

Extract of Executive Board Minutes relevant to the Children, Young Peoples and Families Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2018

EXB87	CONTRACTED SERVICES FOR MISSING FROM HOME AND CARE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION SERVICES ACROSS CHESHIRE
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which sought approval to commence a procurement process for the provision of Missing from Home, Care and Exploitation Services for young people across Cheshire.

The Board was advised that in 2012, the four Cheshire Local Authorities (Halton, Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester) agreed to jointly commission a pan Cheshire Missing from Home Service. It had clear links with Cheshire Constabulary's missing from home co-ordinators to support young people notified as missing from home or care. It was reported that in April 2014, the Service was expanded to include the emerging links around Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

Members were advised that Halton would lead on the procurement process, in collaboration with the three Cheshire authorities, and seek delivery of a high quality service which was effective in improving outcomes delivered by skilled practitioners. It was expected that the Service would combine a balance of advice and guidance with direct, evidenced based interventions for those that required additional support.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves Halton Borough Council to lead a joint procurement exercise of Missing from Home and Care and Exploitation services for young people across Cheshire with Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington Councils.

EXB88	SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2019 – KEY DECISION
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on the school admission arrangements for 2019.

The Board was advised that in October 2017, Halton Local Authority issued a statutorily required paper on the proposed admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission schemes for the September 2019 intake. It was noted that the consultation ran until 17 November 2017, with no changes proposed to the current oversubscription criteria for Local Authority schools. It was reported that no responses to the consultation had been received.

Reason(s) for Decision

The decision was statutorily required and any revision to the proposed arrangements may adversely affect school place planning, as detailed in the report.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Other options considered and rejected included the allocation of places through random allocation (lottery), and this method could be seen as arbitrary and random.

Implementation Date

The Policy will apply for the September 2019 academic intake.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the School Admissions Policy, Admission Arrangements and Co-ordinated Schemes, attached to the report, for admission to primary and secondary schools for the 2019/20 academic year.

EXB89	CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018-19 – KEY DECISION
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which provided a summary of the Capital Programmes for 2018/19 for the People Directorate.

The Board was advised that in October 2017, the Department for Education (DfE) announced the schools capital allocations grant for 2018/19 and had confirmed that there would be no change in the methodology used in 2017/18. It was reported that Halton would also receive Healthy Pupils Capital Funding in 2018/19, for one financial year only, which was intended to improve access to facilities such as kitchens, dining facilities, playgrounds, changing rooms and sports facilities.

The DfE had announced Special Provision Capital Funding for local authorities to invest in provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, aged 0-25, with funding for a range of provision types where this would benefit children and young people with health and care (EHC) plans. The latter funding was due to commence in 2018/19, with Halton's allocation over a three year period being £500,000.

Reason(s) for Decision

To deliver and implement the Capital Programmes.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable.

Implementation Date

Capital Programmes would be implemented from 1 April 2018.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Capital Funding available for 2018/19 be noted;

- 2) the proposals to be funded from School Condition Capital Allocation be approved: and
- 3) Council be recommended to approve the Capital Allocations for inclusion in the Budget report.

EXB90

**CONTRACT FOR PARENT TO PARENT VOLUNTEER SUPPORT:
REQUEST TO WAIVE PROCUREMENT STANDING ORDERS**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on the contract for Parent to Parent Volunteer Support.

The Board was advised that the existing Parent-to-Parent Volunteer Support contract had been identified as being exceptionally well placed to deliver additional provision to work with families that met the Troubled Families criteria. The Volunteer Support service was staffed by individuals that were qualified, skilled and experienced in delivering inter-parental relationships provision and had been highly effective within the Borough in supporting the key aspect of early intervention. It was noted that funding for this support service had been allowed for within the existing Troubled Families budget.

RESOLVED: That the waiver of Procurement Standing Orders 1.14.3 and 1.14.4 to the value of £150,000 be approved, for the period 9 April 2018 to 8 April 2020, to facilitate the rapid implementation of inter-parental relationships provision as part of the existing parent to parent support contract delivered within the Troubled Families initiative.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2018

EXB105 | INSPECTION FRAMEWORK (PRESENTATION)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, regarding the framework for the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children Services (ILACS).

The Board was advised that the last Ofsted Inspection of Children Services in Halton took place in 2014, under the Single Inspection Framework (SIF). It was noted that the overall judgement was "Requires Improvement", as detailed in the report. Since that inspection, a plan had been developed to address the recommendations, with continual monitoring, review and evaluation of performance undertaken.

It was reported that the SIF cycle had ended, and local authorities would now be inspected under the ILACS framework, which was essentially built around answering three questions, as stated in the report. In addition, the presentation provided information on what the authority could expect in terms of inspection visits, although it was noted that the 'Annual Conversation' visit and shared self-evaluation took place on 26 January 2018.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 2018

EXB138	HIGH NEEDS UPDATE
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which provided an update on the High Needs budget for 2018/19.

The Board was advised that funding received by local authorities from Government for pupils with special educational needs had not kept pace with the increase in demand. It was reported that the needs of children and young people with additional support requirements had become more complex; in addition, the Government had extended cover for children and young people from 0 to 25 years of age.

Under new Government regulations, only 0.5% of funding could be moved between funding blocks, if approved by Schools Forum. In previous years, reserves had been used to fund the high needs overspend, but it was noted that the reserves had now been fully committed.

The report set out details of the indicative budget for High Needs for 2018/19. A range of budget reductions, discussed at the Schools Forum, were attached at Appendix A. It was noted that there was a shortfall of over £220,000. Following a review, a further report would be brought to the Board setting out future funding options.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) applications for Enhanced Provision continue to be considered for the Summer term 2018;
- 2) a review be undertaken with a report to the Board in June 2018; and
- 3) the Board approve the reductions in central spend included in Appendix A.