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CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES

Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham.

Date: Tuesday, 25 May 2004

Time: 9.00 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

- to receive minutes

4. Children and Young People's Sub Group (Pages 5 - 8)

- to receive minutes

5. Children and Young People's Services Development (Pages 9 - 16)

- to update Members on the contents of the Childrens Bill

- to seek Member approval to invoke Standing Order 35 to allow the re-engagement of a firm of Consultants

6. Clifton Park Museum - Display Fit-Out Contract (Guy Kilminster, Manager, Libraries, Museums & Arts/David Burton, Consultant Project Manager, Streetpride and Asset Management)

**CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES
4TH MAY, 2004**

Present:- Councillor Boyes (in the Chair); Councillors Austen and Littleboy.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rushforth.

**300. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES HELD ON 20TH
APRIL 2004.**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services held on 20th April, 2004 be received.

301. GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECTS

Further to Minute No. 211 of a meeting of the Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services held on 3rd February, 2004 consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Leader Culture, Leisure and Lifelong Learning which contained a list of grant applications for Community Arts Projects.

The Community Arts Grant Scheme was funded from the monies released following the cessation of the need to pay a subscription to Arts Council England, now Arts Council England, Yorkshire, (ACEY) who had been consulted on the proposal.

This was felt to be a fair means of allocating spend across Rotherham Borough in the support of local arts work.

ACEY approved this suggestion, particularly as it is aimed at increasing the number of applications to the ACEY for local projects. The annual budget for this purpose will in future be £10,000.

The Grant Scheme will eventually be awarded on an annual basis. However, to introduce the scheme, two rounds will be made this year.

An Arts Promotional event had provisionally been booked for 18th May, at which it was hoped to award successful applicants.

Resolved:- That the grant applications, as outlined in the report now submitted, be approved and welcomed.

302. BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS DISPLAY - NOVEMBER 2004

In accordance with Minute No. 236 of a meeting of the Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Leader, Culture, Leisure and Lifelong Learning

which gave details of cost implications for the Council with Friends of Clifton Park Group holding a bonfire and firework display in Clifton Park in November, 2004.

The event has already been approved, but consideration needs to be given to any costs incurred due to Council involvement, in order to provide a safe and well organised professional bonfire and firework display for the people of Rotherham.

The display will be organised and funded through Friends of Clifton Park. The Friends Group have undertaken to raise all funds necessary through sponsorship.

The report gave details on the implementation of public safety and security measures, and of the involvement of Council staff.

It is hoped that this event will become a regular fixture in the events and activities programme, which was also an excellent example of true partnership working between the Council and a “Friends Group” to enhance the range of activities available in Rotherham.

Resolved:- (1) That the level of Council involvement in the Bonfire and Fireworks Display 2004 in Clifton Park be approved.

(2) That a further report be submitted on the outcome of the event.

303. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

304. WICKERSLEY NORTHFIELD J & I SCHOOL - AWARD OF STAGE I TENDER

Consideration was given to a report of the Architectural Manager, on the need to (a) seek authority to accept a Stage 1 partnering submission for the construction of new buildings at Wickersley Northfield Primary School (Teaching Environments for the Future) (b) to invite the preferred contractor to participate in Stage 2 of the process (the development of the final design and the construction documents) and (c) at the conclusion of Stage 2, to negotiate an open book basis a Target Cost contract for the works based on the rates for overheads and profits submitted at Stage 1.

The contract is for the construction of a staff suite, administrative accommodation forming a link between the two existing school buildings; and ‘on the spot’ work bases, to be located in and around the site.

The construction work is being procured using a two stage partnering

approach, as reported to and approved by Members on 6th January, 2004.

Stage 1 of the procurement process has involved DfES as principal funder of the project, together with Economic and Development Services Design Team.

Resolved:- (1) That a Stage 1 partnering submission from CBM Construction for the construction of new buildings and extensions to Wickersley Northfield Primary School (Teaching Environments for the Future) be approved, and the contractor invited to participate in Stage 2 of the process (the development of the final design and the construction documents).

(2) That at the conclusion of Stage 2, negotiations take place on an open book basis on a Target Cost contract for the works, based on the rates for overheads and profits submitted at Stage 1.

(Exempt under Paragraph 8 of the Act – the report contains information relating to the amount of expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract).

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUB-GROUP
20TH APRIL, 2004**

Present:- Councillor Boyes (in the Chair) and Councillor Austen, Gosling, Jack and Robinson.

