

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

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2019****EXB 80 | CAPITAL PROGRAMME – 2019/20 – KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which provided a summary of the Capital Programmes for 2019/20 for the People Directorate.

The Board was advised that the Department for Education (DfE) had not yet announced the Capital Grant Allocation for 2019/20 at the time of writing the report. However, given the timescales for some of the capital projects, the report used the 2018/19 allocation as the basis for presenting this report to the Board.

In addition, it was reported that the DfE had announced the Special Provision Capital Funding for local authorities to invest in provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, aged 0-25, to improve the quality and range of provision available. It had been confirmed that the Local Authority would receive an additional amount, which took the total allocation over a three year period to £616,279.

The Board was reminded that at its meeting on 20 September 2018, works to create Foundation/Key Stage 1 Social Emotional and Mental Health Resource bases at Beechwood Primary School and Halton Lodge Primary School, were approved. It was noted that the Local Authority would therefore be allocating an element of its School Condition Allocation Funding towards this scheme.

Reason(s) for Decision

To deliver and implement the Capital Programmes.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable.

Implementation Date

Capital Programmes for 2019/20 would be implemented with effect from 1 April 2019.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the position regarding capital funding from the Department for Education for 2019/20, be noted;

- 2) the proposals to be funded from the School Condition Capital Allocation, be approved; and
- 3) Council be recommended to approve the Capital Allocations for inclusion in the Budget report.

<b>EXB 81</b>	<b>SCHOOL ADMISISON ARRANGEMENTS 2020 – KEY DECISION</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on School Admission Arrangements for 2020.

The Board was advised that in October 2018, Halton Local Authority issued a statutorily required consultation on the proposed admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission schemes for the September 2020 intake. It was noted that the consultation ran until 9 November 2018, with no changes proposed to the current oversubscription criteria for admission to Local Authority maintained community and voluntary controlled primary schools. No responses to the consultation were received.

It was further noted that reference to all Halton community secondary schools had been removed, as all were either academies, free schools or voluntary aided and were therefore their own admission authorities, with responsibility for consulting on proposed changes.

Reason(s) for Decision

The decision was statutorily required and any revision to the proposed arrangements may adversely affect school place planning as detailed in the report.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Other options considered and rejected included the allocation of places through random allocation (lottery), as this method could be seen as arbitrary and random.

Implementation Date

The Policy and co-ordinated schemes would apply for the September 2020 academic intake.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the School Admissions Policy, Admission Arrangements and Co-ordinated Schemes for admission to primary and secondary schools for the 2020/21 academic year.

<b>EXB 82</b>	<b>APPLICATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SPECIAL FREE SCHOOL FOR PUPILS WITH SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS (SEMH) – KEY DECISION</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on the proposal to develop a special free school for pupils with Social, Education and Mental Health Needs (SEMH) in Halton.

At its meeting on 18 October 2018, Executive Board had approved an application to establish a special free school in Halton, shared with St Helens Borough Council. It was reported that the Department for Education (DfE) had requested the final submission of the specification as a matter of urgency, on 16 December 2018. Due to the urgent nature of the submission and the schedule of meeting dates, the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Social Care, approved the final submission, using his delegated powers. Therefore, the report to the Board set out retrospectively the details of the proposed location of the special free school for Members' information.

#### Reason(s) for Decision

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

#### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not submitting an application for a joint free school. However, lack of provision had an impact on the educational outcomes of pupils that need this support.

#### Implementation Date

Notification as to whether the bid was successful would be announced by the DfE in Spring 2019.

RESOLVED: That the decision of the Chief Executive, acting under delegated powers, to develop a free school provision on the Naylor Road, Widnes site, be noted.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2019**

<b>EXB 90</b>	<b>HIGH NEEDS REVIEW</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which provided a summary of the High Needs Strategic Planning Review.

The Board was advised that the 2014 Children and Families Act introduced some of the most far reaching and significant changes to the way the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) were identified, assessed and addressed.

It was reported that over the same period of time, local authorities had experienced a rise in demand for SEND services, whilst the system of funding had changed. Support had been extended to children and young people aged 0 to 25 years. In Halton, High Needs Budget costs were outstripping available funding and therefore the current system was unsustainable.

Halton had commissioned an independent review of SEND by *Peopletoo* in 2018; the first phase of the work was complete, with three key findings, as set out in

the report. Members noted that to address these key findings, five high level recommendations had been made, and it was proposed that the next steps would be to share this with all partners across the Borough, including those in health, schools and colleges, Parents, Carers and all Officers involved in SEND provision.

It was further noted that a second piece of work to set out the actions needed to implement the main recommendations would be required; it was proposed that *Peopletoo* be commissioned to undertake the implementation phase of the review.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) agree the five recommendations identified by the Review; and
- 2) agree to commission *Peopletoo* to undertake the implementation phase of the review.