

APPENDIX 1

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2013

EXB89 – PLEDGE TO CHILDREN IN CARE – KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which sought approval of the Pledge to Children in Care.

The Board was advised that the Government's Green Paper, Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Young People in Care and the White Paper Care Matters: Time For Change, identified steps needed to improve the outcomes for children and young people in care.

The report noted that the role of Corporate Parent had responsibility for the wellbeing and future prospects of children in care and care leavers. In order to improve that role, the Government had indicated its expectation that:

- Every local authority should put in place arrangements for a Children in Care Council;
- Every local area should set out its 'Pledge' to children; and
- The Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services should be responsible for leading improvements in corporate parenting.

The Board noted that a copy of the Pledge, attached as an appendix, represented the twelve key things which children in care and care leavers had identified as improving outcomes for them. The Care Leaver's Charter, attached at appendix 2, was the document circulated by the Department of Education, but a number of additional matters relating to Halton had been included and highlighted for Members' consideration.

Reason(s) for Decision

The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 strengthened the role of the corporate parent. The Government required every local area to set out its 'Pledge' to children in care and care leavers covering the services and support that they should expect to receive.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

There was no prescribed format for a Pledge to children in care and care leavers. Halton's 'Pledge' had been designed and reviewed by the Children in Care Council and care leavers and therefore, it was the one they would like the Executive Board to endorse.

Implementation Date

Immediate.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Pledge be endorsed;
- 2) the action to promote the Pledge so it is known to the Council, Children's Trust and other partners, be endorsed;
- 3) actions to support the commitments to Children in Care be noted; and
- 4) the Pledge to Children in Care be presented to the full Council meeting on 16 October 2013.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2013

EXB92 – CONTRACTED SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, TARGETED PROVISION FOR CHILDREN IN CARE (GO FORWARD) – WAIVER OF TENDERING STANDING ORDERS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which sought a waiver of Procurement Standing Orders for the provision of contracted services.

The Board was advised that the Go Forward Service had been provided by Barnardo's since April 2012, for the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services for looked after children. Due in part to a demand for the service, a comprehensive review of provision was underway by Halton's Children's Trust Partners. It was noted that this review would determine the needs of the service area and the provision that was required to meet those needs.

The Board noted that the current contract would end on 31 March 2014, with no facility to extend within the current contract. A waiver of Procurement Standing Orders was required to allow for continued service delivery during this review period.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) in light of the exceptional circumstances set out in the report, Procurement Standing Orders 4.1 be waived on this occasion, where compliance with Standing Orders would result in a clear financial or commercial detriment to the Council, in respect of the contracted Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services, Targeted Provision. The waiver is requested to ensure that children and young people receive continuous care and support whilst a review of this service area is undertaken by Halton Children's Trust partners in order to determine the requirements for future provision; and
- 2) the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise be authorised, in conjunction with the portfolio holder for Children, Young People and Families, to enter into the above contract for one year from April 2014 to the end of March 2015.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2013

EXB104 – FAIRFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL AND FAIRFIELD INFANT SCHOOL – KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided a summary of responses on the statutory consultation to re-organise Fairfield Infant and Junior Schools.

The Board was reminded that the proposal was to change the age range of Fairfield Junior School to age 4-11 years so that it could become an "all through" primary school from 1 January 2014. A copy of the full proposal was attached at Appendix A. A summary of the 54 responses which had been received was attached at Appendix B. Details of the issues raised by those that did not support the proposals were set out in the report and included:

- Governance;
- Leadership;
- Staffing;
- Closure (of Infant school);
- Resources; and
- Disruption.

It was noted that children from both schools were also consulted through the two School Councils, and both School Councils were supportive of the proposals.

Appendix E outlined the issues which the Board (as decision maker) needed to consider. It was noted that the reason for the decision must be given and should also include the factors and criteria for the decision.

Reason(s) For Decision

The Headteacher of the Junior School had acted as Executive Headteacher of the Infants and Junior Schools since September 2013. During this time, the Infant School had been graded as 'Good' by Ofsted. Combining both schools to an "all through" primary would allow a more coherent and consistent approach to provision at Fairfield Infants and Juniors and ensure that there was a smooth transition from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

No change to the current position was considered. However, this was rejected as it did not provide the same opportunities for curriculum continuity and development, flexibility for staffing and resources and allow seamless transition across the Key Stages.

Implementation Date

1 January 2014.

RESOLVED: That, proposals having been published in pursuance of the powers set out in Sections 19 (1) and 15 (1) of the Education Inspections Act 2006, and having regard to the statutory guidance and to responses to consultation, the following related proposals be approved:-

- 1) the age of Fairfield Junior School be extended to 4 to 11 years with effect from 1 January 2014;
- 2) Fairfield Infant School be discontinued with effect from 31 December 2013;
- 3) the Published Admission Number for the "All Through Primary" School will be 80 per year group; and
- 4) all pupils in the Junior and Infant School would become part of the "All Through Primary" School on 1 January 2014.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2013

EXB108 – HALTON CHILDREN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD – ANNUAL REPORT.

The Board considered a report of the Independent Chair, Halton Safeguarding Children Board, on the Halton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report 2012/13.

The LSCB described how organisations and individuals across all sectors were working together to safeguard children and young people. The Annual Report provided a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The report included lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period including Serious Case Reviews, Practice Learning Reviews and Child Death Reviews. In addition, it listed contributions made to the LSCB by partners with details of its' expenditure.

It was reported that from November 2013, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board would become subject to inspection in its own right, with the Annual Report a grade descriptor within the inspection framework. A copy of the report was attached at Appendix 1.

Audrey Williamson, Independent Chair of LSCB, attended the meeting to present the Annual Report and answer Members' questions. It was reported that Ms Williamson had resigned from the Board, after chairing it since its formation in 2006. Members thanked Ms Williamson for attending and for her contribution to the development of the LSCB.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be welcomed;
- 2) the recommendations be noted; and
- 3) appropriate action be taken to address the matters raised within the report.