

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES'  
SERVICES  
24th April, 2013**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dalton.

**D101.      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no Declarations of Interest to record.

**D102.      MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 13TH MARCH AND  
10TH APRIL, 2013.**

The minutes of the previous meetings of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services, held on 13<sup>th</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2013, were considered.

Resolved: - That the minutes of the previous meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2013, be agreed as an accurate record for signature by the Cabinet Member.

**D103.      CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE REVENUE BUDGET  
MONITORING REPORT TO 28TH FEBRUARY, 2013.**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Finance Manager (Children and Young People's Services), Financial Services, Resources Directorate, which provided a financial forecast to 31st March, 2013, based on actual income and expenditure to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2013.

Overall, the Directorate was projecting a £1.203M (+3.5%) over-spend outturn position at the end of the 2012/13 financial year.

The forecast over-spend was largely due to the continuing pressures in Safeguarding Children and Families' Services due to the needs-led nature of the budget. The over-spends were offset by under-spends mainly relating to staff slippage and additional income generation and had been outlined in the report. The report noted the projected outturn against the approved budgets for each Service division, and an analysis of the main pressures and the underlying reasons beneath them.

It was noted that £405,000 of the pressure within the Children Looked After budget was due to unrealised income that was expected from the PCT. Efforts had been on-going to secure this funding between both organisations. Further work had been undertaken in relation to Children Looked After placements to profile where funding contributions could be expected from partner organisations.

The report outlined a number of management actions that had taken place in relation to the budget: -

- The 'Invest to Save' programme within Fostering and Adoption had been in place since 2011 and was demonstrating positive outcomes. The programme was slightly under target to achieve the levels of adoptions predicted due to delays in two approvals which were expected in April 2013. The programme was predicting to be over target on the recruitment of foster carers by two;
- Proactive management actions continued to concentrate on avoiding costs a total of £1.162M to date, and a total of £459,000 had been saved through re-negotiating contracts with external providers;
- The introduction of a Multi-Agency Support Panel from April, 2011, had avoided costs of £703,000 in 2013/14 so far;
- Substantial reductions in agency costs within Safeguarding Children and Families' Services in the main, but also in other areas;
- Non-contractual overtime for Children and Young People's Services was at £103,000, compared to £98,000 for the same period last year.

The Cabinet Member welcomed the overall positive direction of travel in relation to the budget monitoring report and believed that the overspend would continue to decrease further as a result of working with partner organisations as mentioned in the submitted report.

Resolved: - That the latest financial projection against the budget for the year based on actual income and expenditure to the 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2013, be noted.

**D104. ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF ENTRY IN THE 2014/15 ACADEMIC YEAR.**

Further to Minute number D48 (Admissions Consultation – Entry to School in the 2014/15 Academic Year), where the Cabinet Member gave approval to undertake formal consultation with stakeholders on the proposed admission arrangements for the 2014/15 School Year, consideration was now given to a report outlining the outcomes of the consultation process involving all of Rotherham's schools and stakeholders.

The Principal School Admissions, Organisation and Special Education Needs Service Officer, provided an overview of the consultation process that had ran over an eight-week period. The issues consulted on included the Admission Policy/Co-ordinated Scheme for the admission year 2014/15, which related to the criteria used where schools were oversubscribed, and any changes required as a consequence of requirements arising under the Department for Education's School Admissions Code of Practice.

The final determination had been made by the Rotherham Local Admissions Forum by 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2013, deadline.

The following areas were required to be consulted on an annual basis: -

- **Admission criteria for community schools: -**

No changes were proposed to the Admission Policy or criteria for community schools for entry in 2014/15. The policy was attached at appendix one. Appendix two contained the admission numbers for all Schools.

- **Co-ordinated admission arrangements: -**

Rotherham had co-ordinated admission arrangements with all other admission authorities in relation to the normal admission round to simplify the admission process for parents and reduce the likelihood of a child being left without a school place.

- **Waiting lists: -**

The Local Authority administered waiting lists for children applying in the normal admission round for both primary and secondary school children. Waiting lists were in operation from September and for the duration of the Autumn term.

- **Catchment areas: -**

No changes were proposed to existing school catchment areas for 2014/15. Consultation had been undertaken in relation to the Waverley Estate due to the housing development there to establish a catchment area arrangements for the new dwellings. A decision had been taken in relation to this by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 and 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 (Minute Nos. D58 and D79 refer).

- **Fair Access Protocol: -**

The School Admissions Code of Practice required the Admissions Authority to have a Fair Access Protocol in place that would ensure that access to education was secured quickly for children who did not have a school place in a mainstream school, and to ensure that all schools in an area admitted a fair share of pupils with challenging behaviour, including children who had been excluded from school. This included admitting children above the admission number to schools that were already full. All schools and academies were required to participate in the scheme, although some exceptions were set out in the School Admissions Code of Practice and the Local Authority's Admission to School Booklets. The Scheme was monitored, including timescales, including an annual report to the Schools' Adjudicator.

