

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE** held on 3 February 2015 at County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Councillor K Gillott (in the Chair)

Also in attendance was Cllr J Street.

10/15 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

11/15 **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 new Instruments of Government to be made for the 25 schools detailed in the Director of Legal Services report.

12/15 **SWADLINCOTE, LINDEN HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOME – MINOR WORKS IMPROVEMENTS** Approval was sought for expenditure on minor capital works at Linden House Children's Home, Swadlincote.

On 3 February 2010, Council approved a report on the Prudential Code for Capital Finance, Capital programme Approvals and Treasury Management Strategy which included an allocation of £1.2 million for Linden House.

The intention was to replace Linden House as it did not offer suitable accommodation. A suitable replacement building could not be found, and in 2013, a feasibility study was undertaken to remodel and refurbish the building to an acceptable standard. In March 2014, Cabinet agreed a review of the Residential Care – Children in Care service. It was therefore proposed to await the outcome of that review before deciding on whether to implement a complete refurbishment.

In May 2014, a shortlist of the most essential works at the home was drawn up. These works were for refurbishments of 5 bedrooms for young people, kitchen refurbishment, two bathroom refurbishments, addressing patches of ground floor damp, and external decoration of the building at a total budget of £175,000. Approval of capital expenditure for these urgent works was now proposed. A decision on a further refurbishment of this facility will be taken at a future date.

There had been no charges to date on the approved sum of £1.2 million. A budget estimate had been received from the Director of Property for this project for the sum of £175,000.

RESOLVED to approve the expenditure on minor capital works for refurbishment at Linden House Children's Home, Swadlincote, at a total cost of £175,000, drawn from the existing allocation of £1.2m.

13/15 CHILDREN & YOUNGER ADULTS (CAYA) SERVICE SPENDING 2014/15 The Cabinet Member was informed of the results of the latest CAYA service budget monitoring, and made aware major variances.

The report provided an analysis of the latest forecast year end position for 2014/15 based on income and expenditure up to the middle of October.

The current forecast year end position for CAYA's expenditure funded by the Council was an overspend of £1,888,000. If there was an overspend position for CAYA at the end of the financial year, it would be met from the earmarked reserve that CAYA held for this purpose.

The Dedicated Schools Grant was projected to underspend by £3,001,000 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 at Appendix 1 to the Joint Report.

The projected end year position of the CAYA earmarked reserves was shown in Appendix 2 and predicted a net reduction of £6,433k.

Within this, £10,146,000 was the balance of the prior year's underspend which the department intended to use in future financial years to manage the impact of budget reductions.

A further £1,937,000 was being held to fund the implementation of SEN and Disability reforms and the transition to new Education, Health and Care plans for children and young people up to the age of 25 who had high levels of additional need.

RESOLVED to note the outcome of the latest budget and earmarked reserves monitoring for 2014-15.

14/15 APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS TO SERVE AS LA GOVERNORS ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES RESOLVED (1) that the following persons be appointed to serve as LA Governors on a school

governing body under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007:-

M Marples – Kirk Langley CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School
D Connell – Muggington CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School
I Phillips – Turnditch CE Voluntary Aided Primary School
J Naylor – Cavendish Junior School.
S Bunting – Peak Forest CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School
M Evans – Coton-in-the-Elms primary School; and

(2) to approve the nomination of the following persons to serve as Local Authority Governors under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012:-

E Runham – Swanwick School and Sports College
B Green – Tibshelf Infant & Nursery School
K Hobbs – Parkside Community Junior School
S Wilks – Dove Holes CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School

15/15 MULTI SYSTEMIC THERAPY INTERVENTIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE EDGE OF CARE OR CUSTODY Approval was sought to extend the two year Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) pilot in the south of the county by a further year and extend the areas of Derbyshire it serves.

Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) was an intensive evidence-based intervention for children on the edge of care or custody and was the longest established and most comprehensively evaluated programme of its kind. It was used with children and young people aged 11-17 years and their families, who were at risk of out of home placement in either care or custody, due to delinquent, aggressive or other anti-social behaviours and attitudes. It was at the heart of the Department for Education's Edge of Care programme.

