

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Extract of Executive Board and Executive Board Sub Committee Minutes Relevant to the Children and Young People's Policy and Performance Board**

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

##### **28. BSF OUTLINE BUSINESS PLAN**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which provided a summary of the peer assessment undertaken on the BSF Outline Business Case (OBC), the outcome of the assessment.

The Board was advised that the assessment praised Halton for the level of stakeholder engagement in the process, the quality on the BSF Outline Business Case, and responsiveness of the Council to any queries and clarifications they had raised. They confirmed their approval of Halton's Outline Business Case subject to the following three technical conditions:

- HM Treasury approval;
- Confirmation by The Council Executive Board of the Council's commitment to post LEP costs; and,
- The approval of the statutory consultation on the "Grange Schools" (Nursery, Infant, Junior and Comprehensive) before the end of September 2009.

The Board was further advised that HM Treasury approval had subsequently been confirmed. On 24 September 2009, the Executive Board would be asked to make a decision on the outcome of the statutory consultation to close The Grange Nursery, Infant and Junior Schools; change the age range of The Grange Comprehensive from 3-16 years (offering 0-16 provision with support from the day care service) and enlarging the school so that it becomes The Grange School.

In addition, approval was sought to confirm the Local Education Partnership (LEP) funding post, thus ensuring all the conditions set by the MRA meeting as listed in 3.4 of the report had been met.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the requirements of the Outline Business Case as set

out in the report be approved;

- (2) the Council continues to monitor BSF programme costs closely, making agreed funding available to ensure the effective delivery of the Programme within the expected timescales; and
- (3) Following the establishment of the Local Education Partnership (LEP) the internal project costs estimated at £300,000 will continue to be committed by the Council during both construction and post construction phase to ensure contract monitoring and support functions can be maintained.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

### **38. SECONDARY RE-ORGANISATION - RUNCORN - KEY DECISION**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People, which provided a response to the statutory consultation to close The Grange Nursery, Infant and Junior School, change the age range of The Grange Comprehensive School and enlarge the school from 1050 to 1445 pupils. An outline of the decision-making process was also included in the report. In addition, it provided a summary of the response to the pre-statutory consultation to expand The Heath Specialist Technology College and provided an outline of the next stage in the procedure.

It was noted that at the Executive Board meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 it was agreed that statutory consultation could be undertaken to discontinue The Grange Nursery, Infant and Junior Schools; expand the age range of The Grange Comprehensive and enlarge the school to establish an "All Through School".

The Board was advised that the statutory proposal was published on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Letters were sent to all parents and provided for staff and governors. These letters contained a copy of the statutory proposals and included a feedback form and contact details. They were also provided the date, time and venue of consultation meetings. In addition, the public meeting was advertised in the local press and posters were displayed at the four schools, plus other secondary schools, Children's Centres, Community Centres, Direct Links and the libraries. The consultation details were also included in the circular which was distributed to all schools and Children's Services settings. A copy of the statutory notice was appended to the report.

It was noted that a Governors meeting was held on the consultation on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 and the staff meeting and public consultation meeting at The Grange Comprehensive School on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009. The staff meeting was well attended and a copy of the presentation used was placed on the website, along

with the questions raised. Those people wishing to respond to the consultation were advised to put their views in writing. A total of 20 responses had been received in response to the consultation. The responses had all been from staff, parents and governors. There had been no objections to the proposals. All those who had responded had supported the proposal.

It was further noted that at the same meeting of the Executive Board on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 that pre-statutory consultation could be taken on the proposal to expand The Heath Specialist Technology College. The consultation commenced on the proposal on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009 similar to that of the Grange. The proposed expansion was discussed at the Governors meeting where it was supported. There were a total of three responses received to the consultation, these responses were all in support of the proposal to expand the College.

The Board was advised that the decision-maker (Executive Board) must decide on the proposal within two months of the end of the representation period otherwise the decision must be referred to the Adjudicator for a decision. If referred to the Adjudicator the proposals and any representations must be forwarded to the Adjudicator within one week of the end of the two month representation period along with any representations received and not withdrawn. The report set out what choices the decision-maker could take and it was noted that conditional approval could only be granted in a limited number of circumstances.

It was noted that the statutory consultation be undertaken in Autumn 2009 with the proposal to expand The Heath Specialist Technology College. Following completion of the statutory consultation a further report would be provided to the Executive Board for consideration.

#### **REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

To provide more choice and diversity and retain pupils within the Borough.

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

N/A

#### **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

A decision will be required by Executive Board prior to 24th September 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Proposals having been published in pursuance of the powers set out in sections 15(1) and 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and having had regard to the statutory guidance and to responses to the consultation it is RESOLVED that the following related proposals be approved:-
  - (a) with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010, The Grange Nursery School, The Grange Infants School and The Grange Junior School be discontinued;
  - (b) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 the age range of The Grange Comprehensive School be changed from 11 -16 years to 3 – 16 years; and
  - (c) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 The Grange Comprehensive School be enlarged from 1050 pupils to 1445 pupils and become known as The Grange School; and
- (2) statutory consultation be undertaken to expand The Heath Specialist Technology College from 1050 (210 per year group) in 2009 to 1200 in 2011 (240 per year group) to 1350 (270) in 2013.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2009**

### **67. PROVISION OF YOUTH WORK TARGETED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES IN HALTON - KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People on the provision of youth work and targeted youth support services in Halton.

