

Extract of Executive Board Minutes relevant to the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 14 JUNE 2018

EXB3	ADULT SOCIAL CARE FUNDING – IMPROVED BETTER CARE FUND (IBCF) ALLOCATION 2018/19
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The Board considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Services on Adult Social Care Funding allocation 2018/19.

In the Spring 2017 budget, the Chancellor announced an additional £2 billion of new funding for Councils in England, over a three year period to spend on adult social care services. This was recognised as an important step towards closing the gap in Government funding for adult social care ahead of the expected publication of the Green paper on future sustainability of the sector.

The report set out details of the proposed allocations for Board approval, many of which commenced in 2017/18 and were expected to continue into 2018/19. It was reported that due to the short term nature of this additional funding, the schemes would be kept under review in respect of the outcomes and financial impact achieved.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the contents of the report and approves the allocations as outlined in the report.

EXB4	HALTON'S SUPPORTED HOUSING NETWORK SPECIALIST SUPPORT TEAM
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on proposals to establish a specialist team within the Halton Supported Housing Network Support Team.

It was reported that the proposed specialist team of six staff would be based at the new emergency flats at Bredon and in the community as a whole. The new service option at Bredon flats had been established and built in response to two key demands; the need to find immediate accommodation when care packages had broken down; and the effective and safe care for service users engaged in behaviour that challenged services. The Board was advised that an emergency staff support team would enhance the models of support already provided. This would have positive implications for some of Halton's most vulnerable service users and was key to Halton's strategic commitment to the Transforming Care Agenda.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board support the establishment of a specialist team within the existing Supporting Housing Network Service, as detailed within the report.

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which provided an update on Schools Capital Funding.

The report set out details of funding received via the Healthy Pupil Capital Fund (HPCF); additional capital works requirements for the remodelling of Ashley School and Simms Cross School; and Social, Emotional and Mental Health Resource Bases at Beechwood Primary School and at Halton Lodge Primary School.

It was reported that the HPCF funding for 2018/19 was a result of revenue generated from the Soft Drinks Industry Levy, with Halton's allocation being £70,362. The funding – allocated for one year only - was to be used for improving the physical and mental health of children and young people. It was reported that the funding would be distributed equally to Halton's Community and Voluntary Controlled Nursery, Primary and Special Schools.

The additional capital work requirements at Ashley and Simms Cross Schools would allow for internal remodelling for an enhanced learning/school environment at each school. An element of the capital works had been approved by the Board at its meeting on 18 January 2018.

Special Provision Capital Funding had been announced by the Department for Education for local authorities to invest in provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. It was noted that Halton's allocation over a three year period would be £500,000. It was recommended that two specific resource bases be accommodated at Beechwood Primary School and Halton Lodge Primary School, with additional accommodation to be built specifically to support children in Foundation and Key Stage 1.

Reason(s) for Decision

To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable.

Implementation Date

The works at Simms Cross School and Ashley School needed to be completed by September 2018. It was anticipated that the works at Beechwood and Halton Lodge Primary Schools would be completed in time for the 2019/20 academic year.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Healthy Pupil Capital Fund (HPCF) and application procedure for 2018/19 be noted;

- 2) the proposals for capital works at Ashley School and Simms Cross Primary School, funded from the Basic Need Capital Funding, be approved; and
- 3) the proposals regarding the provision of Social, Emotional and Mental Health Resource Bases at Beechwood Primary School and Halton Lodge Primary School, together with the publishing of statutory notices, be approved.

EXB6	HIGH NEEDS UPDATE – KEY DECISION
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The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, People, which provided an update on the available High Needs funding for 2018/19, and which also set out a range of proposed budget reductions for 2018/19. The report also sought permission to consult partners on new guidance which set out support for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The Board was advised that Halton faced a significant budget deficit of over £2.1m in its High Needs Budget in 2018/19. The Board had previously agreed a range of budget reductions at its meeting on 18 April 2018, however, a shortfall remained. The report set out proposals to address the funding gap.

It was reported that final figures for 2018/19 indicated there would be a small amount of reserves (£153,754), and it was intended that this would be used to fund the gap in High Needs and support discretionary support for schools. However, the Education and Skills Funding Agency had over allocated the High Needs block, and would therefore look to recoup this funding.

