

## **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, 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2021**

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

### **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 L. Butcher	- Head of Finance
Mrs. S. Bailey	- Principal Democratic Services Officer

**1. 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.**

**2. HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME 2021 SUMMER UPDATE**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which outlined the nature and proposals for the coordination and delivery of the Government funded Holiday Activities and Food Programme for 2021 in Bolton.

The report advised that on 8th November 2020, the Government had announced that the existing holiday activities and food programme was to be expanded across the whole of England in 2021.

Bolton had accepted an indicative maximum allocation of grant funding of £1,487,820 which was expected to cover the provision of free holiday places and the coordination of the programme locally. The programme would aim to make free places available to children eligible for free school meals for the equivalent of at least 4 hours a day, 4 days a week, 6 weeks a year, over 4 weeks in the summer and a week's worth of provision in each of the Easter and Christmas holidays.

In this regard, the report provided an overview of provision offered at Easter and sought approval for proposals for provision and spend over Summer, 2021.

**The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED:**

- (i) **The progress made for the Holiday Activity and Food Programme in Bolton over Easter 2021; and APPROVED -**
- (ii) **The initial proposals for Summer 2021 and the delegation of further decision-making responsibility for the Summer Programme to the Director of Children's Services, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted.**

### **3. DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S FINANCIAL MONITORING 2020/21 FINAL OUTTURN**

The Director of Children's Services and the Deputy Chief Executive submitted a joint report which provided information relating to the financial position of the Children's Department for the 2020/21 Financial Year.

With regard to Revenue Expenditure, the revenue outturn position for the Local Authority block was expected to be in line with Budget following use of reserves of £1.987m.

Revenue expenditure for the Dedicated Schools Grant was to be £3.867m greater than the grant available.

In relation to Capital Expenditure, the original Capital Programme approved at Council in February, 2020 totalled £23.967m. Expenditure at 31st March, 2021 was £7.502m.

Reserves were expected to be £29.711m, as at 31st March, 2021.

The report stated that of the £29.711m reserves, £22.81m related to capital monies held for future work on schools and £0.386m related to schools balances and other Dedicated Schools Grant reserves. The remaining £6.514m was Children's Services Revenue Reserves.

**The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED -**

- (i) The financial position of the Children's Services portfolio as at 31st March 2021 and the changes within the Capital Programme, as now detailed; and AGREED -**
- (ii) The delegation of authority to the Director of Children's to call off on the framework(s) for the Capital Programme, as detailed in section 3 of the report now submitted; and APPROVED -**
- (iii) The strategic options detailed in section 2.2 of the report now submitted.**

## **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.**

## **4. DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD SUPERVISION**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought approval for the permanent establishment of the post of Designated Safeguarding Lead Supervisor to support the sustainability of the ongoing offer of Early Help support to schools in Bolton.

The report outlined the background to the establishment of the current post in 2019 when Bolton had been successful in a bid for temporary funding to embark on a Designated Safeguarding Lead Supervision project as part of a research programme to determine whether formal supervision of Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools could help improve confidence and reduce anxiety in decision making and ultimately lead to better and more effective support for children and families.

Following the success of the scheme. It was now proposed that the current Designated Safeguarding Lead Supervisor post be made permanent within the Targeted Early Help Service structure. The post would continue to provide ongoing support

to schools engaged on the Programme and would also have scope for ongoing development of the Early Help offer of support to schools, linking with the developing Team Around the School model.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –**

**The permanent establishment of the post of Designated Lead Supervisor post within the Targeted Early Help Service, on the basis detailed in report now submitted.**

**5. PROPOSED EXPANSION AND MODIFICATIONS AT GREEN FOLD SPECIAL SCHOOL**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which outlined proposals to increase capacity at Green Fold Special School and sought approval for funding in this regard.

The report advised that demand for places at Green Fold Special School had been increasing each year and that proposals to remodel both the Upper and Lower Orchards buildings were being developed to create additional Green Fold teaching space.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –**

**Funding from Capital Budget monies in the sum of £445k to support the project to increase capacity at Green Fold Special School, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted.**