

APPENDIX 1

Extracts of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Children, Young People and Family's Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2013

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.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 27 JUNE 2013

EXB22 – PRIORITY SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the Priority School Building Programme.

In July 2011, the Department of Education (DfE) announced that it was commencing the privately financed Priority School Building Programme to address those schools in the worst building condition. To be considered for inclusion in the programme, the local authority and maintained schools must have agreed to be part of a long term private finance agreement.

The Board was advised that Halebank CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School was included in the list of schools in the North West Group, to be taken forward as part of a single development package. The authority was required to submit an Outline Business Case to the Treasury for consideration over the Summer. However, prior to that the local authority was required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, which authorised the Secretary of State to manage the school's progression through the procurement project.

It was noted that the Memorandum of Understanding aimed to establish the respective obligations and commitments during the term of the Project Agreement. In addition, the Council, as landowner of the playing field site, would also need to enter into a Landowner Agreement, to allow the Secretary of State and the appointed contractor access rights to construct the new school building.

Reason(s) for Decision

To enable the re-build of the school to progress as part of the DfE's Priority School Building Programme.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The authority did not have other capital funding to enable the re-build of the school.

Implementation Date

Building works were likely to commence in 2015.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the current position of the Priority School Building Programme in respect of Halebank CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School and the progression of the scheme be noted;
- 2) the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, in consultation with the Portfolio holder, enter into the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement, with all documentation to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services; and the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, in consultation with the Portfolio holder, finalise the Landowner Agreement with all documentation to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services.

EXB23 – AMALGAMATION OF PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS – CONSULTATION FEEDBACK - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided consultation feedback on the proposed amalgamation of Pupil Referral Units at The Bridge School and Key Stage 4 Gateway.

The Board was reminded that, at its meeting on 28 March 2013, it was agreed that a consultation would be undertaken to amalgamate The Bridge School Pupil Referral Unit and Key Stage 4 Gateway Pupil Referral Unit by bringing existing Key Stage 4 staff and provision under the leadership of The Bridge School.

Consultation commenced on 15 April 2013 and 34 responses were received. A breakdown of the respondents was provided in the report with a full record of the comments received attached at Appendix A. It was noted that a total of 23 respondents agreed with the proposal to amalgamate. The report provided a detailed explanation of the issues raised by those that did not support the proposal for Members' consideration.

Reason(s) for Decision

The implications of the School Funding reform on PRUs and the current vacancies at the Key Stage 4 Gateway provided an opportunity to achieve greater consistency and better value for money by amalgamating both PRUs.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Maintaining two PRUs but putting in place one leadership structure across both PRUs – this was rejected as whilst remaining as two PRUs, there were limited

cost efficiencies to be achieved, e.g. each PRU would have to purchase their own Service Level Agreements.

Implementation Date

1 September 2013.

RESOLVED: That the Board approve the amalgamation of The Bridge School and Key Stage 4 Gateway by:

- 1) extending the age range of The Bridge School from accepting 11-14 year olds to accepting 11 -16 year olds from 1 September 2013;
- 2) bringing existing Key Stage 4 Gateway staff, pupils and provision under the leadership of The Bridge School with effect from 1 September 2013; and
- 3) ceasing the Key Stage 4 Gateway Pupil Referral Unit as a distinct unit from 31 August 2013.

EXB25 – CAPITAL – BASIC NEED – KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which outlined the methodology used to prioritise the schools for the Basic Need funding for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

The Board was advised that, Basic Need funding was allocated to local authorities in recognition of the significant pressures faced in providing additional school places. For Halton, the Basic Need funding for 2013/14 would be £1,203,445. The model which Halton used to allocate Basic Need funding in previous years had been applied again for 2013/14 and 2014/15, and identified those schools with the strongest case for support.

The report contained a more detailed explanation of those schools which had been considered as being the highest priority. Birth data was also analysed for 2014 and 2015 and compared against the Pupil Number Capacity. It was noted that the forecast data indicated that there was sufficient capacity for pupils entering the schools in Runcorn and Widnes at Reception age. However, Beechwood Primary School was identified as being in need of Basic Need support as it was operating above capacity overall with four year groups oversubscribed.

Reason(s) for Decision

To deliver and implement the Basic Need Capital Programme.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable.

