

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES'  
SERVICES  
18th September, 2013**

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

**D35.       DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no Declarations of Interest to record.

**D36.       MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24TH JULY, 2013.**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2013, were considered.

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

**D37.       MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES' PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 22ND MAY AND 17TH JULY, 2013.**

Resolved: - The minutes of the previous meetings of the Children, Young People and Families' Partnership meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 were noted.

**D38.       CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31ST JULY, 2013.**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Principal Finance Officer (Financial Services, Resources Directorate), which provided a financial forecast to 31st March, 2014, based on actual income and expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2013.

Overall, the Directorate was projecting a £817k over-spend outturn position at the end of the 2013/2014 financial year. This over-spend represented an increase of 1.8% on the total revenue budget allocation.

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. Some over-spends were offset by underspends and staff slippage. 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.

The current placements within Children and Young People's Services included: -

- The number of children in residential out-of-authority placements as at 31<sup>st</sup> July was 21 (a reduction of 4 since 31 March 2013);
- From 1 April 2013 children's remand placements were being fully funded by the Local Authority. There were currently 3 remand placements;
- The number of children in independent foster care as at 31<sup>st</sup> July was 106 (a reduction of 12 since the end of March 2013);
- The number of children in in-house fostering placements as at 31<sup>st</sup> July was 162;
- The number of looked after children was 389 at 31<sup>st</sup> July, a reduction of 3 since 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

The report outlined a number of management actions taken to avoid costs: -

- Proactive management actions continued to concentrate on avoiding costs to a total of £349k to date;
- The Multi-Agency Support Panel was continuing to make efficient multi-agency management actions and decisions, and continuing to avoid costs wherever possible
- Agency costs had increased compared to the same period in the previous year;
- Non-contractual overtime for Children and Young People's Services had increased compared to the same period in the previous year.

The Cabinet Member welcomed the overall positive direction of travel demonstrated within the budget monitoring report and thanked all Officers who had contributed to the reduced projected outturn to that which had been reported as at 31<sup>st</sup> May.

Resolved: - That the latest financial projection against the budget for the year based on actual income and expenditure to the 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2013, be noted.

#### **D39. CONTRACT CONCERNS SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION.**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Operational Commissioner and the Contracting Officer (Commissioning, Neighbourhood and Adult Services), that outlined the Contract Concerns System that had been developed for staff to report concerns they had regarding contracts within Children and Young People's Services. These concerns could relate to various issues about the service, and the system delivered an audit trail and a consistent approach to the recording of such concerns, management of the concerns and recording the outcome following an investigation.

The contracting concern system was already well established in Adults' Commissioning and was to be embedded in Children and Young People's Services. It was intended that the embedded System would be a key

quality assurance process to support the building of intelligence about the provider market. The system, and the information it could gather, was in line with best commissioning practice.

A robust communication plan would be in place to support the implementation of the Contracting Concerns System across the Children and Young People's Services Directorate.

Where a report(s) raised a safeguarding concern, these would be passed onto the Safeguarding Service to be investigated. The outcome of the investigation would be recorded in the Contract Concerns System so that it remained complete.

The Contracting Officer demonstrated the use of the System as it would be accessed by Council Staff. Care had been taken to ensure that the System was as user-friendly as possible. Mandatory user fields ensured that information received was as full and as standardised as possible.

Discussion ensued on the report and the presentation of the Contract Concerns System. Issues discussed were: -

- Reporting tools and the ability to conduct detailed searches on the information recorded in the database;
- How the information recorded in the System would be interfaced with information recorded by the Children and Young People's Service's Complaints Department;
- How the System would be implemented with existing providers and be an expectation in future contracts with providers.

Resolved: - (1) That the implementation of the Contracting Concerns System and the approach to be taken be noted.

(2) That the Cabinet Member receive future reports on the information collated through the Contracting Concerns System.

#### **D40. THE WHITE ROSE CONSORTIUM - INDEPENDENT RESIDENTIAL FRAMEWORK.**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Operational Commissioner (Commissioning, Neighbourhood and Adult Services), that outlined the progress and establishment of The White Rose Consortium, which had been set-up with seven other Yorkshire and Humber local authorities. The Consortium would undertake a regional approach through the development of a framework whereby independent residential provision, which met both sufficiency and quality criterion also achieved financial efficiencies, would be procured. The commissioning and development process had now ended, and the full contract was let from 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 across all eight authorities.

Previously, this Council had spot-purchased out-of-authority residential placements. The approach taken through collaboration with neighbouring local authorities was expected to achieve efficiency savings whilst still meeting required quality assured standards. The White Rose Consortium had developed a system of grading and placing into tiers the tenders received from providers for four categories of residential placements.

The submitted report outlined the negotiations that had taken place between The White Rose Consortium and providers to ensure that prices were as competitive as possible whilst remaining able to meet the needs of individuals within the four categories of placement. It was envisaged that work would now commence on renegotiating existing placements that had been arranged prior to the implementation of Consortium.

Discussion ensued on the report presented in relation to the new Consortium: -

- Expected efficiency savings from this new approach;
- Were the four categories of placements reflective of the need(s) of Rotherham's Looked After Children, and whether the four categories static, or could they be flexible to respond to children and young people's needs within the existing tariff;
- The numbers of placements within the Rotherham authority.

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

(2) That a further report be brought to the Cabinet Member on the performance of The White Rose Consortium at the outturn of the 2013/2014 financial year.

