

27 July 2016

ITEM: 11

Full Council

Annual Cabinet Member Report for Education and Health

Report of: Councillor J Halden (Conservative, Homesteads)
Portfolio Holder for Education and Health

This report is public.

I am delighted to present my first report to the Chamber as the Cabinet Member for Education and Health.

Our mission :

Our overriding priority in all things we do is to tackle mediocrity, which is how we will ensure that Thurrock can fulfil its potential.

Key to tackling mediocrity is the following three areas :

1. Council Leadership – We need to show true commitment to leadership to improve public services, for example, academies may be far more independent from the Council than maintained schools, but our role is just as vital.
2. Expectations – Some people simply expect a low quality of service and accept low outcomes for themselves. We must be rigorous in challenging services and being residents champions i.e. holding poor GP's and Primary Care facilities to account.
3. Early Years Support – Whether it's our role as corporate parents or our role monitoring the causes of child poverty or neglect, we must view poor early years support as a serious threat to the long term future of the Borough.

The reason for bringing Education and Health together in one brief was to ensure that we bridge the gap found between poor educational and employment outcomes, and the associated poor physical and mental health outcomes. We have a positive vision where we are preparing "children to be fit for adulthood".

My report covers issues from public health to schools; issues relating to looked after children and adult care packages etc will be covered in a later report by the Cabinet Member for Social Care.

Whilst I am proud to be a part of a Conservative Administration since the May 2016 election, I pay tribute to all those Cabinet Members who dutifully served the Borough prior to myself, as well as to all members for their contributions.

I am grateful and proud for this opportunity to make a contribution to public life and thank my party colleagues, my team in the directorates, all members, and the people of Thurrock.

Health Directorate

Public Health Offer

Having Public Health responsibilities with the Council and building strong relationships with health partners enables the Council to be in a position where it is able to better influence the factors that impact the ability of our residents to achieve good health and wellbeing outcomes.

The new DPH has already implemented some key programmes of work. These include:

- Significantly strengthening working relationships and the Public Health “Core Healthcare Public Health Offer” to NHS Thurrock CCG, including increasing health informatics capacity within the team to ensure a more robust focus on analysis of the cost-effectiveness of what is commissioned.
- Undertaking two comprehensive needs assessments for Tilbury and Purfleet/South Ockendon which have highlighted an unacceptable level of variation in Primary Care quality and access, and a high and unsustainable level of A&E usage and under-doctoring in Thurrock. However it is important to note that our work on challenging poor primary care across the entire borough will be robust to ensure we can move from simply managing service provision crises to in fact preventing them. The DPH is in the process of compiling metrics and data to be used to hold our partners to account.
- Developing a local Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework to quantify the impact of delivery of the new Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy (see later section).
- A review of all services commissioned from the Public Health Grant to ensure that they are both effective and cost-efficient and robust contract negotiations with providers which have delivered significant savings.
- Undertaking a detailed cancer deep dive that considered all aspects of cancer prevention, screening and treatment which highlighted significant variation in screening uptake and referral clinical practice between different practice populations, and fragmented hospital cancer care pathways that are leading to extremely poor performance against the 62 day wait national cancer standard.

In 2016/17 Public Health will be delivered in a way that embeds the profession’s unique skill sets in data modelling, statistical analyses, needs assessment, and assessment of evidence are deployed more widely, in order to improve efficiency across the council and local NHS. There will be a renewed and strengthened focus on the “Placemaking” and regeneration agenda in order to ensure that we maximise and capitalise on the potential health and wellbeing benefits of our current regeneration plans for the Borough such as sports access for young people.

Most importantly there will be a strong focus moving forward on the prevention agenda around children and young people. We will shift resources on Tobacco Control away from chasing meaningless “four week smoking quit targets” for

consenting adults and towards evidence based prevention programmes in schools that have been shown to be highly effective in dissuading young people from starting to smoke.

Better Care Fund

Our first Better Care Fund Plan has been approved. The Plan allowed for over £17 million of health and adult social care money to be placed in a pooled fund overseen by both the Council and CCG. The aim of the Fund is to enable the development of greater joint working across health and social care – including opportunities for integration. The Plan's focus was (and still is) on people aged 65 and above – looking at how a greater emphasis on community-based solutions could reduce the number of people reaching crisis point and in turn reduce avoidable attendances at Hospital and residential homes. Out of a target of 3.5%, Thurrock managed to reduce emergency admissions during 2015-16 by 3.2%. To further quantify and shape our “community based offer”, we will be making this area of “social value” a part of the council's review of our KPI system. What gets measured gets done!