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|--------------------|--|
| Ruth Johnson | Pre-School Learning Alliance |
| Roger Higginbottom | Strategic Leader Inclusion |
| Mary Smith | Education Services Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager |
| Aileen Chambers | Childcare Resources and Information Co-ordinator |

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Littleboy

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Julie Bates | Rotherham Play & Learn Bus |
| Jackie Jenkinson | Head of Children and Families |
| Sue Walker | Senior School Improvement Adviser, Manager Early Years and Childcare Service |

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th JANUARY, 2004

Resolved:- That the minutes of the above meeting be received and agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute No. 7 – Children's Information Service

Reference was made to the need to nominate a non-voting representative on this Sub-Group as a vacancy had occurred due to the new operational arrangements of the Rotherham Children's Information Service.

Resolved:- That nominations for a Non-Voting Representative be submitted to the next meeting of this Sub-Group for consideration.

3. BEACON COUNCIL SCHEME APPLICATION 2003/2004

The Senior School Improvement Adviser, Manager Early Years and Childcare Service, submitted a report informing Members that a Beacon Council Scheme Application 2003/2004 had been submitted in September, 2003 to be assessed in the autumn.

The report summarised the assessment feedback under the application section headings as follows :-

- Theme Assessment
- Vision Strategy
- Consultation
- Partnerships
- Actions
- Outcomes
- User & Community Satisfaction

- Best Value Performance Indicators

The conclusion was that whilst the Service would accept the validity of a number of the questions raised regarding the inclusion of information in the application, particularly the issues around the involvement of Health, officers felt that much of the information was clearly included and they were disappointed with the outcome. Equally the application was limited to nine pages in length.

It was reported, however, that officers were addressing the issues and building these into the Service Plan.

Members of this Sub-Group also expressed their disappointment at not receiving Beacon Council status for the Early Years and Childcare Service and expressed the view that Rotherham's Service was very involved in supporting other local authorities in disseminating information and advising on good working practices and Rotherham had not received any recognition for this.

Resolved:- That the Senior School Improvement Adviser, Manager Early Years and Childcare Service, write to the local Members of Parliament conveying this Sub-Group's disappointment at not receiving Beacon Council status and drawing attention to the fact that Rotherham's Service was very involved in supporting other local authorities in disseminating information and advising on good working practices.

4. ROTHERHAM CHILDREN'S INFORMATION SERVICES

The Childcare Resources and Information Co-ordinator submitted a report informing Members that the Children's Information Service had moved to a new location on 15th March, 2004. The decision to discontinue funding the previous Children's Information Service and to operate a service from within the Early Years and Childcare Service was taken to enable the provision of a more integrated service to the public, with longer opening hours within the available budget and to fulfill the Sure Start Children's Information Strategy.

Flyers had been produced and distributed to promote the new service with Information Points in RMBC Reception Area, Norfolk House, Walker Place, Arts Centre/Central Library Reception Area. The same freephone telephone number has been retained - 0800 0730230.

The CIS Team would have back up from the current Administration Officer and Clerical team who had been trained on the ChIS database and a service would be provided to the public from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm.

The report outlined future developments and the benefits of the new Children's Information Service.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received.

(2) That arrangements be made for a suitable press release to be made about the Rotherham Children's Information Service

5. CHILDREN'S CENTRES

The Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager submitted a report updating Members on current progress on the Children's Centres Strategy.

The Children Centre's Strategic Plan was submitted to the Sure Start Unit on the 14th October, 2003 and formal feedback from the Unit was received in February, 2004. Many strengths were acknowledged in the proposals, including having a clear strategy which utilises and builds on existing provision and is making good use of other initiatives to support the reshaping of services. The Social Inclusion aspects of the strategy were seen as strong with specific actions identified and the qualified teacher input to the Centres being addressed.

Additional information had been requested on how childminders will be recruited and integrated into the Centres and how the Children's Centres proposals will link into the extended schools agenda. Implementation plans will also need to be submitted for each of the Centres.

Concern had been expressed by local authorities about whether or not there will be continued funding after March 2006. Whilst the Sure Start Unit cannot anticipate the outcome of the next spending review, they can confirm that on-going revenue funding will be available in 2006-07 and 2007-08 to support Children's Centres currently being developed.

Resolved:- That the report be received and future updates be welcomed.

6. EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

The Childcare Resources and Information Co-ordinator submitted a report detailing the successful recruitment activity over the last year.

It was reported that there had been 538 recruitment enquiries and 542 prospective child minders had been invited to training sessions.

