

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES'  
SERVICES  
16th October, 2013**

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

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ahmed and Beaumont

**D48.       DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

No Declarations of Interest were made.

**D49.       MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18TH  
SEPTEMBER, 2013.**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services held on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, were considered.

With regards to Minute No. D43 (Proposal to Close the Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties Unit at Thorogate Junior and Infant School), it was noted that the request to remove the EBD Unit had been made by the School's Governing Body. This had been outlined in the submitted report that had been presented, but omitted from the minutes.

Resolved: - That, noting the above addition, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, be agreed as a correct record for signature by the Cabinet Member.

**D50.       MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND  
FAMILIES' PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2013.**

Resolved: - That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Children, Young People and Families' Partnership held on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, were noted.

**D51.       RECEIPT OF A PETITION.**

The Cabinet Member noted the receipt of a petition from the National Autistic Society containing 366 signatures.

The petition asked the Council to introduce specialist educational provision for children who were high-functioning who had Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Asperger's Syndrome.

The Cabinet Member noted how the National Autistic Society had contributed to the recent Scrutiny Review of provision for Autistic Spectrum Disorder and were involved in the work on Service Transformation and development of provision in Schools for children with ASD and Asperger's Syndrome.

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

(2) That Children and Young People's Services be asked to consider the request and report back to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services.

**D52. AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN SHORT BREAKS.**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Strategic Commissioning Manager (Commissioning, Neighbourhood and Adult Services Directorate) and the Children's Disabilities Communication Strategy Co-ordinator (Safeguarding Children and Families Services, Children and Young People's Services).

Minute No. D61 (Short Breaks Service Statement) of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2012, approved the Short Breaks Statement for 2012/2013. Local Authorities had a duty to have, and annually review, a Short Breaks for Disabled Children Policy.

The submitted report outlined background information on the development of a Needs Analysis to inform the third Short Breaks Service Statement and the Statement itself. The report proposed that the Short Breaks Service be commissioned for two years as a transition period for the implementation of Personal Budgets and Direct Payments.

The Children's Disabilities Communication Strategy Co-ordinator described the consultation that had taken place with parents and carers, children and young people and other stakeholders. The Local Authority had received its highest ever response rate to consultation in this area. Work had been undertaken with a range of universal services to increase capacity of the provision to be accessible to families with disabled children.

Following on from feedback from children and families from the previous year's statement, the information had been presented in an accessible format.

The Cabinet Member thanked the Officers for the presentation of the annual update, and thanked the Officers, parents and carers, children and young people and other stakeholders, for their input into the process. The Short Breaks Policy was a valued asset for the Borough.

Resolved: - (1) That the Short Breaks Needs Analysis be noted.

(2) That the Short Breaks Statement, 2013-2014, be approved.

(3) That the proposal to re-commission the Short Breaks Service for two years be approved and Standing Order 48.2 (the requirement to invite

between three to six tenders from external contractors for contracts valued above £50,000) be exempted and the contract be awarded to the Short Breaks Service.

#### **D53. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31ST AUGUST, 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> August, 2013.

Overall, the Directorate was projecting a £1.166million over-spend outturn position at the end of the 2013/2014 financial year. This overspend represented an increase of 2.5% on the total revenue budget allocation.

The forecasted overspend was largely due to the continuing pressures in Safeguarding Children and Families' Services due to the needs-led nature of the budget relating to out-of-authority residential and fostering placements. Some overspends were being offset by underspends, pension underspends, staff slippage and vacant posts within certain areas of the overall Service. The report noted the projected outturn against the approved budgets for each Service division, an analysis of the main pressures and the underlying reasons beneath them.

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 £400k 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;
- Consultancy costs had decreased compared to the same period in the previous year;
- The Fostering and Adoption Invest to Save Programme was currently predicting to be above target in recruiting adopters, from their use of the Adoption Reform Grant, which was for available during 2013/2014 only;
- There had been a net gain of foster carers by two.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were raised: -

- It was becoming necessary to establish posts to support the information gathering process of the Child Sexual Exploitation Inquiry. Clarity was being sought as to where the additional posts would be funded from;

- As at 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2013, there was only 0.5 of a full-time equivalent post vacant in the Safeguarding Children and Families' Service's structure;
- It was the Local Authority's responsibility to pay for any Remand placements that were commissioned from the £78k Home Office Grant. The placements were determined by the Courts;
- Using existing staff in different ways and deploying them in ways that would reduce the need to use Agency staff, to improve outcomes for children and young people and reduce costs;
- It was noted that Rockingham Professional Development Centre was continuing to meet its costs, but was not meeting its increased income target, leading to the forecast overspend being reported.

