

## **APPENDIX 1**

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

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2012**

##### **EXB78 – ASHLEY SCHOOL RE-DESIGNATION – KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the proposed re-designation of Ashley School, following the National Autistic Society (NAS) review of provision for Children and Young People with Autistic Spectrum Conditions.

The Board was reminded that in May 2012, it received a report on the review of progress against the NAS report and endorsed the recommendations.

The review made the following recommendation:

“Consider designating Ashley School as a Social Communication Needs and Autism 11-19 School. In this way, Halton Borough Council would be able to meet the needs locally of pupils with Social Communication Needs and Autism in Halton, except those with autism and the most complex need”.

The NAS report further emphasised the need to extend provision and recommended that the Council:

“Consider extending the age range of provision within Special Schools to 19, with appropriate curricula and post 16 options. This would then match that provision currently used for some pupils in out of Borough placements”.

The report provided details of the capital development requirements to allow for the change in physical structure, the core curriculum provision and financial implications for Members' consideration. However, the Board noted that the cost of additional requirements for provision of toilets, classroom refurbishment works and any fixed furniture or equipment would require a provisional amount of £500k to be set aside.

#### **Reasons for Decision**

These were covered in Section 3 of the report.

#### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

The alternative option was for children and young people to continue to be placed in provisions out of the Borough. This would exclude those children and young people from interacting with their peers and communities. Such practice was not inclusive. The additional cost of out of Borough placements did not represent good value for money especially where good quality local provision could be secured through the re-designation of Ashley School.

#### Implementation Date

1 September 2013.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to

- 1) approve the commencement of consultation on changing the age range and the designation of Ashley School; and

approve the setting aside of £450,000 from the Schools Capital Basic Need budget for 2012/13, and an additional £50k be put aside from any future Education Capital budgets allocated for 2013/14 to address the adaptations that will be required.

*(N.B Councillor Nelson declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as Chair of Governors at The Grange Schools)*

#### **EXB79 – SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM UPDATE – KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the new Department for Education (DfE) School Funding Formula.

The Board was advised that the aim of the National Funding Formula was to ensure that schools in similar circumstances, with similar intakes would receive similar levels of funding. To meet the new funding arrangements, it would be necessary to change the School Funding Formula, as a prelude to this. The first step would be to achieve consistency between Local Authorities by the use of a maximum of twelve clearly defined funding factors; a summary of these was given in Appendix A, attached to the report. The report provided details of each of the factors, with explanatory text of how they would be applied. It was noted that it was proposed that Halton would apply seven of the twelve factors, as two factors did not apply to Halton, two would not be used and there was one factor for which there were no eligible schools.

The Board noted that from April 2013, The Grange School would be funded as one school for the first time, and would only be entitled to one lump sum amount. However, The Grange may be eligible for school contingency funding as a re-organising school, which would minimise the impact on other schools.

It was further noted that the DfE aimed to maximise the delegation to schools and give headteachers, principals and governors more control over how funding for previously centrally retained services was spent. There were a number of budgets delegated to schools, which could not be de-delegated, but which schools could buy into if it were provided by the Local Authority; these were:

- Threshold and performance pay;
- 14-16 practical learning options;
- Primary/special school meals; and
- Extended services.

In terms of High Needs pupils and students, from April 2013 there would be a financial threshold prior to any additional funding being allocated. However, the criteria and top-up rates for additional support would need to be agreed locally. It was proposed that in Halton, the current model be refined in line with a higher threshold.

Members noted that the School Forum would consider the outcome of changes to the new formula and this would be reported to the Board at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) progress on developing the new funding formula be noted; and

the Board support the work undertaken to develop the approach to assessing, commissioning and funding High Needs pupils and students in Halton.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 29 NOVEMBER 2012**

### **EXB108 – ROLE OF SCHOOL FORUM**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided an update on the role of the School Forum.

The Board was advised that the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012, govern the composition, constitution and procedures of School Forums. Details of representation by the different types of schools and for non-school members were given in the report. The membership of Halton's School Forum had been agreed and revised, in line with these requirements.

As the Forum had both a consultative and decision making role, it was noted that it was a requirement that meetings, agendas and minutes be open to, and made publicly available. It was further noted that the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families may attend the Forum meetings as an observer, to receive the views of the Forum and to contribute to discussion. However, as there was no requirement for this to happen, an established system would be required for clear communication between the Lead Member and the School Forum, if the Lead Member did not attend.

Current regulations stated that the local authority must consult the School Forum annually on a range of school budget functions, details of which were outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the revised role of the School Forum be noted; and
- 2) the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families be invited to attend future meetings of the School Forum as an observer.

## **EXB109 – HALTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12 - KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) Annual Report 2011/12.

The HSCB described how organisations and individuals across all sectors were working together to safeguard children and young people. As well as reporting on the HSCB work over the past twelve months, the Annual Report explained the national context in which the Board was working and listed the priorities for the coming year. A copy of the report was attached at Appendix 1.

### Reason(s) for Decision

The decision was significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising 2 or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the local authority in that HSCB holds its partner organisations and the Children's Trust accountable for the effectiveness of its work in safeguarding children in the local area.

The decision may be significant to resulting in a local authority incurring expenditure which is significant, or the making of savings which are significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates, in that HSCB may identify a gap in services to safeguard children that partner organisations or the Children's Trust are required to

address. HSCB may also identify more effective ways of safeguarding children that reduces expenditure.

#### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

It is a statutory requirement that the HSCB produce an annual report and essential to sustainability of the Board that the Local Authority makes a financial contribution.

#### Implementation Date

It is a requirement to report on an annual basis. From 2013, the month would be stipulated.

Audrey Williamson, Independent Chair of HSCB, attended the meeting to present the Annual Report and answer Members' questions.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report, and contents of the Annual Report, attached at Appendix 1, be noted;
- 2) the Board confirm that Halton Borough Council contribute £45,817 to the 2013/14 HSCB budget;
- 3) the Board recognise and acknowledge the Early Help contribution to safeguarding children and young people; and

a copy of the Annual Report be circulated to all Members of the Borough Council for information.