colleges to make successful applications to Russell Group Universities, as well as other top non-Russell Group Medical and Dental Schools.

Designated as 'TAP Scholars', this group of students will also have shown some interest and/or good potential to succeed at university.

Selected Year 12 students will be enrolled on the programme as the first set of Thurrock TAP Scholars, and participate over a 2-year period throughout Key Stage 5 (KS5). Participants must maintain high academic grades during KS5, with predicted capability for continued academic success.

Total Number of Year 12 Students: 16

Student Selection Criteria:

The single most important criteria for enrolling students on the programme is high-achievement; guided by excellent GCSE grades.

In selecting the programme participants, additional consideration will be given to students from widening participation background who:

- Receive the 16 to 19 Bursary or Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) or Discretionary Learner Support
- Receive Free School Meals
- Receive the Full Maintenance Grant or full Special Support Grant
- Have been in Local Authority Care
- Live with a parent/guardian with no UK Higher Education qualifications
- Live with a parent/guardian in receipt of Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Live with a parent/guardian in receipt of Universal Credit if the household income as stated on the award is less than £35k
- Live with a parent/guardian in receipt of Child Tax Credit where the student is named on the award and the household income as stated on the award is less than £35k

5. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options.

- 5.1 One of the key areas of concern is in relation to securing accurate information both nationally and locally. However the overall picture has seen a decline in entry nationally and locally, which would need further investigation and is outside the remit of this report.

6. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

None

7. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 7.1 This piece of work directly links with the 5 corporate priorities of Thurrock Council.

8. Implications

8.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager – Children’s Services

The funding provide to TAP is from the Education Commission, monitoring of this expenditure takes place on a quarterly basis. We will need to consider in the light of continuing challenges on council wide budgets how we can support these types of innovative programmes going forward.

8.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**
Education Lawyer

S 149 of the Equality Act 2010 imposes the “public sector equality duty”, or PSED. This requires that decision makers have due regard to the need to Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that the Equality Act 2010 prohibits and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those individuals who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

Due regard means the amount of regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances. The Authority must weigh the duty against countervailing factors, such as finances.

8.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Teresa Evans**
Equalities and Cohesion Officer

Accessing Higher Education is one way in which we are ensuring that we are meeting our ambitious agenda around the work of the fairness commission, the outlined criteria for the TAP programme clearly illustrate how we continue to ensure that all members of the local communities can benefit from work that is being undertaken within the Council

This work also contributes to our raising aspirations agenda, which links in with work undertaken in a range of our council wide strategies including the child poverty strategy and the current work being undertaken on behalf of the Health & Wellbeing Board.

8.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

- 9. Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None

10. Appendices to the report

- None

Report Author:

Kate Kozlova-Boran
Engagement Manager

Michele Lucas
Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills

8 March 2016	ITEM: 9
Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Child Poverty – Opportunity for Every Child – Action Plan Update	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key
Report of: Michele Lucas, Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills	
Accountable Manager: Michele Lucas, Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills	
Accountable Director: David Archibald, Interim Director of Children’s Services	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

This report provides an update around progress that has taken place within our Child Poverty Action Plan – it builds on the request by Children’s Overview & Scrutiny to consider how the action plan is being imbedded across a range of different council departments and external organisations, recognising that Thurrock Council has taken a lead on this work.

The Action Plan is working towards a place where every child has the same chance to achieve his or her potential; where no child lacks food or the basic necessities of family life, or lives in poor housing, or in families where parents are unable to work; where every child attends a good school; and where every child has ready access to a range of leisure, cultural and sporting opportunities.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 To support the work undertaken in the Child Poverty Action plan and identify other ways in which we can promote the child poverty agenda across the Council and external partners.

1.2 To actively promote volunteering opportunities in local wards thus promoting and encouraging more community engagement and discussion around child poverty and ways of addressing it.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Child Poverty in Thurrock

A full needs assessment has been undertaken in Thurrock and can be seen at <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/strategies/key-strategies-and-policies/child-poverty/needs-analysis>

2.2 In summary, the key findings¹ are:

- A fifth of children in Thurrock live in relative poverty. 7955 children live in families with an income less than 60% of national median income before housing costs. In broad terms, child poverty has remained at much the same level since 2008.
- The majority, 7210, were aged 0-16, 5435 were aged 0-10; 2760 were aged 0-4.
- Child poverty is slightly above the national average (18.6%) and significantly above the level for Eastern region (15.1%).

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 **To meet the 2020 target of less than 10 per cent of children living in relative poverty we would have to reduce this category in Thurrock, by at least 4,000 children - more to take account of population growth**

3.2 The action plan looks to address the following strategic priorities:

- To increase parental employment and skills by providing access to adult training and skills development through the Wishes adult skills Programme and progression to adult learning opportunities.
- To increase benefit take-up by improving high quality advice and guidance targeted to areas where there is a high prevalence of poverty and workless households.
- To reduce attainment gaps between children living in poverty and those who don't by targeting school improvement to those areas and supporting parents to be able to support their children through, for example, adult learning opportunities.
- To reduce the health inequalities faced by some families by developing a targeted, integrated approach to local delivery of services.
- To support the need to prevent homelessness from occurring by addressing the underlying causes of homelessness through effective partnerships, collaboration and the coordination of services.

3.3 With the inclusion of Public Health and the work around developing a health & wellbeing strategy this has formed one of the strategic priorities in the Health & Wellbeing Strategy which is currently being consulted on.

3.4 This recognises the need to address child poverty when considering a number of health inequalities and will provide opportunities for a more integrated

approach in addressing some of the root causes that have a significant impact on child poverty.

3.5 One of our key strategic priorities relates to supporting parents back into work recognising that worklessness is one of the contributory factors around child poverty. Thurrock Council have continued to look at ways in which we can support this, including the two programmes outlined below.

3.6 Wishes – an adult learning programme to support parents into work

3.7 Wishes is an innovative project aimed at parents and carers in Thurrock who have a lack of qualifications, it is specifically aimed at parents and carers who have Level 1 or below qualifications. The Wishes Project works with Parents and Carers to remove barriers to learning and can provide support with things such as childcare and transport costs in order for them to take those daunting first steps back into a learning environment.

3.8 The Project provides an opportunity for its learners to increase their confidence, recognise the skills that they have, enhance their soft skills and be supported to gain both accredited and non-accredited qualifications. Learners are also supported and encouraged to actively participate in voluntary opportunities to put their learning into practice and gain valuable experience in order to become job ready.

3.9 Current Learners on Programme

Course Title 2015-16	Entry Level	Level 1	Level 2	Intro to	GCSE	Sort courses 4 or 6 weeks
ESOL (English for Speakers of other languages)	1					
Literacy	2			1	3	
Numeracy	1			1	3	
Bookkeeping		2				
Counselling				1		
Electrical installations			1			
Floristry						2

Hairdressing		2	2	1		
Health & Social care		3		1		
IT						1
Learning support Asst			2			
Massage						1
Voluntary	8					
						31 ON COURSES 8 volunteering

- 3.10 A number of learners completing level 1 and 2 this year started off with an introduction to or short course last academic year, therefore continuing their Wishes journey.
- 3.11 We currently have eight learners volunteering this year in a range of different placements. The Wishes project has three Wishes Champions that support the project in coffee mornings and presentations, two Champions are ex Wishes learners who are able to share their Wishes journey to potential learners and this has proved to be a powerful tool in recruiting other learners to the programme
- 3.12 Children's Centre Volunteers – addressing Child Poverty
- More than thirty parents have received introductory training to act as volunteers in children's centres. This has included training in understanding and identifying child poverty. The majority are now actively volunteering, helping to run sessions for parents and children; engaging new families to make use of children's centre services; acting as advisers to other parents; undertaking interpreting; and helping with consultations and evaluations.
- 3.13 An aim of the project is to enable participating parents to increase their vocationally related skills and a number have already moved into paid work. Each parent is assigned to a role within the children's centres which will help them to move towards their chosen employment goals.
- 3.14 Children's centre volunteers are aware of child poverty and contribute to signposting to relevant services. A new volunteer role to encourage low-

income families to take up the offer of free early education for their two year olds has been developed.

- 3.15 The parent volunteers share a commitment to helping their communities and have formed their own family college – a community group with the aim of addressing and mitigating child poverty through learning activities and practical projects e.g. toy libraries, clothes exchanges and other money saving ideas.
- 3.16 Three volunteers have undertaken introductory training in welfare benefits. This will shortly be cascaded to other volunteers who will act as advisers, on basic welfare rights to children’s centre users and other parents in the community.
- 3.17 The family college group aims to engage other parents in contributing to and participation in new learning activities, run by parents for other parents and enlisting paid facilitators where necessary. A particular focus will be to engage parents who will not normally enrol on a course or qualification. A consultation across the five directly managed children’s centres is almost complete and this will be followed by the roll-out of study and activity groups.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The Action Plan is working towards a place where every child has the same chance to achieve his or her potential; where no child lacks food or the basic necessities of family life, or lives in poor housing, or in families where parents are unable to work; where every child attends a good school; and where every child has ready access to a range of leisure, cultural and sporting opportunities.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 A range of workshops have taken place in Children Centres to discuss with Parents how they feel we can ensure Opportunity for all Children. We have arranged meetings with a range of directorates across the LA recognising the need for a whole council approach to tackling child poverty. We are in the process of training a group of volunteers who will become child poverty champions across the Borough.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 This report contributes to the following corporate priorities:
 - create a great place for learning and opportunity
 - encourage and promote job promotion and economic prosperity

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager

This work undertaken within this report is funded via a range of funding streams, including 2 year old funding and core funding attached to children centres and community hubs. We are exploring ways in which we can further secure funding opportunities for our work with volunteers recognising that this provides a bridge to residents gaining employment opportunities.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Principal Solicitor – Children’s Safeguarding

The Committee is asked to note the report content under the remit of the Committee’s terms of reference and powers.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Community Development & Equalities Manager

Equality of opportunity is a key principle in the delivery of our ambitious child poverty strategy action plan, we have linked this into the work undertaken by Thurrock’s fairness commission. The current work being undertaken in the health & wellbeing strategy further imbeds the importance of this work.

By working with other council directorates we are ensuring that the responsibility for this work is linked to other departments which will ensure a more integrated approach to the challenge of reducing child poverty across our local communities.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council’s website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1 – Child Poverty Action Plan

Report Author:

Michele Lucas

Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills

Children's Services

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Child Poverty Action Plan

Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring	Progress
Priority 1: Develop Neighbourhood-focused approaches					
Local Access Points - <i>Tilbury St Chads and Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park will be focused on in year 1 of 5 years. With subsequent wards in the following years based on ward data</i>	All Community Hubs, Children Centres and relevant venues will provide advice services around moving “out of poverty”	Review of current activities and info. Focus on CPov in those first two areas Sessions, Training and promotion delivered	Dave Petrie, Liz Morrison, Hub Managers, CC Managers	6 monthly reviews on info and impact	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
	Mobile Delivery through a multi agency approach will target LSOA’s with high levels of CPov to provide advice and sign posting	Agencies brought on board. Venues, transport and resources procured Staggered delivery within LSOA’s	Dave Petrie, Department Heads and Agencies	After delivery, Review of initial impact and then 3 month assessment	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
	Virtual Neighbourhood approaches explored around access and information online	<i>Opportunity for Every Child</i> launched on Thurrock Website with appeal for volunteers. Research into online delivery and information. Consultation with families on most accessible access points. Work with local agencies to ensure either promotion or creation of online presence. Youth Cabinet to support yp consultation	D Petrie, Steve Rigden, Pixel Works Community Hubs D Petrie, IT Team, Local Agencies, Youth Cabinet	6 monthly reviews on info and impact 3 monthly reviews	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle. Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
	Youth Offer to include advice services across all delivery sites within identified areas	Youth bus to deliver a roadshow type of service to identified areas?	Wendy Warman, D Petrie	Annual Review of impact and feedback	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.

<p>Local Partner/Public Meetings/Consultations</p>	<p>Departmental Meetings held to launch and advise of CPov strategy and challenge</p> <p>Local Partners Meetings held to launch and advise of CPov strategy and challenge</p> <p>Community consultations held in top 5 wards at suitable locations to launch, advise and gain support and guidance on the CPov Strategy and Challenge</p>	<p>Departmental Presentation created and delivered with buy in from all senior managers.</p> <p>Agency presentation created and delivered with buy in from all relevant agencies</p> <p>Public Presentation and consultation created and delivered. Vol group focused on CPov to support consultations and ongoing promotion Youth Cab to support creation of yp consultation in schools etc</p>	<p>D Petrie, M Lucas, Departmental Heads</p> <p>D Petrie, M Kelly, Agencies, Businesses</p> <p>D Petrie, Vol Groups, Agencies, Children Centres, Hubs</p>	<p>Quarterly updates and impacts from departments</p> <p>Annual review and evaluation between partners</p> <p>Ongoing evaluation after each event and review after 1 year</p>	<p>Fairness commission recommendations of regular community surveys to feedback and hear communities views from 2016 to be embedded</p>
<p>Staff, Volunteers and Young People Trained in CPov</p>	<p>All Front Line Services have trained staff to support/signpost families in CPov</p> <p>All Volunteers are trained to support/signpost families in CPov</p> <p>CPov Training to be integral in all TC and Voluntary Sector Induction Training for staff/volunteers + young people inc Youth Cab</p>	<p>Relevant FL Staff and Volunteers identified. CPov training created and delivered.</p> <p>Training also embedded into induction training where appropriate.</p> <p>Initial targeted delivery of support in top most CPov wards.</p>	<p>D Petrie, Training Department, Heads of Service, Voluntary Sector Heads, Volunteers</p>	<p>Evaluation after each training session.</p> <p>6-12 month Case studies used to look at impact from Vol training</p> <p>Quarterly Feedback group sessions to gauge impact and issues</p>	<p>More than thirty parents have received introductory training to act as volunteers in children's centres. This has included training in understanding and identifying child poverty. Three parents, now active volunteers have undertaken introductory training in welfare benefits. This will be cascaded to other volunteers who will act as advisers, on basic welfare rights</p>

					to other children's centre users. The parent group as a whole has established a community group – the Inspire Family College – to act to address and mitigate child poverty through learning activities and practical projects e.g. toy library
Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring	Progress
Priority 2: Create Pathways into Employment					
Extend the Wishes Programme in partnership with Jobcentre Plus	<p>Lone Parent families with 3 or more children prioritised within the programme based across Children Centres in the Borough</p> <p>Each family has a tailored plan to assist transition into employment via JC+</p>	<p>Wishes Co-ordinator to identify families and target support</p> <p>Meetings held with JC+ to ensure partnership agreement and review current support packages for those families in CPov</p> <p>Link with Thurrock Careers and Social Care to ensure young parents are engaged</p>	D Petrie, Jo Doyle, Job Centre Plus, Children centre Managers	<p>Annual Wishes review to reflect impact and outcomes</p> <p>6 monthly reviews with JC+</p>	Lone parents prioritised through Wishes Criteria. Each parent taken onto the Wishes programme receives a tailored Individual Learning Plan, according to their learning needs. Referrals are made from JC+ where applicable and Wishes refers back to JC+ for CV and employability skills when time is right for parent to return to work
Cross Borough Multi Agency (Employment and Training) Strategy	Multi Agency Conference convened with clear buy in and	Agencies/Partners identified. Conference organised and delivered utilising IT to engage	D Petrie, M Lucas, T Bright, K Kozlova-Boran,	Event Evaluation and feedback sessions	

<p>to shape local access for opportunities</p>	<p>actions to consider radical ways of take up of FE and Employment</p> <p>All Community Hubs and Wards have local accessible Job and Training Fairs</p> <p>Retired skilled workers acting as volunteer for development clubs and as mentors</p> <p>Establish and build upon partnership of Thurrock careers and Children's Centres in targeted work with Teenage parents</p>	<p>and capture feedback and support – repeated to ensure feedback and update</p> <p>Vols to establish best date, time, location, promotion and accessibility for fairs. Carried out over 2 days with CC support</p> <p>Links with Thurrock Council HR/CVS/Time Bank to identify and recruit workers to share skills and promote in relevant areas</p> <p>Identify and initiate CEIAG support to teenage parents in Children's Centres with the aim to reduce NEET teenage parents as well as increase Care to Learn take up</p>	<p>Community Hubs, Volunteers, Job and Training Agencies</p> <p>Dave Petrie, HR, CVS, Time Bank</p> <p>KKB</p>	<p>Event Evaluation and feedback sessions, Case Studies of impact</p> <p>Annual review on take up and skills offered</p> <p>Monthly reviews</p>	<p>Thameside Primary has just completed Job Fair for young children on their prospects, awaiting feedback</p> <p>Thurrock Careers have appointed a new lead for Teenage Parents who will be renewing work with teenage parents in Children's centres. Conversations with UEL about possible partnership working.</p>
<p>Continue and extend current Community Engagement Programme focusing on Social Enterprise opportunities for public services</p>	<p>Successful Transition of Youth Engagement Services into Staff Mutual</p> <p>Accessible Promotion, training/support to local start up businesses with focus on those families in CPov</p>	<p>Staff Survey, Consultation and validation from new cabinet, Legal and Unions sign off and transition</p> <p>Establish links with local projects e.g. Princes Trust to establish current base line and develop action plan</p> <p>Consider scope for developing key public service social</p>	<p>Michele Lucas, Carmel Littleton,</p> <p>Dave Petrie, Princes Trust, Banks, Training providers</p>	<p>Monthly review</p> <p>Annual review</p>	<p>Completed O and S meeting and working with Cabinet to confirm all party agreement and execution</p> <p>Initial discussions had with Princes Trust to link in with their "Get Into" programmes</p>

		enterprises e.g. accessible crèche service or food- growing projects or community cafes in children’s centres and other publicly owned venues			
Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring	Progress
Priority 3: Maximise Income and Raise Living Standards					
Increase the commitment from employers to the “Living Wage” for those in the Borough	Increased percentage, year on year of companies in the borough adopting the “Living Wage”	Collate data on baseline wages in the borough. Identify employers within the threshold and work with each to adopt Living Wage over next 5 years.	Dave Petrie	Annual review of percentage increase	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
	Increased take up of training promoted in businesses to assist those identified as in-work poverty	Utilising above data, to promote current training opportunities and to research current needs of employees to adapt current offer	Dave Petrie, Training providers, Employers	Annual review of training audit	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
	All contractors/sub contractors are committed to “Living Wage” as per the SV Framework	Audit all contractors lists within Council and work with each to ensure this element is being abided with	Dave Petrie, Contracts and Performance, Contractors, Sub Contractors	Inclusion within Annual Commissioning Audit	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.

<p>Clear Local Advice and guidance on impacts of financial capability and benefit caps (particularly one-parent and larger families)</p>	<p>Community Hubs and local venues promoting advice, training and support to benefits, entitlements, tax credits and budgeting</p> <p>Protocol in place for workforce to effectively respond to families in those identified areas with acute needs due to reduction or stoppage of benefits</p> <p>Robust data on the impact of welfare cuts and the benefit cap on families with dependent children.</p>	<p>Review of local and social media promotions (with qualitative research from local families). Promotional strategy adopted by Hubs and Venues highlighting advice and support</p> <p>Staff and volunteers operating in schools, children's centres and community hubs and associations trained to offer advice and signposting</p> <p>Review previous case studies and impacts on their situations. Review current responsive protocols and look to establish effective response</p>	<p>Dave Petrie, Community Hub and CC Managers, JC+ Online providers</p> <p>Dave Petrie, Community Hub and CC Managers, JC+ Online providers</p>	<p>Annual review with case studies and feedback sessions</p> <p>Annual review with case studies and feedback sessions</p>	<p>Children's centre volunteers are aware of child poverty and contribute to signposting to relevant services. A new volunteer role – to encourage low-income families to take up the offer of free early education for their two year olds has been developed</p>
<p>Build upon current food/fuel poverty initiatives through education, support and alternative strategies</p>	<p>Continued support of Food Banks and Healthy Start Vouchers</p> <p>Increased educative offers of cooking and food in more front line delivery sessions</p> <p>Exploration regarding food-buying coops, food wastage from local stores</p> <p>Clear baseline for</p>	<p>Link with Finance Department to ensure continued initiatives in place and link to CPov families</p> <p>Ensure Children Centres and front line workers are promoting one off and on-going events in the borough. Youth Offer to include events as standard delivery each year.</p> <p>Research with Food Banks and other national co-ops to establish borough wide food saving programme</p> <p>Establish organisations that hold</p>	<p>Dave Petrie, Finance, Benefits, Children Centres</p> <p>CC Managers, Social Work</p> <p>Dave Petrie, Food Banks, Super Markets and Shops</p> <p>Dave Petrie, DWP, Benefits Office, Thurrock council</p>	<p>Annual review</p> <p>Annual review within CC reviews</p> <p>To Be Confirmed</p>	<p>Fairness Commission want to review single equality scheme with the 3 main focuses from 2016 –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1-Access to services – e.g. health care, school placements, physical access 2-Poverty and austerity, including child poverty 3-Building cohesion and creating welcoming communities

	families identified in fuel poverty and energy conservations issues	data and link. Once established then look at current borough wide aspect and focus on those high need areas			
Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring	Progress
Priority 4: Support Parents/Carers to Upgrade their Skills					
Reduce the % of adults without qualifications to at least the national average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A robust system is in place to collect and monitor participation and achievement data relating to adults undertaking Skills for Life and Level 1, 2 and 3 courses in key LSOAS 	<p>Thurrock Community College and other training bodies provide small (LSOA) are analysis (based on postcodes) of enrolments/ retention and achievement among adults for 2012-2015</p> <p>Local employers asked to provide data towards an audit of workplace training opportunities</p> <p>Wishes brand enlarged to include job clubs and all accredited and non-accredited courses in children's centres. Primary schools engaged as partners in the development of Wishes for the parents of school age children. "Light-touch" support for Wishes learners at or above Level provided by volunteers trained for this purpose</p>	<p>Dave Petrie, TACC, INGEIOUS, SEETEC</p> <p>Dave Petrie, Employers, Employability and skills Team</p> <p>Dave Petrie, Michele Lucas</p>	Nov 2015	<p>Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.</p> <p>Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.</p>
	Training providers target CPov identified families accessing Skills for Life and Levels 1 and 2 and 3	Children's centres, health clinics, employers and community hubs asked to participate in short	Dave Petrie, Children Centres, Hubs, Health Clinics, Employers		Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
	Completed Research in				

	<p>12 most deprived areas identifying barriers for adults to entering education or skill based learning</p> <p>Twenty trained Volunteers in Literacy and Numeracy mentoring Parent-led study groups in or attached to all Thurrock children's centres</p>	<p>surveys in key target areas</p> <p>Wishes project extended to include one to one volunteer literacy support. TACC, Ngage, schools, children's centres and community hubs approached to help recruit volunteers.</p> <p>Current children's centre parent volunteer group developed as a pilot for parent led study groups or family colleges</p> <p>Youth Offer programmes to include a % of accredited programmes to reduce level of unqualified future adults.</p>	<p>Dave Petrie, Michele Lucas</p> <p>Capacity, Children Centres, Volunteers</p> <p>Wendy Warman, Dave Petrie</p>		<p>Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.</p> <p>Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.</p> <p>The Family College formed by the children's centre volunteers is conducting a consultation across all directly managed children's centres to identify learning needs and to identify other parents interested in acting as learning facilitators. Volunteers are already facilitating groups for other parents – on play and learning, groups for parents whose first language is not English and volunteers have also</p>
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					<p>undertaken to act as Wishes mentors.</p> <p>Some members of the group have offered themselves as adult literacy volunteers and contact has been made with TACC to arrange appropriate training.</p>
Reduce barriers for parents at Level 2 to upgrade their qualifications	<p>Assessment and action plan completed to identify all those at Level 2 or below</p> <p>Borough wide strategies in place with Local companies and Job Centre + to ensure In work poverty is reduced through training opportunities for those families in need</p>	<p>TACC and other training providers asked to conduct sample survey of adults with dependent children on exit from Level 2 courses/qualifications</p> <p>Establish meetings with all associated companies to discuss individual impact to Child Poverty strategy and how to embed in current business plans</p>	<p>TACC, Ngage, Ingeous, Seetec</p> <p>Dave Petrie, Various organisations</p>		<p>Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.</p> <p>Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.</p>
Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring	Progress
Priority 5: Continue to Narrow the Gap in Achievement between Children on Low Incomes and Children from more Affluent Families					
All children receive good quality early education and childcare	Proportion of childcare providers on non-domestic premises receiving a "good" or "outstanding Ofsted" is	Provide high quality and targeted support to achieve continuous improvement	Schools Improvement team, Children centres, Nurseries	Annual review and 6 month updates	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.

	at least as good as the national average				
Continue to ensure all primary and secondary schools achieve at least a "Good" Ofsted judgement		Provide high quality and timely CEIAG in secondary schools and academies, thus enhancing the schools' offer to the YP and evidencing this for Ofsted	KKB to continue with the same level of Traded Services offer in the borough	Annually	
Monitored use of Pupil Premium to ensure disadvantaged students are raising their attainment and aspirations	<p>Increase in the proportion of FSM pupils achieving Level 4 and above At Key Stage 2 and achieving full GCSE Level 2</p> <p>Use of Pupil premium to provide family learning and other home-based support for children's learning</p>	<p>If possible to raise awareness of utilising PP for Youth Offer and wider Inspire activities.</p> <p>Usage of Pupil Premium to support CEIAG activities in Primary Schools across the borough; in some cases looking at providing targeted support to the most vulnerable children in Year 5-6</p>	<p>Wendy Warman, Schools, Michele Lucas</p> <p>KKB to establish partnerships with Primary Schools to deliver this piece of work and at the same time to increase traded offer</p>	<p>Termly</p> <p>Annually</p>	<p>Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.</p> <p>Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.</p>
		<p>Link with all schools to build on ways like Thameside Primary example</p>	<p>Dave Petrie, Michele Lucas, Schools</p>		<p>Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.</p>
Examine and monitor Admissions policies to ensure unduly clustering or segregation	Analysis of segregation in Thurrock schools completed	Establish links with administration management to discuss impacts and how we could shape this to allow the reduction in CP	Dave Petrie, Michele Lucas, Admissions team	Annual review	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
Increase in Social Mobility	Proportions of young people gaining qualifications at levels 3 and 4 at least as good as the national average.	<p>Poss short training sessions at the Youth Hub.</p> <p>Establish and promote links with HE providers</p>	<p>Youth Workers and Thurrock Careers</p> <p>KKB to enhance the</p>	Annually	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.

	Proportion of young people receiving Free School Meals moving into higher education at least as good as the national average	Link with Schools data and Thurrock Careers, Colleges to understand current data and build on this for next 3-5 years	partnership work with UEL Dave Petrie, Thurrock Careers, Colleges, Data Team	Annually	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring	Progress
Priority 6: Support the Health of Children Affected by Poverty and Reduce Inequalities in Health Outcomes					
Continue to promote and monitor health eating programs in Schools and Children Centres	Schools and Children Centres can show evidence of reduced health related issues in children and families	Youth Offer Health and Fitness programmes as standard delivery. Children's centre volunteer group deliver healthy eating/cooking on a budget programmes	Children Centres, Schools, Youth Workers	6 month reviews of impact after baseline data collated	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
Working in partnership with close proximity Food Outlets to promote healthier options and information	Food Outlets provide clearer information and support to customers regarding their food choices	Start relationships with small group of traders in those identified areas of obesity and track development and change in families during trial period	Dave Petrie, Traders, Health	6 months and 1 year reviews	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
Continue promoting and monitoring Breast Feeding benefits to families on low income	Breast feeding is incrementally increased	Establish link with Children Centres, Nurseries, Health team and Teenage Parents group to ensure current levels and agree cross borough targets	Children Centre Managers, Public Health,	Annual Reviews in line with local data sets	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring	

Priority 7: Provide Suitable Housing and Prevent Homelessness					
Continue to deliver and develop high quality housing and services	Suitable high quality housing is provided to families and young people in the borough	<p>Continue to support families in maximising their income through the work of the financial inclusion services.</p> <p>Support care leavers and vulnerable young people to secure suitable accommodation through the use of the essential living fund.</p> <p>Joint working with Children's services to ensure adequate provision of emergency and intermediary housing is provided.</p>	Strategic Lead Housing	6monthly and yearly reviews	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
Develop residents skills and networks through Housing volunteering opportunities	Provide access to opportunity to support young people with barriers training, education, and work	Continue to prioritise the delivery of training, apprenticeships and job opportunities through social value obligations.	Head of Housing – Investment and Development	6month and yearly reviews.	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring	Progress
Priority 8: Remove Transport Barriers					
Embed CPov Strategy in the Transport Business plan whilst removing additional family transport barriers	Evidenced outcomes of CPov embedded within plans	<p>Review of Transport Business Plan and links with CPov strategy.</p> <p>Review consultations around transport to ensure access is available and promoted</p>	D Petrie, Transport Head	Annual Review linked with policy update reviews	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.

	Feasibility research concluded on volunteer driving instructor programme	Conduct feasibility research in programme and explore all insurance, safety aspects whilst linking in with local Test centre	D Petrie, CVS, Transport department	6 month review plus case studies to ensure impact	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
	Car/Minibus Sharing and volunteer programme within 12 most disadvantaged areas	Conduct feasibility research into sharing programme and explore national outcomes to develop local framework	D Petrie, CVS, Transport department	6 month review plus case studies to ensure impact	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring	Progress
Priority 9: Family Well-Being					
Review of MASH and ongoing monitoring of its impact on those families in need	Identifiable CPov outcomes for those families through MASH and delivery/support altered based on feedback from families	Establish MASH engagement and current CPov families. Establish better link with current Youth Offer activities to reduce CPov Work to embed CPov KPI's within the outcomes of the MASH model	D Petrie, MASH Coordinators, Data Team	6 month review plus case studies to ensure impact	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
Alternative Opportunities for Volunteers around safeguarding	All Volunteers in the borough have access to all safeguarding and all aspects of “health” training	Establish current opportunities and baseline for all vols and work with a range of training providers to create a set approach for all	D Petrie, HR, CVS, Training Department, Voluntary sector, training agencies	Annual review	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
Ensure and monitor seamless and co-ordinated support across agencies for Children with disabilities	All families with children with disabilities identified in CPov have a clear time lined plan to address their	Identify CPov families with disabilities and consult on current needs and factors to alleviate them from CPov	D Petrie, Sunshine Centre, Social Care, JC+	Annual Review, linked with the support workers reviews plus case studies	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.

Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring	Progress
Priority 10: Work Together to Share Information and Maximise Impact					
Develop and share Knowledge Base between Organisations	Collation of all agencies, events and feedback from communities and shared over an online process	Work with all agencies and Communities to look at easiest and most accessible way of sharing knowledge, skills and opportunities	D Petrie, Pixel Works, Agencies, Volunteers, Thurrock Fairness Commission	On-going Review with Annual Updates and on-line feedback	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
All Policy and Procurement procedures to ensure commitment to CPov Strategy	Review of all Policy/Procedures and embedment of CPov Strategy	Ensure all heads have reviewed their policies to highlight where the CPov strategy is included	D Petrie, Heads of Service, Commissioning team	Annual Review linked with policy update reviews	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.
Develop Strategy and delivery of Public Information packages around CPov issues	Physical and online information with focussed events and trained staff/volunteers providing info packages of support	Review of current online packages. Strategy created through review and consultation with identified families. Creation of “bite sized” infomercial’s utilising community to present and promote Youth Offer (Art space) to produce another short film.	D Petrie, Pixel Works, Community, Volunteers Youth Workers	On-going Review with Annual Updates and on-line feedback April 2016	Ongoing – review due in next reporting cycle.

8 March 2016	ITEM: 10
Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Proposal to deliver Denominational Transport within the Statutory minimum	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Yes
Report of: Councillor J Kent, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Education	
Accountable Head of Service: N/A	
Accountable Directors: Roger Harris – Director of Adults, Housing, and Health, David Archibald - Interim Corporate Director of Children's Services	
This report is public	

Executive Summary

Transport on denominational grounds (hereinafter referred to as “denominational transport”) other than for pupils on benefit attending a faith secondary school, is not a statutory duty and Thurrock Council is entitled to use its discretion with respect to such transport. In order to comply with their statutory duties local authorities must:

- Promote the use of sustainable travel and transport
- Make transport arrangements for all eligible children (Schedule 35B of the Education Act defines the term "eligible children")

This report will identify the means by which Thurrock Council will deliver denominational transport in accordance with its statutory duty. In 2013, following an extensive consultation exercise, Cabinet exercised its discretion and decided to continue denominational transport, but charge for places. Although some savings have been made, the service is still heavily subsidised by the Council. The most recent review of 2015/16 costs revealed that of the 185 pupils using the service only 25 pay the full cost. 91 pupils were existing users of the service at the time the charging regime was introduced. In recognition of the impact that the changes might have on their families, the existing users were subsidised by the Council and paid only 50% of the full cost of transport. 69 pupils access the service free of charge as they are in receipt of benefits. Thus, the Council receives an income of £82,654 against its total spend of £332,262. In light of the Council’s financial position, on 14 October 2015, Cabinet agreed to go out to further consultation on the future of the service including the possibility of aligning the service with the statutory requirements of the Education Act at the end of the 2015/16 academic year. The purpose of this paper is to consider the results of the consultation, the impact of the proposal to

decommission the service on Thurrock families and to determine the most financially viable way forward for the Council.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1. That the comments of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the proposal being referred to Cabinet to deliver denominational transport within the statutory minimum and discontinue all services outside of its legal duty at the end of the 2015/16 academic be noted.

1.2 That it be recognised that Thurrock Council will continue to transport pupils in receipt of benefit who meet the criteria stipulated within the Education Act. An Exceptional Circumstances policy is also in place to support families whose income level is low, yet above the benefits threshold.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The full history and background around the delivery of education transport up until October 2015 can be found in the Cabinet report presented on 14 October 2015.

2.2 Since approval to consult was granted in October, a consultation document was prepared and placed on the Council's online portal. The consultation went live on 7 December 2015 and closed on 29 January 2016.

2.3 The consultation ran for eight weeks. This was above the required 28 days as the Council gave consideration to the school holidays which fell during that period. The consultation provided a range of opportunities for parents, schools, colleges, professionals and the public to comment on the proposed changes. Opportunities were provided across the borough and information was provided to key groups to share with interested parties to encourage a wide response. A summary of the consultation and those with whom the Council consulted is available for review.

2.4 In addition to the consultation exercise, an analysis was carried out of the data gathered from the consultation around age, gender, ethnicity and disability. Also, a full Equality Impact Analysis has been undertaken dated 10 December 2015.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 A total of 74 responses were received with respect to the Denominational Transport consultation. 39 (52.70%) were parents. This is a reasonable response rate and compares favourably to consultations within the local authority. A full breakdown of the consultation responses is available on request.

- 3.2 Officers were proactive in ensuring that the information was disseminated to relevant individuals and organisations particularly parents of children currently accessing denominational transport, primary pupils who may be considering the use of denominational transport, schools and affiliated bodies. Parents were informed of recent developments around denominational transport particularly the fact that the Council was responsive to their comments in a previous consultation when it introduced charges instead of decommissioning the service.

A generic external email address was created for respondents wishing to send comments or questions and a desk within the Civic Offices *Face 2 Face* area was available and utilised by some respondents who requested to meet directly with officers dealing with the consultation.

- 3.3 The result of the consultation on denominational transport show that 34 (45.9 %) of those who responded were of the opinion that it should be withdrawn. 29 (39.2%) were of the view that the service should continue. 11(14.9%) did not leave a comment.

3.4 **Respondent's comments:**

The principal point to note is that Denominational Transport, other than for low income pupils attending secondary school is not a statutory duty and the Council is entitled to use its discretion with respect to such transport. In 2013, the Council considered decommissioning this form of transport. However, Thurrock Council is genuinely responsive to the results of consultations and continued to deliver denominational transport following family's expression of a willingness to pay for places on vehicles if the Council would continue to supply the vehicles.

- 3.5 Cabinet exercised its discretion and decided to continue denominational transport, but charge for places. The charge was intended to generate funds in order to relieve the financial pressure on the Council. However, there were a number of factors which could not have been anticipated at the time the changes were implemented; factors such as the number of new applicants willing to pay the full cost (predicted to be the greatest source of income), the number of existing pupils willing to pay the subsidised rate and finally, the number of pupils in receipt of benefits.
- 3.6 The service has not achieved the expected level of savings. Officers have prepared a five-year forecast of the cost of delivering this service. It shows limited potential to generate income. This is due to a paradox brought about by the fact that the overall cost of delivery going forward is increasing due to gradually rising running costs and rapidly decreasing numbers of pupils opting to use the service as a result of the cost. In 2014, 236 pupils accessed denominational transport whereas the number was reduced to 185 during the 2015/16 academic year. As stated earlier, consideration must be given to the fact that this figure includes 69 pupils who are in receipt of benefit and 91 who

pay just 50% of the full cost in the current academic year and this also adds to the financial pressure placed upon the Council budget.

It should be noted that only 32 of the 69 pupils referred to above meet the statutory requirement for transport. The remaining 37 were transported under the Council's discretionary power as they are either primary school pupils or occupying a spare seat. Spare seats are sold after all eligible pupils have been offered a place on a vehicle. See Appendix 1 for a table depicting the number of pupils attending the various denominational schools within Thurrock.

Also, officers are able to confirm that each of the 69 pupils transported (including any pupils on income support who fall within the Council's statutory obligation to offer transport in future) would have had a place available in a non-denominational school at the time they selected their school of choice. No child is attending a denominational school because there was no alternative offer. It is not the Council's policy to place a child in a denominational school without parental consent. Parents are informed of the place in the nearest suitable school and given the opportunity to accept or reject the offer.

- 3.7 A decision to discontinue the service should not hinge on financial issues alone. Although issues such as the implications of using public funds for the benefit of a segment of the community were raised the consultation results also shed light on a number of issues (See paragraph 3.8 below) raised by Thurrock residents which must be considered. It should be noted, that parents made up 52.70% of the respondents.
- 3.8 A detailed list of the issues raised within the consultation can be provided upon request. In the majority of cases respondents in favour of retaining the service were of the view that the Council should retain the service for one of four main reasons.

The most predominant issues raised by parents, and taken directly from the consultation, can be summarised within four categories as shown below:

- The cost to parents of transporting their children and the resultant congestion
 - Disruption to parents work travel plans if they have to transport children themselves
 - The lack of a Catholic option for male pupils in Thurrock
 - The lack of a suitable alternative route to some denominational schools via public transport
- 3.9 The Council's delivery of education transport aligns with the Education Act. We are mindful of the fact that the Secretary of State attaches importance to the opportunity that parents should have to choose a school in accordance with their religious or philosophical beliefs, and that wherever possible, local authorities should ensure that transport arrangements support the religious or philosophical preference parents express. Thurrock Council may consider

possible action in the future. For instance, encouraging denominational schools and faith organisations to consider developing an alternative denominational school for boys. However, it must be noted that there are children within Thurrock who attend denominational schools that are neither Catholic nor Church of England. The Council is keen to ensure that all services have an overall positive equality impact and that all children are treated equally regardless of their religion, belief, or their ability. Transporting children to schools of a particular faith may put the Council at risk if this is interpreted as being by design, whereas it is in fact by chance that pupils from other faiths do not have local denominational schools to attend and have not applied for transport.

The Council is also working to establish an 11-16 bus pass that will provide school-friendly routes at a reduced cost to support pupils opting to travel by public transport. However, other issues raised within the consultation fall under parental responsibility as the parent has a right to choose a school for their child, but the local authority will not be responsible for transporting a child where a parent exercised parental preference.

3.10 Income Support

Irrespective of the option adopted at the end of this review of Denominational Transport the Council shall continue to support pupils from families in receipt of income support. The Education Act places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements for secondary pupils from low income backgrounds to attend the nearest school preferred on grounds of "religion or belief", where that school is between 2 and 15 miles from their home.

Cost effective transport options for pupils on income support

During the current academic year Thurrock Council paid for the transport of 69 pupils on income support. As this duty will continue, officers have outlined a range of cost effective transport options that align with guidance from the Department for Education. These options will enable the Council carry out its statutory duty to pupils on income support travelling to denominational schools with the least impact upon the Council budget.

The methods include the procurement of the most appropriate sized vehicles for the number of pupils on a route and placing central pick up points along such routes (as opposed to several bus stops nearer home addresses), The Champion School, Upminster and St Edwards Secondary School, Romford would require such transport as it is unlikely eligible pupils will be able to travel to these schools from within the borough by public transport in the recommended time frame of 75 minutes with a single transfer between vehicles.

However, bus passes would provide a suitable and cost effective solution for pupils travelling to De La Salle Secondary School, Basildon or the Convent Girls Secondary School in Grays as suitable transport links exist to these

schools. In order to support this option, officers have conducted research on an 11-16 bus pass similar to the Transport for London bus pass for school children. Meetings have been held with local public transport providers to discuss the possibility of a discounted bus pass available outside of school hours and at weekends.

The table below shows the predicted cost to the Council should the decision be taken to restrict transport to the statutory minimum. This academic year 69 children were transported by Thurrock Council under its discretionary power because their families are in receipt of benefit. 54% (37) of those children were ineligible under the Education Act, either because they are primary school pupils or they hold a concessionary place (spare seats sold once eligible pupils have been awarded seats).

Eligible pupils – due to receipt of income support

Routes requiring Council-contracted vehicles (£1,648 per annum per pupil - TOTAL COST £24,720 Per annum)	No. of pupils
Campion	14
St Edwards	1
Routes suitable for public transport with Council bus passes (£242 per annum per pupil – TOTAL COST £4,114 per annum)	No. of pupils
De La Salle	5
Grays Convent	12

There are 6 Non Entitled Pupils (Concessionary) travelling on denominational transport this academic year. They occupy spare seats. Should the Council decide to transport pupils in accordance with its statutory duty vehicle sizes will be reduced to suit the number of eligible pupils and Concessionary seats are less likely to be available.

Also, officers plan to arrange a meeting to inform the current providers of denominational transport of the changes and see whether they would be interested in dealing directly with the families of pupils who may no longer be eligible for such transport. Providers could replicate the current Council–contracted routes to denominational schools externally. The Council might then consider purchasing seats on those privately funded vehicles for the pupils on income support.

Implementation of any of the options suggested above require the relevant parental consent (annually or, if a child moves school, at that point) by the local authority. Also, it should be noted that for children with SEN and/or disabilities, journeys may be more complex and a shorter journey time, although desirable, may not always be possible. In such cases referral may be made to the SEND panel or the Exceptional Circumstances panel.

Additional Transport Options

Other options examined include, mileage allowance paid to a parent driving their eligible child to school in lieu of the local authority making arrangements for a taxi to transport the child; a cycling allowance paid by the local authority where the parent agreed for their child to cycle to and from school instead of catching a bus for a three mile journey; or local authority provision of a suitable escort to enable an eligible child with a disability to walk a short distance to school in safety, instead of making arrangements for a taxi to take them to and from school. In view of the economic issues facing families on income support the suitability of the additional options suggested below for the delivery of the statutory aspect of denominational school transport will need to be considered on a 'case by case' basis.

Also, families on low income, but above the benefits threshold may face financial hardship; particularly those who were using the service prior to the implementation of the changes. Such families may apply for support via the Exceptional Circumstances policy. 104 families applied for support with home to school transport under the Exceptional Circumstances policy during the 2015/16 academic year. 68 of those applications were successful and were offered support in line with the transport options discussed above, ranging from a taxi for one term, to a bus ticket for public transport or reimbursement of petrol costs.

3.11 Engaging partners in the process

Officers wrote to transport providers in January 2016, giving them notice of the current review of Denominational Transport and proposing a meeting later on in the year to discuss the Cabinet decision and the future delivery of the service. There are 15 Council commissioned contracts for the provision of denominational transport. Of the 15 contracts 2 expire in 2016 and the other 13 expire in 2018. A 56 day notice period is required.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 Consultation on proposals agreed by Cabinet in October 2015 has taken place with a good response. The results are available for review and summarised within this report.

Officers recommend that the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee comment upon the proposal being made to Cabinet to deliver denominational transport within the statutory minimum and discontinue all services outside of its legal duty at the end of the 2015/16 academic year due to the financial pressures outlined in this report and the fact that this is a discretionary service. Thurrock Council will continue to transport pupils in receipt of benefit who meet the criteria stipulated within the Education Act.

The current trend shows that the Council may not be in a position to generate the levels of income expected from new pupils who pay the full cost recovery rate as the number of new pupils applying for seats has reduced drastically and

based upon predicted charges year on year it is likely to continue to decrease. Also, further financial pressure arises from the pupils in receipt of the subsidy who are more likely to continue to access denominational transport for a substantial period of time (In many cases this will be until they complete their current key stage at primary or secondary school). Added to these budgetary implications is the fact that the Council has a duty to transport secondary school pupils on benefit who attend a denominational school and meet certain criteria.

5. Consultation (including overview and scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 The details and results of the previous public consultation undertaken with respect to proposed changes around denominational transport are contained in the Cabinet report dated 4 September 2014.
- 5.2 In September 2015, the recommendations being made were considered by Children's Overview and Scrutiny and given their full support.
- 5.3 In October 2015, Cabinet granted approval for officers to undertake a public consultation involving families, schools and a wide range of stakeholders to seek the views of interested parties on denominational transport after the current arrangements end after the summer term of 2016.
- 5.4 Between 7 December 2015 and 29 January 2016, officers led a public consultation. The results of the consultation are analysed within this report and a copy of the data collated at the end of the consultation is attached to this report.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 Families whose overall income level places them just above the threshold for qualifying benefit often choose to work to support their children rather than initiate a reduction in the number of hours worked in order to qualify for benefits and consequently free transport. The discounted rate and exceptional circumstances policy support such families to remain employed and align with the Council priority aimed at encouraging and promoting job creation and economic prosperity.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager

Current primary pupil growth is causing significant pressure on the statutory element of the School Transport budget. This is due to the fact that the Council

is at times unable to place a pupil in a school within a three mile radius. In such cases, the Council has a statutory duty to transport the pupils involved and to bear the cost of the transport. Targeted budget savings around discretionary transport are not being met and the costs involved are steadily increasing. Therefore, unless spend on discretionary transport is reset to the statutory minimum an increased budget would be required to cover these costs.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**
Education Lawyer

The Education Act 1996 sets out the Council's duties relating to school transport and makes it clear that free transport only has to be provided for "eligible children" and these include disabled children and those from low income families. Transport on denominational grounds other than for low income families is not a statutory duty and the Council is entitled to use its discretion to what transport support it will offer to pupils on denominational grounds.

Local authorities have discretionary powers under Section 508C of the Education Act 1996 to make arrangements for those children not covered by Section 508B. A local authority has discretion to provide transport for children who are outside of the statutory eligibility criteria and where such transport is provided to make a charge for it. There is no requirement for these discretionary arrangements to be provided free of charge. However, if a local authority decides to levy charges this should be made clear in the school travel policy documents.

Section 509D of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on local authorities when fulfilling their duties and exercising their powers relating to travel, to have regard to, amongst other things, any wish of a parent for their child to be provided with education or training at a particular school on grounds of the parent's religion or belief. Local authorities must make travel arrangements for pupils from low income families to attend the nearest school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief where such pupils live more than 2 miles, but not more than 15 miles from that School.

The Equality Act 2010 does not apply to the provision of transport on faith grounds as the discrimination provisions on the grounds of age and religion or belief do not extend to transport arrangements. However, Thurrock Council does have a Public Sector Equality duty under the Equality Act 2010. The Council has, therefore, had due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when proposing and or carrying out any changes to Denominational Transport

Local authorities must publish general arrangements and policies in respect of home to school travel and transport for children of compulsory school age. Such documents should explain both statutory transport provision, and that

provided on a discretionary basis. Local authorities should also consult widely on any proposed changes to their local policies on school travel arrangements with all interested parties. Consultations should last for at least 28 working days during term time.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Community Development and Equalities
Manager

A public consultation enabling all stakeholders to engage in dialogue with Thurrock Council regarding Denominational school Transport has taken place. The result of the consultation, which was held over a period exceeding that recommended by the Department for Education, provides the empirical evidence required by Council officers to make a recommendation to Cabinet.

A Community Impact and Equality Assessment has also been carried out in order to ensure that any proposed changes to Denominational school Transport will have an overall positive equality impact as all children will be treated equally regardless of their religion, belief, or their ability.

7.4 Other implications

7.4.1 Pupils in receipt of Income Support

We are statutorily obliged to offer financial support to these pupils. The amount of income used to fund such places is currently greater than the income generated from pupils paying the full-cost recovery rate. At present, these factors have led to a reduction in the amount of savings the Council is able to generate. However, if the Council reduces the denominational transport service to the statutory minimum the number of pupils to whom the Council owes a duty to transport will be reduced by over 50% as more than half (37 out of 69) of those children accessing transport this academic year were primary school pupils or pupils granted concessionary seats transported within the Council's discretionary power.

7.4.2 Pupils living in rural areas

As the decision has been taken to provide transport to denominational schools, but charge for it, contracted vehicles transporting pupils who reside in rural areas to denominational schools are likely to be more expensive as taxis may be the most cost effective option for small numbers of pupils. The pupils affected may, therefore, require a higher subsidy, as opposed to the proposed reduction in subsidy.

8. Background papers used in preparing this report

- Cabinet Report dated 14 October 2015.

9. Appendices to this report:

- Appendix 1 –Table depicting the number of children using Denominational school transport and the schools they are transported to
- Appendix 2 – Example letter sent to parents

Report Author:

Temi Fawehinmi

Contract and Performance manager

Children's Services

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Appendix 1

School	Commissioned Routes	Daily	Annual Cost
			190
Orsett C of E	TM 0004 £140 & TM 0028 £50	190	36,100
Holy Cross	TM 0040 £180 & TM 0165 £83	263	49,970
St Joseph	TM 0203 £80	80	15,200
St Thomas	TM 0026 £233, TM 0069 £122, TM 0096 £30	385	73,150
Horndon on the Hill	TM 0227 £108	108	20,520
Bulphan	TM 0288 £56	56	10,640
De La Salle	TM 0016 £135	135	25,650
Campion	TM 0029 £229 & TM 0033 £203.16	432.16	82,110
Grays Convent	TM 0018 £62, TM 0019 £116.31 & TM 0133 £151.30	329.61	62,626
St Edwards	TM 0034 £205	205	38,950
	Annual Cost		414,916
	2015/16 Invoiced Income		82,654
	Pupil Number	185	
	69 Non Payer (entitled to benefits)	69	-
	91 subsidised payers (paying 50%)	91	53,344
	25 Paying the full amount	25	29,310
	Net Cost Forecast for 2015/16		332,262

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Dear Parent/Guardian

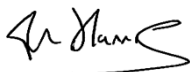
EDUCATION TRANSPORT

I am writing to you about the council's review of its policy on providing assistance with travel to school.

As you know, your child is due to start secondary school in September 2016 and you will now be thinking about applying for a secondary school place. The closing date for the return of your application is 31 October 2015, but before that date the council is due to make decisions about changes to the eligibility rules for assistance with travel to school. This means that the rules that were in place for those children starting secondary school in September 2015 are likely to change and that further limitations are likely to be imposed meaning that fewer children than before will get help with travel to school.

I appreciate that this news will give rise to some uncertainty, particularly since any changes are unlikely to be announced until after you have made your preferences for a secondary school place. Our advice is that you should not make any assumptions about the extent of the council's ability to provide assistance with travel to school when making your preferences.

Yours faithfully



Roger Harris

Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning

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Conservative	Independent	Labour	UKIP	Co-opted
Cllr Halden		Cllr Gupta	Cllr Gamester	1. Mrs P Wilson (Roman Catholic Church Representative)
Cllr S Little		Cllr Kerin		
		Cllr Baldwin		
Substitutes	Substitutes	Substitutes	Substitutes	
Cllr Redsell			Cllr Wheeler	3. Myra Potter (Parent Governor Representative)
Cllr Roast				
				4. Sarah Sanders (Parent Governor Representative)

Meeting Dates: 14 July 2015, 15th September 2015, 10 November 2015, 19th January 2016, 9 February 2016, 8 March 2016.

Topic Name	Description of areas to be explored	Why this should be scrutinised	Outcome	Lead Officer	Brought to Committee by (Officer/ Member/ Statutory Reason)
14 July 2015					
Education Commission Update and Supporting Schools				Carmel Littleton	Member
Youth Offending Service update in Corringham				James Waud	Member
Serious Case Review Update Actions from Julia				Andrew Carter	Officer
Adoption and Permanence Partnership				Sue Green	Officer
Shaping the Council Budget update	Details of budget area to be confirmed			Sean Clark / Carmel Littleton	Officer
15th September 2015					
Serious Case Review Update for Megan and Julia				Andrew Carter	Officer

Updated: 24 February 2016

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Topic Name	Description of areas to be explored	Why this should be scrutinised	Outcome	Lead Officer	Brought to Committee by (Officer/ Member/ Statutory Reason)
Grangewaters Alternative Delivery Models	To consider options prior to presenting to Cabinet	To ensure all options have been fully explored	Agreement on recommendations to go to Cabinet	Malcolm Taylor / Sue Green	Officer
Nursery Provision in East Tilbury.				Carmel Littleton/ Roger Edwardson	Member
Shaping the Council Budget update (if applicable) required	Details of budget area to be confirmed			Sean Clark / Carmel Littleton	Officer
Child Sexual exploitation Action Plan				Andrew Carter	Officer
Education Transport – Proposed changes to Denominational Transport.				Temi Fawehinmi	Officer
15 October 2015					
School Transport					Member
YOS Serious Youth Violence				James Waud	Officer
Annual Childcare Sufficiency					Member
Pupil premium	To hear how the pupil premium is being used to improve outcomes, with a focus on the work at Hathaway and Harris in regards to mentoring troubled youths			Roger Edwardson	Member
School Results/School Performance	An update on results at KS1, KS2, KS4 and post 16	To determine the progress of Thurrock schools and academies	Updated information and scrutiny of outcomes of national assessments and relative performance of schools	Carmel Littleton	Officer
Update on the Child Poverty Strategy Outcomes from 2011- 2014				Carmel Littleton	Member

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Topic Name	Description of areas to be explored	Why this should be scrutinised	Outcome	Lead Officer	Brought to Committee by (Officer/ Member/ Statutory Reason)
Shaping the Council Budget update (if applicable) required	Details of budget area to be confirmed			Sean Clark / Carmel Littleton	Officer
10 November 2015					
School Improvement – the impact of school to school				Roger Edwardson/Andre a Winsotne	Member
Multi Academy Trust Relationships				Roger Edwardson/ Andrea Winstone	Member
Work placements and the pathway into work for young people in Thurrock				Carmel Littleton / Kenna-Victoria Martin/ Michele Lucas	
Shaping the Council Budget update (if applicable)	Details of budget area to be confirmed			Sean Clark / Carmel Littleton	Officer
19 January 2016					
Fees and Charges				Laura Last	
Health and Wellbeing Strategy				Ceri Armstrong/ Ian Wake	
School Admissions and Catchment Areas				Colin Jones	Member
Care Leavers into Employment, Education or Training (EET)				Michelle Lucas	
Children's Social Care – Statutory Complaints Annual Report				Harminder Dhillon	
Serious Case Review Update – Julia				Andrew Carter	Officer
Annual report of the LSCB	An account of the activity and effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board over the past year	To ensure that the LSCB is effectively discharging its duties by contributing council scrutiny to the process	Understanding of the effectiveness of the LSCB in undertaking its safeguarding responsibilities	Alan Cotgrove/ Independent chair of the LSCB David Peplow	

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Topic Name	Description of areas to be explored	Why this should be scrutinised	Outcome	Lead Officer	Brought to Committee by (Officer/ Member/ Statutory Reason)
9 February 2016					
EOH, troubled families and MASH intervention update and impact assessment and Troubled Families Initiative Phase 2 Launch	Update on the project Impact and success	To ensure the programme is on track and making a real difference to the lives of families in Thurrock.	Dissemination of good practice from the programme	Claire Moore/ Andrew Carter	Officer
Alternative Delivery Model for the Thurrock Youth Offer				Sue Green	
Serious Case Review				Andrew Carter	Officer
Child Mental Health				Andrew Carter	Officer
Cultural Entitlement				Roger Edwardson	Member
8 March 2016					
Pupil Place Planning				Janet Clark	Member
Supporting Parents returning to work, Child Poverty and Updated Welfare Reform				Michele Lucas	Member
University Attendance Rates				Michele Lucas	Member
Youth Cabinet Report				Michele L/Youth Cabinet	Officer
<i>Update on the commissioning out of Local Authority day nurseries in Tilbury - deffered</i>				<i>Roger Edwardson</i>	<i>Member</i>
Denominational Transport – Proposed De-Commissioning				Temi Fawehinmi	Officer

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Meeting	Pre Meeting
14 th July 2015	6 th July 2015
15 th September 2015	7 th September 2015
15 th October 2015	5 th October 2015
10 th November 2015 (Gable Hall)	27 th October 2015
19 th January 2016	7 th January 2016
9 th February 2016	28 th January 2016
8 th March 2016	25 th February 2016

Additional Meetings	
Meeting	Date
Additional Session for all members to be briefed on "achieving excellence in child social care".	November – date to be confirmed
Youth Centre visit with the Committee.	August 7 th
Joint session on the budget – all chairs	Feb 2 nd
Task and Finish Group on work experience / employable future	18 th August 2015

Recommendations update table				
Recommendation		Author	Date	Update
<u>Education Commission Update</u>				
1	Comments on the progress and achievements of Thurrock schools and partners above be noted		14 July 2015	Noted
2	That the currently funded activity and further developments that it would wish to be taken to further the education standards for all children		14 July 2015	Noted

Updated: 24 February 2016

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	and young people in Thurrock be noted.			
3	Science and Maths to be included in the School on School improvement report		14 July 2015	Noted
4	A potential for a survey to return to each school of the original questions that the education commission proposed.		14 July 2015	Noted – this will be completed for the end of the academic year
5	Organise briefing for December for members what's being done for each school to help the improvement journey.		14 July 2015	
<u>Youth Offending Service function and performance</u>				
1	To note the Overview & Scrutiny Committee comment on the function and performance of the YOS and review plans to address the two areas of improvement as set out in the HMIP Short Quality Screening Report dated 20th May 2015:		14 July 2015	The action plan from the SQS in May has now been fully implemented. Please see below.
2	To note that Intervention planning should genuinely involve children and young people and their parents/carers. The plans should be constructed in such a way that they are effective tools to drive successful interventions.		14 July 2015	<p>Referral Orders already use initial panel meetings which involve parents and young people in a restorative process to construct their own intervention plans. It is felt that the quality of the planning in this area does not require improvement.</p> <p>Youth Rehabilitation Orders use intervention planning meetings at the start of the orders and parents/carers are invited. Paper copies of the intervention plan are now produced and discussed with the young person/ carer and signed accordingly.</p> <p>Detention and Training Orders use community review meetings on release</p>

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				<p>from custody and parents/carers and relevant professionals are invited. Paper copies of the intervention plan and licence requirements are produced and signed accordingly.</p> <p>All YRO and DTO planning meetings are now chaired by operations managers or senior practitioners who ensure that all parties are actively involved in the planning of their interventions. The recording of the meeting on YOIS will now be integral to the existing quality assurance process.</p> <p>Case managers have been briefed to ensure interventions plans are SMARTer, commensurate to length of sentence and risk led. Language used in intervention plans will be age appropriate and in 'Plain English'. Case managers will avoid using 'standard' objectives that seem to have accumulated throughout generic practice. Quality assurance processes have been introduced to ensure intervention plans meet the relevant requirements.</p>
3	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements need to be fully understood by all staff and managers.		14 July 2015	National MAPPA guidance 2012 has been shared and disseminated to all staff. All staff has been fully briefed on offender categories and management levels. Local MAPPA lead has offered to provide further training to all staff if required and provided a training programme which has been shared with the team. Management