Partnership working with Thurrock CCG

We continue to work closely with Thurrock CCG. A good working relationship is essential as so many of our existing adult social care service users are also patients requiring services commissioned by the CCG. There are therefore a number of areas where we either need to seek to influence the work the CCG undertakes, or work jointly with them – Mental Health and Learning Disabilities being two such areas. We also need to work with the CCG so that we can prevent residents from becoming ill in the first place – e.g. via good screening programmes. However this also means holding them to account and not allowing a mentality to emerge where we try to defend poor practise such as GP members of the CCG not carrying out Learning Disability Checks. I am working with partners on the HW Board to ensure Thurrock is best placed to delivery primary care commissioning changes, despite some of the primary care deficiencies we have.

Appointment of the Integrated Care Director with North East London Foundation Health

We not only need to work closely with health commissioners (Thurrock CCG), but with our health providers. North East London Trust (NELFT) is one of the key providers of health care in Thurrock. An opportunity arose early in 2016 to create a joint post across NELFT and the Council. The benefits of doing this are already coming to fruition – e.g. the development of a Single Access Point across mental health, community health, and adult social care.

Integrated Healthy Living Centres and Primary Care

For too long, the Primary Care offer (namely GP services) in parts of the Borough has been either extremely stretched or inadequate. Recently, this has been reflected in the virtual collapse of primary care in Tilbury. In many ways, the existing primary care model is out dated – we need a more modern system-wide approach

which can respond to local needs and focuses on keeping people well. Part of this response is to develop four Integrated Healthy Living Centres across the Borough – the first of these being in Purfleet and Tilbury. The Centres will be attractive to GPs, but will also allow other services to co-locate – e.g. those currently based in Hospital, pharmacists and also social care services. The Centres will also be able to provide information and advice and link with what is available in the local community. The Council is involved in the development of the Centres with the first due in 2018/19.

I want to ensure that work on the Tilbury and Purfleet Integrated Healthy Centres progresses at pace and are expanded across the entire Borough. We will be proactive and show leadership to try to prevent these crisis events from happening again. They offer both a response to the primary care issues in those areas, but also provide an opportunity to focus on keeping people well. The development of the IHLCs is part of our refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy and I will want to be assured that the relevant progress is being made.

Whilst the four IHLCs being developed across the Borough will help to respond to the quality and capacity issues in primary care, it may well take until 2020 and beyond to provide the centres and there are immediate issues that need to be addressed. It was clear at the first HWB Board that I chaired on 14th July that a lot of the solutions to the health challenges we face in Thurrock all lead back to a need to significantly improve the quality and capacity of Primary Care. For this reason, I will be maintaining a continued focus on this issue and will be discussing with my officers how we can work more closely with the CCG to make this one of our top priorities for action this year.

This will involve being robust at challenging poor primary care and highlighting what support communities in Thurrock need. I have already begun this work with the NHS via an initial dialogue, and the DPH has been charged by me to provide regular updates on what is happening in Thurrock primary care and where we need corresponding pressure and accountability applied via NHS England, the HW Board and other relevant bodies. This is a key element of setting expectations so the people of Thurrock know that we are on their side when it comes to working towards the quality of service they need and deserve.

Essex Success Regime and the Sustainability Transformation Plans

Essex Success Regime (ESR) was launched in response to the NHS financial position in Essex. The area covered is mid and south Essex. A number of work streams exist as part of the ESR and the Council is involved in most of these. Whilst engagement with the Council has taken place, I am mindful of the possible impact of NHS changes on both local people and on Council services and for this reason I will be keeping a watching brief on this area of work – including through the Health and Wellbeing Board and our neighbouring Health and Wellbeing Boards in Essex and Southend. I have already met with my counterparts in Essex and Southend to see where possible we can present a joint approach across the three local authorities. We were informed at the HWB Board on 14th July that a formal consultation will start in the late Autumn. This is now joined by the new STP's which is a nationwide scheme to address sustainability in the system – our STP is the same footprint as the ESR.

