

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES – 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014

### CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO

#### EXB3 CHILDREN SOCIAL WORK REFORM RESTRUCTURE AND FUNDING PROPOSALS - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the reform, restructure and funding proposals for the Children's Social Work Service.

The Board was advised that the Munro Reports made a number of recommendations on how to re-structure social work delivery. Halton had made some changes in response to the Reports within existing structures. However, it was noted that further substantial change was required.

In addition, the Ofsted inspection framework had been revised in the light of the Munro recommendations with the published inspections from other Councils starkly highlighting the changing expectations of what was regarded as good and outstanding.

It was further reported that with the new Ofsted framework, there were clear expectations about the levels of caseloads for staff and for adoption and safeguarding. Members noted that, in order for Halton to continue to be judged as good, it needed to address the following areas:

- Caseloads;
- Changes in Policy and the Legal Framework; and
- Workforce, including capacity, training and development and recruitment and retention.

Appendix 1 set out the details of the proposed social work reform restructure, which had been shared with staff in a formal consultation. The report provided details on service structure, staff roles, advanced Social Worker role, proposed

costings and proposed funding for Members' consideration.

Reason(s) For Decision

The rationale and the evidence for the proposals had been fully outlined in the report.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

There could be no change to the current service design and structure. The service could continue as it was; however, it would be challenging for the Council to meet the changed statutory framework and inspection requirements to the level now required and for the reasons outlined, this had been rejected.

Implementation Date

1 September 2014.

RESOLVED: That the proposed service re-design and the proposed funding arrangements, including agreement to access £287,252 from the Council's contingency fund, be endorsed.

Strategic Director  
- Children and  
Enterprise

EXB4 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2014-17

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided an overview of the Halton Children and Young People's Plan 2014-17 (CYPP).

The Board was advised that the CYPP was an agreed joint strategy of the partners within Halton Children's Trust. It detailed how they would co-operate to improve children's wellbeing, and provided the strategic direction for the Children's Trust Board to commission services to address locally identified needs and better integrate provision.

It was noted that the current CYPP had been in place since 2011. Preparations for the new CYPP started in November 2013 with the establishment of a working group to develop the plan based around the agreed new priorities

for Halton's Children's Trust, as set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to

- 1) note the content of the report;
- 2) endorse the Children and Young People's Plan 2014-17; and
- 3) support the roll out of the new CYPP and work in order to meet its priorities over the next three years.

Strategic Director  
- Children and  
Enterprise

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES – 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014

### CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO

#### EXB15 SCHOOL GOVERNANCE STRATEGY - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which sought approval for the School Governance Strategy.

The Board was advised that in January 2014, Ofsted published the document "The Framework for School Inspection", which set out how an Ofsted inspection of a school would provide an independent external evaluation of its effectiveness and a diagnosis of what it should do to improve. The Board noted that Governors in Halton had a vital role in ensuring that every child in Halton received the best possible education.

The School Governance Strategy (the Strategy) set out the support available for Halton's Governors through its Clerking Service and its Training and Development Service, to ensure that they were equipped to undertake their role as strategic leaders. It was reported that the Strategy was aligned to the Council's Learning and Achievement Strategy 2014, which confirmed the Council's commitment to excellence in Education. It also set out how the Local Authority would support and enable strong school leadership and management and early intervention when necessary.

Reason(s) For Decision

The Local Authority retained statutory responsibilities with regard to school governance and the Strategy detailed those responsibilities and set out how the Local Authority supported, advised and offered training to Governors to ensure that they were equipped to undertake their role as strategic leaders and meet the rigor of an Ofsted inspection.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

From the date of approval by Executive Board and subsequently circulated to all Chairs of Governors and Head Teachers.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) Endorse and approves the School Governance Strategy; and
- 2) Notes the change to the way in which Local Authority Governors are appointed to re-constituted Governing Bodies.

Strategic Director  
- Children and  
Enterprise

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES – 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014**

**CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES  
PORTFOLIO**

**EXB22 INDEPENDENT LIVING**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which sought permission to re-model an area of Inglefield to provide independent living skills for children with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC).

The Board was reminded that Ashley School had been re-designated as an 11-19 school for middle or high

ability pupils with Social Communication Needs and Autism in September 2013. New post-16 provision would be available for students and staff from September 2014. It was reported that a key element of the curriculum for Post-16 students was to develop Independent Living Skills, to encourage students to gain functional and self-care skills. Teaching independent living skills such as budgeting, laundry, cooking, cleaning and independent travel, gave students the opportunity to learn in a real-life environment within the community in which they lived.

The report and appendices provided details of the initial estimates of adapting and equipping the area of residential accommodation at Inglefield to provide two bedrooms each for students and staff, a lounge, dining area and bathroom facilities.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the capital project at Inglefield be approved; and
- 2) the estimated capital costs of £50,000 be met from the basic need capital allocation.

Strategic Director  
- Children and  
Enterprise

EXB23 SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL TRAVEL POLICY 2014 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the determination of a Sustainable School Travel Policy.

The Board was advised that the local authority had a requirement to fulfil its statutory duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to review and determine a Sustainable School Travel Policy (the Policy).

It was noted that there were four main elements to the duty, as set out in the report. The Policy for 2014 drew together these elements and supported the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan, as well as promoting healthy lifestyles. It was noted that the Policy had been reviewed to reflect the content of the document "New Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance" issued by the Department for Education in March 2014. It was further noted that the proposed Policy was made available for consultation during May and June 2014, with no comments

being received.

Members discussed the proposed eligibility criteria for assistance with transport and the revised appeals process, contained within the Policy, which was due for implementation from September 2014. It was noted that the Policy was based upon the Local Authority's statutory duties and Department for Education guidance. Whilst recognising that assistance with transport for pupils attending denominational schools was discretionary, with no statutory requirement to provide, Members wished to retain this discretionary element, but requested this discretionary element be reviewed annually.

Reason(s) For Decision

The decision was required to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

Academic year – September 2014 and reviewed annually.

RESOLVED: That the Sustainable School Travel Policy be approved with an additional discretionary criterion of assistance for denominational transport where the criteria is met.

Strategic Director  
- Children and  
Enterprise