

THE CABINET

MEETING, 11TH MARCH, 2013

Councillor Morris	Executive Cabinet Member
Councillor Mrs Thomas	Executive Cabinet Member
Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member
Cabinet Members	
Councillor Adia	Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity
Councillor Bashir-Ismail	Public Health
Councillor M. Connell	Adults
Councillor D. Burrows	Community Safety and Police
Councillor Peacock	Sports, Libraries, Youth and Culture
Councillor Murray	Looked After Children ,Safeguarding and Early Years
Councillor Chadwick	Highways and Transport
Councillor Sherrington	Waste and Recycling
Councillor Zaman	Neighbourhood and Community Services

Other Members in Attendance

Councillor Francis
Councillor Greenhalgh
Councillor Ashcroft
Councillor Mrs Fairclough
Councillor Hayes

Officers

Mr. S. Harriss	Chief Executive
Ms. S. Johnson	Assistant Director
Ms. M. Asquith	Director of Children's and Adults Services
Mr. J. Livesey	Assistant Director
Mr. T. Birch	Assistant Director
Mr. J. Rowlands	Assistant Director
Ms. W. Meredith	Director of Public Health
Ms. S. Long	Chief Officer CCG
Mr. A. Jennings	Democratic Services Manager

Councillor Morris in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors J. Byrne, Jones, McKeon and Morgan.

79. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11th February, 2013 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

**80. MINUTES OF THE AGMA EXECUTIVE AND
COMBINED AUTHORITY – 22nd FEBRUARY, 2013**

The Chief Executive submitted a report that detailed the key decisions taken by the AGMA Executive Board and Combined Authority on 22ND February, 2013.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

81. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUPPORTED HOUSING INDEPENDENT REVIEW FINAL REPORT

Further to Minute 38 of the meeting held on 15th October, 2012 the Director of Children's and Adults Services submitted a report that outlined the progress made to date in implementing the recommendations which were set out in the Independent Report into Supported Housing.

The report was the final report to the Cabinet and focussed on the impact of the work carried out and the improved quality of the service being delivered.

A comprehensive programme of improvement work was put in place to be delivered over a 6 month period split into two phases:

- Phase 1 October-January/February - ensuring systems, processes, structures, culture and management changes were made to the current service to ensure it was 'fit for purpose' ; and
- Phase 2 December-March/April – development of a detailed vision for the service going forward both to ensure it was designed to meet a 21st century environment and to make a contribution to the Council's savings target for Adult Social Care.

Resolved – That the progress made in delivering the recommendations from the Independent Review be noted.

82. FAIRER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

The Director of Children's and Adults Services submitted a report that outlined the results of the consultation exercise regarding proposals to reduce the levels of subsidy within the Fairer Contributions Policy to take into account a reduction in Council funding from 2013 onwards and sought approval to implement the final proposals.

The proposal would result in reductions in the discretionary subsidies made by Bolton Council for community meals, community transport and day care services.

It was explained that making savings in these areas of discretionary expenditure effectively reduced the amount of savings that needed to be made in front line, statutory care services provided to vulnerable and elderly adults.

The financial saving resulting from the proposals set out in the report was estimated to be up to £200,000 over the 2013-15 period.

The table in the report showed the current and proposed level of charges and also the actual cost of service provision to the Council. The level to which the Council was subsidising each element of the charge was also shown.

Following the formal consultation period, the report addressed the key issues and set out proposals for approval by the Cabinet.

A full Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken in line with legislation and was considered by the Cabinet in its deliberations.

Resolved – (i) That the Cabinet agrees to implement its previous decision, deferred for 12 months, to increase the charge for a meal from £3.00 to £3.50 from 1st May, 2013.

(ii) That an increase in the charge for a meal from £3.50 to £4 from 1st April 2014 be approved.

(iii) That the charge for community transport be increased from £3 to £3.50 per round trip from 1st May ,2013.

(iv) That an increase in the charge for community transport from £3.50 to £4 per round trip from 1st April 2014 be approved.

