

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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

TUESDAY, 21ST AUGUST, 2007

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

Councillor Mrs Thomas	Executive Member for Children's Services
Councillor Byrne	Executive Member for Young People and Sport
Councillor A. Wilkinson	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Mrs Swarbrick	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Ms. M. Asquith	Director of Children's Services
Mrs C. Davies	Head of Finance
Miss K. Treadwell	Democratic Services Officer

23. DRAFT CHILDREN'S SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN 2008 -2011

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which outlined the Children's Services Strategic Plan for the next three years.

The report advised that the Strategic Plan was a component of the Council's Corporate Business Planning Process (CPBB) and was drafted to have corresponding aims and outcomes. The purpose of the Three Year Strategic Plan was to identify how Children's Services would:

- deliver the Council's priority themes within the Bolton Plan;
- respond to the corporate and departmental Big Issues Papers;

- deliver a set of strategic service priorities over the following three years; and
- ensure financial decisions were rooted in strategy by informing the Strategic Resource Option papers in November, 2007.

The Strategic Plan was appended to the report.

The Executive Member APPROVED –

(i) The Draft Children's Services Strategic Plan 2008-11, now submitted; and

(ii) That the Draft Children's Services Strategic Plan 2008-11 have further work undertaken over the next few months in preparation for the Strategic Resource Options Report in November, 2007.

24. CHILDREN'S SERVICES BIG ISSUES 2008-11

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which identified the big issues for the Children's Services Department for the next three years.

The report advised that it responded to the Corporate big issues approved by the Executive on 18th June, 2007 and also set out the issues specific to Children's Services

The report advised that some of the following positive opportunities were available to the Department to enhance over the next three years:

- commissioning;
- service remodelling;
- better use of knowledge and data;

- external funding through working with the voluntary sector;
- exploration of charging policies;
- integrated Youth Support Services; and
- new legislation and guidance.

The report also referred to the budget guidance which set savings targets for all services at 5%. The report outlined the most significant financial challenges facing the department as follows:

- underlying funding shortfall;
- savings targets;
- Pay and Grading Review;
- uncertain external or time limited funding streams;
- Building Schools for the Future;
- Information Technology requirements;
- cost of school meals;
- schools transport;
- increase in demand for foster care;
- pay allowance for foster carers;
- Early Years education;
- new Diplomas 14 - 19;
- adoption support; and

- implementation of care matters.

The Executive Member APPROVED –

- (i) The Children's Services Big Issues 2008-11 report, now detailed; and**
- (ii) That the Children's Services Big Issues 2008-11 have further work undertaken over the next few months in preparation for the Strategic Resource Options Report in November, 2007.**