

Children first and at the heart of all we do

Welcome – Catherine Driscoll, Children’s Services

Dear colleagues,

I hope you were able to enjoy time over the long Bank Holiday weekend, even though the weather was a bit variable.

I started the week meeting with Cabinet and Strategic Executive Board colleagues to begin budget planning sessions for next financial year. This conversation started with feedback from last year’s budget out turn, which will be reported to Cabinet on 29 June. Although the final detail will not be public until then, we were praised for the hard work we did last year in managing our budget. I know this wasn’t easy and I do want to thank you all for your contribution to this success. We are really committed to ensuring that the borough’s children and families have the services they need to achieve the best possible outcomes and at the same time we need to be aware of the financial context within which we work. Always a challenging balance and important to check that the resource we do allocate is really making that positive difference for children and young people.

Last month, Children’s Services staff were awarded the Freedom of the Borough by Councillor Anne Millward at Himley Hall. This was in recognition of the amazing work done during the Covid pandemic with staff continuing to deliver services. Helen Ellis received the award on behalf of the directorate and the plaque will be put on display in Corbyn Road – a token of gratitude to everyone from the Council. It is important to look back and feel proud of the important service provided to people, thank you from me as well.

Best wishes,

Catherine