In 2011, Derbyshire County Council made a successful bid to become part of that programme and received £25,000 towards the cost of completing a needs assessment and funding to meet the costs of training staff and licence fees until 2013/14. On 24 July 2012, the Cabinet Member approved the proposal for a MST project within Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Derbyshire and to receive a further report 18 months later. A decision was taken on the basis of the needs assessment to establish the pilot in the south of the county with Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust CAMHS. The pilot became operational from June 2013.

A detailed review was undertaken in August 2014 which found that, like many other newly-established sites, Derbyshire MST had taken time to identify a suitable referral pathway within the context of a changing and reducing base of services. Over the course of the year, as the service started to get to grips with a new way of working, the numbers of appropriate referrals had increased and outcomes had steadily improved. There was some

evidence of diverting young people away from care or custody but it was too soon to be able to confirm whether or not these achievements were sustainable over time.

The review also found that, on the one hand, the service was working below its capacity due to a shortage of referrals that met the specified criteria, and, on the other hand, there were young people on the edge of care who did not meet the specified criteria for whom a similar style service is required. This meant that the business case for a second service covering the north of the county had not yet been made. There were however, young people residing in the north of the county who would benefit from the service.

The critical issues for MST are of capacity and geography. In order to increase the number of high priority, suitable referrals, access to the service needs to be extended to other parts of the county but this would represent a major geographical challenge for a small team with the risk of an unacceptable amount of time taken up by travel. The “M1 corridor” provided maximum access to the highest concentration of areas of greatest need. The review proposed, therefore, that:

- The contract for the service should be extended for a further 12 months allowing a total of 3 years for the service to confirm its value
- Its catchment area should be extended to include parts of NE Derbyshire, Bolsover and Chesterfield and increase the number of referrals and enable the team to work to its capacity
- A new Steering Group to be established – its first tasks would be to monitor the impact on referrals/capacity/waiting lists and also travel time and costs

MST was an assertive family intervention with a proven national and international track record. In Derbyshire, it sat comfortably alongside both the newly-established Systemic Practice and Troubled Families initiatives. It was also a model that lends itself to emerging local priorities such as CAMHS priorities for “intensive home treatment” or “Tier 3+” and the need for a rapid response to young people experiencing a mental health crisis, including those who self-harm. It also lends itself to a social care model of rapid response/intensive intervention for teenagers on the edge of care.

These approaches which targeted different groups of young people at risk of family/placement breakdown have in common a model of small teams working intensively with limited caseloads on a time-limited basis. They aimed to build confidence in parents in order that they can learn the skills and strategies to manage their children’s anti-social behaviours and to help the young people to be more in control of their own emotions and behaviours.

The proposal for an extension of the pilot would also allow more time for consideration of how well MST fitted alongside these other initiatives. A further review should be undertaken in 2015 to evaluate the impact of MST

over a longer period in terms of both the outcomes for young people and also the contribution towards a broader, integrated approach to assertive interventions across agencies. This would inform future commissioning intentions.

In the joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance to Council in February 2012 CAYA set aside £0.900m from previous years' underspend in an earmarked reserve to fund the MST pilot. The projected expenditure to end of March 2015 is £0.525m leaving a balance of £0.375m. The contract cost was variable based on activity but was capped at £0.305m per annum; current monthly costs are running at £22,300 which equated to £0.267m per annum. In addition a licence was payable at a cost of £24,500 per annum.

The cost of the pilot for the period April 2015 to June 2016 would therefore be between £0.365m and £0.412m depending on levels of activity. If costs were to exceed the balance in the MST reserve the shortfall would be met from CAYA's accumulated underspend.

RESOLVED (1) to approve the proposal to extend the Multi Systemic Therapy service until June 2016; and

(2) to agree to receive a further report early in 2016.

16/15 SCHOOL TERM DATES 2016/17, 2017/18,2018/19 & 2019/20

RESOLVED to approve the school term dates in 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 as set out in this report for community, voluntary controlled, community special and maintained nursery schools.

17/15 STAYING PUT GRANT The Cabinet Member was asked to note ring-fenced government funding to support post -18 year-old young people staying with their foster carers and to approve related work and to agree the creation of an earmarked reserve.

Derbyshire has been allocated £70,016 for 2014/15, with further allocations for the next two years to be announced in February 2015. The aim of the funding is to support young people staying with their foster carers post-18.

Derbyshire already performed strongly on this and has been enabling Staying Put care for some years. This resonated with feedback from care leavers who valued the opportunity to stay in the foster family home as they move into adulthood.

