

APPENDIX 1

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2010

EXB34 REVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which provided the Board with an overview of the review that had been undertaken of Halton's Children and Young People Plan 2009-11 (CYPP).

The Board were advised that Halton's second CYPP had been published in 2009, to provide strategic direction for all services within the Children's Trust in Halton. It represented Halton's local vision and aspirations for children and young people in the Borough, and determined how the Children's Trust Board would work together to commission services to address locally identified needs and better integrate provision.

A multi agency task and finish group was established in April 2010 to produce the Review. The report set out developments in a number of key areas over the past twelve months and highlighted the many achievements over the same period, together with an overview of a number of areas where more work was needed in order to achieve the stated objectives by March 2011.

It was noted that the Coalition Government was reviewing the policy framework for Children's Services and had announced its intention to remove the statutory regulations in place for Children's Trusts and CYPPs from Autumn 2010.

Reason(s) For Decision

The Review was undertaken in order to comply with the updated Statutory Children's Trust Guidance to review the Children & Young People's Plan in each year that a new Plan was not produced. The Review also provided an update on progress that had been submitted to Ofsted to inform this year's Children's Services Rating.

Alternative Options Considered And Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

The existing Children & Young People's Plan remained the overarching strategy that Halton's Children's Trust was working towards meeting. The Review provided a supplement that updated progress so far on the two year (2009-11) Plan. The Review was published in July in time to be submitted to Ofsted by its deadline of July 16th for consideration for the Children's Services Rating for 2010.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Children & Young People's Plan Review 2010 be endorsed; and
- 2) the actions detailed in Section 11 of the Children & Young People's Plan Review 2010, and summarised in 3.9 of the report be approved and be taken into consideration in terms of meeting the Children & Young People's Plan 2009-11.

EXB35 REDESIGN OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES- KEY DECISION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People on the outcome of the review of Halton's residential provision for children in care.

The Board had approved a Placement Strategy Review on 5 November 2009, in respect of children in care. The review focused initially on the Borough's situation in relation to foster care and identified the barriers to the recruitment of carers needed to be overcome in order to address the severe shortage of carers. As a result of that first stage review, the Board agreed to an 'Invest to Save Bid' to improve the recruitment and retention of foster carers through an increase in allowances.

Members were advised that in 2004, the Borough had 169 children in care; by July 2010 there were 149. This was contrary to regional and national trends which had seen numbers increase over the previous two years. This had been achieved through a rigorous approach to children in need, child protection and children in care services. The report provided details of the current range of provision for children in care and the associated issues. The Placement Strategy Review concluded that 4 in-house residential beds would be sufficient to meet the needs of children in care. A range of provision, as detailed in the report, would provide reassurance that the Council was committed to providing a suitable setting for care leavers up to adulthood and address one of the key issues that care leavers had raised about the lack of choice.

Reason(s) for Decision

The decision was required in order to ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources and to improve outcomes for children who grow up in care.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Consideration was given to utilising the existing property at Littlebourne for the semi-independent provision. However neither the location nor the size made it suitable for this service.

Consideration was given to developing the semi-independent provision as a Halton Borough Council resource. This was not a cost effective model and would not have allowed the department to benefit from a partnership with an experienced provider of such services.

Implementation Date

It was proposed that the closure of Littlebourne Children's Home take place by 31st March 2011 and a contract for semi-independent accommodation be awarded and commence in April 2011.

RESOLVED : That

1. the proposal to close Littlebourne Children's Home be endorsed;
2. in order to meet statutory requirements and responsibilities, the proposal to invest £220,000 of the efficiencies from this re-design to provide essential services to care leavers, foster carers and children in care be endorsed; and
3. the financial efficiencies of £150,000 (one off capital) and £105,000 (revenue) be endorsed to contribute to the Council's efficiency programme.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2010

EXB42 HSCB SAFEGUARDING ANNUAL REPORT

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director Children and Young People, advising Members of the publication of Halton Safeguarding Children Board's (HSCB) Annual Report 2009-10.

Members were advised that the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 set out a statutory requirement for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to produce and publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. The report should provide a robust challenge to the work of the Children's Trust Board to safeguard children and would be used by the Children's Trust Board to inform the Children and Young People's Plan.

The report would also provide information to the Chief Executive and Lead Member as part of their responsibility to hold the Director of Children's Services accountable for the effective working of the LSCB.

The report highlighted the considerable amount of work undertaken by HSCB and the developments that had taken place over the past twelve months. These were in line with core functions of LSCBs as set out in primary legislation and regulations, and included:

- Thresholds, policies and procedures, monitoring and evaluation functions;
- Training;
- Recruitment and Supervision;
- Private Fostering;
- Communicating and Raising Awareness;
- Functions relating to child deaths; and
- Serious Case Reviews

RESOLVED: That the Halton Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2009-10 be endorsed.

EXB43 APPOINTMENT OF DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVE TO CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People on the appointment of a representative from the Diocese of Shrewsbury and the Archdiocese of Liverpool to the Children and Young People's Policy and Performance Board.

The Board were advised that under a Direction issued by the Secretary of State, authorities must appoint diocesan representatives to scrutiny committees under Section 499 of the Education Act 1996 and DfEE Circular 19/99, all as amended. These representatives would have voting rights in relation to any decision relating to:

- Schools maintained by the Local Authority;
- Pupils that attend schools maintained by the Local Authority; and
- Pupils that are educated in some by the Local Authority in some way

but cannot vote on any other business of the Committee. This would enable denominations to have a direct input to policies on education provision for pupils of school age.

The report contained a brief pen portrait of the nominee for Members' information.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to appoint a Diocesan Representative for Shrewsbury and Liverpool as a voting co-optee on the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board for a period of four years, commencing from the date approval is confirmed.

EXB44 SUMMARY OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 2010

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which summarised 2010 performance data for Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and Key Stages 1 to 4.

The Strategic Director Children's Services reported across phase exam performance improvement; at Early Years Foundation Stage; Key Stage 1; Key Stage 2; GCSE, and at 'A' Level. Performance across the Borough for the number of pupils attaining 5 GCSE's A* to C was 82%. This was a record for the Borough, and a significant 10% increase over last year's figures.

The Executive Board agreed that the Leader of the Council would formally write to schools to congratulate them on such an excellent all round performance, and on the continued rise in educational standards year on year in the Borough.

RESOLVED: That the attainment of children in Halton schools for the 2009/10 academic year be noted.