

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER – CHILDREN'S SERVICES** held on 15 March 2016 at County Hall, Matlock.

**PRESENT**

Councillor P J Smith (in the Chair)

In attendance - Councillors C Bisknell and J Street

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor J Coyle.

**21/16** **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2016 be received.

**22/16** **NEW INSTRUMENTS OF GOVERNMENT** Under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012, proposals had been received from school Governing Bodies for an amendment to their Instrument of Government.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given for the new Instrument of Government to be made for Duckmanton Primary School as detailed in the Director of Legal Services report.

**23/16** **REVISED REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE HEAGE EDUCATIONAL CHARITY** **RESOLVED** to approve the re-assignment of the remaining £24,500 of the previously approved grant to meet the costs of works or equipment to enhance the provision of outdoor learning at the Heage Primary School site

**24/16** **CHILDRENS SERVICES SPENDING 2015/16** The Cabinet Member was informed of the results of the latest Children's Services budget monitoring and made aware of major variances.

Details were also given of the progress on delivery of budget reductions and of the projected year-end earmarked reserves balances, taking into account anticipated drawdowns and additions during the year.

The current forecast year-end position for Children's Services expenditure funded by the Council was an overspend of £2.973 million. A number of actions were in place to minimise any overspend. Any shortfall in closing the gap would be met by the use of Children's Services' earmarked reserves. The department was committed to implementing the budget reductions agreed by Council so that it did not need to rely on one-off sources of funding.

The Dedicated Schools Grant was projected to underspend by £3.204 million and the underspend was permitted to be carried forward for future years and used in accordance with the School Finance Regulations applying in future years..

A breakdown by service area was attached as Appendix 1 to the joint report.

The expenditure against the Dedicated Schools Grant was projected to be £455.011 million against a grant of £458.216 million an underspend of £3.204 million. The reasons for the underspend were detailed in the report.

The underspends were offset by a projected overspend of £0.148 million on top-ups for children with additional needs in secondary schools and £0.301 million for SEN placements in non-maintained special schools and a further £0.085million for SEN placements in other local authorities' special schools.

The forecast overspend for Children's Service's Budgets was £2.973 million which was net of the approved use of reserves to cover known delays in the achievement of specific budget reductions, as advised to Cabinet on 5 May 2015.

The forecast spend assumed that the numbers of children in care remain unchanged and that staff remained in post until the end of the financial year unless it is already known that they are leaving.

The latest forecast overspend includes an estimate of £0.500 million for a contingent liability. Excluding this item, the underlying forecast overspend reduced to £2.473 million. The forecast overspend also assumed both the £0.529 million cost impact of schools which convert to academy status leaving an accumulated overspend for the Authority to cover and an allocation towards that cost from other Council resources.

Should expenditure continue to be above budget by the end of 2015/16, Children's Services would draw down from its earmarked reserve of prior year underspends to provide the additional resources. The available balance of that reserve after covering the 2015-16 projected overspend was estimated at £5.025 million.

The performance of the department against the allocated budget and the main reasons for the overspend were detailed in the joint report

The projected year-end position of the Children's Services earmarked reserves was shown in Appendix 2 to the joint report and predicted a closing balance of £16.761 million excluding reserves which were out of Children's

Services' control and the DSG, a net reduction of £9.037 million since the start of the financial year.

**RESOLVED** to note the outcome of the latest budget and earmarked reserves monitoring for 2015-16.

**25/16      APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS TO SERVE AS LA GOVERNORS ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES      **RESOLVED**** (1) to approve the nomination of the following persons to serve as Local Authority Governors under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 20012:-

A Fairhurst – Belper Long Row Primary School  
P Egan – Copthorne Community Infant School  
J Newton – Lea Primary School  
C Scott – South Wingfield Primary School  
M Dooley – The Oinxton Village Infant Schools  
S Frost – Hallam Fields Junior School  
K Hewitt – Hadfield Nursery School  
J Bennett – Hague Bar Primary School  
K Maddison- Greenwell – Killamarsh Junior School  
J Higginbottom – William Levick Primary School  
B Matkin – Rosliston CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School  
A Jones – Eureka Primary School  
J Patten – Heath Fields Primary School  
S Bambrick – Newhall Infant & Nursery School

(2) to approve the nomination of the following person to serve as a Local Authority Governor : -

J Greenhalgh – Norbriggs Primary School

**26/16      PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT GRANT FUNDING** The Cabinet Member was informed of the receipt of a grant for Preparation for Employment and the proposed use of that grant to improve employment opportunities for young people with SEND and also to approve the creation of an earmarked reserve to hold the grant funding received for the Preparation for Employment initiative.

Young people with SEND entering employment were likely to make fewer demands on social care services and lead healthier lives.

The Preparation for Employment initiative was aimed at improving employment opportunities for young people with complex special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) Local authorities could spend this one-off grant to promote supported internships and other preparation for employment.

The grant would be offered to learning providers to develop relationships with employers and employer organizations; to increase the number of work-related placements leading to an increased number of Supported Internships or vocationally-focused study programmes.

Learning providers currently developing/offering Supported Internships for September 2016 in Derbyshire would be invited to express an interest in delivering the proposals.