The proposal was to use the bulk of the grant to support service development regarding post-18 arrangements for Care Leavers, with any uncommitted budget used, within the terms of the ring-fence, to offset expenditure already made.

Some informal consultation to inform service development had already been undertaken with Staying Put Carers and young people, but a fuller review had been deferred until the conclusion of the re-commissioning of the Leaving Care Service contract as the provider oversees the Staying Put service. This contract was now subject to a Cabinet report – 10 February 2015.

The review of Staying Put care would need to incorporate the views of care leavers and the Care Leaver Charter and also link with other accommodation options.

Information relating to care leavers who were living in suitable accommodation was submitted to the Department for Education. Whilst the percentage of Derbyshire care leavers who were living in suitable accommodation had seen a small decrease from 94.8% for 2012/13 to 90.1% at the end of March 2014, Derbyshire's outcome at the end of March 2014 was still higher than the overall England outcome and the statistical neighbour average for 2012/13.

Details of past and current allowances paid to Staying Put Carers have been as follows:

2012-13	£165,298 – comprising payments in respect of 31 individuals at an average annual payment rate of £9,900 each
2013-14	£217,142 – comprising payments in respect of 28 individuals at an average annual payment rate of £9,380 each
2014-15 (to date)	£150,265 tbc – comprising payments in respect of 28 individuals at an average annual payment rate of £8,965 each

Given the timescales associated with the awarding of the new contract for the commissioned Leaving Care Support Service, it was recommended that the grant was carried over to enable development work to be progressed.

Agreement was sought to create an earmarked reserve to allow Derbyshire funding from the Department of Education for '14/'15 to be spent in '15/'16.

RESOLVED (1) to note the ring-fenced government funding; and

(2) to approve related work and the creation of an earmarked reserve.

**18/15 EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL PROVIDER FRAMEWORK FOR
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AND
RESIDENTIAL CARE PROVIDERS**

The Cabinet Member was informed of the re-tender arrangements regarding the East Midlands Regional Provider Framework (EMRPF), currently in operation for the placement of looked after children with Independent Fostering Agencies and Residential Care Providers.

The EMRPF had been in operation since April 2011 and its four year term was due to expire in April 2015. The EMRPF was established to 'shape the market' in relation to quality placement provision and placement cost for looked after children placed in agency fostering and residential care. Six East Midlands local authorities could procure services using the EMRPF. Northamptonshire County Council was the lead local authority for the EMRPF and had a team that provided a support and monitoring function to the other five local authorities.

The re-tender of the EMRPF was currently underway with a great deal of scoping work having been undertaken and the specification for the new EMRPF now includes residential therapeutic placements and residential / day educational placements in addition to fostering and residential social care placements.

This will help shape the market further in relation to the quality and cost of placements with Independent schools. It will also have available a tier of providers offering specialist therapeutic residential placements for children and young people with more complex needs.

Placement fees would be capped and maintained during the proposed four-year period. All of the above services would be on a tiered framework to encourage providers to offer the best and most competitive prices.

The intention would be to increase the number of providers in the top tiers through improvements in Ofsted ratings or reductions in price. This would encourage providers to continue to invest in the region. Any new providers would be allowed to join at any time during the lifetime of the contract. This would promote innovation and new ideas from the market.

There would continue to be a central team based in Northamptonshire that would manage the contracts on behalf of the other five local authorities, which would be funded by contributions from all of the local authorities that were eligible to use the EMRPF.

The proposed framework services would all be supported by a generic specification which would encompass all of the basic requirements of providers, including Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) checks, training etc. There would then be a service specification for each element of provision.

The proposal took into account learning from the current regional framework, other contracts across the country and significant market and colleague engagement, and was being developed in conjunction with all local authorities across the region. Any providers whose performance fell below an acceptable level could be suspended or removed from the contract, as decided and agreed by the regional representatives.

RESOLVED (1) to note the progress to date regarding the re- tender of the EMRPF; and

(2) to approve that Derbyshire participate in further development work for re-tendering the EMRPF for the period 2015 – 2019 in accordance with the proposed timescale as detailed in the report, although recruitment of a new Project Manager was currently taking place, which was likely to impact on the timetable.

19/15 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 and Young People held on 6 January 2015 (contains exempt information).
- (2) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children and Younger Adults on Financial Assistance towards Adaptation to Home - MW (contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual).