

<b>Mayor And Cabinet</b>			
<b>Report Title</b>	Matters referred by the Children and Young People Select Committee		
<b>Key Decision</b>	No	<b>Item No.</b>	10
<b>Ward</b>	All		
<b>Contributors</b>	Children and Young People Select Committee		
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	<b>Date</b>	7 May 2008

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Children and Young People Select Committee arising from discussions on the Report on Strengthening Special Educational Needs Provision. These are set out in section three below.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to:

- (i) note the views of the Children and Young People Select Committee as set out in section 3;
- (ii) agree the Executive Director of Children and Young People is asked to comment and provide advice on the comments of the Select Committee.

## **3. Overview & Scrutiny Committee Views**

- 3.1 On 7 May, the Children and Young People Select Committee considered the issue of the strengthening special educational needs provision. They received a progress report on the implementation of the programme arising from the SEN review from Christine Grice, Head of Access & Support Services.

The following specific comments were made by the Select Committee:

- 3.2 There were concerns that the committee had not been given the full information, in regards to the Local Authority decision not to make a formal bid in the competition to be the provider of the ASD school.
- 3.3 The officer stated the LEA's position was that it was preferred that Lewisham be involved in the selection process, rather than bid to become the provider, as according to competition law if Lewisham bid to provide the service, they are then unable to take part in the selection process. The committee does not accept this alone as being a valid reason for discounting the option of making a bid at this stage, and feel that a more considered approach to the option of bidding be taken.

3.4 From the information gathered by the committee through previous scrutiny processes, the committee does not believe that there is evidence to support a decision for Lewisham not to participate in the competition process and therefore ask the Mayor to consider all options, including making provision for the authority to bid to provide this service.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5. Legal Implications**

5.1 The Constitution provides for the Select Committees to report to the Mayor and Cabinet, and for the Executive to consider the report within one month of receiving it.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Strengthening Special Educational Needs Provision

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Salena Whatford (ext. 43380), or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Business & Committee (ext. 49327).