

## **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, 11<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2022**

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

Councillor Galloway	- Executive Cabinet Member – Children's Services
Councillor McKeon	- Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor McGeown	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Sanders	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Wright	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Newall	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson

### **Officers**

Ms B. Brown	- Director of Children's Services
Ms G. Whitehead	- Assistant Director of Children's Services – Inclusive Education and Learning
Ms T. Minshull	- Assistant Director – Commissioning and Integration
Ms L. Butcher	- Head of Finance
Ms A. Hunt	- Senior Lawyer
Mrs S. Bailey	- Principal Democratic Services Officer

## **7. 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.**

## **8. INTEGRATED TRANSPORT UNIT ESTABLISHMENT**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought approval to recruit additional Passenger Assistants within the Integrated Transport Unit.

The report advised that Bolton Council's Integrated Transport Unit provided home to school transport for pupils with special education needs. Most pupils were transported to schools in Bolton on minibuses and those transported to schools outside of the Borough tended to be in smaller or individual taxis.

Most pupils required the assistance of a Passenger Assistant during the journey to support their needs and monitor their behaviour.

Over the last 12 months, there had been a rise in pupil numbers from 978 to 1058 which had also led to an increase in school routes. The Unit had relied on casual Passenger Assistants to temporarily support the increase in pupil numbers and routes however this did not provide a regular Assistant on each route and was not sustainable.

In this regard, the report sought approval to create 20 posts of Passenger Assistant. This would ensure service stability at the start of the new school year in September and provide sufficient staff to cover the increase in children and young people accessing the service and the increased number of routes.

Full details of the duties of the posts and associated hours and pay were provided in the report.

**The Executive Member APPROVED –**

**An increase in the establishment of the Integrated Transport Unit by the creation of 20 posts of Passenger Assistant (15 hour permanent), on the basis detailed in the report now submitted.**

**9. RECRUITMENT OF OPERATIONAL MANAGER –  
COMPLEX SAFEGUARDING AND YOUTH JUSTICE  
SERVICE**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which put forward a proposal for the creation of a new additional Operational Manager post within Bolton's Complex Safeguarding and Youth Justice Service.

The report summarised the feedback and recommendations following Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation inspection of the Youth Justice Service in April 2022 and the subsequent amalgamation of Youth Justice, Complex Safeguarding and Youth Crime Prevention Teams into one Service, the Complex Safeguarding and Youth Justice.

The Inspection had also identified that the current management team was significantly overstretched with the high level of performance being unsustainable.

In this regard, the report advised that the new post would enable current roles and responsibilities to be distributed across a wider management team and provide strategic lead for youth crime prevention and serious youth violence partnerships.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED -**

**The creation of an additional permanent Operational Manager within the Complex Safeguarding and Youth Justice Service, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted.**

## **10. CHILDREN'S SERVICES REFORM PROGRAMME**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which outlined the national policy changes for Children's Services together with proposals on how the changes would be resourced and managed including the creation of a Reform Manager Post.

The report advised that there had been a number of national policy changes announced since March, 2022 which would impact on Children's Services. A reform programme would be formulated to coordinate the response and to deliver the change required.

In this regard, it was proposed to create a post of Reform Programme Manager to lead the development, co-ordination and delivery of the programme.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –**

**The creation of a Children's Services Reform Manager post, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted.**