

**CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS
18th January, 2012**

Present:- Councillor Lakin (in the Chair); Councillor Beaumont.

D28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Havenhand.

D29. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2011.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding Children and Adults held on 7th December, 2011, were considered.

With reference to Minute D27 (Proposal for Team Manager to Accompany DK1 and DK2 to America to Meet with Their Prospective Adoptive Kinship Carers / Family) it was noted that this visit had now taken place and the final stages of family assessment work had been completed. The visit had been a success and the adoption process would now begin.

Resolved: - That the minutes of the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding Children and Adults held on 7th December, 2011, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

D30. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD HELD 16TH NOVEMBER, 2011.

The minutes of the Children and Young People's Trust Board held on 16th November, 2011, were considered.

With reference to Minute 122 (Consultation - Lead Member for Children's Services - Roles and Responsibilities), it was noted that the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding Children and Adults had submitted a consultation response to the Department for Education.

Resolved: - That the minutes of the Children and Young People's Trust Board held on 16th November, 2011, be approved as a correct record.

D31. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended (information relating to financial or business affairs).

D32. PROPOSALS FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE ORCHARD CHILDREN'S CENTRE.

Consideration was given to the submitted report and appendices that detailed proposals for the redevelopment of the Orchard Children's Centre. Howard Woolfenden, Director, Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting, Children and

Young People's Services, presented the report which detailed the facilities that were currently located within the Orchard Children's Centre, and the proposed service developments.

Within the existing configuration of services there were two, six-bed units (Cherry Tree House and Bramley House) that offered respite facilities for children with disabilities. However, an analysis of the Service showed that demand for this had reduced over time, whilst annually there had been around five to seven Rotherham young people who attended full-time placements for sensory, physical and emotional difficulties outside of the Rotherham Authority.

It was therefore proposed that the existing Orchards Children's Centre service and premises be reconfigured to provide a five-bed full-time care facility. Bramley House would be reconfigured into an eight-bed per night respite centre, and Cherry Tree House would become a five bedded, full-time residential care home.

The rationale for the proposal was discussed and it was confirmed that the reconfiguration of the Orchard Children's Centre services, and associated investment, would allow children and young people currently attending placements outside of the Rotherham area to return to placements that addressed their needs within Rotherham.

The reconfiguration and refurbishment process had been initially opened out to a two-week tendering process in November, 2011, and was later extended to a month following feedback from bidders that the complexity of the project required a longer period.

The contract had now been awarded to the preferred bidder and work was due to begin. The services available across the Orchard Children's Centre would not close completely during the refurbishment process, but works would be completed in stages to allow the Service to remain partially open.

The proposed alterations to the premises would: -

- Cease overnight respite within Cherry Tree House;
- Provide all required "Overnight Respite" provision within Bramley House by increasing capacity to 8 beds per night with the option of 1 additional emergency bed;
- Develop, within Cherry Tree House, a 5 bedded "full time" residential care home provision.

Consultation meetings had been facilitated for the parents and carers of the children and young people who accessed the three services based in the Orchard Children's Centre, professionals who worked within the services, social care practitioners and the Children's Rights 2 Rights Service.

The plans for the reconfigured and refurbished accommodation and the available budget were considered. A site visit had been undertaken and it had been agreed to replace Cherry Tree House's doors.

With regards to the project, the following issues were also discussed:

- Potential risks to the project's progression;

- The communication of the good news story to stakeholders;
- Potential future service developments.

Resolved: - (1) That the report be received and it's contents noted.

(2) That the successful tender and funding of the proposals be approved by the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding Children and Adults in relation to the reconfiguration of the Services delivered from the Orchard Children's Centre, as detailed in the submitted report.

D33. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FOSTER CARERS.

Further to Minute D26 (Financial Assistance to Foster Carers) of the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding Children and Adults meeting that was held on 7th December, 2011, the additional information that had been requested was now available.

Consideration was given to the three quotations provided in relation to the work required, as presented by Howard Woolfenden, Director for Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting, Children and Young People's Services.

The quotations related to the provision of financial assistance to a couple who were foster carers (T family) to enable them to continue to foster three children. The related building works were for the provision of additional living space in their home. This placement was an ongoing, Rotherham-based fostering placement and would ensure that that the three children would remain in a placement together.

A decreasing term payback clause had been agreed with the family should they cease to care for the three children.

Resolved: - That a grant of up to £27,395 be made available to Mr and Mrs T to enable them to continue to foster the three children through the provision of additional living space in their home, as detailed in the submitted report.