The ESR could have a significant impact on both residents and services. Whilst the Council are involved at different levels, I am keen to have a strong input personally whilst also maintaining a watchful eye over the Regime and its work streams' development.

With a number of Essex-wide agendas in development, it is important that we decide locally how we deliver the best health and care services for our residents. This means the ability to deliver services and solutions that are tailored around the individual and best enable them to achieve the outcomes they wish to achieve. Integrated and joined up services are solutions for making this happen. I want to make sure that we are clear about our direction of travel, and that we achieve the necessary partnership approach to make this happen.

I am clear regarding what health "collaboration" means in Essex; it means areas that share a common set of circumstances being able to action work based on mutual benefits. I am very relaxed about finding a way of South Essex working together because we share infrastructure, similar demographic and so on, as well as having opportunities by working together to reduce wider system pressures such as at the acute hospital stage. However any notion of a Pan County ESR or STP is one that I will not allow Thurrock to be a participant in. To this end I have met with both the NHS Clinical Commissioning Director, The Chair of the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board, the Leader of Southend Council as well as our own HW Board to make the point clear that I will not allow our local determination as independent CCG's or HW Boards be undermined by absorbing us into a large structure which, given time, would morph back into an old style Primary Care Trust – this would take focus and resource away from Thurrock and centralise it.

Education Directorate

Educational setting and the role of the local authority

All councils have been asked to consider the persistent variation that exists across our school system and the role the local authority should play in raising educational standards for all children and young people. The future role of the local authority should be co-determined with schools and settings in line with the recommendations of the education "White Paper" – "Educational Excellence Everywhere" published on 17th March 2016.

As an education service we continue to place high value on:

- knowing our schools and academies well;
- investing in our school leaders and creating opportunities for new leaders to emerge;
- challenging leaders about rates of pupil progress;
- supporting our governors to recruit the best leaders;
- developing the skills of governors in holding school leaders to account;
- creating opportunities for schools/academies to provide support and challenge to each other;
- identifying risks early so that we can work with schools and academies to

- address issues quickly;
- ensuring that all schools and academies are using data smartly to drive focused initiatives and promoting the highest expectations within communities for children's well-being and educational aspirations.
- being our schools advocates within the DFE and EFA to attract resources
- growing our leadership function to help strong schools expand so every child in the borough has access to the tools to fulfil their potential

Thurrock Local Authority is seeking to play a key role in driving ambition at individual school level and across the borough to sustain improvements in school provision.

Thurrock is in a robust position. A few years ago we had the third worst access to good primary schools in the nation, yet the council's position was "we are on the way up". The cross party education commission that followed intense scrutiny on the administration's performance brought to bear a number of long running issues regarding schools lacking confidence in the local authority. From here we had a watershed moment that has seen us go from a poor provider of services to a strong commissioner in partnership with our schools.

We now need to build on this as we continue to shape our role. Leadership to challenge performance and advocate for schools is key, that is why the department restructure will make our interim strategic lead functions permanent with a focus on helping our local schools form larger and stronger multi academy trusts in order to aid school on school improvement, compared to the old model of local authorities spending money on themselves to intervene in schools in a haphazard way. A good example of Council to school collaboration is in us actively supporting the excellent work from Gable Hall to aid in Hassenbrook's improvement journey.

Thurrock Education Alliance (TEA)

Excellent progress has been made in developing the strong partnership work between schools, academies and the local authority, using this body to coordinate which I chair personally. Schools, academies and early year's providers are working closely with the local authority to create a strong and shared vision to reach excellence everywhere.

Underpinning the approach to ensure improvement, the principle that there is a wealth of expertise across our schools and settings that can be used to support others in their improvement. Some primary schools and academies have put in place plans to share their expertise in groups called Triads supported by regional senior HMI, Tim Bristow, sharing areas of expertise and collaborating on areas for development. HMI have also praised the council for supporting their schools/academies in developing sector-led improvement and reiterated the importance of reviewing the shared vision developed in Thurrock on a regular basis. In my first meeting as Chairman, we agreed further funding for advanced teacher training.

I announced at my first meeting of the TEA that my team will revisit the original education commission questions to consider how much progress has been made

and what the next step is as we continue to define our role. Progress has been made but a vital part of political leadership is to forge forward and not allow success today to mean a slowness of pace tomorrow.

