

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES'  
SERVICES  
19th June, 2013**

Present:- Councillor Lakin (in the Chair); Councillors Ahmed and Roche.

Councillor Pickering was also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Beaumont

**D10.       DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no Declarations of Interest to record.

**D11.       MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22ND MAY, 2013.**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2013, were considered.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record for signature by the Cabinet Member.

**D12.       CONFERENCE.**

Resolved:- That attendance at the national Children and Adult Services Conference and Exhibition to be held at the Harrogate Internal Centre on 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October, 2013, be referred to the Deputy Leader for consideration.

**D13.       ROTHERHAM LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD.**

It was noted that Alan Hazel, Chair of the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board was to complete his term of office in October, 2013.

Steve Ashley had been appointed as the new Chair.

Resolved:- That the Cabinet Member's appreciation of Mr. Hazel's work over the years be placed on record.

**D14.       CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE'S DIRECTORATE  
REVENUE OUTTURN 2012/13.**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Finance Manager, Children and Young People's Services, that outlined the Children and Young People's Services Directorate outturn for 2012/13. It was noted that this was an unaudited position.

The report highlighted that: -

- The provisional outturn showed an overspend of £424,423 against a net cash limited budget of £35,176,211, a variation of +1.2%
- The adjusted variance to budget was £893,039 overspend (+2.5) when adjusted for the carry forward of traded balances (£468,616 surplus)
- The outturn position showed an improvement of £310,000 on the February, 2013 reported budget monitoring position

The report contained an analysis of the main pressures together with the underlying reasons for any under/overspends.

It was noted that the overspend had been mitigated by reviewing budgets and the continuation of a moratorium on spending within the Directorate during 2012/13.

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Discussions had been held with Rockingham Professional Development Centre with regard to under recovery of income
- Work was taking place regarding Continuing Health Care funding
- Increase in the number of Looked After Children

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

(2) That a further report be presented to the Cabinet Member detailing Schools' balances.

#### **D15. PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE BADSLEY MOOR JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOLS**

The Principal Officer, School Organisation, presented a report containing proposals to consult on the 'amalgamation' of Badsley Moor Infant and Junior Schools by the closure of the Junior School and the expansion and change of age range of the Infant School.

The proposed 'through' school would have 630 places (FS2/Reception to Y6), with a Published Admission Number of 90. The amalgamation would provide a continuous primary entitlement across the key stages and provide a unified management structure with a single school ethos which would be more efficient and make more effective use of resources.

It was noted that the proposal was in response to an Ofsted inspection and part of the Authority's intervention powers.

Discussion ensued on the proposed arrangements for the Executive Head of the amalgamated school.

Resolved:- (1) That pre-statutory consultation commence on the proposal to amalgamate Badsley Moor Infant and Junior Schools by the closure of the Junior School and the expansion and change of age range of the Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11.

(2) That a further report be submitted in due course on the outcome of the consultation.

#### **D16. DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION GRANT FUNDING**

Warren Carratt, Strategy, Standards and Early Help Service Manager, submitted a report on a successful bid that had been made to the Department for Education for grant funding for interventions to improve the permanence and stability of children either in care or at the edge of care.

In February, 2013, the DfE had published its Prospectus "Improving permanence and stability for vulnerable children and families" which outlined opportunities for local partnerships to bid for funding to help establish a range of interventions. The Prospectus was split into 2 parts with part 2 being specifically related to foster carer recruitment.

Part 1 of the Prospectus outlined funding opportunities to develop a range of initiatives which were not presently commissioned in the Rotherham area for children, young people and their families (such as Multi-Systemic Therapy). Following a meeting of representatives from the Council, Rotherham CCG, RDaSH, NHS Foundation Trust and Rotherham and Barnsley MIND, a bid had been submitted and subsequently approved by the DfE.

Details of how the funding would be made available was not clear although it did state that it would only be sufficient to provide a platform for training existing staff to offer something new.

In Year 1 (2013/14) funding would be made available to support the undertaking of an audit of need which should then inform what intervention was developed. The audit of need would provide clear evidence of whether the chosen intervention was required. It would also be required to commence training of staff in the identified methodology. Funding in Year 2 would be provided to continue staff training, support the payment of licence costs and facilitate any consultation required. If at the end of Year 1 it was apparent that there was no demand or capacity to develop the identified service, the partnership would not be bound to draw down funding for Year 2.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

**D17. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT**

Clare Burton, Commissioning Officer, presented a report on the evaluation of the above Project.

The Rotherham Children, Young People and Families Consortium had been awarded the contract for Early Help for Families not engaged in Services to run from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2013. Previous analysis of engagement with Children's Centres had showed that a number of potentially vulnerable families in Rotherham were not engaging in services.

The report contained the evaluation report prepared by Children England and highlighted the findings and issues from the Family Engagement Project implementation. Interviews with key stakeholders and 3 families supported informed the evaluation. It was concluded that the consortium model used enabled the project to engage with the identified families and respond rapidly and flexibly.

The Project had achieved what had been commissioned and it had engaged with the identified families and therefore 'accounted' for the families where previous concern about potential vulnerability had been raised. The findings would suggest that, although families were not engaging with Children's Centres, they were engaging with other services and the Project provided the additional help for the small number of families that required it.

Resolved:- (1) That the outcomes achieved by the Family Engagement Project be noted.

(2) That the findings and issues highlighted in the report be noted.

**D18. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: -**

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2013, commencing at 9.00 a.m.