

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children's Services, Looked after Children, Safeguarding for Children and Young People, Schools and Early Years:-

MONDAY, 24th JANUARY, 2022

Following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

Councillor Galloway	- Executive Cabinet Member – Children's Services
Councillor Donaghy	- Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor McGeown	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Sanders	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Wright	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor McMulkin	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Fletcher	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson

Officers

Ms B. Brown	- Director of Children's Services
Mr P. Rankin	- Deputy Director of Children's Services
Mr I. Walker	- Assistant Director of Children's Services Social Care and Early Help
Ms T. Minshull	- Assistant Director – Commissioning and Integration
Ms L. Butcher	- Head of Finance - People
Ms H. Shearer	- Head of Start Well, Strategic Lead Early Years
Ms A. Hunt	- Senior Lawyer

Mrs V. Ridge

- Democratic Services Manager

28. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which provided an update on decisions taken at previous meetings of the Executive Cabinet Member.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

The background papers and report in relation to the following item were considered confidential as defined in paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.

29. START WELL REVIEW – POST CONSULTATION REPORT

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which set out the results of consultation on proposals to review the Start Well Service to take account of a reduction in funding from 2021 onwards and sought approval to implement the final proposals.

The report advised that, following formal consultation on the strategic options set out in the December 2020 budget report, detailed proposals for the review of the Start Well Service had been brought forward for consultation in September 2021.

There had been two elements to the consultation:

- Service Redesign - to consult with trades unions, staff, elected members and key service users about the redesign of the service functions.

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- Governance - to undertake a public consultation on the Start Well Centres Governance to be aligned with the Council's 1, 3, 9 neighbourhood model and to redesignate the Start Well Centres into Start Well Family Hubs.

In this regard, the report provided details of the outcome of the consultation together with the issues raised.

Appendix 4 to the report set out a summary of the key consultation issues raised together with the response from management. This included issues raised via the unions at weekly consultation meetings, as well as issues raised by individual staff members via emails, personal meetings and staff briefing sessions.

The formal Trades Unions response to the proposals was also provided in full at Appendix 4.

With regard to the Governance proposals, the report advised that an eight-week public consultation had been held between 21st September and 17th November, 2021 to engage residents and stakeholders. The consultation had sought the views on the council's proposal to:

- rename the Start Well Centres, calling them Start Well Family Hubs;
- amend the governance arrangements by having a Start Well Family Hub in each neighbourhood reporting to a single Boroughwide board, instead of three; and
- include the Bright Meadows Centre in Breightmet as a Start Well Family Hub, alongside the other 17 centres.

Appendix 3 to the report set out the full report of the public consultation, including responses from formal stakeholders.

The report now sought approval for the final amended proposals, having taken account of feedback received during consultation.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

- (i) The final proposals, having due regard to the consultation feedback and the Equality Impact Assessment, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted;**
- (ii) Subject to the approval of the Head of Paid Service, the delegation of implementation of the new structure, including details of voluntary redundancy arrangements and consequential redundancy selection, to the Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services;**
- (iii) The proposed changes to Governance to align Start Well Centre reach areas to the Council's 1, 3, 9 Neighbourhood Model under a single governing body; and**
- (iv) The redesignation of the Start Well Centres into Start Well Family Hubs, as detailed in the report now submitted.**