

Extract of Executive Board Minutes relevant to the Children, Young Peoples and Families Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2016

EXB 45	HALTON LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LSCB) ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT – KEY DECISION
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The Board considered a report of the Independent Chair, Halton Safeguarding Children Board, on the Halton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report 2015/16.

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 learning and improvement activity within the reporting period including Serious Case Reviews, Practice Learning Reviews and Child Death Reviews and audits. In addition, it listed contributions made to the LSCB by partners and details of its expenditure.

It was noted that since November 2013, the LSCB had become subject to review of their effectiveness with a review by Ofsted in 2014, alongside the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, looked after children and care leavers.

Details of the content of the report were set out for Members' information. However, it was reported that the Children and Social Work Bill would abolish LSCBs; the expectation was that key safeguarding partners, such as the Local Authority, the Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group, would establish arrangements to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding children processes and practice.

Reason(s) for Decision

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board Annual report was a statutory report and provided an overview and scrutiny of the effectiveness of multi-agency partners' safeguarding arrangements. Members were requested to note the report.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None as this was a required annual report.

Implementation Date

September 2016.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report and associated Annual Report attached at Appendix 1 be noted.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2016

EXB 57	CLOSURE OF WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL RESOURCE PROVISION BASE FOR PUPILS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT AND SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES – KEY DECISION
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on the proposed closure of the Resource Base for pupils with Hearing Impairment and Specific Learning Difficulties at Westfield Primary School (the Resource Base).

At its meeting on 15 September 2016, Executive Board had agreed to a statutory consultation on the proposal to close the Resource Base. It was reported that at the close of the consultation, seven responses had been received, summarised at Appendix C. A response from the National Deaf Children's Society was attached at Appendix D.

The report set out details of guidance for Members on the decision making process, now that formal consultation was complete. It was noted that the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board had considered the proposals and the majority of its Members had supported the recommendation to close the Resource Base, with the continuation of funding to support the completion of the primary education for the three children at the School.

Reason(s) for Decision

To provide a more inclusive offer for pupils with Hearing Impairment, giving them the opportunity to be educated with support alongside their peers.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Retaining the current provision. This was rejected as it was less inclusive and more costly.

Implementation Date

31 December 2016.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Resource Base Provision at Westfield Primary School closes with effect from 31 December 2016;
- 2) the Local Authority continues to provide support to the three pupils in the Resource Base at Westfield Primary School until they finish their primary education at the School; and

- 3) funding previously allocated to fund the Resource Base Provision is ring fenced and re-invested into Hearing Impaired Provision and the recruitment of additional central staff both teaching and non-teaching.