**D41. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES' PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORT: - OUTTURN 2012-2013.**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Performance and Quality Manager (Performance and Quality, Neighbourhood and Adult Services), that reported on the 2012/2013 outturn position of Children and Young People's Service's Performance Indicators.

The Performance and Quality Manager explained that the delay between the end of the 2012/2013 year, and bringing the report to the Cabinet Member was due to the wait for validated data, which was received at the end of July, 2013.

The submitted report and two appendices compared Rotherham Children and Young People's Services' performance against set targets, direction of travel analysis (comparing the 2012/2013 outturn against 2011/2012 outturn performance), Statistical Neighbours' average and against National average.

The covering report and appendices showed how each Performance Indicator related to the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities. The Cabinet Member received exception reports that showed which performance indicators were currently rated as red in the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) system of reporting risk management. Appendix B showed each performance indicator's rating on the RAG scale.

The Performance and Quality Manager also reported that Ofsted had published their assessment rating from their recent inspection of Fostering Services. Ofsted had judged Rotherham to have a 'Good' Fostering Service.

The Cabinet Member welcomed this news and thanked all Officers within Fostering Services for their continued efforts.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and the performance at the outturn of the 2012/2013 year be noted.

(2) That the report be submitted to the Children, Young People and Families' Partnership for their information.

**D42. PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE BADSLEY MOOR JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOLS BY THE CLOSURE OF THE JUNIOR SCHOOL AND THE EXPANSION AND CHANGE OF AGE-RANGE AT THE INFANT SCHOOL.**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Principal School Organisation Officer (School Admissions, Organisation and Special Educational Assessment Service, Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services) that outlined the pre-statutory consultation process that had taken place on the proposal to amalgamate the two Schools.

Minute No. D15 (Proposal to Amalgamate Badsley Moor Junior and Infant Schools) of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2013, gave permission for a pre-statutory consultation phase to take place.

Pre-statutory consultation had now taken place. The Principal School Organisation Officer reported that this had been a positive process. The principal reasons for amalgamation were: -

- To provide a continuous primary entitlement across the key stages;
- To provide a unified management structure with a single school ethos which will be more efficient and make more effective use of resources.

Discussion ensued on the proposal.

The Cabinet Member observed that the potential amalgamation of the two Schools would create a very large primary school, which would bring unique leadership and management situations. The Director for Schools and Lifelong Learning (Children and Young People's Services) confirmed that schools of this size did successfully operate in other authorities. The size of the primary school would bring unique operational issues, but these could be addressed with appropriate configuration.

Resolved:- (1) That Statutory Consultation 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, through the posting of a public notice for a six-week period, commence.

(2) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet Member detailing the outcome of the Statutory Consultation phase.

**D43. PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DIFFICULTIES UNIT AT THOROGATE JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL.**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Principal School Organisation Officer (School Admissions, Organisation and Special Educational Assessment Service, Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services) that outlined a proposal to remove the Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (EBD) Unit attached to Thorogate Junior and Infant School.

The report outlined that the Department for Education had confirmed that the closure of the EBD Unit was classed as a 'prescribed alteration' under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, so it would therefore be necessary to consult on the proposal including a six-week representation period prior to implementation.

Although there was no cost implications to this proposal, the Local Authority would need to consult on proposals to establish a new provision elsewhere in the Borough. A separate report would be brought to the Cabinet Member in due course detailing proposals to establish a new EBD provision.

A timetable of the proposed consultation process was included within the submitted report.

Discussion ensued on the proposal as submitted.

The Director for Schools and Lifelong Learning informed the Cabinet Member of the consultation process that had recently concluded in relation to proposed changes to Pupil Referral Units (PRU) to improve outcomes for children and young people. When seeking an alternative

base for the EBD unit, the outcomes of the PRU consultation would be considered. The Primary School where the EBD unit would be re-located to would be expected to be committed to inclusive education and support the pupils accessing the EBD unit to engage with their mainstream peers.

Resolved: - (1) That Pre-Statutory Consultation on the proposal to close Thorogate Junior and Infant School's Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties Unit commence as outlined in the submitted report.

(2) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet following the close of the Pre-Statutory Consultation phase.

#### **D44. ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING FEES AND FUNDING POLICY.**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Partnership Manager (Commissioning, Neighbourhood and Adult Services) that outlined proposed changes to the Adult Community Learning Fees and Funding Policy.

The revised policy reflected new guidance from the Skills Funding Agency and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and outlined how the Adult Community Learning Department intended to deploy funding, its charging and subsidy policy and how it proposed to generate income.

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

(2) That the report be referred to full Cabinet for consideration.

#### **D45. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.**

Resolved: - That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and the 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 under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended March 2006) (relates to the financial or business affairs of any particular individual (including the Council)).

#### **D46. APPROVAL OF TENDER FOR THE FLANDERWELL AUTISM UNIT.**

Consideration was given to the report that outlined the tenders that had been received by the Council in respect of the building works required to construct Flanderwell Autism Unit.

The quotations had been procured through the Yorbuild Contractors' Framework through a mini competition tender. The report outlined that four tenders had been received and recommended that the quotation received from George Hurst Ltd to the value of £396, 353.41 be accepted.

Resolved: - That the tender submitted by George Hurst Ltd in the sum of £396,353.41, dated 9th August 2013, and the total project approval of £578,227.06, be accepted.

**D47. 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 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2013, to start at 9.00 a.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.