Thurrock Education Awards

A key recommendation from The Education Commission was the need to celebrate success and publicise our educational achievements in Thurrock. The second Thurrock Education Awards at High House Production Park last year was an excellent event with more than 300 guests attending. This year the event will take place on the 18th November 2016 and it is expected more than 400 people will attend. The event celebrates the achievements of our headteachers, teachers, support staff and governing bodies who work tirelessly to transform our children's lives. In recognising the backing from our local businesses that sponsor the event and provide financial support, further work is needed to encourage more local companies if this event is to be sustainable into the future. I have written personally to all head teachers and chairs of governors to encourage diverse nominations, as well as to the head girls and boys. In addition, I have written to businesses seeking additional support and have undertaken to return to the next TEA meeting with a plan for a long term future for the awards.

Educational attainment and OFSTED outcomes

Overall Performance of Thurrock Primary schools

Early Years

- The provisional un-validated data for Thurrock indicates a further rise in the percentage of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD). The performance of Thurrock pupils is 6% higher than the provisional data for England.
- The gap between the lowest and highest performing children has narrowed this year, meaning that the lowest performing 20% did better than the comparable group last year.
- Of the four LAC, 50% reached a GLD. Only 24% of children with SEND reached a GLD, which is a drop from last year.
- 62% of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium reached a GLD.

Key Stage 1 performance – (7 year olds)

The provisional results are looking positive when compared to the estimated national averages. Thurrock is currently 2 percentage points above the estimated national average for reading, writing and maths both individually and combined. Science is currently 3 percentage points below the estimated national average but this does not affect the combined result with all subjects. Thurrock falls behind when looking at those achieving a greater depth in each subject. This is a common theme

across all primary key stages where Thurrock has a lower percentage of pupils achieving the higher standard compared to national.

Key Stage 2 performance – (11 year olds)

The provisional data for 2016 can't be compared to previous years. This is due to the introduction of a new curriculum two years ago and the new assessment arrangements.

- The percentage of pupils nationally who reached the expected standard in reading writing and maths is **53%**, and in Thurrock is **51%**. Currently 2 percentage points below the National Standard (*subject to challenge*)
- The range across the Thurrock schools is from 20%-90%,
- 62% of Thurrock pupils reached the expected standard in reading, 75% in writing, 71% in GPS and 67% in maths
- There is likely to be at least two schools labelled as 'coasting'
- There is likely to be a number of schools that will fall below the government floor standards although this is not yet known until the progress data has been released (late September 2016)

Overall Performance of Thurrock Secondary schools

GCSE results will be released on the 25th August 2016. Last year saw a dip in GCSE results locally following changes in the grade boundaries for GCSE English and maths by the examination boards, the number of Thurrock young people that achieved the benchmark 5 grade A*-C including English and Maths decreased by 5 percentage points. There has been a range of initiatives from the local authority, from academy trusts, from the three teaching schools and from the Thurrock Education Alliance (TEA) to support schools and academies which performed less well than others.

Pupil Place Planning and School Building

The Authority successfully met the demand for school places in 2015/16, however there are long-running issues with our good schools being full and therefore causing some students having to travel across the borough to access a school they did not want to go to. Our policy is to support the growth of home-grown MAT's to support weaker schools – to this end we have a departmental lobbying delivery team chaired by myself that looks at ways in which we can help attract free school or EFA funding and broker relationships to realise ambitions. This work sits alongside the work we are doing with regeneration such as to support the creation of the two new Harris Free schools.

Understandably, the large increase we have seen in the primary sector will feed through to the secondary sector and we have already commenced work to ensure there is a robust process in place to ensure places are available and we are

confident that this demand will be met through expansions of some existing schools and new schools built as part of the Free School programme.

We will continue to work with our schools and academies in supporting their physical ambitions where possible and this will include support with regards any Free School applications where there is a demand for school places. A master plan is being developed which will set out how the council will work with the schools, communities and other partners to set out a vision for the future of school improvement, and our ambitions for building capacity to meet increasing demand for pupil places using a combination of our own lobby team as well as our planning and regeneration powers.

Pupil Attendance

Children and young people are unlikely to reach their full potential if they do not attend school regularly. I am pleased to report that overall absence and persistent absence levels have continued to fall over a three year period for both Primary and Secondary sectors.