A Recruitment and Marketing Officer had been appointed on 1st April, 2004 who would take forward recruitment activity in partnership with the Training and QA Co-ordinator and Childcare Development Teams. Plans were in place to develop a Job Matching Service to put prospective childcare/early education workers in touch with Rotherham providers who have vacancies.

Continued professional development and accessibility to Early Years and Childcare training has been successful over the year. At the end of the financial year the data collated on numbers of delegates attending the training and numbers accessing Early Years funding will be analysed and an end of year report will follow. As it is nearing the end of the three year project an overall project report will be submitted; this will specify how the finance has

been used and the number of beneficiaries supported either through support with training fees, cover costs or help towards childcare.

The Sub-Group asked for further information on (a) what proportion of 16 to 18 years age group were interested in child minding and (b) the payment of training fees.

It was noted that the issue about the payment of training fees had been raised with local Members of Parliament via the Social Services Programme Area.

Resolved:- That the report be received and future updates welcomed.

7. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT CHILDCARE PARTNERSHIP

Resolved:- That the minutes of meetings of the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership held on 17th December, 2003 and 11th February, 2004 be received and noted.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Rotherham Show:

It was reported that last year's show was a great success and that many enquiries had been received from people who were interested in working in childcare. The Early Years and Childcare Services would have a presence at this year's Rotherham Show.

(b) Children's Literature Festival:

Officers were asked to pursue the linking of Sure Start Month activities with the Children's Literature Festival in June 2004.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of this Sub-Group be held on Tuesday, 20th July, 2004 at 11.00 am.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. **Meeting:** **Cabinet Member and Advisers
Education, Culture and Leisure Services**

2. **Date:** **Tuesday 25th May, 2004**

3. **Title:** **Children and Young People's Services
Development**

4. **Originating Officer:** Di Billups
Executive Director Children and Young People's
Services Development
Tel No / 822500

5. **Issue:**

- 5.1 To update members on the contents of the Children's Bill, progress towards the development of Children and Young People's Services in Rotherham. To provide members with the **strengths** and weaknesses of potential models and timescales. To seek guidance regarding the scale and timing of future developments.

6. **Summary:**

- 6.1 The Children's Bill was published on 4 March 2004. Development work is progressing in drawing together all the services involved in serving children and young people. The Bill focuses upon the changes necessary to secure better outcomes for children, young people and their families in the light of local circumstances. Clear, shared outcomes across services, identified by children and young people lie within the Bill:
 - Being healthy/physical mental health;
 - Protection from harm /neglect;
 - Education and Training/ enjoying achieving;
 - Contribution to society;
 - Social and economic well being.

- 6.2 The Bill requires broad local partnerships of interest to improve the well being of children and young people. The Local Authority is required to make partnership arrangements with key partners and other relevant agencies, including the voluntary and community sector, to improve the well being of children in their area. Reciprocal duties to co-operate in these arrangements are placed on the Police, Health Bodies, Connexions, Probation Service and the Learning and Skills Council. The Bill does not specify a name for local partnerships but does require joint working with other agencies and partnerships as described. **A strength is that Rotherham has a Children's**

Board and Executive Group already in place. The model contained in the Bill is one, which brings together key services within a single organisational focus ensuring a joint approach to meeting the needs of all children. Some of this work is ongoing, some formally and other work on a more informal level. If Rotherham wishes to further strengthen and formalise the partnership, the constitution of the Board and Executive Group will need to be revisited and Governance and accountability arrangements formalised to reflect their respective roles and responsibilities. The five key themes being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and economic well being could each be represented at the Board by a member, as well as one member holding the overarching portfolio for Children's and Young People's Services. The leader is the Chair of the Board. **Such an arrangement would strengthen Rotherham's position and provide a more consistent approach to the delivery of Children and Young People's Services across the borough in the longer term.** The Corporate Management Team were supportive of the arrangement as described

