

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, 26th APRIL, 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 Fletcher	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Hornby	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Wright	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson

Officers

Mr P. Rankin	- Deputy Director of Children's Services
Ms G. Whitehead	- Assistant Director of Children's Services – Inclusive Education and Learning
Ms T. Minshull	- Assistant Director of Children's Services - Commissioning
Ms L. Butcher	- Head of Finance
Mrs. S. Bailey	- Principal Democratic Services Officer

38. 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.

39. INFORMATION SYSTEM SUPPORT RESOURCE

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought approval for the establishment of a Senior Systems Support Officer Post on a fixed term basis for two years.

The post was required to assist in implementing beneficial changes to the system for monitoring the educational progress of children.

It was proposed to start implementation of the changes in May 2021 with a view to having the systems implemented over two years as a phased approach.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

The establishment of a Senior Systems Support Officer post on a fixed term basis for two years, as detailed in the report now submitted.

40. REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY MAILBOX ARRANGEMENTS

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought approval for the establishment of a 0.5 Grade E post within the Regional Adoption Agency to support the delivery of proposed revised arrangements for the adoption mailbox and post adoption contact.

The report advised that the Adoption Now Board had agreed that the Adoption Mailbox should be a dedicated service delivered from one centre at Adoption Now. Bringing this service together would enable a more efficient management of the function, modernise the service and reduce the risk of data breaches.

In this regard, the report outlined a proposal to establish a 0.5 post of Adoption Mailbox and Contact Co-ordinator at Grade E which would be fully funded by the six local authorities who made up the Adoption Now Board.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

The establishment of a 0.5 Grade E post in the Regional Adoption Agency to support the delivery of the adoption mailbox and post adoption contact arrangements, 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.

41. YOT, EXIT AND TYS 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 YOT, Exit and TYS Service to take into account a reduction in funding from 2019 onwards, and sought approval to implement the final proposals.

Appendix 3 to the report set out a summary of the key consultation issues raised and the response from management. These included issues raised via the unions at

weekly consultation meetings, as well as by individual staff members via emails, personal meetings and staff briefing sessions.

The formal trade union responses to the proposals were set out in full at Appendix 4 to the report.

The final proposals, having taken account of feedback received during consultation, did not include any significant changes.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

- (i) The final proposals, as detailed in the report now submitted, having due regard to the consultation feedback and the Equality Impact Assessment; and**
- (ii) Subject to the approval of the Head of Paid Service, 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 Children's Services.**

42. TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT PROJECT PROPOSAL

Further to Minute 46 of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services held on 9th March, 2020, the Director of Children's Services submitted a report which outlined proposals to engage additional specialist expertise and resources to deliver cost savings on the 2021/23 Children's Services Savings and Efficiency Programme in relation to the travel and transport budget.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

- (i) The Procurement of external expertise via a direct award to CPC Project Services LLP partnering with Edge Public Solutions Limited under the NHS SBS Consult 18 Framework Agreement (Lot 2 - Healthcare Service Business and Transformation) for the provision of additional specialist capacity to deliver the transport saving and efficiency target identified in**

**the report for a negotiated fee within an agreed budget, as detailed in the report now submitted; and
AUTHORISED -**

- (ii) The Director of Children's Services to negotiate and enter into an order for services with CPC Project Services LLP partnering with Edge Public Solutions Limited under the NHS SBS Consult 18 Framework Agreement (Lot 2); and**
- (iii) The Borough Solicitor to carry out any necessary legal formalities in this regard.**

43. VIRTUAL SCHOOL CONSULTATION REPORT

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which set out the results of consultation on proposals to restructure the Corporate Parenting and Looked After Supported Employment Team to a Virtual School Team in order to raise educational aspirations and narrow attainment and progress gaps to improve outcomes for Looked after Children and young people.

Appendix 4 to the report set out a summary of the key consultation issues raised and the response from management. These 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 trade union responses to the proposals were set out in full at Appendix 3 to the report.

The final proposals, having taken account of feedback received during consultation, did not include any significant changes.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

- (i) The final proposals, as detailed in the report now submitted, having due regard to the consultation feedback and the Equality Impact Assessment; and**
- (ii) Subject to the approval of the Head of Paid Service, 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 Children Services.