

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

MEETING, 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2008

Present – Councillors Adia (Chairman), Hornby (Vice-Chairman), P. Allen, Ashcroft, Mistry (as deputy for Councillor Mrs. Thomas), Mrs. Rothwell, Rushton, Sherrington (as deputy for Councillor Murray), Scowcroft, Mrs. Swarbrick and A. Wilkinson.

### Also in Attendance

Ms. M. Asquith	-	Director of Children's Services
Mr. J. Daly	-	Assistant Director Staying Safe
Mr. S. Fazal	-	Assistant Director Access and Inclusion
Ms. J. Thompson	-	Assistant Director Positive Contributions
Mr. T. Birch	-	Assistant Director School Effectiveness
Mrs. B. Newman	-	Policy Accountant
Mrs. V. Ridge	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillors Murray and Mrs. Thomas.

Councillor Adia in the Chair.

## **6. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

## **7. CHILDREN'S SERVICES STRATEGIC RESOURCE OPTIONS 2009/2010 TO 2011/2012**

A joint report of the Directors of Children's Services and Corporate Resources was submitted which set out the Strategic Resource Options for the Children's Services Department for 2009/2012.

The report reminded members that, the Executive at it's meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2008, agreed the following initial financial guidance for 2009/2010 and the following two years:-

- That services prepare budget options which identified savings of 5% for 2009/2010 and that, wherever possible, the savings should be from

efficiencies;

- That for the following two years, savings of at least 3% per annum were likely to be required, and that services take this into account in identifying options for 2009/2010; and
- That in terms of capital, services be requested to draw up proposals for the next three years based upon similar levels of capital funding to that which they received in 2008/2009.

In addition to the above, there was also an expectation that services would meet their own demand led growth.

Members were advised that the base budget for 2008/2009 was £37,429,000, after adjusting for some capital costs and recharges, and this figure was used to calculate the savings target. The savings target of 5% amounted to £1,870,000 and suggested options to meet this target were detailed in Appendix A to the report.

With regard to demand led growth, it was expected that services would have to meet their own growth and this was currently being quantified within the Department. It mainly related to staffing budgets, where increments formed an upwards pressure on budgets. However, these increased costs would be managed mainly by proactively managing vacancies and recruitment.

In terms of the future members were advised that based on the current financial guidance it was anticipated that savings in the order of 3% might be required in each of the following two years, which would equate to around £1,066,800 in 2010/2011 and a further £1,034,800 in 2011/2012. To achieve this the Department had identified several areas where work would be ongoing, which would enable savings in future years to be achieved. In particular, it had identified a series of Value for Money reviews which should lead to further savings in future years.

It was agreed that the report noted.

(The meeting started at 5.30 p.m. and finished at 5.45 p.m.)