

**DEPUTY LEADER**

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for Health and Wellbeing, Adult Social Care, Adult Safeguarding, Public Health and Children's Services including Looked After Children and Schools and Early Years:-

**MONDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2015**

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

- |                           |   |  |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Councillor Mrs. Thomas    | - | Executive Cabinet Member – Deputy Leaders Portfolio        |
| Councillor Cunliffe       | - | Cabinet Member for Public Health and Safeguarding Children |
| Councillor McKeon         | - | Cabinet Member for Education and Schools                   |
| Councillor Greenhalgh     | - | Major Opposition Spokesperson                              |
| Councillor Mrs Fairclough | - | Major Opposition Spokesperson                              |
| Councillor Martin         | - | Minor Opposition Spokesperson                              |

**Officers**

- |               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| Mr J. Livesey | - | Acting Director of Children's and Adult Services          |
| Mr T. Birch   | - | Assistant Director of Education and Learning              |
| Ms. R. Tanner | - | Assistant Director, Care Management and Provider Services |

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|---------------------|---|---|
| Mr. D. Smith        | - | Acting Assistant Director,<br>Children's and Adult Services |
| Mr J. Daly          | - | Acting Statutory Director of<br>Children's Services         |
| Ms J. Edwards       | - | Acting Head of Finance                                      |
| Ms. Hellings-Lamb   | - | Interim Head of Health and<br>Improvement                   |
| Mr I. D. Mulholland | - | Principal Democratic<br>Services Officer                    |

### **39. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE 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.**

### **40. FOOD ACCESS BOLTON VAN PROPOSAL**

The Director of Public Health submitted a report which advised the Executive Cabinet Member that an exemption to Standing Orders had been obtained to undertake a quotation process for the procurement of the Food Access Bolton (FAB) Van service.

By way of background, the Executive Cabinet Member was reminded that in 2006 the FAB Van was launched which provided access to affordable fresh fruit and vegetables to more vulnerable members of the community who found it difficult to access shops. The service also helped to address issues such as loneliness and isolation, providing a more social role within the community.

The service currently remained within the Public Health Department, however, it was felt that the service would be more effectively delivered by partners within the voluntary sector using community capacity and an asset based community development approach. This new approach would also provide long term savings for the Council.

It was also explained that the FAB Van was currently delivered by one member of staff employed by Public Health and a number of volunteers. However, the member of staff delivering the service was doing this outside the terms of his substantive post and this was unsustainable in the medium and long term.

In view of the above, it was proposed that a new provider would initially employ a member of staff to:-

- Manage the project;
- Develop the service further and become more integrated with the food poverty agenda;
- Pilot approaches which aim to reduce dependency to food banks; and
- Ensure robust evaluation built in from the start of the project.

**Following a recommendation from the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Safeguarding Children, the Executive Cabinet Member NOTED –**

- (i) The movement of the Food Access Bolton Van service to the community and voluntary sector to enable a more sustainable future for the service; and**
- (ii) The exemption from Standing Orders to undertake a quotation process for the procurement of the service.**

#### **41. PUBLIC HEALTH: COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS – VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY GRANTS 2016-2018**

The Acting Director of Children's and Adult Services submitted a report which outlined the context and future commissioning intentions in relation to Public Health and a number of grants with the voluntary and community sector.

By way of background, the Executive Cabinet Member was reminded that in April, 2013 Public Health transferred over to the Local Authority under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

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With this transfer came a budget of £12-13 million for commissioned services along with the responsibility for monitoring approximately 250 contracts.

Following the transfer a process of prioritisation was undertaken whereby higher value, higher risk contracts were prioritised for contract monitoring and reviewed to ensure best value for money and outcomes. This was an ongoing process and significant progress had been made.

The Executive Cabinet Member was advised that the LA Commissioning Team had become responsible for these contracts in July, 2015 and recognised the need to undertake a full review of the voluntary and community sector contracts which were detailed in Table 1 of the report. The principles of the review would be to ensure that the contracts continued to focus on Public Health priorities as well as the overall objectives of the LA and the long term vision was to work more collaboratively across Children's and Adults with the longer term vision of creating one grants process for the Council.

In terms of the proposals, the funding of the Public Health voluntary and community sector grants broadly fell into two categories as outlined in the Bolton Health and Wellbeing Strategy:-

- Under 5's and Early Years (Starting Well); and
- Adults Prevention Services (Ageing Well).

A number of contracts also needed to be reviewed to ensure that they were meeting the agreed outcomes and the contracts within scope were detailed in the report.

In terms of the grants it was explained that while the majority of the funding was to provide a general grant to these organisations, the funding for CAB was to deliver a specific Welfare Advice Line Service for Primary Care. Therefore, due to the specialist nature of this service the existing funding of £50,000 needed to be ring-fenced and protected. Any break in the delivery of this service would have a detrimental effect on the service users. It was therefore planned that the service

was reviewed to ensure that it continued to meet the needs of the current service users.

With regard to The Age UK, Homestart and Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) contracts were due to end on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 and whilst no commitment had been given to the organisations beyond this date, it was proposed that these contracts were extended in line with other contracts in scope.

The Executive Cabinet Member was also advised that the intention was to carry out a review of the current grants programme and to adopt the principles of the Children's and Adults Grant Framework which were detailed in the report. The review would involve consultation with service users, carers, providers and voluntary and community groups to assess local need, review existing markets and to make recommendations for commissioning priorities based on outcomes. To allow time for the review and consultation process to take place it would be necessary for any contracts that were due to expire soon to be extended until 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016.

**Following a recommendation from the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Safeguarding Children, the Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –**

- (i) The commissioning intentions as detailed in the report;**
- (ii) The award of contracts from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016; and**
- (iii) The extension of current grants contracts which were due to expire.**

#### **42. SAFEGUARDING ADULTS ANNUAL REPORT AND STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2018**

The Acting Director of Children's and Adult Services submitted a report which informed the Executive Cabinet Member of the performance of the Safeguarding Adults Board Partnership to meet the strategic objectives to protect adults at risk from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

**Following a recommendation from the Cabinet Member for Adult Safeguarding and Adult Social Care, the Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.**

**43. CHILDREN'S AND ADULTS SERVICES GRANTS PROGRAMME : PREVENTION GRANT**

The Acting Director of Children's and Adult Services submitted a report which updated the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader on the applications received for the Prevention Grants and to seek approval to award contracts. The report also sought approval to run a second round of Prevention Grant applications for provision based on gaps in services.

By way of background information the report explained that the Care Act 2014 (the Act) built on recent reviews and reforms by replacing numerous previous laws to provide a coherent approach to adult social care in England. Part one of the Act (and its Statutory Guidance) consolidated and modernised the framework of care and support law; it set out new duties for local authorities and partners, and new rights for service users and carers. There was a new emphasis on wellbeing and the new statutory principle of individual wellbeing underpinned the Act, and was the driving force behind care and support.

Local authorities (and their partners in health, housing, welfare and employment services) needed now take steps to prevent, reduce or delay the need for care and support for all local people.

Furthermore, the Act included a statutory requirement for local authorities to collaborate, cooperate and integrate with other public authorities.

The report also mentioned that there had to be diversity and quality in the market of care providers so that there were enough high-quality services for people to choose from.

Anybody, including a carer, who appeared to need care or support was entitled to an assessment, regardless of financial contact with the council. The assessment had to focus on

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outcomes important to the individual and any needs currently being met by a carer should still be included in the assessment. The local authority then applied a national eligibility threshold to determine whether the individual had eligible needs.

The report went onto explain that the Prevention Grant was designed to fund activities that provided prevention and early intervention services for adults in the Bolton Borough whose circumstances made them vulnerable and/or disadvantaged. This might include frail older people, people with learning disabilities, people with mental health needs, disabled people and people from minority ethnic communities.

The Executive Cabinet Member was informed that the Prevention Grant allocates funding to organisations to provide services in Bolton for between one and two years. Applications would be prioritised against a criteria list.

The Grant was about investing in -

- Activities that prevent social isolation by promoting regular social contact;
- Services that used and built on local knowledge;
- Activities that improved accessibility;
- Service development, so organisations could reach out to more of Bolton's vulnerable people; and
- Organisations that provided low-level support to improve the quality of life of people in the priority groups.

The report went on to set out details of the award of funding in 2013/14 and 2014/15.

The Executive Cabinet Member was also informed of the process for the Grant Programme and informed that a total of 17 organisations submitted applications. A sum of the bids received totalled £641,546 against a total budget of £322,200 and section three of the report set out details of those organisations who were the proposed recipients of the grant funding.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the award of the contracts as detailed in the report.**

**44. DETERMINATION OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS TO COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY-CONTROLLED SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER, 2017**

The Acting Director of Children's and Adult Services submitted a report which sought the Executive Cabinet Member's approval on the admission arrangements for primary and secondary schools and academies in September, 2017.

The report advised that the current schemes in respect of admission into the normal years of entry into community and voluntary-controlled primary and secondary schools had been amended only to reflect the dates prescribed in the current School Admissions Regulations. As there were no proposals to make any significant amendments to these schemes, there was no requirement to formally consult on the updated scheme.

The proposed updated arrangements for September 2017/2018 academic year would be circulated to all schools, academies and neighbouring local authorities.

A copy of each proposed scheme was appended to the report.

**Following a recommendation from the Cabinet Member for Education and Schools, the Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –**

- (i) The proposed admission criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary Schools admission for the 2017/2018 school year; and**
- (ii) The proposed co-ordinated admissions scheme for school admission, including in-year admissions for 2017/2018.**

**45. REVISION OF INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT –  
BOWNESS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Acting Director of Children's and Adult Services submitted a report which sought approval to the revised Instrument of Government for Bowness Primary School in response to the requirement by the Government that all schools reconstitute under the 2012 School Governance (Constitution) Regulations by 1st September, 2015.

Full details of the revised Instrument were appended to the report.

**Following a recommendation from the Executive Member for Education and Schools, the Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –**

**The revised Instrument of Government, as attached to the report now submitted and that authorisation be given to the sealing of the revised Instrument by the Council's Legal Services Unit.**

**46. REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES VOLUNTARY,  
COMMUNITY AND FAITH SECTOR GRANT FUNDING  
2015/2017**

The Acting Director of Children's and Adult Services submitted a report which set out proposals to review Voluntary and Community Grants for Children and Young People.

The Executive Cabinet Member was advised that the proposals for savings and efficiencies were part of a review of the Voluntary and Community Grants for Children and Young People and the commissioning of existing resources for 2015/2016 and 2017/2018. The intention was to undertake a further detailed review of each area of work to update and develop revised specifications to ensure they were meeting the priorities of the Council and new and existing providers would have the opportunity to submit revised bids based on the new specifications. Funding bids on the revised specifications

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would be invited from Autumn 2015 and implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016.

The report also advised that the review of Children's Services funding to the voluntary sector had been undertaken within an agreed framework and each contract would be assessed against the principles and priorities set out within this framework details of which were outlined in the report. Based on the principles, it was proposed that the new programme for 2016/2017 would total £1,007,430 annually. A full summary of the savings and proposed reductions were detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

Furthermore, the Vulnerable Children budget category included a contribution of £15,000 to Derian House and it was proposed that this funding was protected and would not receive any cut.

The Executive Cabinet Member was also advised that a further proposal was to adopt a single integrated Children's and Adult Services Grants framework and it was intended to use the new process which included a full grant application process for up to £50,000 per year for two years or a small grant application of £5,000 for twelve months.

The report provided details in relation to how the framework would operate and it was proposed that to enable a smooth transition existing providers be allowed to be notified in writing of the intention to end contract in line with the schedule detailed in the report. All contracts were due to end on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016, however, where deemed necessary contracts might be extended in line with the proposed programme of activities and dates.

In conclusion, it was stated that if the report and proposals were approved these would subject to a consultation period with all relevant stakeholders and reported back to a future meeting for final approval

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the report for consultation purposes with the Children's Services, Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector.**

## **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**The background papers and reports in relation to the following items were considered confidential as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 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.**

### **47. COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS – ADVOCACY FOR ADULTS**

The Acting Director of Children’s and Adult Services submitted a report which set out the proposed commission intentions for the provision of advocacy support services to all adults and sought approval to proceed with the procurement of these new services.

The report provided an outline of the current commissioning arrangements for advocacy services, the new advocacy requirements under the Care Act 2014 and the proposals for commissioning advocacy services from April, 2016.

In terms of the options available these were as follows:-

- Option 1 – Advocacy Hub;
- Option 2 – Provision of three advocacy services depending on needs; and
- Option 3 – Provision of four advocacy services depending on needs.

Details of each of the above options were provided and following evaluation it was proposed that Option 1 be implemented.

**Following a recommendation from the Cabinet Member for Adult Safeguarding and Adult Social Care, the Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –**

- (i) The commissioning intentions to develop a community hub for advocacy services;**
- (ii) The outline proposals for tendering for independent advocacy services to meet the requirements of the Care Act for community advocacy and the requirements for the IMCA and IMHA services; and**
- (iii) The award of a contract for 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018.**

#### **48. HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT CONTRACTS – CONTRACT EXTENSIONS**

The Acting Director of Children's and Adult Services submitted a report which proposed extensions to current housing related support contracts pending completion of the Council's Savings Reviews.

**Following a recommendation from the Cabinet Member for Adult Safeguarding and Adult Social Care, the Executive Cabinet Member AGREED –**

- (i) To utilise CSO5 of the Standing Orders relating to Contracts to waive relevant Standing Orders relating to Contracts and AUTHORISED –**
  - The Acting Director of Children's and Adult Services to appoint those current providers of housing related support services, as detailed in the report, to continue delivering the services and to extend the contracts for a further term up to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016; and**
  - The Borough Solicitor to carry out any necessary legal formalities.**
- (ii) To the Commissioning Team commencing consultation with providers, stakeholders, partners and service users to meet legal requirements.**

#### **49. SHARED LIVES AT BOLTON (ADULT PLACEMENT) – FUNDING MODEL**

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The Acting Director of Children's and Adult Services submitted a report which set out proposals to modernise the future funding and payment model for Shared Lives placements

**Following a recommendation from the Cabinet Member for Adult Safeguarding and Adult Social Care, the Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the funding model proposals as detailed in the report to commence consultation with clients, families and Shared Lives carers.**