Implementation Date

Works at Beechwood Primary School to commence as soon as possible, in order for the school to increase their planned admission number.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) agree the prioritisation process outlined within the report;
- 2) agree that a capital project be developed to address a Basic Need issue at Beechwood Primary School; and
- 3) a further report be submitted to Executive Board, detailing how the balance Basic Need funding for 2013/14 and 2014/15 will be allocated.

EXB26 – OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION ON EXTENDING THE AGE RANGE OF FAIRFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL AND CLOSURE OF FAIRFIELD INFANT SCHOOL – KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided a summary of the outcome of the first phase of consultation on the re-organisation of Fairfield Infant School and Fairfield Junior School.

The Board was reminded that, at its meeting on 28 March 2013, it had approved the commencement of consultation on the proposal to expand Fairfield Junior School from 1 January 2014. The first phase of consultation closed on 29 May 2013. It was noted that both Governing Bodies supported the proposal with 52 of the 74 other respondents being in favour of the proposed amalgamated school. A summary of the responses was attached at Appendix C.

The next stage was to proceed to statutory consultation in September 2013, which would seek views on:

- Changing the age range of Fairfield Junior School to age 4-11 to become an 'all through' primary school from 1 January 2014;
- The Published Admission Number to remain at 80 per year group;
- Fairfield Infant School to be discontinued from 31 December 2013; and
- All the pupils in the Junior and Infant School become part of the 'all through' Primary School.

Reason(s) for Decision

The Headteacher of the Junior School had acted as Executive Headteacher of the Infants and Junior School since September 2012. During this time, the Infant School had been graded as 'Good' by Ofsted. Combining both schools to an "all through" primary, would allow a more coherent and consistent approach to provision at Fairfield Infants and Juniors, and ensure that there was a smooth transition from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

No change to the current provision was considered, however this was rejected as it did not provide the same opportunities for curriculum continuity and development, flexibility for staffing and resources and allow seamless transition across the key stages.

Implementation Date

The next phase of the consultation was scheduled to commence on 4 September 2013 for six weeks.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the responses on the first phase of consultation be noted; and
- 2) commencement of statutory consultation be approved.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 11 JULY 2013

EXB37 – SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL TRAVEL POLICY 2013/14 – KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the review of the Sustainable School Travel Policy 2013.

The Board was reminded that the Education and Inspections Act 2006 placed a general duty on local authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel transport. The Travel Policy, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, drew together the four required elements which were detailed in the report and which supported the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan, ensuring Halton fulfilled its statutory requirement.

The Board was advised that the Local Authority was required to provide assistance with transport to those pupils defined within the Education Act 1996 and the Education Inspections Act 2006. It was noted that there were no proposed changes to the eligibility criteria from the current Policy and that the Travel Policy was aligned to the Council's School Admissions Policy. In addition,

Guidance issued in March 2013 by the Department for Education suggested a model appeals process. This had been included within Halton's revised Policy.

Reason(s) for Decision

The decision was required to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

September 2013 and reviewed annually.

RESOLVED: That the Sustainable School Travel Policy 2013 be approved for implementation in September 2013.

EXB38 – CARE LEAVERS CHARTER / REPORT – KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the Care Leavers Charter and the Care Leavers Transition Grant.

The Board was advised that in November 2012, the Government published the Care Leavers Charter, and each local authority was asked to sign up to the Charter and to discuss with their Children in Care Councils what needed to be done to embed its principles in day to day practice. The Charter, attached at Appendix 1, contained some additional statements which had been which reflected the position in Halton, and which were identified following consultation.

The Board noted that all social work teams and senior management within the Council would be asked to sign up to the Charter. In addition, Elected Members would be made aware of it and Partner agencies would also be asked to sign up to it in their role as Corporate Parents through the Children in Care Partnership Board.

Reason(s) for Decision

To ensure compliance with Government guidance and a fair and equal approach to the needs of Halton's care leavers.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Government guidance could be rejected but would be difficult to argue against and such action would disadvantage Halton's care leavers.

Implementation Date

1 April 2013.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Executive Board endorse and support the Halton Care Leavers Charter; and
 - 2) the Care Leavers Transition Grant be increased to £2,000 with effect from 1 April 2013.
- 1) and key dates for the consultation process be noted.