

**CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFEGUARDING AND DEVELOPING LEARNING  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN  
23rd February, 2011**

Present:- Councillor Lakin (in the Chair) and Councillor Sangster.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Currie and Havenhand

**D118. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2011**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 be approved as a correct record.

**D119. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2010/2011**

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Finance Manager stating that the Children and Young People's Services' capital programme budget for 2010/2011 has reduced by £4.215 millions to £17.515 millions. The programme is forecast to be fully spent by 31st March 2011. The submitted report shows the capital programme's actual expenditure to 17th January 2011 and projected expenditure to 31st March 2011.

Members requested further details about specific projects.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That Members note that:-

(a) the Children and Young People's Services' Capital Programme for 2010/2011 is now £17.515 millions;

(b) capital programme expenditure to 17th January 2011 is £11.297 millions; and

(c) the Capital Programme is expected to spend to the revised budget by 31st March 2011.

**D120. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2010/2011 - QUARTER 3**

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Performance Management Officer outlining the performance of the Children and Young People's Services' Directorate at the end of 2010/2011 quarter three against targets, with direction of travel against previous year's performance and comparisons with statistical neighbour and national data.

Members discussed:-

(a) issues concerning forthcoming inspections by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted); and

(b) the implications of budget reductions for performance targets.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the third quarter performance report for Children and Young People's Services be received and performance noted.

(3) That the recommendations regarding performance clinics, as detailed in the report submitted, be approved.

(4) That this performance report be submitted to a future meeting of the Children and Young People's Trust Board.

**D121. 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 of both the local authority and others).

**D122. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR A FOSTER CARER**

Further to Minute No. D108 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children held on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2011, consideration was given to a report submitted by the Service Manager (Long Term Looked After Children Team) concerning a request for financial assistance, from a couple who were foster carers, for a building extension to their home to enable them to be considered as long-term foster carers for three children currently residing with them on a task-centred basis. The application was made under the provisions of the Adoption Support Services (Local Authority) (England) Regulations 2003.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That, subject to the conditions detailed in the report submitted, a grant up to a maximum sum of £18,000 be made to the couple identified in the report, enabling them to undertake the necessary building alterations in respect of their foster caring role.

**D123. EARLY YEARS SINGLE FUNDING FORMULA**

Further to Minute No. D70 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children held on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2010, consideration was given to a report presented by the Resources and Business Strategy Manager stating that the previous Government had announced in June 2007 that local authorities would be required to design and implement a single local funding formula for funding the Free Entitlement to early years provision for 3 and 4 year olds across all sectors.

The aim was to improve fairness and transparency in the way that funding is allocated to providers who deliver the Free Entitlement and thereby support its extension to 15 hours, to be delivered more flexibly from September 2010. From April 2011, all local authorities must fund providers from all sectors on the basis of single, transparent, locally defined, participation-led funding formulae: the Early Years Single Funding Formula.

During consideration of this item, Members were informed of the imminent retirement of Mr. David Ashmore, Resources and Business Strategy Manager, Children and Young People's Services. Members placed on record their appreciation of Mr. Ashmore's services to the Council and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the Early Years Single Funding Formula as proposed by the Early Years Funding Formula Working Group shall be implemented, subject to approval by the Rotherham Schools Forum.

(3) That the hourly rates (as detailed section 8.1 of the submitted report) be approved subject to finalisation of the Dedicated Schools Grant and agreements in respect of central expenditure.

(4) That, as the Standards Fund Grant 1.10 for 2010/11 ends at 31st March 2011, any residual funding remaining shall be added to the Dedicated Schools Grant in 2011/12 for contingency purposes.

#### **D124. EARLY INTERVENTION GRANT**

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services concerning the Early Intervention Grant, a new concept from the coalition Government bringing together funding strands most of which had been Area Based Grants. The Early Intervention Grant of some £14 millions in 2010/11 has been subjected to a 12.9% reduction for 2011/12. Children and Young People's Services have spent a considerable time examining the best way to prioritise the funds available against the corporate priorities, particularly prevention and early intervention. The proposals detailed in the submitted report signal a shift to allocating resources against the Children and Young People's Plan and corporate priorities.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the proposed grant reductions, as detailed in the report now submitted, be endorsed.

(3) That a bid be made to the proposed Invest to Save fund, for intervention work with sexually exploited young people and for family support targeted at keeping children and young people out of care.

(4) That the move to realign resources to provide family support services, as now reported, be noted.