

APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board and Executive Board Sub Committee Minutes Relevant to the Children, Young People and Family's Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 14 JUNE 2012

EXB23 – HALTON ADOPTION SCORECARD

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which set out Halton's position on the Adoption Scorecard 2012.

The Board was advised that, in October 2011, the Children in Care and Adoption performance tables were published and the Department for Education (DfE) announced their intention to use data from this as a means to focus on improving performance. It was noted that the Scorecard was supported by a set of performance thresholds which set out the Government's expectations of Local Authorities on two of the main timeliness indicators, as detailed in the report.

Halton's Scorecard, covering the three-year period 2008-2011 was attached at Appendix 1. Members noted that Halton had met its thresholds for both timeliness indicators, which were:

- The average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family; and
- The average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the Local Authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Adoption Scorecard be received;
- 2) it be noted that Halton had met both its timeliness threshold indicators, as set by the Department for Education; and
- 3) a further report be submitted to the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board, detailing how the Scorecard and other changes will affect the Adoption Service.

EXB24 – A THREE LOCAL AUTHORITY YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise on the issues relating to the potential establishment of a three way Youth Offending Service (YOS) for Warrington, Halton and Cheshire West and Chester.

Members were advised that currently, there were two Youth Justice Teams covering Cheshire, both considered to be high performing by the Youth Justice Board. The Chief Executives of the four Cheshire authorities commissioned a feasibility study on the options for greater collaboration and efficiencies with a possible merger of each of their Youth Justice Services. A Project Board was established to develop proposals for a single YOS scenario that would provide all statutory partners with an analysis of how a single entity would improve performance, increase efficiencies and sustain localism.

It was noted that the basis for the establishment of the YOS was set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. National consultation on the future of the Youth Justice Board had resulted in a decision to retain a national body with reduced functions and activity, and retaining a role in the monitoring of the work of local services against three National Indicators, detailed in the report.

The report outlined the model for a three Local Authority YOS and the options which had been considered. The proposed model and staffing structure had been developed to protect and enhance the delivery of Youth Offending Services to young people by maintaining all operational activity at the local level in Halton, Warrington and Cheshire West and Chester. This local work would be managed by dedicated senior managers with a lead role in each Local Authority, to provide a consistent approach and knowledge of crime and youth justice issues in each local area.

Reasons For Decision

The move to a three Local Authority YOS would secure and safeguard the high quality services for young people, embrace sub regional collaboration and deliver financial efficiencies.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Consideration was given to a four Local Authority YOS including Cheshire East. Cheshire East had agreed separate arrangements.

Implementation Date

September 2012.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Halton's engagement with, and delivery of, the three Local Authority Youth Offending Service be approved; and
- 2) delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, to manage the development and delivery of the three Local Authority Youth Offending Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Families, the Section 151 Officer and the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 28 JUNE 2012

EXB37 – CONTRACTED SERVICES FOR EARLY HELP AND SUPPORT PROVISION - WAIVER OF TENDERING STANDING ORDERS

The Board considered an urgent item of business, reported by the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise requesting the waiver of Standing Orders for the tender of the Contracted Services for Early Help and Support Provision.

The Board was advised that the Early Help and Support Provision contract, which encompassed three priority service areas, had a budget of £67,000. The current provider, Kings Cross Project had been approached to offer a six month extension, during which time the contract would be re-advertised on the Council's e-tendering system, 'The Chest'. The report detailed the temporary arrangements which resulted in the offer of a three month extension which the Council accepted.

The report advised that, following the closure of the tendering process, to ensure continuation of the three priority services, the preferred option would be to waive Standing Orders in order to grant the contract to a service nominated by the Council for a limited period while a further quotation process was progressed.

Members were advised at the meeting that, since the report was prepared, Officers had received confirmation of an agreement with Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust for them to provide the service for a period of 9 months, effective from 1 July 2012.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) in the light of the exceptional circumstances set out in the report, Procurement Standing Order 4.1 be waived on this occasion, in order to grant the contract for Early Help and Support Provision to a service

nominated by the Council for a limited period in order that delivery of a priority service is not disrupted while the contract is subject to the Advanced Request for Quotation process; and

2) that the period of contract does not exceed nine months.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 12 JULY 2012

(N.B The Councillors listed declared a personal interest in the following item of business for the reasons stated: Councillor Harris as Governor of The Bankfield School and of All Saints Upton C of E Primary; Councillor Jones as Governor of Wade Deacon High School and of Fairfield Infant School; Councillor J Stockton as a Governor of St Martin's Catholic Primary School; Councillor D Cargill as Governor of Windmill Hill Primary School.)

EXB39 – CAPITAL UPDATE - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which outlined the prioritisation process for the allocation of Basic Need Capital for 2012/13.

The Board was reminded that it had previously agreed that the 2011/12 Basic Need allocation be used to increase the capacity at the following schools in order to meet the demand for places in those areas:

- Lunts Heath Primary;
- Windmill Hill Primary;
- Weston Primary; and
- St Bede's Catholic Primary

In addition, the Board had agreed that £450,000 of the 2012/13 Basic Need allocation be used to address capacity issues at St Bede's Catholic Junior School, as a consequence of extending the infant school.

The Board noted that the model for Halton used to allocate the 2011/12 Basic Need funding had been applied again for 2012/13. The model had been developed in order to objectively prioritise schools, identifying those with the strongest case for Basic Need support. The three key elements of the model were detailed in the report. In addition, the schools with the highest priority, sorted into geographical areas of Widnes East, Widnes West, Runcorn East and Runcorn West, were considered individually and recommendations detailed in the report for Members' consideration.

It was noted that the Department for education had announced that the Heath (Academy) and Halebank C of E Primary School had been included in the

list of schools to be taken forward in the Priority School Building Programme, which was intended to address schools in the worst condition. Further details on timetabling and the procurement structure were awaited and this would be reported to a future meeting of the Board.

Reasons for Decision

To deliver and implement the basic need capital programme.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable.

Implementation Date

Works at Weston Point Primary to commence as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the prioritisation process outlined within the report be approved;
- 2) it be agreed that a capital project be developed to address a Basic Need issue at Weston Point Primary School;
- 3) the balance of the Basic Need funding for 2012/13 be retained for combining with the 2013/14 funds for use on the future Basic Need issues be agreed; and
- 4) the position in respect of the Priority School Building Programme and Modernisation Projects be noted.

EXB40 – SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL TRAVEL POLICY 2012 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the Sustainable School Travel Policy 2012.

The Board was reminded that the Education and Inspections Act 2006 placed a general duty on local authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel transport. The Travel Policy, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, draws together the four required elements which were detailed in the report and which supported the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan, ensuring Halton fulfilled its statutory requirement.

The Board was advised that the Local Authority was required to provide assistance with transport to those pupils defined within the Education Act 1996

and the Education Inspections Act 2006. It was noted that there were no proposed changes to the eligibility criteria from the current policy and that the Travel Policy was aligned to the Council's School Admissions Policy.

Reason(s) for Decision

The decision was required to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

September 2012 and reviewed annually.

RESOLVED: That the Sustainable School Travel Policy 2012 be approved for implementation.