

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

MEETING, 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2009

Present – Councillors Adia (Chairman), Ashcroft, Mrs Brierley, Murray, Mrs. Rothwell, Rushton, R. Silvester and Wild.

### Also in Attendance

Ms. M. Asquith	-	Director of Children's Services
Mr. J. Daly	-	Head teacher Thomasson Memorial School
Mr. J. Livesey	-	Assistant Director Performance, Planning and Resources
Mr. S. Fazal	-	Assistant Director Access and Inclusion
Ms J. Thompson	-	Assistant Director, Positive Contribution
Mr D. Smith	-	Policy Accountant
Mrs. K. Smith	-	Senior Performance and Improvement Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Swarbrick

Councillor Adia in the Chair.

### **13. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

### **14. STRATEGIC RESOURCE OPTIONS 2010/11 TO 2014/15**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report that set out the Department's response to corporate financial guidance for the period 2010/11 to 2014/15.

The guidance agreed by the Executive required that the Children's Services Department identify savings totaling 5% of its base budget in 2010/11 and plan on the basis of average savings of 10% in each of the following 2 years, 5% in 2013/14 and 3% in 2014/15. The total amount for 2010/11 was £1,839

The options identified to meet the corporate redirection target for the 2010/11 financial year were as follows:-

<b>Efficiency Options</b>	2010/11
	£000
Connexions / ESWs	400
Youth Service	400
Business Support Services review	130
Student Awards	40
Integration of Information Management	100
Accommodation review	100
Joint Finance Unit Restructure	16
North West Collaborative	10
Publicity & marketing	50
Families Information Service	79
Cash Limited Budgets	200
PHSE	50
<b>Total Efficiency Options</b>	<b>1,525</b>
<b>Increased Income</b>	
Review income levels for services provided	264
<b>Total Increased Income</b>	<b>264</b>
<b>TOTAL REDIRECTION OPTIONS</b>	<b>1,839</b>

The above options had been analysed between those options that could be achieved through efficiency savings, without an impact upon front line services, and options in relation to increases in income. Full details on each of the above options were provided within the report.

With respect to strategic options to meet the redirection targets in 2011/12 to 2014/15 proposals were being developed to continue with a programme of further integration of services across the Department, with an aim to achieve cost efficiencies without a negative impact upon outcomes for Children and Young People within Bolton.

It was noted that no demand led growth options had been identified and therefore no savings had been identified to fund such.

Work was ongoing to develop proposals to reduce costs in accordance with corporate financial guidance for future years and would be considered by Policy Development Groups at an appropriate time.

During the course of the ensuing discussion members raised the following issues:-

- Concern regarding PHSE and citizenship teaching in Schools and the consequences a reduction in resources might have; and
- That it would be helpful to have more detail regarding potential savings

It was agreed that the report be noted.

The meeting started at 1.00pm and finished at 2.00 p.m.)