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

#### **D54. ANNUAL UPDATE ON THE WAVERLEY DEVELOPMENT**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Principal School Organisation and Risk Management Officer (School Organisation, Admissions and Special Educational Needs Assessment Services, Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services) that outlined the progress relating to the development of educational provision on the Waverley housing estate.

Minute No. D58 (Proposal to establish catchment area arrangements for the Waverley Estate) of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2012, agreed the catchment area arrangements for the new Waverley estate and requested that annual updates be brought to the Cabinet Member on the progress of the development and the impact on existing and new schools.

Harworth Estates had proposed a Deed of Variation in relation to the Section 106 Agreement that existed relating to the trigger points by which funding would be released for the construction of new schools and other infrastructure for the new development.

The submitted report showed the proposed revised Section 106 Agreement. It was proposed that the Council's Legal Department would undertake investigation and discussions with Harworth Estates to formally alter the Agreement, which would be subject to agreement by the Planning Board.

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

(2) That investigation in relation to the revised Section 106 Agreement be undertaken and the completed report be presented to the Planning Board for decision.

(3) That the report be referred to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development for information.

**D55. ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF ENTRY IN THE 2015/16 ACADEMIC YEAR.**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Principal School Organisation Officer (School Admissions, Organisation and Special Educational Needs Assessment Service, Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services) that outlined the requirement for Admission Authorities to consult by 1<sup>st</sup> March in the determination year on the admission arrangements for the schools that they were responsible for. The admission arrangements included oversubscription criteria and any changes required as a consequence of the relevant Admissions Code of Practice published by the Department for Education.

Local Authorities were required to consult for a minimum of an eight week period between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> March, for a final determination by 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2014.

The Admission Authority did not plan to make any changes to the Admission Criteria for 2015/2016.

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

(2) That appropriate consultation with School Governing Bodies/other Local Authorities take place during the period Autumn Term 2013 up to 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2014.

(3) That the report be presented to the Local Admissions Forum for information/comment at the end of this period.

(4) That a further report be presented to the Cabinet Member from the annual admissions consultation in April 2014 highlighting any amendments for final approval.

**D56. PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE ADMISSION NUMBER ON A TEMPORARY BASIS AT WALES PRIMARY SCHOOL UNTIL 31ST AUGUST, 2016.**

The Principal School Organisation and Risk Management Officer (School Organisation, Admissions and Special Educational Needs Assessment Services, Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services) introduced a report that outlined a projection of increasing pupil numbers in the Wales and surrounding areas of the Borough. As a result of house building, the projected pupil numbers were set to exceed the available school places in the area.

The submitted report contained a proposal to temporarily increase the Published Admission Number at Wales Primary School from September,

2014, in the Foundation Stage 2 Class from 30 to 45 children, and in each Foundation Stage 2 Class thereafter until 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2016.

It was noted that the capital cost of the building project was estimated to be £400, 000 for the creation of additional teaching and learning spaces, and other associated spaces, that would be required at the School. Funding would be provided via the Department for Education's Basic Need funding, which existed to ensure the provision of sufficient school places.

There would be a requirement for the School to recruit additional teaching and non-teaching staff. Funding for this would come from the additional pupils on roll and be part of the School's annual budget. However, during the first year of operation, 2014/15, the School's budget would be allocated for the 2013/14 financial year and would not be based on the additional numbers that would be on roll from September, 2014. Therefore, additional funding would be requested from the Rotherham Schools' Forum, from the Contingency for Pupil Growth Fund, for 7/12<sup>th</sup> funding from the pupil growth budget until the School's 2015/16 finding allocation was received in April, 2015.

Resolved:- That the proposal to temporarily increase the Published Admission Number at Wales Primary School from 30 to 45 in the Foundation Stage Two Class on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2014, until 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2016, through the addition of teaching and learning spaces be approved.

**D57. CONFERENCE: - 'RAISING AWARENESS OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES'.**

Resolved: - The Cabinet Member authorised three places at the no cost Local Government Association Conference 'Raising awareness of child sexual exploitation in local communities' that was taking place in Rochdale on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2013.

**D58. RECEIPT OF LETTERS OF OBJECTION FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS.**

The Cabinet Member noted the receipt of 26 letters of objection to the proposed expansion of Dalton Listerdale Junior and Infant School. Minute No. D29 (Dalton Listerdale Junior and Infant School – Proposal to Commence Statutory Consultation on Expansion) of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2013, refers.

The letters were raising issues of concern related to the proposed increased School population, including reduced educational attainment and increased traffic outside the School.

The letters of objection had been passed to the School Admissions, Organisation and Special Educational Needs Service (Schools and

Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services) for inclusion and consideration as part of the consultation process.

Resolved:- That the 26 letters of objection to the proposal to expand Dalton Listerdale Junior and Infant School be received and passed on to the Department for consideration as part of the consultation process.

**D59. 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 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.