

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, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

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

Councillor C. Wild	- Executive Cabinet Member – Children
Councillor Cunliffe	- Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor McGeown	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Flitcroft	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Hornby	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Wright	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson

Officers

Ms. R. Tanner	- Deputy Director of People
Ms. S. Alexander	- Assistant Director - Staying Safe
Mr. P. Rankin	- Assistant Director - Performance, Planning and Resources
Ms. L. Butcher	- Head of Finance
Mrs. V. Ridge	- Democratic Services Manager

11. 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.

12. PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER ONE 2019/20

A report of the Director of People was submitted a report which provided an update on the latest available 2019/20 performance information for the People Department as at Quarter One, 2019/20.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.

13. LEIGH BRAMWELL PRIZE FUND

The Director of People submitted a report which proposed a new way of utilising endowments left for Educational purposes by the Leigh Bramwell Prize Fund.

The report reminded the Executive Cabinet Member of the role and purpose of the Leigh Bramwell Prize Fund and outlined its current administration which was primarily undertaken by the Strategic Finance Team in People Services with Trustees being contacted as and when required.

The report advised that the current Trustees had contacted the Council regarding the future of the Charity as they no longer wished to be involved for various reasons.

In this regard, an alternative Charity with similar objectives had been identified who were agreeable to taking on the Fund. The terms going forward were outlined in the report and had been agreed by all parties concerned.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED -

The transfer of the Leigh Bramwell Prize Fund to the Trustees of the James Eden Foundation with a view to a future merger of the Charities, on the basis now detailed, which includes:

- Bolton Council standing down as a corporate trustee; and**

- **All funds and shares being transferred to a new bank account into the new trustees' names.**

14. FOSTERING RECRUITMENT

The Director of People submitted a report which sought approval to establish a post within the Fostering Team to coordinate foster carer recruitment.

The post would be specialist in nature with the aim of increasing the numbers of enquirers to become foster carers in Bolton and achieve the 21 new foster carers target by 2021.

The Job Description and Person Specification for the post were currently being evaluated and was expected to be a Grade 7. It would be funded from revenue budget within the People Department.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

The creation of a new post within the Fostering Team, on the basis detailed in 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.

15. REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROVISION – POST CONSULTATION REPORT

Further to Minute 5 of the meeting of this Executive Cabinet held on 8th July, 2019, the Director of People submitted a report which set out the results of the consultation on proposals to review the Children's Residential Provision to take in to

account a reduction in funding from 2019 onwards and sought approval to implement the final proposals.

Following the formal consultation process, the report addressed the key issues arising therefrom and put forward the final, revised proposals for approval.

Full details of the consultation process with trades unions and staff and a summary of the key issues raised and the response from management were provided in Appendix 4 to the report.

The formal trades unions response was attached to the report at Appendix 3.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

- (i) The final proposals, having due regard to the consultation feedback and the Equality Impact Assessment, as detailed in the report now submitted; and**
- (ii) The delegation of the implementation of the new structure, including details of voluntary redundancy arrangements and consequential redundancy selection, to the Chief Executive and Director of People, subject to the approval of the Head of Paid Service and AGREED –**
- (iii) That a review on the impact of the new proposals be undertaken after twelve months.**

16. REVIEW OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – POST CONSULTATION REPORT

Further to Minute 7 of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet Member held on 8th July, 2019, the Director of People submitted a report which set out the results of the consultation on proposals to review the Workforce Development Team within People Services to take into account a reduction in funding from 2019 onwards and sought approval to implement the final proposals.

Following the formal consultation process, the report addressed the key issues arising therefrom and put forward the final, revised proposals for approval.

Full details of the consultation process with trades unions and staff and a summary of the key issues raised and the response from management were provided in Appendix 4 to the report.

The formal trades unions response was attached to the report at Appendix 3.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

- (i) The final proposals, having due regard to the consultation feedback and the Equality Impact Assessment, as detailed in the report now submitted; and**
- (ii) The delegation of the implementation of the new structure, including details of voluntary redundancy arrangements and consequential redundancy selection, to the Chief Executive and Director of People, subject to the approval of the Head of Paid Service.**

17. ESTABLISHMENT OF TRANSITIONS – PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD TEAM

A report of the Director of People was submitted which sought approval for the establishment of a new Preparing for Adulthood – Transition Team within the People Department.

The report advised that the new Team was designed to support young people from age 14 upwards (school years 9 -14) who had complex or additional needs and required support to move into adulthood in that they were likely to have on-going adult health and social care needs. The service also aimed to support the parent's/carer's own transition in their supporting role.

Full details of the role and function of the Team together with the proposed staffing structure and associated financial arrangements were provided in the report.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

- (i) The creation of a new Transitions – Preparing for Adulthood Team within the People Department;**
- (ii) The establishment of a new Team Manager post (Grade K) and two full time equivalent post of Community Assessment Officer; and**
- (iii) The transfer of three full time equivalent Social Work posts, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted.**

18. REVIEW OF SCHOOLS FINANCE UNIT – POST CONSULTATION REPORT

Further to Minute 6 of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet Member held on 8th July, 2019, the Director of People submitted a report which set out the results of the consultation on proposals to review the Schools Finance Unit within People Services to take into account a reduction in funding from 2019 onwards and sought approval to implement the final proposals.

Following the formal consultation process, the report addressed the key issues arising therefrom and put forward the final, revised proposals for approval.

Full details of the consultation process with trades unions and staff and a summary of the key issues raised and the response from management were provided in Appendix 4 to the report.

The formal trades unions response was attached to the report at Appendix 3.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

- (i) The final proposals, having due regard to the consultation feedback and the Equality Impact Assessment, as detailed in the report now submitted; and**
- (ii) The delegation of the implementation of the new structure, including details of voluntary redundancy arrangements and consequential redundancy selection, to the Chief Executive and Director of People, subject to the approval of the Head of Paid Service.**

19. NORTH WEST SUPPORTED AND INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES – FLEXIBLE PURCHASING SYSTEM FOR PLACEMENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (16 – 18)

The Director of People submitted a report which sought approval for the preparation and procurement by the Council, on behalf of all North West participating authorities, of a North West Regional SaLLS Purchasing System, in consultation with Corporate Procurement, for the future purchasing of SaLLS placements from 1st December, 2019.

The report advised that the existing SaLLS Purchasing System had been in use since 2015 and was due to expire in March, 2020. Bolton Council had agreed to be the Lead Authority in for the procurement exercise to secure a new Purchasing System.

In this regard, the report outlined the proposed Procurement Process together with associated timescales and financial arrangements together with details of the governance and oversight of the Scheme.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

- (i) The preparation of a North West Regional SaLLS Purchasing System, in consultation with Bolton's Corporate Procurement, to be procured by Bolton Council on behalf of all 23 participating North West authorities, for the future purchasing of SaLLS placements from 1st December, 2019;**
- (ii) The participation of Bolton Council in the North West Purchasing System agreement for purchasing of SaLLS placements from the North West Regional SaLLS Purchasing System;**
- (iii) The delegation of authority to the Director/Deputy Director of People to award contracts; and**
- (iv) The authorisation of the Borough Solicitor to carry out any necessary legal formalities in this regard.**