Even more encouraging is Thurrock's significant improvement in persistent absence for pupil premium pupils which has fallen from 7.3% in 2013 to 5.3% for Primary and in 2013, 14.4% to 9.0% for Secondary schools.

In addition the local authority has seen an unprecedented number of applications for Penalty Notices in respect of unauthorised leave of absence (term time holidays). We will meet these requests in full. The next release of attendance data both for Thurrock and nationally is anticipated to evidence a reduction of the number of children absent due to family holidays taken during term time.

Thurrock's position is to continue to support schools with their efforts to reduce all unauthorised absences, including term time holidays, and we will, where there is already an attendance concern and/or if attendance is below 90% after the holiday has been taken, continue to issue Penalty Notices. This is in line with the advice from DfE and our own lawyers. In addition, to further show our commitment, at the July meeting of the cabinet we amended the school transport plan to remove sanctions against school transport in all but the most extreme circumstances.

The Education Welfare Service, which monitors attendance and intervenes where necessary, continues to work closely with staff and families at schools and academies to ensure that good attendance is a top priority for all. Our expectation is that the improvements in primary attendance will provide an improved foundation for attendance in secondary schools as expectations about and patterns of good attendance are embedded early.

Young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Thurrock has once again done well in ensuring that young people not in education, employment or training are all identified and Thurrock careers personal advisers support them into an appropriate training/education or employment option.

The NEET figure has continued to decrease down to 4.7% in December 2015.

Particularly pleasing is NEET 16 Year old figure standing at 1.2% which is 0.6% less than England average (1.8%). Participation figure has increased in December 2015 to 83.7% placing Thurrock above England average at 81% and well above South East average at just 77.5%.

The not-known figure now stands at just 0.4%. The Department for Education (DfE) has praised Thurrock Careers on their commendable partnership with other Thurrock Council departments and would like to use Thurrock as an example of best practice for other local authorities.

Thurrock is providing career advice not only in secondary educational establishments but also in primary – raising children’s aspirations and ambitions from an early age. Our work to truly release our entrepreneurial spirit will come to fruition as we take our career service outside the council as a staff mutual. This will mean that it will be free of the normal rules that bind local authorities such as the inability to turn a profit. We are already seeing some boroughs trying to pay for our services, and this is the next step as we look to a service that is not reliant on ever increasing taxpayer funds to cope with demand. This will still be firmly routed as a public service as evidenced by its governance structure which will include the LA.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Significant work has taken place, working closely with the Parent Carer Forum, on all areas of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the new reforms introduced in the Children and Families Act 2014. An in-depth Self-Assessment of all areas of the implementation of the reforms is now underway using a Quality Assurance Toolkit and incorporating the key issues that have been identified in the new Ofsted / CQC SEND Local Area inspection to date

Working closely with adult providers, colleges, schools and settings on the implementation of the reforms including reviews of all school “Local Offers.” This includes work on Health provider engagement and incorporation of Social Care involvement. The new post-16 developments include supported Internships and close working with Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions for new services for students with complex needs.

SEND services are working hard to convert all SEN Statements to the new Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP’s) in line with the Department’s recommendations of first focusing on children and young people in transition from one phase of education to the next. e.g. Primary Year 6 to Secondary Year 7 and to Post 16. My department is also actively and robustly supporting the Treetops Free School bid to expand their outstanding provision.

Additionally, there has been a significant increase in the number of new requests for EHC Plans. Significant work has taken place to resolve the systems difficulties in the delivery of these plans and new requests and conversions are now being

completed at 100% within the new timescales.

Our school transport plans that are centred on having an exceptional circumstance criteria opposed to simply trying to stipulate every situation means that we can offer more support to SEND pupils than the statutory minimum in certain situations.

Arts and Cultural Entitlement – the Trailblazer programme

2016 also saw the continuation of the arts and cultural entitlement programme in Thurrock for young people, with 30 schools involved in the pathfinder programme which was devised here in Thurrock and has created considerable national interest. The council commissioned the Royal Opera House Learning team to organise the programme for the schools. It is pleasing to note the programme has been jointly funded between the council, the Arts Council and schools themselves. It is this partnership approach which ensures the cultural entitlement is sustainable.

Such work is vital to rising aspirations and ambitions for pupils, however I have made it a priority for all funding to be justified i.e. are we reaching out to the pupils who would otherwise not get exposure to such services? This work is ongoing.