The Borough Council's Youth Service had been delivered by the Greater Manchester Connexions Partnership since 2002/03. Since then a number of new pieces of legislation and guidance had been produced and in December 2008, Executive Board approved proposals for the future commissioning of the Youth Service.

As the contract was in excess of £1million, a stringent tendering process had been undertaken as defined by EU Procurement regulations. The report gave details of the specification. Members were advised that a comprehensive and effective Youth Service would be an important aspect to ensure the Council could make a real difference to young people across the range of indicators, as described in the National Indicator Set for Children's Services and Local Authorities PSA 14.

In carrying out the selection process, the views and wishes of young people had been represented; a panel of young people were able to challenge and question providers as part of the interview process.

Reason(s) for Decision:

To comply with recommendations as contained in Youth Matters and Youth Matters Next Steps.

To continue to address specific issues for young people in Halton such as to increase the numbers of young people who were engaged in education, employment or training and to reduce the numbers of under 18 conceptions.

The service would also ensure young people in Halton received services and support that encouraged and promoted their self esteem and self confidence and provided them with the skills, knowledge, choices and opportunities that would help them in making the tricky transition into adulthood and to become the future Halton needed as it moved further into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None

Implementation Date:

1 February 2010

RESOLVED: That Executive Board appoint Action For Children as the approved supplier of Youth Work and Targeted Youth Support Services in Halton.

**73. PILOT DELIVERY OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICES FROM WARRINGTON ROAD CHILDREN'S CENTRE - KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People, on the Pilot Health Visiting Service Partnership Project at Warrington Road Children's Centre.

The Board was advised that the DCSF Children's Trusts guidance (2008) required Local Partners, through inter-agency arrangements, to integrate frontline delivery organised around the child, young person and family, rather than professional boundaries.

The proposed Pilot Project, which would be overseen by the Halton Children's Trust (PCT's), would meet five of the essential elements of

Children's Trust arrangements; these were outlined in the report. The project would involve a re-design of the Primary Care Trust's Halton Health Visiting Service to provide a new geographical approach to service delivery; this would be based at Warrington Road Children's Centre.

A Pilot Project Steering Group would be established to agree principal areas of partnership working, and subject to approval, would commence work between January and March 2010. If successful, the PCT would consider rolling out the Health Visiting Service in this format across the Borough.

#### Reasons for Decision

- The project had the potential to influence the development of integrated services in Halton that offered support and early intervention for families;
- The PCT's aspiration for the future delivery of Universal Health Services was across a children's centre footprint; and
- The proposed pilot would test out how this way of working in Halton could be rolled out.

#### Alternative Options considered and Rejected:

The alternative would mean that the Authority remained working as separate organisations. Given the need to constantly improve efficiency and the safety of children, this needed to change.

#### Implementation Date:

January to March 2010.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Pilot Health Visiting Project at Warrington Road Children's Centre be supported.

*(NB: Councillor Swain declared a Personal Interest in the following item due to being a Governor of Halton High School and remained in the meeting during consideration of the item.)*

#### **74. SCHOOL ORGANISATION - CONSULTATION ON THE CLOSURE OF HALTON HIGH - KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director Children and Young People, on the consultation arrangements on the proposed closure of Halton High School on 31 August 2010.

The Board was advised that, during consultation on future secondary provision, it had been agreed that Halton High School would be developed as an Academy. This meant that the school would need to be discontinued and the school organisation process completed so that the Funding Agreement could be signed off in February 2010.

The Board was further advised that the consultation had commenced on 5 November 2009 and closed on Monday 30 November 2009. The consultation proposal had been widely advertised with details sent to parents of pupils at Halton High, a range of other stakeholders including trade unions, and Halton Schools. Copies of the proposal were also placed in the local Children's Centres and the library and the meetings had been advertised in the local press, placed on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) website and on the electronic children and young people's circular.

In addition four consultation events had been held in Halton High School on 12 November 2009 for staff, governors and the public. A further consultation event had been held at Castlefield's Community Centre on 4 November 2009.

It was reported that the notes of the meetings had been placed on the website and a copy had been provided to the school and the sponsor for their information.

In conclusion, it was highlighted that the proposal had been well received and there had been no opposition. In addition, the Authority received four feedback forms supporting the proposal, one of which was from the Chair of Governors of Halton High School.

##### Reasons for Decision

To provide more choice and diversity and retain pupils within the Borough.

##### Alternative Options considered and Rejected:

Not applicable.

##### Implementation Date:

The decision needed to be made on 3 December 2009 so that statutory consultation could commence on 10 December 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the commencement of the Statutory Consultation to close Halton High School on 31 August 2010 to allow the development of an Academy be approved, subject to consideration of any further representations received prior to the end of the consultation period; and
- (2) this decision be excluded from the call-in procedure, as immediate action was required so that the Statutory Consultation could commence on 10 December 2009.