

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 13 June 2013 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), D. Cargill, Harris, R. Hignett, Jones, Nelson, Philbin, J. Stockton, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Scott, M. Reaney, G. Cook, I. Leivesley, D. Parr, E. Dawson and W Rourke,

Also in attendance: Audrey Williamson, Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (for Minute EXB 18)

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

EXB16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2013 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB17 EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDS 2014-20

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the opportunities for funding under the new European Structural Funds Programme 2014-20.

The report provided Members with an overview of the European Structural Funds Programme (the Programme). It was noted that there were four thematic objectives within the Programme as well as other investment priorities. The Board was advised that Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) would be the principal delivery vehicle for the future of European Structural and Investment Funds (SIF). LEPs would lead on investment strategies for their local area and fulfil a 'Strategic Oversight' role.

Action

A number of priorities had been identified for the Liverpool City Region and the report detailed the priorities identified for Halton, resources and match funding requirements and the actions expected over the next couple of months.

RESOLVED: That the key priorities for Halton be approved for presentation to the Liverpool City Region LEP as part of the LEP Investment Strategy.

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO

EXB18 CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION STRATEGY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided an overview of national policy developments regarding Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Audrey Williamson, Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, was in attendance and addressed the Board on this item.

The Board was advised that published guidance stated that all Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), should assume that sexual exploitation occurred in their area unless there was clear evidence to the contrary. In addition, LSCBs should consider sexual exploitation in fulfilling all of their functions as set out in Chapter 3 of the document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'.

Members were advised that in 2011, a number of reports were published, which attempted to gauge the level of CSE nationally. The Coalition Government had identified CSE as a key focus of its policy with regards to children and young people. In November 2011, it published the 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan', which identified seven actions which would be the responsibility of LSCBs.

A Pan-Cheshire CSE and Missing from Home Strategic Group had been established. A Strategy and Protocol with each LSCB had also been approved. It was noted that the Strategy had been approved as a joint Cheshire and Merseyside strategy with the exception of Cheshire East. In addition, a Pan Cheshire Action Plan, which reflected the areas that would be addressed under the Government's 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan', had been produced. A Sub Group had completed a number of objectives from the Action Plan and focussed on:

- Developing ways of collating and sharing

information on CSE in Halton;

- Planning awareness raising sessions for pupils from Year 8 onwards across Halton's High Schools; and
- Ensuring training at the appropriate level, and awareness raising materials available to frontline staff.

Ms Williamson was thanked for her attendance and for the work of the LSCB.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB19 HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK EXPERIENCE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the provision of work experience for unemployed residents with the Borough Council.

The Board was advised that the Halton Employment Partnership (HEP) worked closely with the Halton People in Jobs team to match suitable clients to job vacancies or work experience opportunities. Since November 2012, the HEP team had sourced a number of work placements and supported 49 clients into placements. Details of the type of support for clients on placements was contained in the report.

The Board was advised that a placement would enable an unemployed person to gain real life work experience in a structured environment which in turn helped to build their confidence, with the added benefit of clients being able to add details of this experience to their CV. It was reported that some departments across the Council had offered work experience placements and graduate internships in the past. Further details of this and of the outcome for individuals involved, were provided in the report.

It was noted that, as part of the Borough's People's Plan, the Council had developed a Volunteering Strategy, which set out the Council's commitment to supporting volunteering opportunities within the Council. It was considered that work experience opportunities for local unemployed job seekers would fit with this Strategy.

RESOLVED: That the provision of work experience for unemployed Halton residents with the Council be supported.

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

CALL IN

MINUTES ISSUED: 14 June 2013

CALL-IN: 21 June 2013

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 21 June 2013

Meeting ended at 2.20 p.m.