- 6.3 **Rotherham is in a strong position having already in place a Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.** The weakness of the current partnership is that partners share the overarching aspirations of the Bill but are driven by different paymasters and do not share common priorities as a means to achieving agreed outcomes. Funding for the delivery of Children and Young People's Services rests in several budgets managed by the various partners. There is a lack of congruence in bringing budgets together to serve the needs of the child. It is possible that a shadow alignment of budgets could be in place for April 2005 so that new budgetary arrangements can be considered by April 2006. The Corporate Management Team were supportive of the proposal to align budgets in April 2005
- 6.4 The Bill provides clear guidance as to the role of the partnership. The Bill requires each local authority to establish a Safeguarding Board and has a prescription for key partner membership. This is a very important step for Rotherham in strengthening child protection and something, which needs to be addressed early. The Safeguarding Board which meets the requirements of the Bill could be in place by September 2004. **This would be a very positive step on the part of Rotherham in supporting the most vulnerable children and young people in the borough and be seen as a strength.**
- 6.5 The Bill requires Local Authorities to appoint a Director of Children's Services at Chief Officer level, to ensure clear accountability across the Children's Services function of the local authority. The Bill specifies that the Director should cover, as a minimum, the functions relating to young people that currently fall to the Chief Education Officer and Director of Social Services. The Bill does not set a deadline for the Directors appointment, but the expectation is that this appointment will have been made by 2006.
- 6.6 The Bill does not create Children's Trusts as statutory organisations, but it is recommended that most areas should have a strong Strategic Partnership arrangement, created by the Local Authority by 2006 and all by 2008. This

Partnership would be formed by the local authority, but be representative of all partners. In a Strategic Partnership arrangement the commissioning of work and the use of resources would rest with the Board at a strategic level. The Board would also hold a high level of accountability for the quality of services to children and young people. This needs to be reflected in the make up of the Board, where following the presentation of one plan, reflecting the priorities of the partnership, the commissioning of work to deliver agreed outcomes would take place. Rigorous performance management would allow the Board to hold the providers accountable. In the longer term providers would tender for the work and be required to prove their ability to deliver work of the highest quality. Some commissioning detail may be devolved to local areas as the systems evolve. **The strength of such a model is that services would really be made to operate as one, with one set of agreed priorities and agreed outcomes for children and young people. The service would be monitored as one and it would be clear where gaps and weaknesses were and needed to be addressed.** *The weakness of such a model is that such a major responsibility would not rest only in the hands of those who have been democratically elected.* More careful consideration of the make up of the Board has the potential to address this issue. Assuming the election of an over arching lead member for Children and Young People's Services on the Board. Were elected members to represent one each of the five key outcomes, being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and economic well being. This would strengthen their overall sphere of influence on the Board but also create greater cohesion with existing portfolios and their roles within the Rotherham Strategic Partnership. These seats could be in addition to the Children's Champion and the Leader of the Council, as the Chair. **Board members would have the advantage of access to financial information available for the whole provision of Children and Young People's Services**

- 6.7 It is important to focus on the reason for change and the difference the change can make to the lives of Rotherham's children and young people. Rotherham's new arrangements must be such that members can be assured that all children are served well and prevent the most vulnerable children falling through the net. This may be the consolidation of our Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership able to advise rather than direct principle bodies as a first step, allowing the council to move towards a more substantial development over time, if this is deemed appropriate. **The strength of a staged approach is that the council can come to a state of preparedness responsive to Government legislation when it is finalised. It allows the council to examine other national models and determine a suitable future model in the context of Rotherham. It may also be possible to influence national developments, through modeling good practice.**
- 6.8 A strong strategic partnership needs to be formed through aligning budgets and resources across the Local Education Authorities, Social Services Children and Families, certain Health Services, Connexions and where agreed locally Youth Offending Services. **The strength of aligning budgets**

is that priorities would be agreed by all partners in a single plan and allows funding to be used by the Board to advise about the Commissioning of services of quality to meet agreed priorities and serve all Rotherham's children well. The majority of employees would remain as employees of the council but there would be some employees employed by other partners. Should any service fail to deliver, the first course of action would need to be taken by the Board. *A concern could be that in some circumstances the council may be liable for failure over which it has limited direction.*

- 6.9 Legislation will provide for Adult Social Services to be led by a Director. Authorities will be free to add other services such as Culture and Leisure, Adult Services to the Director of Children's Services brief. The Bill requires a lead member to be appointed in respect of the same span of Children's Services as the Director of Children's Services, to strengthen accountability at a local political level. The lead Council Member will have a focus on child protection. This is a very important area for Rotherham and one that needs to be included in the early stages of any further development.
- 6.10 The Bill states that two or more Inspectorates will carry out Joint Area Reviews of local authority areas in accordance with arrangements made by Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools. The test will be the degree of measurable improvement for children and young people, brought about by bringing services together. This will also be the focus for future Comprehensive Performance Assessments in regard to children, where one assessment, against common indicators, will be used for all Children's Services.
- 6.11 The Bill creates new intervention powers in relation to Social Services to bring them in line with those relating to Education Services. (Evidence at conferences and amongst leading professionals suggests that intervention is likely where government guidance has not been followed with regard to the establishment of a strong strategic partnership and services fail to improve).