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				oversight is now more prescriptive as to whether a referral is required and the recording on Risk of Serious Harm assessments is now clearer. Operations management are satisfied that MAPPA knowledge of case management team is satisfactory. It also felt that the action point arose due to poor recording on YOIS as opposed to limited knowledge.
4	Chair and Director Children's Services to write to the Police and crime commissioner to request to extend the lease for a longer term on the old Corringham Police Station.		14 July 2015	James Waud liaising with PCC
Julia - SCR Action Plan Update				
1	To be noted that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee continues to monitor progress against the multi-agency action plan with a particular focus on Children's Services		14 July 2015	This is monitored regularly in council services, through school safeguarding leads meeting and with partners through the LSCB. A further update will be brought back to the committee in January 16.
Adoption and Permanence Services Partnership				
1	The comments on the development of a partnership by way of a grant agreement to provide an integrated programme of activity to optimise adoption outcomes for children following the decision at Cabinet on 8 July 2015 to be noted.		14 July 2015	Noted
2	That it be recommended future reports are brought to the Children's Service's Overview and Scrutiny Committee before being referred to Cabinet for decision, and where this is not possible to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny meeting to enhance the scrutiny process.		14 July 2015	Noted

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Shaping the Council Budget Update				
1	To note the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS);		14 July 2015	Noted
2	To note the approach to Shaping the Council and budget planning for 2016/17 and beyond including the establishment of a cross-party Budget Review Panel.		14 July 2015	Noted

15 September 2015				
Nursery Provision In East Tilbury				
1	The Chair requested that letters were sent from the Committee to Little Angels Day Care and East Tilbury Primary School to address to the situation.		15 September 2015	Letters have been sent out to the parties concerned.
2	The Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented upon the actions taken to date and any further actions which should be taken by the Council to resolve the current situation.		15 September 2015	Further actions were taken in asking legal services to look at the lease arrangements and to write to procurement regarding future contracts. This has been done.
3	That a letter is sent on behalf of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to St Cleres and Little Angles to encourage a relationship between the two parties.		15 September 2015	See 1)
4	That a letter is sent to the Procurement team on behalf of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to urge that similar contracts are not signed in the future.		15 September 2015	See 2)
5	An update at the next Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the current position and the views of Thurrock Councils Lawyers.		15 September 2015	14.10.15 The legal department are continuing to look into this but it appears that the 75 year lease is binding on the parties.

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<u>Inspire - Alternative models of delivery for Youth Related Activities</u>				
1	That the Committee supports the development of a staff mutual (charitable trust) to deliver youth & community related activities across Thurrock Council.		15 September 2015	Noted
2	The Committee recommend to full Cabinet the 'spinning out' of youth & community related services from April 2016 or as soon after as due diligence is undertaken		15 September 2015	Noted
3	That the Committee supports the recommendation of a four year contract with a break clause in year three for renegotiation.		15 September 2015	Recommendation noted – this will be subject to due diligence in the next stage of development
4	The Committee recommend the funding model which will see a 5% reduction from year two of the contract until the fifth year recognising the need to reduce the overall budget by 20%, subject to budget constraints		15 September 2015	Noted
5	The Committee support the inclusion of Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre into the staff mutual.		15 September 2015	Noted
6	An elected member and The Section 151 Officer will form part of the trustee.		15 September 2015	This recommendation has been noted and will form part of the due diligence in the next stage of the project.
7	The Inspire report to return back to the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee before final sign off at Cabinet.		15 September 2015	Added to the Work Programme.
<u>Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan</u>				
1	The committee endorsed the revised action plan and added to the committee's work plan for		15 September 2015	Noted.

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	robust ongoing scrutiny.			
2	The Chair requested that the Director of Children's Services checked whether there would be implications and issues with initially completing the DBS check.		15 September 2015	The DCS has explored this issue and notes that member of the committee would be able to voluntarily make open to the public the outcome of their DBS check but could not be required to do so.
Education Transport				
1	The amount paid by new and existing pupils accessing denominational transport; £1,117.00 and £550.00 respectively, remain unchanged until September 2016.		15 September 2015	Noted.
2	That Officers follow the Council protocol for the review of the service including a consultation with the option of discontinuing denominational transport in September 2016, subject to Cabinet approval.		15 September 2015	Noted.
15 October 2015				
Education Transport - Service update				
1	That Children's Overview and Scrutiny consider the aspects of transport reviewed in this report and comment upon the progress and/or recommend next steps.		15 October 2015	This was fully scrutinised at the committee meeting and the direction of travel proposed in the report was ratified, noting the difficult decisions that had to be made.
Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Annual Assessment 2015				
1	To support further early years & childcare development in Aveley & Tilbury recognising the deficit outlined in the sufficiency report.		15 October 2015	Work continues to identify childcare providers in those areas with shortages of places and a campaign to push take up for free two year old places is underway.
2	To promote and encourage more schools to consider eligible 2 year old intake.		15 October 2015	This is underway as part of the campaign to increase the number of places for two year olds.
3	To support public village hall use for the		15 October	This is under consideration by the

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	increase of early education particularly related to costs associated with tenancy		2015	Childcare Sufficiency officer as part of the strategy to increase places
4	To consider early education future needs before decision are taken in relation to capital assets across the Local Authority		15 October 2015	Noted
5	That the Director of Children's Services would liaise with Communications Officers to publicise the encouragement of take up in early year's education.		15 October 2015	A campaign including posters, leaflets, social media activity is underway.
6	That the relevant Officer provides Councillor Little with information regarding traveller's education up take.		15 October 2015	A briefing note is being prepared and will be provided to Cllr Little and other councillors on request.
Pupil Premium				
1	That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee scrutinises the impact of pupil premium for the academic year 2014-15 in primary schools across the borough and seeks an update for secondary schools when the data is fully validated.		15 October 2015	A briefing note will be circulated when the data is made available and has been analysed.
2	Acknowledges the actions taken by The Hathaway Academy and Harris Academy Chafford Hundred		15 October 2015	Noted
School Results/School Performance				
1	That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee notes the provisional outcomes of the summer 2015 tests and examinations and commends pupils, schools and parents/carers on their		15 October 2015	Noted

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	achievements.			
2	That the Committee recognises how the Education Commission recommendations and existing strategies have been best deployed to raise achievement and consider how these will raise still further across all key stages, especially at Key Stage 2.		15 October 2015	Noted. Further consideration is being made in regard to further improvements across all key stages, in particular key stage 2 at TEA and TEN meetings.
3	This report should be considered in conjunction with the Pupil Premium report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.		15 October 2015	Noted
<u>Child Poverty - Opportunity for Every Child</u>				
1	That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the Child Poverty Strategy 2015-2020 and endorses the strategy and action plan.		15 October 2015	Noted
2	That the progress made since the 2011-2014 strategy is commended.		15 October 2015	Noted
<u>Serious Youth Violence</u>				
1	That Thurrock Council continue to support the work of partner agencies to prevent gang related activity from becoming a major issue in the borough.		15 October 2015	Work continues with the police and other partners to maintain a vigilant approach
2	That the Committee write a letter to all Schools in Thurrock, Thurrock Faith Matters , and the LGA Safer Community Board regarding the work that the Council are currently undertaking around serious youth crime.		15 October 2015	Completed
3	That the Committee writes to the chairs of all Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committees in London boroughs to raise awareness of		15 October 2015	Completed

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	Thurrock Councils Concerns.			
4	That the Committee writes to Essex Police and the Metropolitan Police to inform them that of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committees concerns.		15 October 2015	Completed
10 November 2015				
School improvement in Thurrock- the Impact of School to School Support				
1	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the innovative and effective working relationships between schools, academies and the local authority and the positive impact on school improvement.		10 November 2015	The strong relationships will continue to be reinforced
2	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report in conjunction with the Multi-Academy Trust Relationship report of the same date.		10 November 2015	Further multi-academy trust developments are being considered with the Regional Schools Commissioner and individual academies and trusts.
Multi Academy Trust Relationships				
1	Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the current organisation of schools and the contribution of the multi academy trusts to raising standards across the borough.		10 November 2015	Noted
Pathways For Youth Employment And Work Experience				
1	That work experience offers became a part of the published admissions information given to parents and students when deciding upon a school.		10 November 2015	Schools have been requested to include their work experience offer in the published arrangements and have responded positively.
2	Work experience quality to become a part of the		10 November 2015	This has been fed back to the planning group for the next education awards

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	education awards and the business awards.			
3	Thurrock Council offers a small amount of premium provision work experience places as a part of a Borough wide award for young people's community service.		10 November 2015	This is being put to the 11-19 strategy group to take forward.
4	Youth Cabinet and Thurrock Youth Services to support schools and young people who wish to shape their own work experience offer.		10 November 2015	This will be taken forward through the Youth Service and Youth Cabinet
5	Thurrock Council continues to work with Ensign Buses and C2C regarding the associated travel costs of work experience.		10 November 2015	This is being explored by officers in consultation with Ensign buses and C2C.
19 January 2016				
Fees and Charges 2016/17				
1	That the committee consider the proposed charges as detailed in the appendix.	Laura Last	19 January 2016	The Committees comments will be included within the appendix to the Cabinet report. No further action required.
Julia - Serious Case Review Action Plan Update, dated 7/1/2016				
1	That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee continues to monitor progress against the multi-agency action plan with a particular focus on Children's Services.	Andrew Carter	19 January 2016	No update required at the present time.
2	That partners be contacted and requested to provide updates to the action plan as appropriate as a matter of priority, following which a fully updated document to be circulated and referred back to the Committee for consideration.	Andrew Carter	19 January 2016	Officers to take the relevant action to drive this forward, in partnership with the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

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Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014-2015				
1	The Committee note progress made on children's safeguarding for the 12 month period April 2014 to March 2015.		19 January 2016	No update required.
2	That the Committee provide comment on the report.		19 January 2016	No update required.
3	That a standing Local Safeguarding Children Board item be included on the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda so that feedback could be provided as appropriate.		19 January 2016	Democratic Services to include this as a standing item on future agendas. This has now been actioned.
Children's Social Care Complaints and Representations Annual Report 2014/15				
1	That the Committee consider and scrutinise the report.	Andrew Carter	19 January 2016	No update required.
2	To confirm the total figure of financial remuneration granted to complainants during the year 2014/15, and a comparison to previous years.	Andrew Carter	19 January 2016	Officers to circulate this information to the Committee by email.
3	To further analyse the number of upheld and partially upheld complaints for 2014/15 and present to Members the categorisation and nature of the complaints.	Andrew Carter	19 January 2016	Officers to circulate this information to the Committee by email.
4	To circulate information on participation rates to Committee Members outside of the meeting – it was reported that this information had been earlier referred to the Corporate Parenting Committee. This was in relation to a poor sample response to a survey.	Andrew Carter	19 January 2016	Officers to circulate this information to the Committee by email for consideration and comment.
Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2019				
1	The Committee comment on the refreshed Strategy's proposed priorities and areas of focus as part of the engagement process;		19 January 2016	No update required.