The current arrangements for supporting pupils with SEND had been reviewed and Guidance on Supporting Pupils, attached to the report at Appendix A, had been developed. The document set out the roles and responsibilities of different partners and the criteria for applying for discretionary support – previously known as Enhanced Provision. It was proposed that the budget for top up funding be delegated to a panel of Head teachers or senior school staff from the Primary and Secondary sectors, with local authority Officers attending in an advisory capacity.

Reason(s) for Decision

The increased demand for support for pupils with special educational needs, the level of complexity of some pupils and reduced flexibility to transfer money between the different funding blocks leading to a budget deficit.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

To cease enhanced provision funding.

Implementation Date

1 September 2018.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board note the changes to the allocations in the High Needs Budgets, as set out in Paragraph 3.2 of the report, as a result of changes to funding made available by Central Government; and
- 2) approval is given to consult schools, parent and carer representatives on the Guidance for Supporting Pupils with SEND, to ensure additional support is determined by a Headteacher Panel and based on the specific needs of individual children.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19 JULY 2018

EXB17	CARE HOME PROVISION – BELVEDERE DEVELOPMENT
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which sought approval to develop Belvedere as a care home for older people.

The current availability of care homes in Halton was limited, and the recent closure of Cartref Care Home had placed additional pressure on the system. It was reported that the Local Authority were working closely with key stakeholders to secure the future sustainability of the sector. To prevent closure, two care homes in the Borough had recently been purchased but it was still necessary to increase available capacity within the market.

Members were advised that Belvedere, located in Runcorn and in Council ownership, had previously been used as accommodation for homeless people and had been empty for four years. Substantial refurbishment would be required to adapt it for such use and work was underway to establish the full extent of the renovation required.

It was further noted that other options to increase capacity were at an early stage and this included the former care home at Lilycross. The work would be undertaken in collaboration with partners in the social care and health sectors.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Director of Adult Social Services develop a costed proposal for the development of Belvedere; and
- 2) a further report be brought back to Executive Board, setting out other potential options to increase capacity within this sector and associated partnership agreements and models of delivery, for approval.

EXB18	LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LSCB) ARRANGEMENTS
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which highlighted the key changes to Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB).

The Board was advised that legislative changes, introduced through the Children and Social Work Act 2017, made a number of recommendations that would enable a revised framework to be developed locally and sub-regionally. However, it was noted that it was no longer a statutory requirement for the LSCB to exist.

The report set out a proposal for future arrangements built on existing pan-Cheshire arrangements, which included Halton, Cheshire East and Warrington. In addition, the report also made recommendations for the scrutiny of safeguarding practice in Warrington to be strengthened.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) in principle, work continues across the four areas to develop a model which enhances the current Pan-Cheshire approach to safeguarding children;
- 2) these developments are considered within a framework of strategy, policy and practice;
- 3) each area uses these themes to ensure that robust arrangements remain in place to quality assure and scrutinise strategy, policy and practice at local level;
- 4) building on initial discussions, partners develop a clear operating model for monitoring future safeguarding arrangements, which includes governance, financial arrangements and sub-groups, including the Child Death Overview Panel, both local and Pan-Cheshire level;
- 5) existing funding arrangements remain in place for an agreed minimum period (2020/2021), whilst funding is reviewed, recognising that this would require the agreement of all existing funding partners across current LSCB arrangements; and
- 6) Executive Board receive an update report with firm recommendations in December 2018 following this period of consultation at local and sub-regional levels.

EXB19	EVERYONE EARLY HELP STRATEGY 2018-2021
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The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, People, which presented the new Everyone Early Help Strategy (the Strategy) which combined services for children, adults and public health.

Members were advised that this transformation in thinking was about undertaking a whole system review of the approach to Early Help and Prevention, with a focus on increasing the resilience of communities and their potential to help themselves. This would be supported by a planned prioritisation of resources, integration, collaboration and understanding the benefits that Early Help could have on a wide range of longer term outcomes for everyone involved.

The report detailed Halton's approach and long-standing commitment to Early Help and Prevention across all agencies and strategic partners. It was reported that within the Strategy were five key aims and three priorities, where all agencies would need to work towards helping embed Early Help principles. These principles were noted as being:-

- The right early help in the right place, at the right time;
- Ensuring a whole system approach to early help with strong partnership working; and
- Empowering local people and communities to build capacity and resilience, to enable people and communities to do more for themselves.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the comments on the Strategy content be noted; and
- 2) the Board supports the implementation of the Strategy.