Located in Derbyshire are 3 general FE colleges plus a specialist college, Landmarks. Additional officer time would be required to draw up and oversee arrangements and ensure outcomes were achieved. This could be built into current high needs funding monitoring processes.

Colleges would be invited to put forward/apply to deliver plans that: Develop an Employer Engagement Group (EEG) as part of a credible, sustainable and mutually beneficial relationship with local employers, who are motivated by the prospect of developing a workforce which reflected the community in which they resided, with particular emphasis around engaging with people and organisations who support young adults with SEND into employment.

The EEG would be tasked with working with employers to plan, support and deliver training opportunities for young adults with SEND as well as providing a platform from which to engage discussion between employers on the barriers to successful and sustained employment of young adults with SEND.

The SEND Preparation for Employment grant was an unringfenced grant of £39,051 which had been allocated to Children's Services in 2015/16. The cost of the proposals outlined in the report could be met from within this grant, however the expenditure would occur in 2015/16 and 2016/17. Approval was therefore sought to create an earmarked reserve to hold the unspent funding at the end of 2015/16 pending its use during 2016/17. It was anticipated that all the funding would have been used by the end of 2016/17.

**RESOLVED** (1) to approve the proposals for the use of the Preparation for Employment grant; and

(2) to approve the creation of an earmarked reserve as detailed in the report.

## **27/16      FUNDING FOR PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH WORKER ROLES**

**RESOLVED** (1) that approval be given to cease the regular annual contribution made by Derbyshire County Council to the Primary Mental Health Worker (PMHW) roles within Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016; and

(2) that approval be given to provide transitional funding, jointly with the Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Groups, for a final period between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, in order to help CAMHS to manage the transition until new NHS funding for children's mental health comes on stream, avoiding potential redundancies and gaps in service provision for Derbyshire children.

**28/16      SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2017/18** The regulations concerning school admissions required that the admission arrangements for 2017/18 were consulted upon before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016. Consultation information was posted on the Derbyshire County Council website from October 2015 setting out the proposed changes to arrangements for 2017/18.

The consultation period had now ended and two schools responded requesting a change to their Published Admission Number (PAN) as follows:

- (a) Whaley Bridge Primary School PAN requested a reduction from 36 to 30; and
- (b) Park infant and Nursery School requested a reduction of PAN from 70 to 60.

The above requests had been reviewed by the Children's Services Development Section which had confirmed they were in line with revised net capacity assessments and could be supported. The Development Section had notified local schools of the requests and no comments had been received.

No other changes were proposed to the published admission arrangements for community and controlled schools for 2017/18. A copy of these arrangements was available on the Derbyshire County Council website.

**RESOLVED** to approve the proposed changes to the admission arrangements as set out in the report and its Appendix.

**29/16      CHILDRENS SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015-16 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** Approval was sought to budget adjustments to a number of schemes in the 2015-16 Children's Services Capital Programme

The 2015-16 Children's Services Capital Programme was approved by Cabinet on 24 March 2015. It contained an allocation for furniture and equipment at a replacement school project at Brailsford of £80,000. This allocation should have included the cost of kitchen fit out which was estimated to cost £50,000. It was proposed to therefore increase the allocation for this project to £130,000.

On 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015, Cabinet also approved a scheme to improve youth service accommodation at Gladys Buxton centre. This scheme was budgeted at £35,000 but this figure was omitted from the report. This project was no

longer required. It was proposed that the total funding of £35,000 be allocated to support minor improvement projects at other youth service or adult education venues, with the details being subject to a further report to the Cabinet Member.

A further scheme agreed at the 24 March 2015 Cabinet was a single classroom extension project at Whitwell Primary School that was intended to meet a rising demand for primary school places. The allocation for this project was £260,000. The cost of this project had risen due to the extent of the drainage required and by an associated need to install a pumped drainage solution. In addition, there had been some inflation in the cost of modular buildings due to the high demand and this was reflected in the tender return for this project. As a consequence, the cost of this project was now £302,825. The school was making a contribution to the project totalling £5,266. It was therefore proposed to increase the allocation for this project by £37,559.

The changes outlined above add £87,559 (the Gladys Buxton allocation was already accounted for within the programme total) to the commitments in the Children's Services Capital Programme.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to change the project budgets of the schemes detailed in the report as follows: Brailsford Primary School £130,000 (increased from £80,000); Whitwell Primary School £302,825 (increased from £260,000).

**30/16      EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items on the agenda to avoid the disclosure of the kind of exempt information detailed in the following summary of proceedings:-

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AFTER THE PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING**

- (1) To confirm the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member – Children's Services held on 9 February 2015 (contains exempt information).
- (2) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services on Red House Family Support Centre (contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual).
- (3) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services on Support for the Education of Children for whom English is an Additional Language (contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual)

- (4) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services on Youth Service – Changes in Business Services Staffing (contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual).
- (5) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services on Performance Management for Teachers employed by the Local Authority and not attached to Schools (contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual).
- (6) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services on Contract Award of a Derby & Derbyshire Music Partnership Data Management Solution (contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information)).
- (7) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services on School Staff Redundancies 2016 (contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual)