

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING**

A record of decisions made by the Executive Member with responsibility for Children's Services and Safeguarding on:-

**TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2011**

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

Councillor Peel	Executive Member for Children's Services and Safeguarding
Councillor Wild	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Radlett	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Ms. M. Asquith	Director of Children's Services
Mr J Livesey	Assistant Director Planning, Performance and Resources
Mr. D. Grogan	Assistant Director Building Schools for the Future
Mr. J. Daly	Assistant Director Staying Safe
Mr. T. Birch	Assistant Director, Enjoy and Achieve
Mr D. Smith	Policy Accountant, Children's Services
Mrs. V. Ridge	Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **1. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS**

The Director of Chief Executive's Department submitted a report which contained monitoring information related to decisions taken at the Executive Member's previous meetings.

**The Executive Member NOTED the progress on decisions previously taken.**

### **2. AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER UNIT**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought the Executive Member's approval to the de-commissioning of the resourced provision for secondary aged pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, currently based at Ladybridge High School, by 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2011.

By way of background, the report advised that in October, 2000, it was agreed that the Local Authority would establish secondary provision for pupils with 'high functioning' Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who required access to a more specialist setting and teaching staff than mainstream school could ordinarily provide. This provision was established at Ladybridge High School and the Local Authority currently delegated £123,927 per annum to the school to meet the needs of 10-12 pupils.

The Executive Member was informed that since 2000 the number of pupils with a diagnosis of ASD had risen from 92 pupils in mainstream schools to the current number of 244 and there were 141 pupils in mainstream schools with Speech, Language and Communication Needs some of whom had a diagnosis of Pervasive Developmental Disorder, which for educational purposes was treated as an ASD.

In view of the above, it was explained that the Headteacher of Ladybridge High School did not feel able to continue to make provision for this group of pupils who required more specialist provision and had asked the Local Authority to end the agreement with Ladybridge High School and to move the provision elsewhere. Furthermore, the Executive Member was advised that the circumstances of Ladybridge High School were different when it took on responsibility for the ASD Unit and it was probably no longer best placed to provide this specialist input for pupils with ASD. However, it was felt that there was still a need to provide specialist provision for high functioning ASD youngsters within the Borough.

**The Executive Member AGREED –**

- (i) To the de-commissioning of the resourced provision for secondary aged pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, currently based at Ladybridge High School, by 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2011; and
- (ii) That officers within the Local Authority explore other options and have alternative provision in place by September, 2012.

## **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.

### **3. BSF: ICT MANAGED SERVICE – CONTRACT MANAGEMENT**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought the Executive Member's approval to the establishment of a ICT Services Manager post.

The report stated that, as part of its commitment to the Building Schools for the Future Programme (BSF), the Council were obliged to enter into an ICT Managed Services Contract with the Blackburn with Darwen and Bolton Local Education Partnership. Although, the BSF Programme in Bolton had been stopped the Council and the schools involved were legally obliged to take the ICT Managed Service.

The report went on to explain the current position in relation to the delivery of the ICT Managed Services to schools through the Blackburn with Darwen and Bolton Local Education Partnership and the Executive Member was advised that discussions had been held with the schools and a commitment was given that a post would be created to act as an interface between the schools and the ICT service provider.

The immediate priority for the post holder would be to drive improvements in current service performance and support the schools in problem solving and maximising the return on the Council's and school's investment. A copy of the job description was appended to the report and the post would be offered as a re-deployment opportunity and would be available as a fixed term contract for four years, by which time a revised contract or service would be in place.

In terms of the financial implications, as part of the close down of the BSF budgets sufficient provision had made to cover the costs of the post.

The report would also be considered by the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity at her meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2011.

**The Executive Member NOTED –**

**(i) The position in relation to the delivery of the ICT Managed Services to schools through Blackburn with Darwen and Bolton Local Education Partnership; and AGREED –**

**(ii) Subject to the approval of the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity, the establishment of a ICT Services Manager post on a fixed term four year contract.**

#### **4. PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT REVIEW**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which set out the results of consultation on proposals to review the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) Service and sought the Executive Member's approval to implement the final proposals.

Details of the consultation process and the responses of consultees, including staff and Trades Unions were included in the report.

The amended final proposals taking into account the results of the consultation process were contained in Appendix 5 to the report.

The necessary Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken and was appended to the report.

The report would also be considered by the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity at her meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2011.

**The Executive Member AGREED subject to the approval of the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity, the final proposals as detailed in Appendix 5 to the report and AUTHORISED the Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services to implement the new structure and consequential recruitment and selection.**

## **5. PROPOSED RESTRUCTURE OF THE EARLY YEARS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TEAM**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which set out consultation proposals to restructure the Early Years Quality and Inclusion Team to include the functions of the Children's Centre teachers and quality of out of school care for 5-13s with effect from 2012-2013.

Following the budget resolution of the Executive on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 the report provided further detail on the restructure and increased functions of the Early Years Quality and Inclusion Team with effect from 2012-2013.

It was stated the proposals were for consultation only at this stage and following the close of consultation, the proposals would be amended to take account of the responses received and alternatives put forward as appropriate. It was anticipated that formal approval of the final proposals would be in August with implementation in September, 2011.

An initial equality impact assessment had been undertaken and was detailed in Appendix 7 to the report.

The report would also be considered by the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity at her meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2011.

**The Executive Member APPROVED the report for consultation purposes with relevant stakeholders, staff and the Trades Unions.**

## **6. CESSATION OF GRADUATE LEADER FUND**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which detailed the results of the consultation exercise for the proposed cessation of the Graduate Leader Fund to take into account a reduction in funding from 2011/2012 onwards and sought the Executive Member's approval for the implementation of the final proposals.

Details of the consultation process and the responses of consultees, including staff and Trade Unions were included in the report.

The final proposals taking into account the results of the consultation process were contained in Appendix 7 to the report.

The necessary Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken and was appended to the report.

**The Executive Member APPROVED the final proposals as detailed in Appendix 5 to the report.**