Grammar schools

This administration is pro-grammar school. Currently the only route to new grammar school places is via an annex of an existing grammar school. However the new Education Secretary has an “open mind” on the current situation. Regardless of the criteria, Thurrock is and will continue to ready itself to make the most compelling case possible to attract grammar school places to Thurrock. Meetings are currently happening regarding this work, and I will have further such meetings in September.

Cross cutting areas between the directorates

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Thurrock’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy was refreshed in 2016 and agreed by full Council in March this year. The refresh allowed us to refocus the Strategy on five clear goals, with each goal being underpinned by four outcome-focused objectives. The Strategy recognises the importance of being able to influence the wider determinants of health, and these feature throughout. We want to stress the importance of employment and support in early years in giving people better life chances. A significant piece of engagement was undertaken as a result of the refresh, which was undertaken by Thurrock Healthwatch. This allowed the Strategy to be influenced accordingly. The Health and Wellbeing Board’s agenda will be focused on ensuring the Strategy’s delivery.

We are now moving to implementation of the plan which will see us taking each goal and turning it into a set of measurable objectives to reduce health inequalities. Each set of metrics will be taken to the health and wellbeing board by myself as Chairman. We will be focused on the wider health outcomes opposed to simply noting inequalities or making spurious and over simplified conclusions such as the

mortality rate between Tilbury and Orsett being solely about relative affluence.

At my first Health and Wellbeing Board meeting, we both agreed the process for monitoring progress and measuring success. I am keen to ensure that Strategy makes a difference – as I said above my priorities are to support young people in their early years to ensure they get a good start in life and to bring more jobs into the Borough as this is one of the best determinants of good health.

This is a key area where the cross over between education and health makes my joint portfolio vital in terms of bridging the gap between poor education/employment outcomes, many of which are generational, and the knock on effect on physical and mental health.

Children centres integration

We are looking at the current provision with children centres and nurseries. Some of the generational issues we wish to address have clear links between education and health. By ensuring that we look at integrated services opposed to old and separate models of delivery, we can assure that we have wrap around care for children who require the most support. This work will go hand in hand with our work with schools to ensure “children are fit for adulthood”. Between this work and the HW Strategy work, we will end the unacceptable fragmentation in the system.

Public Health are also commencing a major piece of work with the Council’s Children’s Services Department and NHS Thurrock CCG to integrate the commissioning and delivery of the 0 to 19 care pathway. This will both provide an improved offer to local children and families, deliver better outcomes and release savings and efficiencies within our local health, education and social care system.

Key worker housing

Our regeneration potential is massive. This presents us with an opportunity to do what many boroughs cannot do in terms of using large scale place making as an attraction. In collaboration with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, we will be working with the CCG and schools over the next few months to consider how to best deploy a key worker housing scheme to attract and retain key skills in Thurrock.

Visits / Meetings : Education and Health Directorates

As the Portfolio Holder, I am the most senior Member of the Administration when it comes to setting individual polices. While polices are driven from our manifesto, it is also vital to have a robust dialogue with those on the ground to both have constant learning about what is happening with services and to take new ideas on.

I was clear upon taking the brief that I was here to lead the departments, but not be a cheerleader for them – I will defend the public interest and challenge maladministration wherever I find it. To this end, it is vital for me to get out and about to meet with groups in the education and health arena so they can share their thoughts with me directly.

I am very proud of the very hectic diary I have maintained since we took office 63 days ago and I will continue to do so.

This is a listening and open administration, and a very proactive Education and Health Directorate. By the time I deliver this report at the Full Council I would have conducted the following visits and meetings (along with dozens of meetings with my directorate team and fellow cabinet colleagues).