The Bill provides the framework for the establishment of information sharing systems, to enable services to be alerted quickly and support to be provided at the earliest opportunity. **The strength of such arrangements is that where appropriate information can be shared quickly it allows agencies to work together in an informed way to meet the needs of the child.** *A weakness is that the government has not addressed some of the issues posed by data protection. Secondary legislation specifically agreed by parliament will be required for the establishment of databases for common assessment purposes.* This may be further informed by the outcomes of the Bichard enquiry. The Bill contains a specific duty to support the educational achievements of Looked after Children. This work is under development in Rotherham but needs to be further strengthened.

7. Clearance/Consultation:

- 7.1 The contents of the Bill are being shared with all Partners through the Board, Executive, Engine Room, joint staff meetings and with CMT and Cabinet. A

seminar is arranged for all Members and Cabinet Members and Advisers and relevant Scrutiny Members. Opportunities to share this paper are also occurring through presentation to spokes of the Rotherham Strategic Partnership and Health Partners.

8. Timing:

- 8.1 In order to establish high quality Children and Young People's Services in Rotherham a project plan, which includes agreed time-scales needs to be agreed. Development work is on going, but this needs to be set within a clear time frame. In May consultation on the rationalisation of Local Authority Funding and the Common Assessment Framework will take place. The former has major implications for Rotherham's Medium Term Financial Strategy, which must take account of the formation of a future Children and Young People's Service. The Chancellors Spending Review will take place in July 2004. Ministers have indicated that there will be a strong lobby for additional funding for the development of Children and Young People's Services. Public Service Agreements will also be published in July 2004.
- 8.2. In the Autumn it is anticipated that a further Next Steps document will be published setting out new standards, outcomes and performance indicators, funding and a national programme of change for children. The pay and workforce strategy will also be unveiled. November 2004 will see the assent of the Children's Bill with the National Service Framework for Children and the Common Assessment Framework published by the end of 2004.
- 8.3 If the views in the paper supported by the Corporate Management Team are shared and agreed by members this will mean Rotherham will be in a strong position to respond to future legislation around Children and Young People's Services. It will have a Safeguarding Board in place by September 2004. It will be well prepared to address the outcomes of national guidance around information sharing and assessment. The Strategic Partnership Board for Children and Young People's Services will have been reviewed and strengthened and Governance Issues will have been fully explored. Budgets will have been aligned leaving the authority in a good position to consider new budgetary arrangements for 2006.

9. Background:

- 9.1 The Pathfinder Team, led by Sue Hare, was established in 2002 and has done a lot of preliminary and preparatory work of good quality for the establishment of Children and Young People's Services. This work has regularly been reported at member's seminars, to Cabinet and more recently through the Children and Young People's Executive Group and Board.

10. Argument:

- 10.1 Project planning needs to be in place to allow Rotherham to respond positively to the contents of the Children's Bill.

11. Risks and Uncertainties:

- 11.1 Without a positive response Rotherham would fail to serve all of its children and young people well and leave some of its most vulnerable children and young people at risk.

12. Finance:

- 12.1 The Bill is clear that the budgets of major service providers for children, Education, Social Services and Health will be brought together and work then commissioned by the Board following a tendering process on the part of providers. Aligned budgets may also include Voluntary Sector, Connexions, Youth Offending Teams, etc. Consideration of new arrangements following the Children's Bill will need to be part of future budget making and setting in the medium term

13. Sustainability:

It is anticipated that the services outlined above will better serve the children and young people of Rotherham and their families. The bringing together of services, joint use of premises, and the redirection, where appropriate, of some resources, could result in some economies of scale and increased levels of more sustainable of services.

14. Wards Affected:

All

15. References:

Pathfinder Case for Change
The Children's Bill
Next Steps¹

16. Presentation:

The presentation is aimed at enabling partners to take the next steps in the development of Children and Young People's Services.

17. Recommendations:

- 1. That members support the consolidation of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.**
- 2. That members support the revisiting of the make up of the Children and Young People's Board and Executive Group in order to better reflect all partners.**
- 3. That formal Governance Arrangements for the Board and Executive Group are drawn up for consideration by members, with the support of relevant legal experts.**
- 4. That members support the alignment of budgets as a first step by October 2004 in order for new budgetary arrangements to be considered by April 2006.**
- 5. That further consideration be given to the appointment of a Director of Children and Young People's Services.**
- 6. That members support the setting up of a Safeguarding Board by September 2004.**
- 7. That the Executive Director Children and Young People's Services Development is asked to draw up a project plan with due regard to items above.**