

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 2ND NOVEMBER 2006

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PORTFOLIO

EXB47 CHILDREN'S CENTRES PHASE 2 DEVELOPMENTS (KEY DECISION)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People providing an update on the second phase of Children's Centre Developments and proposing sites for the development of three new Children's Centres to be completed by March 2008.

It was noted that Local Authorities must plan capital investments and phase capital programmes so that all children living in the 30% most disadvantaged areas, as measured by Super Output Areas, had access to the core children's centre offer of services by March 2008. In line with Government guidance, the centres would ensure that families with young children would have easy access to these services.

Information was provided in respect of a needs analysis that had been carried out together with an outline of the proposed sites in the Castlefields, Hough Green and Mersey Wards. In addition, Ms G Derby, Divisional Manager – Early Years and Lifelong Learning, attended the meeting to give a presentation outlining progress so far.

The Board considered the following issues:

- the proposed virtual children's centre opportunity which would enable disadvantaged and vulnerable communities to access interactive service provision via cutting edge technology methods;
- the need for local performance indicators to demonstrate the improvements required and being made, which may not be reflected in national indicators;
- services were being developed to deliver at a range of venues based on a needs analysis identifying where people would go, and outreach was based around the delivery of services to people in their homes; and
- groups that found accessing services difficult would be identified and targeted.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

Centres to be completed by March 2008.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposed sites for the new Children's Centres in the Castlefields, Hough Green and Mersey Wards, as outlined in the report, be approved; and
- (2) the proposal for inclusion of the virtual children's centre opportunity as part of the Phase 2 developments be endorsed.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 16TH NOVEMBER 2006

EXB55 IMPLEMENTATION OF CHILDREN IN NEED (CIN) STRATEGY, POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People seeking agreement to the implementation of the multi-agency Children in Need (CIN) Strategy, Policy and Procedures across the Borough. It was noted that the implementation of the Strategy, policy and procedures would be overseen by the development of a Children in Need (CIN) Mini-Trust and Halton's Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

The aim of the Strategy was that, through the timely provision of co-ordinated multi-agency support services to children and families, the need of children and families would be met at an early stage, reducing the risk to children and the need for them to be removed from home. This would allow services to refocus towards an increased range of high quality support services provided to families at their point of need, which promoted the welfare of children and the achievement of high level outcomes for children.

The Board noted that the associated policies and procedures were based on Halton Children's Planning Model, which focused on the early identification of need and provision of services. The model was outlined within the report for Members' information.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Children in Need Strategy, Policy and Procedures be implemented by all agencies, including those that relate to the CIN Trust;
- (2) the Children in Need Strategy, Policy and Procedures form the basis of

- the service delivery model for the Children in Need Mini-Trust;
- (3) the Children in Need Mini-Trust Action Plan focus on commissioning, aligned budgets, co-location of staff and multi-agency assessments, and be at the forefront of the development of Children and Young People Area Networks;
 - (4) the Children in Need Strategy, Policy and Procedures be overseen by the local Safeguarding Children's Board;
 - (5) the Children in Need Strategy, Policy and Procedures establish a continuum of Children in Need, thinking preventative, promotional and safeguarding Children in Need services together; and
 - (6) the Children in Need Strategy, Policy and Procedures be formally launched to all agencies.

EXB56 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIRECTORATE)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People outlining the outcome of the Children and Young People Directorate's Annual Performance Assessment (APA) 2005/06 undertaken by Ofsted, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), Government Office North West (GONW) and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

It was noted that the APA of services for children focused mainly on the operational responsibilities of the Children and Young People's Directorate and how it achieved the five outcomes for children set out in Every Child Matters. Partnership working with other Council Directorates, and with all agencies working with children in Halton, was taken into account with a grade determined for each of the five outcomes. In addition, the APA made three judgements in relation to:

- the Council's Children's Social Care Services;
- the Council's Services for Children and the specific contributions they made to improving outcomes for children and young people; and
- the Council's management of its services for children and young people and its capacity to further improve those services.

The Board was advised that 2006 was the final year for a separate children's Social Care Judgement and the Children's Social Care Services had been assessed as outstanding. This would result in the award of an additional star taking Halton's Social Care Services to a top performing Three Star Status in this year's star ratings announcement.

The Authority's Children's Services had been assessed overall as good,

with this judgement forming a two star rating for Children's Services overall. This would feed into Halton's CPA rating.

The judgement made in respect of the Council's management of its services for Children and Young People, including its capacity to improve them further, was good, which was a maintained position from 2004/05. The areas identified for improvement, which would be a focus for inspectors in the forthcoming Joint Area Review, were outlined for the Board's consideration.

Ms. K. Tempest, and Ms. D. Westhead, of CSCI attended the meeting to outline the Commission's views on the achievement of the Authority. It was noted that the progress made reflected the considerable commitment of the Councillors and Officers involved, all of whom were commended by Ms Tempest, the Leader and by the Strategic Director – Children and Young People via the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People. Ms Tempest stated that there was obvious engagement with young people and on-going integration between Education and Social Services. In particular, Ms. Tempest passed on her best wishes to the Strategic Director – Children and Young People.

Ms. K. O'Dwyer, Operational Director – Children and Young People's Services, attended the meeting to give a presentation regarding APA, outlining the areas for judgements, grades awarded and key quotes made at the conclusion of the process.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and the contents noted.

EXECUTIVE SUB BOARD MEETING HELD ON 12TH OCTOBER 2006

ES44 - TO SEEK A WAIVER OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS TO PERMIT THE SETTING UP OF A SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH KEY STAGE 4 PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT PROVIDERS

There was a statutory duty on Local Authorities to provide education for pupils who were permanently excluded from school. This was carried out by most authorities through the provision of Pupil Referral Units.

At the end of the last academic year tenders were invited for provision in the following areas:

- Work-based Learning;
- Support and Emotional Literacy;
- Sport, Recreation and Leisure;
- Academic Sub GCSE; and
- Academic GCSE

Specifications for these tenders were widely distributed to organisations in the region who provided services in these areas, and expressions of interest

were requested. However, this year only single tenders were received in each area of provision. This reflected the limited number of organisations who were willing and equipped to work with some of the most demanding and challenging young people within the Borough. All the tenders received were from existing providers who were part of the recent successful Ofsted Inspection and who had met the Quality Assurance Processes administered by the Head of Key Stage 4 PRU.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Strategic Director Children and Young People be given delegated authority to enter into Service Level Agreements with the following providers:

Kids First;
The Alternative Project;
Progress Sport;
Rathbones; and
Riverside College; and

- (2) a further report be brought to the Sub Committee outlining what each company supplies, where they are based, approximate cost of each and how many young people are involved in each area of provision;
- (3) the waiving of Standing Orders 3.1 – 3.7 be approved due to the specialist nature of the provision and limited market.

EXECUTIVE SUB BOARD MEETING HELD ON 16TH NOVEMBER 2006

ES53 KS4 PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT PROVIDERS

At a previous meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 12th October 2006, a further report was requested outlining the range of external providers that the Children and Young People's Directorate had developed service level agreements with as providers to the Council's Key Stage 4 Pupil Referral Unit. There were currently 6 providers working with KS4 PRU children, 5 of which provided curriculum and 1 who provided additional support.

The 5 curriculum providers were the Vocational Centre; Riverside College; Rathbone; and Progress Sport. The 6th provider was Kids First and their role was to provide additional support for pupils whose needs of challenging behaviour meant that they required support to access the other PRU providers. The costs and role of each provider were outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.