- **Statutory Closing Dates: -**

The School Admissions Code of Practice imposed national closing dates for both Primary (15<sup>th</sup> January, 2014) and Secondary (31<sup>st</sup> October, 2013) applications for the admissions round in 2014/15. The Local Authority's Admission Booklet had to be published by 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2013.

- **Report to the Schools Adjudicator: -**

The Admissions Authority was required to submit an annual report to the Schools' Adjudicator by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.

Appendix two of the submitted report displayed net capacity of each school, their indicated admission number (which was linked to net capacity), their admission number for 2013/14 and their proposed admission number for 2014/15. The appendix also outlined any alterations and / or consultations that had taken place to all of Rotherham's schools relating to net capacity changes (e.g. expansions) and / or admission number alterations.

The submitted report also displayed individual comments that had been made by schools following consultation. A published notice would be required that noted the schools that had indicated a lower admission number than that indicated for the current net capacity calculation for the school.

Discussion ensued and included the consultation response that had suggested that a child's attendance in the non-statutory FS1 (nursery) provision of a school should be incorporated into the admission criteria for admission into the statutory FS2 (reception class). The School who had made this comment believed that the children who had attended their FS1 provision should be placed higher in the admission criteria over those children who were in the catchment area but had not attended the School's FS1.

A response had been provided to the School stating that this policy would require a review of the whole Admissions Policy for the Authority. Furthermore, it was the opinion of the School's Adjudicator that this could create inequality of access to school places.

Resolved: - (1) That the contents of the report be noted.

(2) That approval be given to the Admission Policy for entry into Rotherham's maintained Schools for the 2014/15 School Year.

(3) That the determined admission arrangements be displayed on the Rotherham MBC website.

(4) That a public notice be published confirming the determination of the schools that had an admission number lower than indicated by net capacity.

**D105. PROPOSAL TO ADD A SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS UNIT TO FLANDERWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

Further to Minute No. D69 (Proposal to add a Special Educational Needs Unit to Flanderwell Primary School) of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services held on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2013, where approval was given to undertake the Statutory Consultation phase, consideration was now given to the report outlining the outcomes of that process.

The Principal School Admissions, Organisation and Special Educational Needs Assessment Service Officer (Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services) reported that no formal objections had been received to the proposal to create a ten-place Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) Unit at Flanderwell Primary School. The consultation period had stood between 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 – 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2013.

The submitted report noted the reasons why the additional Unit had been proposed. It was noted that the existing ASC Unit at Kilnhurst Primary School was oversubscribed and that additional capacity was required.

The report noted that the finance for the required building expansion programme had been secured from the Basic Needs funding, and the additional places would be arranged on the 'place plus' model in the Department for Education's school funding changes that became effective on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2013.

Discussion ensued on the management structures that would be in place for the ASC Unit once it opened.

Resolved: - (1) That, in the absence of any formal objections, the prescribed alteration to Flanderwell Primary School through the creation of a ten-place Autism Spectrum Unit be approved.

(2) That the School Admissions, Organisation and Special Educational Needs Assessment Service inform the Secretary of State of this decision.

**D106. PROPOSAL TO EXPAND HERRINGTHORPE INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS.**

Further to Minute No. D78 (Proposed Expansion of Herringthorpe Infant and Junior Schools) where approval was given to progress onto the Statutory Consultation stage on the proposal to increase the admission numbers in each statutory year group from 70 to 90, through the extension of the Schools' buildings, consideration was given to the report that outlined the outcomes of that process.

The Principal School Admissions, Organisation and Special Educational Needs Assessment Service Officer (Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services) reported that there had been no

formal objections to the proposal, and comments received had been considered and responded to by the Department.

The proposed increase would become effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2013.

The report noted that finance for the proposal would be secured through the Basic Need funding allocation received from the Department for Education. It was also confirmed that the Rotherham Schools' Forum had confirmed the 7/12 shortfall funding to support the additional places between September 2013 and March 2014 prior to the School Census taking place and funding received for the actual numbers on roll.

Resolved: - (1) That, in the absence of any formal objections, the proposal to increase the admission numbers at Herringthorpe Infant and Junior Schools from 70 to 90 pupils per statutory year group from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2013, be approved.

(2) That the School Admissions, Organisation and Special Educational Needs Assessment Service inform the Secretary of State of the decision.

#### **D107. THE COMMISSIONING OF FAMILIES FOR CHANGE SERVICES.**

Further to Minute No. D84 (Exemption of Standing Orders for Commissioning of Troubled Families Contracts) of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2013, where approval was given to undertake an open tendering programme within the Voluntary and Community Sector for the contracts, consideration was now given to the report that outlined the outcomes of that process.

The Strategic Commissioning Officer confirmed that two contracts had been put out to tender in the Voluntary and Community Sector, one in relation to providing a Family Support Service, and the second related to the provision of an Intensive Family Support Service that specifically worked with families that were subject to formal social care interventions.

