

Summary Sheet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting – 19 February 2018

Report Title

Response to Recommendations from Improving Lives Select Commission – Alternative Management Arrangements for Children and Young People's Services in Rotherham

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

All

Summary

The Improving Places Lives Commission established a Task and Finish Group to consider the lessons learnt from other trust models and also look objectively at other alternative management arrangements which might secure the long-term success of Rotherham's Children and Young People's Services. The group completed its review in the autumn of 2017 and submitted a final report to Council on 18 October 2017.

Under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Cabinet is required to respond to any recommendations made by scrutiny and this report is submitted to meet that requirement.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet agree the response to the scrutiny review of Alternative Management Arrangements for Children and Young People's Services in Rotherham set out at Appendix A to this report.
2. That the response be referred to the next meeting of the Council on 28 February 2018 and to the next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission on 13 March 2018

List of Appendices Included

Appendix A - Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review of Alternative Management Arrangements for Children and Young People's Services in Rotherham

Background Papers

Report of the Improving Lives Select Commission – Scrutiny Review of Alternative Management Arrangements for Children and Young People's Services in Rotherham

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Improving Lives Select Commission – 13 March 2018

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Response to Recommendations from Improving Lives Select Commission – Alternative Management Arrangements for Children and Young People’s Services in Rotherham

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Cabinet’s response to the scrutiny review of Alternative Management Arrangements for Children and Young People’s Services in Rotherham be approved.
- 1.2 That the response be referred to the next meeting of the Council on 28 February 2018 and the next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission on 13 March 2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 The review report presented the latest analysis and current thinking of the Improving Lives Select Commission on the range of Alternative Management Arrangements (AMAs) for children’s services. It evaluated the relative strengths and challenges of the primary options available to the Council. The paper then provided initial recommendations for future management arrangements.
- 2.2 Members of the Select Commission were asked by the Commissioners to consider the lessons learnt from other trust models and look objectively at other AMAs which might secure the long-term success of Rotherham’s Children and Young People’s Services. The supporting evidence underpinning the report was gathered through visits and conversations with other areas to identify the impact their delivery arrangements had on improvements. In addition, Isos Partnership (with the support of the Local Government Association) used an independent research methodology to enable an objective assessment of the model/s most likely to secure sustainable improvements in Children and Young People’s Services.
- 2.3 The review report was submitted to Council on 18 October 2017, which represented the formal publication of the report. Under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Cabinet is required to respond to any recommendations made by scrutiny and this report is submitted to meet that requirement.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 There are five broad recommendations arising from the scrutiny review of Alternative Management Arrangements for Children and Young People’s Services, which are detailed in Appendix A. The schedule provides detail in respect of whether the recommendations are agreed, not agreed or deferred. Where recommendations are agreed, the schedule details what action will be taken, by when and who will be responsible.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 The proposed response of the Cabinet to the recommendations is set out in Appendix A.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The Improving Lives Select Commission consulted with a wide range of organisations across local government and the social care sector as part of the review. The Commissioner for Children's Social Care and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services were also consulted in the preparation of the report from the Select Commission.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 6.1 The formal Cabinet response will be agreed at the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting on 19 February 2018. Following this, the formal response will be submitted to the Improving Lives Select Commission. It will be a matter for the Members of the Select Commission to determine what ongoing monitoring and review of the agreed actions will be required.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 Whilst there may be significant financial implications that would require careful consideration should there be a future decision on the move to alternative management arrangements, these are difficult to quantify at this time. However the preferred model would avoid high transition and operating costs associated with each of the options whilst securing more rapid and sustainable improvement.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct legal implications from the recommendations contained in this report. There would be significant legal implications that would require careful consideration should there be a future decision on the adoption of alternative management arrangements.

9. Human Resources Implications

- 9.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from this report.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 10.1 The quality of services provided to children and young people can be impacted on by a range of factors. At the current time there is no evidence to suggest that one organisational model is better than the others at improving and sustaining the improvements in the quality of services. The response schedule (Appendix 1) indicates that the Council will continue to make use of the regional peer review programme and other quality assurance processes to continue to improve the quality of services to Children and Families.

11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 11.1 There are no direct equalities or human rights implications arising from this report.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 There are no implications for partners or other directorates arising from the response to the recommendations.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 No risks have been identified.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of:-

| | Named Officer | Date |
|---|----------------------|-------------|
| Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services | Michael Wildman | 01.02.2018 |
| Assistant Director of Legal Services | Neil Concannon | 01.02.2018 |
| Head of Procurement (if appropriate) | N/A | |
| Head of Human Resources (if appropriate) | N/A | |

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