- I have met with the chairs of the Essex and Southend HWB Boards and will seek to maintain a positive ongoing relationship with them as we work in collaboration while maintaining our own position outside of the county council.
- I have met with the Leader of Southend Council to discuss how the two Unitaries can work together more closely around Health and Social Care.
- I have visited Healthwatch Thurrock and Thurrock CVS and discussed how their work can be developed. I believe Healthwatch provides an excellent service for the people of Thurrock and I am keen to explore how its role can be developed further.
- I am meeting with the Interim Acting Accountable officer of the CCG to discuss how we can build on our working relationship and how we can work together to improve the quality of Primary Care.
- I have met with the Director of Commissioning Operations (Andrew Pike) to discuss the Success Regime / STP and a number of other matters relating to the Thurrock health and care system and how we can build strong yet not invasive collaboration with fellow partners.
- I am embarking on a set of visits to GP and other primary care facilities in early August.
- I have chaired the Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board to start to approve the measuring metrics and focuses of the HW Strategy.
- I have chaired the Thurrock Education Alliance and have taken away a number of actions in regards to teacher retention and recruitment.
- I have met with the GLC at Tilbury Pioneer School where I was supporting them in a meeting with a representative of the DfE.
- I have met with the Chief Executive at the Gateway Academy with the Head of Herringham to hear about their ambitious plans for the growth of their Mat in some of the most challenging areas in Thurrock.
- I have met with both the Head of Gable Hall and the Acting Head of Hassenbrook to discuss how the council can help with the Development of their MAT to improve Hassenbrook.
- I have visited William Edwards and met with the Head twice to discuss their excellent system of retention of staff and looked into how the council could expand this via key worker housing.
- I have visited Treetops and given my assurances to the Head that I will support their application to expand their outstanding special needs school via a free school.

- I will be embarking on a set of children centre visits with both Education and Health Officers in September as we work to ensure that we deliver true united services provision.
- I have made myself available at all of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny meetings thus far so all members, and not just executive members, can have regular access to me. In addition, I have met with members of various parties when they have requested to talk to me about issues of interest or issues in their wards.
- I have visited Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions and met with their CEO as we look to TLS as an example of best practise as we consider our service offers such as NEET provision. In addition, conversations have been had with TLS and Healthwatch to consider how to best hold our systems of “means testing” to account to consider how they truly effect the vulnerable. This will be the subject of a later cabinet report.
- I have met the Deputy Chief Executive at Basildon Hospital, late on a Saturday afternoon, to consider the issue of A&E capacity and how that relates to primary care.
- I have visited the team at the Royal Opera House to discuss the outreach of the Trailblazers programme.

In conclusion

This is an exciting period, a massive and complex brief, and a job that I relish.

By the end of the municipal year I hope that our leadership will see a less fragmented system, so we offer far more comprehensive care to people to help guild them from early years education to employment and healthy lifestyles.

I hope that by robustly challenging poor public services we will raise the ambitions and expectations of Thurrock so we no longer accept poor quality provision and therefore build bigger and better services.

Finally I hope that, as I continue a robust schedule of visits, our partners in Thurrock grow and grow in confidence that Thurrock is an open and ambitious council that wants to work with them to deliver for our great borough.

Financial information

Public Health Funding

Ring fenced public Health funding was introduced to local Authorities for 2014/15, with additional allocations and responsibilities coming in through 2015/16.

The grant relates to services that have transferred from the Department of Health responsibility to Local Authorities, and relate to generic strategies to improve public Health and outcomes.

Much of the Funding is currently committed to commissioned contracts with Health partnerships and there has been little influence the Authority has been able to deliver in the short term, due to the length of the contracts. There have been reductions in the total grant funding since the initial cash transfer from Health to Local Authorities, which has meant the Authority has had to rationalise services.

For 2015/16 the Outturn for Public Health is detailed below

	Expenditure
	£ 000's
Public Health - 2015/16	
Sexual health services - STI testing and treatment (prescribed functions)	565
Sexual health services - Contraception (prescribed functions)	565
Sexual health services - Advice, prevention and promotion (non-prescribed functions)	564
NHS health check programme (prescribed functions)	385
Health protection - Local authority role in health protection (prescribed functions)	1,282
National child measurement programme (prescribed functions)	30
Public health advice (prescribed functions)	153
Obesity - adults	51
Obesity - children	205
Substance misuse - Drug misuse - adults	528
Substance misuse - Alcohol misuse - adults	608
Substance misuse - (drugs and alcohol) - youth services	78
Smoking and tobacco - Stop smoking services and interventions	546
Children 5–19 public health programmes	1,440
Miscellaneous public health services - Children's 0–5 services (prescribed functions)	1,939
Miscellaneous public health services	1,569
TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH	10,508

Education Funding

Education Provision is funded through two separate main grants, the Dedicated School Grant and the Education Services Grant

The Dedicated School Grant (DSG), is the main funding source for all Schools funding. This is broken down into three blocks, Schools block, which is for direct School funding, High Needs Block, which covers the costs of additional needs of Students, including both state and independent Special Schools and pupils with Statements in Schools. The third block is the Early Years block, which supports the costs of 2, 3 and 4 year old provision in Schools and Private and Voluntary provision. Schools block funding is allocated to Schools using a formula methodology agreed by the Schools Forum. This is the same formula for both maintained Schools and Academies; however for Academies the grant is “recouped” from the Local Authority and paid directly to them by the Education Funding Agency.