(v) That an increase in the daily day care attendance charge from £10 to a maximum of £15 from 1st May , 2013 be approved.

(vi) That an increase in the daily day care attendance charge from £15 to a maximum of £20 from 1st April, 2014 be approved.

83. BOLTON PRU MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Ashcroft declared an interest in the matter being a member of the Youth Challenge PRU.

The Director of Children's and Adults Services submitted a report that sought approval for a revised Instrument of Government for a single Management Committee to govern the four Bolton Pupil Referral Units (Forwards Centre PRU, Park School PRU, Young Mums Unit PRU and Youth Challenge PRU).

The single Management Committee would replace the four existing Management Committees and a new Instrument of Government was required to reflect this change to commence from 1 April 2013.

The proposed revised constitution would maintain the proportions for each category of governor required by the Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Management Committees etc.) (England) Regulations 2007 i.e;

- 2 Parent members
- 2 Staff members
- 2 Authority members
- 7 Community members

Resolved - That the revised Instrument of Government (attached to the report) be approved and that the Borough Solicitor be authorised to seal the revised Instrument and that Councillors Bashir – Ismail and McKeon be appointed to the PRU Management Committee, subject to ratification by the Council.

84. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE REFORM

The Director of Public Health submitted a report that reminded members that Health and Social Care reform was one of the key components of public sector reform across Greater Manchester.

AGMA had considered a report that requested all GM District Executives, Cabinets, and Health and Well Being Boards to endorse a commitment to work locally with partners to provide a local perspective and context to the proposals.

It was explained that an important component of the reform was the reconfiguration of some hospital services that needed to be planned and delivered on a footprint larger than a local authority area. A public consultation – “Healthier Together” was currently planned for summer 2013. The formal consultation on proposals to reconfigure health services was the responsibility of the 12 Clinical Commissioning Groups in Greater Manchester, but the consultation would recognise the important context of new models of local services, including integrated care and primary care.

On the basis of the principles of reform listed in the report it was suggested that local implementation plans had the following elements;

- mechanisms to promote self-care and community support;

- plans delivering improved primary care access through, for example GM practices working more closely together;
- locally derived models of integrated services;
- such plans reflecting a degree of consistency across GM in relation to cross boundary working (for example engaging with NWS and cross boundary hospital discharge);
- an understanding of the potential impact on local hospital services of an anticipated reduction of avoidable admissions; and
- an appreciation of the changes to the range of service provided by the local hospital as a consequence of proposals to reconfigure some acute services across a planning footprint of Greater Manchester.

It was proposed that each local authority would work with partners to develop their Local Implementation Plan by summer 2013. This implementation plan would therefore be in development by the time of the commencement of the formal consultation on the configuration of some hospital services. It would be expected that the construction of local implementation plans would demonstrate participation from the local hospital trust.

All local authority and CCG areas in Greater Manchester would be in a position to be operating new models of integrated care (at least in shadow form) by April 2014, and be able to demonstrate a planned acceleration of development to a scale that could move resources around the system in support of new models of care.

Progress reports would be submitted to members via the Health PDG.

Resolved (i) That the approach endorsed by AGMA Leaders and the Bolton Health and Wellbeing Board be noted.

(ii) That the Cabinet agrees to work with partners, particularly the Bolton CCG and Royal Bolton Hospitals Trust, to develop a brief report on current progress in developing models of integrated health and social care.

(iii) That the development of the models of integrated care to provide a framework for the public consultation on the reconfiguration of some hospital services due in the summer 2013 be noted.

85. IMPLEMENTATION OF A LOCAL WELFARE PROVISION SCHEME

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report that sought approval for the implementation of a Local Welfare Provision Scheme in Bolton with effect from 1st April, 2013.

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 abolished the discretionary elements of the Social Fund, currently administered by the Department for Work and Pension (DWP) via their Job Centre Plus offices.

With effect from 1st April, 2013 Local Authorities would receive funding to provide local welfare provision to replace the provision currently provided by those discretionary elements of the Social fund, specifically Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants (CCG's).

The Government considered that the localisation of this provision would enable local authorities to provide a more holistic approach to financial support by utilising expertise both within the Council and through various partner organisations.

The DWP would be replacing interim payments and crisis loans, which were required due to realignment of benefit, with short term benefit advances. This meant that the Council's scheme would not be expected to deal with the change to Universal Credit being based on a four week in arrears payment cycle for new or existing benefit claims.

On this basis the purpose of a local welfare provision scheme in Bolton would be to assist vulnerable people in the Bolton community in meeting their needs for subsistence or financial support where they had a short term immediate need. Support

would also be provided where the customer required assistance to maintain their independence in the community.

It was recommended that, in order to ensure the money was awarded to those in the greatest need, an element of means testing would remain meaning that those customers who had sufficient income, savings or access to suitable credit would not be eligible.

A full Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken in line with legislation and was considered by the Cabinet in its deliberations. As the scheme evolved equality issues would continue to be addressed where appropriate.

With regard to LWP, Bolton Council would administer two different types of award to meet customer needs: a Local Emergency Support Award for those customers who required short term emergency financial support and a Local Community Support Award for those customers who needed financial support to maintain a home independently in the community.

The report indicated that the type of customers that were likely to require these type of awards were as follows:

- Families under exceptional pressure;
- Older people who may be at risk of harm;
- People fleeing domestic violence;
- Young people leaving care in exceptional circumstances where the Leaving Care Grant was insufficient;
- People moving out of institutional or residential care;
- Ex- offenders leaving prison or detention centres;
- Chronically or terminally ill people;
- People with learning disabilities;
- People with mental health issues;
- People moving from temporary homeless or hostel accommodation into mainstream housing; and
- Rough sleepers.

The report detailed the eligibility criteria and application process and it was proposed that, wherever possible, cash payments would be avoided, although it was accepted that there may be some circumstances when a small cash payment may be necessary, for example to cover travel costs. The applicant or their authorised representative would have the right to request a decision be reviewed.

The Council was expected to receive £214,909 in administrative annual funding and it was proposed that a new team consisting of 5 full-time staff would be required to deliver the service based on current demands. Both the team and the Manager responsible would be resourced from within the service, although funding would be required to backfill this resource. Second stage appeals would be managed within existing resources.

Consultation was underway with relevant partners and stakeholders and would feed into the Equality Impact Assessment as well as helping to inform any amendments to the scheme during 2013/14

Resolved – (i) That the proposed criteria for a Local Welfare Provision Scheme be approved.

(ii) That the proposed delivery methods for the goods, services and financial support outlined in this report be approved.

(iii) That the proposal to administer the scheme within the Council's Benefits Service, including the creation of 5 full time posts on 2 year fixed term contracts, be approved.

(iv) That approval be given for an exemption to normal procurement rules with regard to the provision of food packages via Storehouse.

86. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved - That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraphs 1 and 4 (staffing and labour relations matters) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act; 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.

87. PROPOSED PERSONAL ADVISORS AND EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM SERVICE REVIEW – POST CONSULTATION PROPOSALS

The Director of Adults and Children's Services submitted a report that set out the results of the consultation for the Personal Advisor and Early Intervention Teams following changes in legislation and to meet budget savings to take into account a reduction in funding from 2012/13 onwards and to seek approval from the Cabinet to implement the final proposals.

The report set out responses to the issues raised during the consultation process.

Following the formal consultation period, the report presented revised proposals for both the Personal Advisor and Early Intervention Teams, including savings from both staffing and non-staffing budgets.

A full Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken in line with legislation and was considered by the Cabinet in its deliberations.

Resolved – That the final proposals, as now detailed, be approved and that the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Leader, agrees to delegate implementation of the new structure, including details of voluntary redundancy arrangements and consequential redundancy selection, to the Chief Executive and the Director of Adults and Children's Services.