Funding would be sourced from the Central Government's Troubled Families Funding Initiative and payment would be received by the Local Authority on a 'payment by results' basis. The funding for the Family Support Service was £77,000 and the Intensive Family Support Service was for £75,000. Rotherham had re-branded the Troubled Families initiative to become the 'Families for Change' initiative to avoid stigmatisation of the families involved, and to reflect the positive aspirations of Rotherham's initiative.

Four bids had been received from organisations for the two contracts. They had been subject to a robust evaluation process.

The Family Support Contract had been awarded to: - Sheffield YWCA.

The Intensive Family Support Contract had been awarded to: - Barnsley and Rotherham MIND.

Both of the two successful organisations already held contracts with Rotherham MBC and were well positioned to provide added-value to the (Troubled Families) Families for Change contracts.

There had been two unsuccessful bids for the contracts.

Discussion ensued on the report and proposal: -

- **How would the quality of the Service be improved, and what safeguards would there be to ensure there were no duplications of provision?**

The Troubled Families Initiative criteria would be used to monitor and assess the impacts that the projects were having. The national criteria linked to sustained and improved outcomes were part of the criteria.

The two contracts were to respond to families that met the Families for Change criteria and therefore had more challenging and acute needs. Children's Centres were providing proven track record and a highly regarded and Ofsted inspected provision at a universal level. The two contracts that had been tendered were specifically to address the needs of vulnerable families where there was a combination of poor school attendance, involvement in anti-social behaviour or crime and worklessness. The focus would be on a pragmatic approach, using the Family CAF as a tool to respond to the varying needs of the family through a single co-ordinated plan that all agencies work to and were accountable for.

Resolved: - That Sheffield YWCA in respect of the Family Support Contract, and Barnsley and Rotherham MIND in respect of the Intensive Family Support Contract be approved and deliver the contracts through the Troubled Families Initiative, and payment be made to the organisations on a payment by results basis.

#### **D108. ADOPTION: NEXT STEPS.**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Director of Schools and Lifelong Learning (Children and Young People's Services) which outlined the progress at the end of the second year of a three-year invest to save programme operating in relation to Fostering and Adoption Services (Safeguarding Children and Families, Children and Young Peoples Services). This report related specifically to the impact of the programme to Adoption Services.

The submitted report outlined the additional resources that the Services had received as a result of the Invest to Save Programme, and the targets and outcomes that had been set to recognise the increased resources.

The overall investment across Fostering and Adoption was an original cost of £1.263M, an original saving of £2.339M and an original net saving of £1.076M.

The broad aims of the programme were related to the Government's current agenda: -

- To increase the number of adopters and adoptive placements;
- To speed up the adoption process for both adopters and children;
- To ensure support was available throughout the process both pre- and post-adoption.

An Adoption Improvement Grant of £44,000 had been received towards the end of 2012 and was used in the following ways: -

- To employ an agency worker who piloted over five months (November 2012 to March 2013) a more timely and face-to-face response to enquiries from prospective adopters;
- To pay for business objects training to enable the Service Improvement Officer to become a lead for adoption performance and provide early warning of any actions required;
- Marketing Officer undertook additional hours for a piece of research on what motivated individuals to become adopters;
- Payed for BAAF to deliver training on the new assessment framework, new adopters report and facilitated a workshop around redesign of our processes to meet new government two stage process and timescales.

The evaluation of these actions was currently underway; the research paper would be ready for circulation by the end of April and would be used to inform the marketing strategy for 2013/14.

#### **Children: -**

As of end of March 2013, there were 59 children with a SHOBPA, with a further 16 identified as possible SHOBPA's between April 2013 to June 2016. These 75 children needed to be the priority for placements within the next twelve months, to ensure better outcomes for children and young people and the performance indicator and scorecard improved. For some children and young people the plan may change, but the Service was now able to be robust in tracking to identify the cohort.

Work was underway to ensure that there were no delays in producing required reports in the adoption process, to speed-up adoptions and create better outcomes for children and young people.

**Adoption Reform Grant: -**

Within 2013/2014 monies would be made available to local authorities under the Adoption Reform Grant. The Grant was split into parts A and B. Part A (£452,459) of the grant was not ring-fenced, whilst part B (£969,459) was ring-fenced to enable the agency to:

- Increase the supply of adopters;
- Reduce the backlog of children waiting for adoption.

The submitted report outlined the proposed deployment of the total £969,469 grant funding.

**Consortium: -**

The submitted report outlined the role and benefits that the Authority could access through being a member of the Yorkshire and Humberside Consortium.

Resolved: - (1) That the content of the report be noted.

(2) That the additional 1.5 full-time equivalent posts within the Adoption Service's structure be approved as noted within the submitted report.

(3) That the proposed use of the Adoption Reform Grant be approved and recruitment of temporary staff be undertaken as noted in the submitted report.

**D109. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: -**

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services take place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2013, to start at 9.00 am in the Rotherham Town Hall.