

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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

MONDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2009

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

Councillor Adia	Executive Member for Children's Services
Councillor Ashcroft	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Mrs Swarbrick	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Ms. M. Asquith	Director of Children's Services
Mr J. Livesey	Assistant Director, Performance Planning and Resources
Mr J. Daly	Assistant Director, Staying Safe
Ms J. Thompson	Assistant Director, Positive Contribution
Mr S. Fazal	Assistant Director, Access and Inclusion
Mr T. Birch	Assistant Director, School Effectiveness
Ms M. Appleton	Principal Development Officer
Mr D. Smith	Policy Accountant, Children's Services
Miss K. Treadwell	Democratic Services Officer

45. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which contained monitoring information related to decisions taken at the Executive Member's previous meetings.

The Executive Member for Children's Services NOTED the progress on decisions previously taken.

**46. CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO REVENUE
AND CAPITAL MONTH 6 MONITORING REPORT
2008/09**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which informed the Executive Member of the revenue and capital financial position for 2008/09 as at month 6.

The Executive Member NOTED the report.

**47. LEVER PARK SCHOOL – PROPOSALS TO CHANGE
CATEGORY TO FOUNDATION/TRUST**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which informed the Executive Member of the decision taken by Lever Park School Governing Body to adopt Trust Status.

The report advised that Lever Park School had notified the Authority that they had resolved to change the category of the school from community to a foundation school which would acquire a charitable trust. The Governing body would continue to have day to day control of the school and the school would operate within the same framework as a maintained school. The Local Authority would retain its powers of intervention if there were problems at the school.

The report advised that proposed members included Bolton Council, The friends of Lever Park, Savant Distribution Limited and Rathbones.

The report stated that the specific focus of the Trust would provide opportunities for young people with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties, to learn and re-engage with society. It would also enable them to make a positive contribution by developing the skills needed to achieve social and economic well-being.

The report advised that the land, including the playing fields and buildings would transfer to the Trust to be held on Trust for the purposes of the school. This would be automatic although the Local Authority had to complete a transfer document to formalise it in order that the registered title could be changed.

There would be restrictions on the land which meant that any steps by the Trust to dispose of the playing fields would need approval from the Secretary of State. There were also provisions to enable the Local Authority to object if the Trust wished to dispose of other land.

The report advised that the Local Authority would be involved by having a place on the Trust. The report stated that the preferred option would be for the individual to be a senior officer from Children's Services who would be able to play a strategic role in the development of the Trust and the school. This representative would also be able to challenge the school on behalf of Children's Services.

The Executive Member APPROVED –

(i) The process of the transfer of land at Lever Park School from the Local Authority to the Trust; and

(ii) The placing of a Local Authority representative on the Trust.

48. PARENTING STRATEGY – DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which outlined the progress made with regard to implementing the new national and local requirements around Parenting Support and requested the establishment of a Parenting Practitioner Post.

The report stated that the local audit had indicated that parent support services welcomed improved co-ordination and communication. There was a need for a clear strategic Parenting Lead at the universal delivery to drive forward the implementation and future evaluation of the strategy. The report stated that this would need to be met via the employment of a senior practitioner to deliver evidence based parenting programmes for young people considered to be at risk.

The report advised that the audit stated that a high percentage of respondents were not aware of the new National

Occupational Standards (NOS) for work with Parents and this was an area which required particular improvement in order to work towards developing the skills of staff and ensuring the quality of parent support provision across the Borough.

The report went on to state that Bolton had successfully bid for and been awarded two new contracts and funding which would help shape the delivery of the reshaped targeted youth support service.

The Executive Member NOTED -

(i) The report; and AGREED –

(ii) To the establishment of the post of a Parenting Practitioner subject to the Executive Member for Human Resources and Diversity.

49. CAF SUPPORT OFFICER

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which requested the establishment of a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Support Officer to provide practical support to all practitioners implementing Integrated Working processes including CAF and the Lead Professional in Bolton.

By way of background information, the report advised that the current establishment of six full time staff members had been realigned following the departure of three members of the project team and to reflect the changing demands of the project. The realigned team structure would comprise of the Integrated Working Implementation Manager, a Contact Point Local Implementation Co-ordinator, Two Project Support Officers, a Training Officer and a proposed CAF support Officer.

The CAF Support Officer would give guidance to all practitioners implementing the Integrated Working processes which would include the delivery of development activities to encourage a consistent approach and to improve the quality of the process.

The report advised that the post was currently being evaluated. However, it was expected that the savings already made within

the project team would be covered by this saving.

The Executive Member AGREED –

To the establishment of the post of a Parenting Practitioner subject to the Executive Member for Human Resources and Diversity.

50. BRINGING FORWARD CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN SCHOOLS

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which gave details of a proposal to bring forward capital investment in schools.

The report advised that the DCSF has asked local authorities if they wished to bring forward some capital school funding allocated for 2009-2010 and 2010- 2011. The aim of the grant was to fast track school building schemes in order to provide a stimulus to the local economy.

The report advised that the reprofiling of capital funding did not represent an increase in capital funding for the period of 2008-11 but did not allow investment to be brought forward into 2009-10.

The report stated that the DCSF had asked local authorities to review their plans for expenditure and identify schemes that might be undertaken early. The report went on to outline a number of potential schemes which met the required criteria.

The Executive Member AGREED-

(i) That a request be sent to the DCSF to bring forward £4.2 million of 2010-2011 school capital funding into 2009-10 through a combination of £1.2 million Locally Controlled Voluntary Aided Programme and £3 million Targeted Capital Fund for 14-19 year olds and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities; and NOTED –

(ii) That the proposal to bring forward £4.2 million of 2010-2011 school capital funding into 2009-10 does not

represent any new funding during the period 2008-2011 but does allow funding for 2010-11 to be brought forward into 2009-10.

51. REINVESTMENT OF FUNDING TO CREATE TWO PART-TIME SOCIAL WORKER POSTS WITHIN THE ADOPTION TEAM

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which proposed the ending of a contract with After Adoption and the reinvestment of the resulting funding to strengthen the adoption team by establishing two part-time social workers.

The report advised that the Adoption Support Services were currently delivered through After Adoption which was a local agency with whom Bolton currently had a Service Level Agreement and through a specialist adoption team which consisted of three qualified social workers.

The report advised that the Adoption Support Service within the authority was now well established and was run by two experienced workers. Over the past eighteen months good working practices had been established as required by the legislation and guidance in the Adoption and Children Act, 2002. In the light of this it was felt that the contract with After Adoption was no longer needed. It was also clear that the new work they had taken on had reduced.

Therefore it was proposed that the contract be ended with After Adoption on 31st March, 2009 and that the savings be reinvested in the employment of two part-time workers (one of which would be FTE) within the Adoption Team. These half time workers would absorb the increase in work generated by the termination of the contract and help in the assessment of adoptive parents.

The Executive Member APPROVED-

(i) The termination of a contract with After Adoption on 31st March, 2009; and AGREED-

(ii) To the establishment of two part-time social workers within the Adoption Team subject to the approval of the Executive Member for Human Resources and Diversity.

52. A GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR THE ORCHARDS ACCESS POINT BASED ON A TRANSFER OF CONTROL AGREEMENT (TOCA)

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which recommended that an appropriate governance structure for the Access Points at The Orchards be implemented and the adoption of a model based on a Transfer of Control Agreement be adopted.

By way of background information, the report advised that the Council had decided that one of its first Access Points would be at The Orchards within the Lower Orchards (Green Fold) site. The original school had been modified and extended to provide improved accommodation for the foundation stage children at The Orchards and, in addition, a Library, Children's Centre and Young People's Centre. Development work had been undertaken to devise a governance structure which met the needs of all these services.

The report stated that a working group consisting of representatives of all the services which would be located at The Orchards had been considering possible governance structures. Once the preferred model had been identified a small sub group of representatives of all the service providers, which included the School governors, had worked on the detail.

The proposed model was based on a Transfer Control Agreement (TOCA) which was a mechanism enabled by the School Standards and Framework Act, 1988. The TOCA approach would transfer control of those parts of the building to be occupied by the non-school services, as well as some external areas, to the Council as the body responsible for those services. The agreement would be between the schools' governing body and the Council. The Agreement would make provision for the Council to protect the school in the event of any of the non-school services vacating their part of the premises by underwriting the income that the school would have received.

The report stated that a Shared Use Agreement to cover the details of the operational arrangements, including the financial arrangements and a Working Together Agreement would set out the overall ethos and values and arrangements for information sharing and joint working.

The report advised that the Schools' Federated Governing Body agreed to support the principle of a governance structure based on a TOCA at its meeting on 9th July, 2008 and the Governing Body discussed and agreed the final draft on 24th November, 2008.

The Executive Member APPROVED-

(i) The use of a Transfer of Control Agreement (TOCA) as the basis of governance arrangements at The Orchards; and AUTHORISED –

(ii) The Director of Legal and Democratic Services to sign the agreement on behalf of the Council.