The Dedicated Schools grant has stayed at the same per pupil amount for the last five years and has only been increased in relation to pupil volume, for the Schools block and the Early Years block, however the High need block has seen only minor adjustments, not linked to pupil number increases.

Up until 2013/14 Local Authorities with permission, from their School Forum were able to centrally retain elements of the Dedicated School grant to manage such as a contingency. Regulations have now changed and only very limited amounts can be retained for services available to all, such as admissions. All other funding must be delegated to Schools.

The Second element of funding relating to Education is the **Education Services Grant (ESG)**. This was introduced in 2013/14, not as additional funding for the Council, but a new label for existing funding which had previously been part of the Department of Communities and Local Government core funding. This grant is being phased out over this spending period and therefore the rates are decreasing year on year, and represent a significant real terms decrease in funding.

For 2016/17 the rates for the Education services grant were broken down as follows (rates are per pupil)

ESG General Funding Rate for mainstream schools	£77.00
ESG General Funding Rate for special schools	£327.25
ESG General Funding Rate for PRUs	£288.75
ESG Retained Duties Funding Rate	£15.00

The same base rates are used to fund Academies core services and the same funding reduction will be seen in Academies in the long term, however they all have differing protection rates depending on point of transfer and the reductions may take longer to filter through the system.

Currently we are awaiting the second phase of a consultation to move to a national funding formula by 2020. This will mean all Schools and Academies in the Country would be funded on the same formula basis, with only area cost adjustments. Local Authorities would receive a reduced core grant to cover the statutory services that are retained.

DSG Carry forward at the end of 2015/16 (from draft Accounts) is as below:-

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2015/16 are as follows:

Notes	Schools Budget Funded By Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	Central Expenditure	Individual Schools Budget	Total
		£000	£000	£000
A	Final DSG for 2015/16 before Academy Recoupment	-	-	135,983
B	Academy figure recouped for 2015/16	-	-	85,896
C	Total DSG after Academy Recoupment for 2015/16	-	-	50,087
D	Brought Forward from 2014/15	2,906	0	2,906
E	Carry Forward agreed to 2016/17			0
F	Agreed budgeted distribution in 2015/16	4,981	45,106	50,087
G	In Year Budget Adjustments	0	171	171
H	Actual Central Expenditures	6,738		6,738
I	Actual ISB deployed to schools		45,277	45,277
J	Local authority contribution 2015/16	0	0	0
K	Carry Forward to 2016/17	1,149	0	1,149
		Central Expenditure	Individual Schools Budget	Total
		£000	£000	£000
	Income	7,408	50,143	57,551
	Less Expenditure	(4,502)	(50,143)	(54,645)
	Carrying Forward to 2016/17	2,906	0	2,906

Notes

- A This is the original Final DSG Figure, before recoupmnt for historic and in-year Academy Conversions.
- B This is the reduction in the Thurrock allocation of DSG for those Schools that are no longer under local Authority Control and are now funded directly by the DfE
- C This is the Net DSG figure issued by DfE in March 2016. For Funding Maintained Schools and Specific Education services to Schools and Academies.
- D This figure brought forward from 2014/15, is unspent Central DSG Contingency.
- E Any amount which the authority decided after consultation with the schools forum to carry forward to 2016/17 rather than distribute in 2015/16.
- F Budgeted distribution of DSG, adjusted for in year Academy conversions, as agreed with the schools forum.
- G Budget movements from Contingency to the Individual Schools Budget (ISB)
- H Actual amount of central expenditure items in 2015/16, after contingency allocations to ISB.

- I Amount of ISB actually distributed to schools (ISB is regarded for DSG purposes as spent by the authority once it is deployed to schools' budget shares).
- J Any contribution from the local authority in 2015/16 which will have the effect of substituting for DSG in funding the Schools Budget.
- K Carry forward to 2016/17