

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 6 November 2014 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), D. Cargill, Harris, R. Hignett, Jones, T. McInerney, Nelson, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Philbin

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Scott, M. Reaney, G. Cook, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan and E. Dawson

Also in attendance: None

### ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

	<i>Action</i>
EXB79 MINUTES	
The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2014 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
<b>CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO</b>	
EXB80 ASPIRE CONTRACT TERMINATION - KEY DECISION	
The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided an update on the current trading position of the traded school improvement partnership, Aspire.	
The Board was advised that funding for staff previously funded through the National Strategies at the end of the 2010/11 financial year, had been withdrawn by Government, and this had left a gap in funding provision for the school improvement services to schools.	
Following this, it was reported that the majority of schools and governors favoured the setting up of a joint venture partnership to provide school improvement services to schools and settings across two local authorities. This	

partnership was entered into in August 2011 between Halton, Warrington and Serco. Staff were transferred, as set out in the report, but by July 2012, it was noted that the Aspire Partnership were losing money after their first year of trading. The shortfall was due to insufficient income generated by the company and by 2012/13 academic year, the pricing policy was revised to ensure the service reflected market rates.

The Board noted that by 2013 Aspire were in direct competition with 'Teaching Schools' for the provision of school improvement services, but by March 2014 it had been decided that the Aspire partnership was no longer viable. A statement explaining the dissolution was set out in the report, which would be sent to schools during the Autumn term 2014.

#### Reason(s) for Decision

The Aspire Partnership was no longer viable and was not providing value for money. Feedback from schools had indicated that services provided were no longer meeting schools' needs.

#### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable

#### Implementation Date

The contract would be terminated with immediate effect.

RESOLVED: That the agreement between Halton, Warrington and Serco be terminated with immediate effect.

Strategic Director  
- Children and  
Enterprise

### **HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO**

#### EXB81 HALTON'S SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, which presented a copy of Halton's Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) Annual Report.

The Board was advised that all Safeguarding Adults Boards were required to produce an annual report which summarised the key achievements and priorities the HSAB had been working towards over the past twelve months. The report set out the national and local developments on safeguarding adults at risk.

The Board noted that the HSAB continued to develop and establish strong partnerships to ensure that the most vulnerable in society were safeguarded and were free from fear, harm, neglect and abuse. Future priorities were summarised as being:

- Empowerment;
- Protection;
- Proportionality;
- Prevention;
- Partnership; and
- Accountability.

These priorities would be achieved by ensuring there was a full range of policies, procedures and guidance in place to provide a framework for partner organisations.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- 2) the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2013/14, attached at Appendix 1, be approved.

Strategic Director  
- Communities

EXB82 THE TARGETED EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Board considered a report of the Director of Public Health, which sought approval for the joint commissioning of a service with the Clinical Commissioning Group for Targeted Mental Health Services for Children and Young People and to agree to the waiving of standing orders to facilitate the joint commissioning arrangements.

The Board was advised that mental health promotion and the prevention of mental ill health was one of the statutory responsibilities of Public Health that transferred to local authorities in April 2013. Bridgewater Community NHS Trust had provided the Targeted Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service as a community based (Tier 2) service covering Halton and St Helens. It was reported that local provision had been supplemented by the provision of counselling support from Barnardo's. In addition, a specialist weight management emotional health and wellbeing service had been operating which provided preventative and training activity and specialist support for obese children and young people.

Members were advised that the new specification would increase local capacity by providing an integrated

function which included an online/web based counselling service and enhanced training support to local schools in managing emotional health and wellbeing concerns. It was also reported that funding for the Public Health part of the tender would come from Halton Borough Council's ring-fenced Public Health budget.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the use of Procurement Standing Orders 1.3.2 be approved, to allow for the joint commissioning with the Clinical Commissioning Group of the targeted Emotional Health and Wellbeing for Children and Young People Service, to support public health and primary care; and
- 2) pursuant to Procurement Standing Order 1.3.2 (c) the standing orders of the Clinical Commissioning Group shall apply.

Director of Public Health

## **TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO**

*(N.B. Councillor Dave Cargill declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as he was a member of Warrington Angler's Association which had submitted objections to the proposal.)*

EXB83 OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED 'AT ANY TIME' WAITING RESTRICTIONS, HILL TOP ROAD, PRESTON ON THE HILL, PRESTON BROOK

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which reported on objections received to the introduction of proposed 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions on part of Hill Top Road, Preston on the Hill, Preston Brook.

The Board was advised that the proposal, as set out in Appendix A of the report, had been subject to formal public consultation. It was noted that eight individual objections were received, together with objections from Warrington Angler's Association and Preston Brook Parish Council. The main points of each objection were summarised in the report for Members' information.

It was reported that waiting restrictions in the area were initially requested by Cheshire Police; there were now a number of factors which combined to justify the need for a waiting restriction along this length of road, namely the introduction of two new access points adjacent to developments off Hill Top Road, the need to maintain

adequate visibility levels, and the width of the carriageway.

RESOLVED: That the Board agrees to the making of the Traffic Regulation Order to implement 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions on Hill Top Road, Preston on the Hill, Preston Brook, as set out in Appendix B attached to the report, and that the objectors be informed accordingly.

Strategic Director  
- Policy &  
Resources

## **RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB84 INTRODUCTION OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which provided an update on the planned implementation of Universal Credit and the implications for the Council.

The Board was advised that Universal Credit was a single payment for people looking for work or who were on a low income. It had been introduced on a pilot basis in 2013 and replaced a number of benefits including Income Support, Child Tax and Working Tax Credits, Housing Benefit and Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance.

In Halton, Universal Credit applications from single persons or couples without children would become 'live' from 17 November 2014. It was noted that for the first six months, the number of applications expected would be relatively low. However, the vast majority of claimants receiving benefits would move to Universal Credit in 2016, which would then include families with children.

It was reported that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) had asked the Council to enter into a Delivery Partnership Agreement to facilitate the introduction of Universal Credit in Halton. This would set out the roles and responsibilities of each party for the period 17 November 2014 to 31 March 2015. It was further reported that as part of the process for operating Universal Credit, applicants would be offered the opportunity to access 'Personal Budgeting Support'. It was proposed that this support be provided in-house utilising existing resources within the Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services Division. In addition, the DWP had sought the help of the Council with the provision of 'Assisted Support' for applicants, and it was noted that this could be provided through the two main Halton Direct Link Offices.

The report and Appendix A outlined the manner in which claims for Council Tax Support from claimants of

Universal Credit would be treated, for Members' information.

The Board was further advised that the DWP had offered to provide awareness training for Elected Members to assist them in dealing with enquiries from constituents.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) a Delivery Partnership Agreement be entered into with the Department for Work and Pensions, to facilitate the introduction of Universal Credit, which outlines roles and responsibilities from the period 17 November 2014 to the 31 March 2015;
- 2) the Council agrees to provide a "Personal Budgeting Support Service" for Universal Credit applicants, utilising existing resources within the Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services Division;
- 3) the Council agrees to provide an "Assisted Support Service" to Universal Credit applicants, via the two main Halton Direct Link Offices in Widnes and Runcorn;
- 4) the Department for Work and Pensions be asked to provide awareness training for Members regarding the implementation of Universal Credit; and
- 5) Universal Credit be treated within the Council Tax Support Scheme assessment, as outlined in Appendix A attached to the report.

Strategic Director  
- Policy &  
Resources

**MINUTES ISSUED: 12 November 2014**

**CALL-IN: 19 November 2014**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 19 November 2014**

*Meeting ended at 2.10 p.m.*