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2	That a final draft of the Strategy be referred to the Committee by briefing note prior to sign off by Council in March 2016; and	Ceri Armstrong	19 January 2016	No update required.
3	The Committee note progress made on the development of the refreshed Strategy.		19 January 2016	No update required.
School Admissions and Catchment Areas				
1	That head teachers' views are sought on current arrangements for admissions and that any significant issues arising are brought back to Committee.	Colin Jones	19 January 2016	Officers will be undertaking a consultation with Head Teachers and an update will be provided as appropriate once complete.
2	That further information and publicity is given to ensure that admission arrangements are clearly understood.	Colin Jones	19 January 2016	Officers are currently exploring avenues for disseminating publicity to increase awareness of admission arrangements among parents.
Care Leavers into Employment, Education or Training (EET)				
1	To support the development of the programme to enable care leavers to take up ambitious opportunities to take part in education, employment or training.		19 January 2016	It was agreed to take this action offline and that the Learning and Skills Manager will liaise with the Chair and Vice Chair to obtain feedback from Members.
2	That it be agreed Committee Members discuss any suggestions for change that may enhance outcomes for care leavers with other Members outside of the meeting and liaise with the Strategic Lead for Learning and Skills in order to make recommendations to Cabinet as appropriate.	Members / Chair to feedback to Michele Lucas	19 January 2016	The Chair to feedback comments to the Learning and Skills Manager as appropriate.

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3	To recommend the activities continue to be delivered by representatives across the Council, as well as making use of external agencies/services.	Michele Lucas	19 January 2016	No update required.
4	To discuss with planning colleagues ways that assistance could be given to Care Leavers when determining large scale housing developments and the use of S.106 monies.	Andrew Carter / Michele Lucas	19 January 2016	Officers to raise this matter with Planning colleagues to identify possible options to provide further assistance for care leavers.
Work Programme				
1	The Chair to circulate a further letter received in relation to the Serious Crime Review to Committee Members.	Clr Halden	19 January 2016	The Chair to circulate this letter to Committee Members.
2	The Chair reported that he had agreed to hold informal meetings with partners, such as the NHS and Essex Police, in order to take a less fragmented approach to Youth Crime. He advised that James Waud, Strategic Lead for the Youth Offending Service would be leading on this work.	James Waud	19 January 2016	The Strategic Lead for the Youth Offending Service is currently in discussion with the Chair regarding this and an update will be provided in due course.
9 February 2016				
1.	That officers meet with colleagues from Palmer's College to see if any support could be provided in light of the recent Ofsted inspection and that the outcomes from this meeting be reported back to the Committee at a later date.	Michele Lucas, Roger Edwardson	9 February 2016	Officers to report back outcomes from the meeting as appropriate.
Troubled Families Programme				
1.	That the committee scrutinise the work completed on the Troubled Families programme and acknowledge the impact the programme has	Andrew Carter	9 February 2016	No action required.

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	had on turning around the lives of children and adults in Thurrock.			
2.	Councillor Halden requested that an update be provided to the Committee once the cost calculator was completed so that Members could be assured that an existing service was not simply being repackaged.	Andrew Carter	9 February 2016	Officers to circulate the cost calculator once the work has been completed and the information be made available to Members of the Committee by email for comment.
Children's Mental Health				
1.	Councillor Roast queried how Thurrock compared to other local authorities in terms of percentage of Children's Mental Health need, to which the Strategic Lead for Learner Support explained that Thurrock was broadly in line with regional averages however he would confirm the detail and report back to Members outside of the meeting.	Malcolm Taylor	9 February 2016	The data used for the development of the new Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health services that came into place on the 1 st November is based on the National Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network data. This national data is then used to predict levels of need based on GP populations. This data has been circulated to the Committee by email. In addition, in order to identify local trends, the data from service take up was investigated however this reflected issues relating to the previous service availability and design rather than necessarily reflecting the underlying population. The new contract with the new provider of the service will allow for a more detailed data set to be developed showing the local prevalence of presenting mental health conditions.
2.	The Chair and Strategic Lead for Learner Support to attend a meeting of Youth Cabinet if they request this in order to explore a range of creative ways further support could be offered to young people.	Malcolm Taylor/Patrick Kiely	9 February 2016	If Youth Cabinet request such a meeting an invitation should be circulated to the Chair and Strategic Lead for Learner Support for attendance.

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3.	That members receive further reports once data is available to enable scrutiny of the delivery of the new service offer with a focus on those groups most at risk.	Malcolm Taylor	9 February 2016	No update required at this time.
4.	That member's note that the Corporate Parenting Committee will also receive reports on the access to support and services by looked after children.	Malcolm Taylor	9 February 2016	No action required.
Cultural Entitlement - An update on the Trailblazer Programme				
1.	Councillor Roast asked whether the programme was relevant to children's day nurseries and whether this could be rolled out to them. The Interim Strategic Leader for School Improvement, Learning and Skills acknowledged that he was unsure if the cultural offer could apply to nursery and pre-school settings but he welcomed the idea and stated that he would investigate and report back outside of the meeting.	Roger Edwardson	9 February 2016	Officers to investigate and report back outside of the meeting.
2.	The Committee is asked to endorse the work of the Royal Opera House and to encourage all Thurrock schools to participate in the challenge.	Roger Edwardson	9 February 2016	No action required.
3.	As part of this cultural entitlement, the Committee is asked to explore new opportunities to secure funding from sponsors to widen access to arts and culture across the borough.	Roger Edwardson	9 February 2016	No update required.
4.	That officers be instructed to seek more information from Royal Opera House regarding the schools which had not bought into the Cultural Programme and to establish the profile of children and young people who were currently engaged so that further work could be	Roger Edwardson	9 February 2016	Officers to seek further information and action as appropriate.

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	undertaken to improve outreach.			
Alternative Delivery Model for the Thurrock Youth Offer				
1.	That Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorse the recommendation to Cabinet on the development of 'Inspire', the Youth Trust, as a staff mutual having noted the opportunities and risks.	Michele Lucas	9 February 2016	No action required.
2.	That members endorse the recommendation to Cabinet to agree the stages outlined in this report and note that a commissioning report will be referred back to Cabinet for agreement as per current procurement regulations.	Michele Lucas	9 February 2016	No action required.
3.	That members note the recommendations to be made to Cabinet with regard to the provision to award a contract to a new mutual for three years in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.	Michele Lucas	9 February 2016	No action required.
4.	That it be agreed regular monitoring reports be referred to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee as appropriate as a part of the ongoing governance of the project.	Michele Lucas	9 February 2016	Noted.
5.	The Chair remarked that he would be willing to attend a meeting of Cabinet to support the proposal for the alternative delivery model.	Michele Lucas	9 February 2016	Noted.
Learning from the Serious Case Review "Megan"				
1.	That the action plan from the Serious Case Review of "Megan" be referred to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.	Andrew Carter	9 February 2016	Officers to action as appropriate.
2.	That the Head of Children's Social Care works with the Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children	Andrew Carter	9 February 2016	Officers to action as appropriate.

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	Board in order to ask partners whether any professional standards action had been taken against the persons involved in the case.			
3.	That in light of the Committee's concerns about elective home education, it be agreed that the Chair write to the Chief Executive to make her aware of such concerns.	Cllr Halden	9 February 2016	Cllr Halden to write to the Chief Executive in order to express the Committee's concerns.
4.	That officer's be instructed to establish whether the Council needed to invest in digitising archives, in response to the fact that the LSCB had difficulty in obtaining information about referrals.	Andrew Carter	9 February 2016	Officers to investigate.
5.	<p>The Interim Strategic Leader for School Improvement, Learning and Skills advised the Committee that when parents moved into the Borough they were under no legal obligation to inform the local authority that they had children of school age.</p> <p>In response the Chair suggested that this matter should be explored along with admission arrangements by the Admissions Manager, Colin Jones.</p>	Roger Edwardson	9 February 2016	Roger Edwardson to explore this matter with Colin Jones and report back to the Committee as appropriate.
6.	That the Committee consider and comment upon the report.		9 February 2016	The Committee's comments and action points are detailed above.

Children's Services Committee
Continuity of work in municipal year 2016/2017

As Chairman, I have had a running log of all committee recommendations attached to each meetings work plan so members can monitor the committee's outcomes. This was done because I, and I am sure all members, are determined to make this an active committee with real outcomes. Based on this, there are a few issues that are in progress that must not be lost following the end of the municipal year and changes to the committee following the May 2016 elections.

- Megan Serious Case Review Action Plan – with special focus on members points of concern
- Education Commission – acting on the recommendation of returning to schools originally surveyed as a part of the Education Commission Work to judge how changes in school improvement have changed some of the historic negative feelings towards the Council
- Pupil Premium Work - A conference to be organised to disseminate best practise with regards to the use of the pupil premium to improve educational outcomes
- Reporting back on the implementation of the pathways into employment work (best to be done following the start of the new academic year 2016)
- Reporting back on the letters we had from other councils about serious youth crime, and how we can work better with the police and NHS to share information.
- Update on the spin out of the staff mutual "Inspire", and a Working Group on supporting Care Leavers into work
- Update on the trailblazer programme, focusing on the types of children and backgrounds we are helping in terms of outreach
- Update on the "cost calculator" for the Troubled Families and Early Offer of Help programmes i.e quantify how much money we are saving via early intervention
- A few other issues that were discussed but not yet programmed into the work plan include – the impact of the increase from 15 hours to 30 hours free child social care, supporting coasting schools (following on from our review of the positive work done by Multi Academy Trusts)

Councillor James Halden
Chairman of the Children's Services Committee

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