

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER – YOUNG PEOPLE** held on 5 February 2019 at County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Cabinet Member - Councillor A Dale

Also in attendance – Councillors J Coyle, A Fox, J Patten and J Twigg.

09/19 MINUTES **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Young People held on 9 January 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

10/19 CONFIRMATION OF NOMINATIONS OF SCHOOL
GOVERNORS **RESOLVED** to approve the nomination of the following persons to serve as Local Authority Governors:-

K Sharman-Davies	-	Brockley Primary School
K Bloxam	-	Darley Dale Primary School
S Evans	-	Highfields School
S William-Davies	-	White Peak Federation of Schools
P Dakin	-	Chinley Primary School
E Strek	-	St Andrew's CofE Junior School
S Wilks	-	Limestone Peak Federation
M Evans	-	Coton-in-the-Elms Primary School
C Green	-	Stanton Primary School

11/19 CHILDREN'S SERVICES SPENDING 2018/19

The Cabinet Member was informed of the results of the latest Children's Services budget monitoring for 2018/19 with the major variances highlighted.

The current forecast year-end position for Children's Services expenditure by the Council was a £4.321 million overspend against allocated budget. As the department has no uncommitted earmarked reserves, this projected overspend would be a charge at year end against the Council's general reserve.

The department was committed to implementing the budget reductions agreed by Council and would continue to control spend by other measures such as vacancy control. However, increases in demand for statutory services have exceeded the capacity of the current Children's Services budget for some years and the additional funding approved by Council for 2018/19 has ensured that the projected overspend was lower than the £6.389 million overspend reported for 2017/18. A breakdown by service area was attached as Appendix 1 to the joint report.

The major variances included Uncommitted budget (underspend £0.971m); SMT and Resources (underspend £0.184m); Safeguarding and Early Help (overspend £3.809m); Schools and Learning (overspend £2.048m); and Countywide Commissioning (overspend £0.132m). The main reasons for the variances were detailed in the report. It was noted that under Safeguarding and Early Help the Social Care Teams were projected to underspend by £1.410m and not overspend as detailed in the report. The report will be amended on the website.

Children's Services was allocated budget reductions of £2.906 million for 2018/19. It was estimated that £2.219 million would be achieved in 2018/19 with £2.010 million of these confirmed and reflected in the outturn projections, and a further £0.210 million that were expected to be achieved during the year.

The current additional allocations to the Children's Services revenue budget for 2018/19 was as follows – Children's Services Demographics (£7.000m plus one-off funding of £4.000m); Children's Social Care Remodelling (£1.300m plus one-off funding of £4.000m); Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (£1.000m); Care Leavers (£0.402m – one-off); Child Protection Staff (£0.150m – one-off); Organisation models for small schools (£0.380m one-off for two years); and the utilisation was detailed in the report.

The main risks which could impact on the portfolio's outturn position were detailed in the report.

Of the net overspend for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), a £0.131m overspend was projected on de-delegated budgets of mainstream schools. It was intended that the Schools Forum be asked that the outturn on these budgets be combined with the accumulated reserves from previous years' de-delegated budgets, which currently stood at £1.213 million. These reserves would be used to fund the projected overspend on de-delegated budgets or could allow a reduction in contribution rates in future years.

An overspend of £0.171 million was projected on Early Years block budgets. The DSG Early Years block budget and forecast has been set based on the Department for Education's (DfE) expected attendance hours based on the January 2017 census data and an estimate of the take-up of the additional 15 hours available to working parents. The DfE would recalculate the amount of DSG due to the Authority in July 2019 based on the January 2018 and January 2019 census data. The overspend was mainly due to a greater spend on provision of hours for 2 year-olds than the allocation from the DfE would fund.

The High Needs Block budgets were projected to overspend by £2.053 million. The DfE announced additional High Needs Block funding in late-December 2018 for 2018/19 and for 2019/20, with Derbyshire's allocation

being £1.599m for each year. The amount receivable in 2018/19 would be applied against the projected High Needs Block overspend for 2018/19 leaving an overspend of £0.454 million which would be met from the residual DSG reserves balance.

The most significant areas of overspend was on top-up payments for post-16 placements at colleges and independent providers, and on expenditure of pre-16 pupils at independent and non-maintained special schools or other LA providers. A number of tribunal decisions and an increase in the number of learners or the number of hours' provision for learners, compared with the expectation when the plan was set, were factors leading to this overspend.

RESOLVED to note (1) the outcome of the latest budget monitoring and Dedicated Schools Grant projections for 2018/19, and

(2) progress on delivery of budget reductions.

12/19 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT – HAZARDOUS ROUTE ASSESSMENT The Cabinet member was asked to consider a request for a home to school journey to be declared 'hazardous' for the purpose of establishing eligibility to free transport from Westhouses to Tibshelf School.

The Authority has undertaken a review of transport provision relating to students living in Westhouses travelling to Tibshelf School, which established that a number of students were currently in receipt of free school transport but the distance between their home address and the School measured less than the statutory walking distance of three miles for a secondary school pupil. Parents were advised that assistance with transport would be withdrawn at the end of Autumn Term 2018, but they were given the opportunity to re-apply for assistance on Extended Rights Grounds (benefit entitlement) or ask for the decision not to provide assistance to be Reviewed by a Panel of Officers.

A number of parents have raised concerns with regard to the safety of the route for the purposes of home to school transport and requested that an assessment of the route be undertaken in accordance with the Authority's Walking Route Assessment Criteria.

The route between Westhouses to Tibshelf School was paved on either one or both sides of the carriageway. It was necessary in some areas to cross from one side of the carriageway to the other to continue along a pavement but, it was not necessary to walk on the carriageway. The route detailed at appendix C to the report was inspected on 13 December 2018 by the Hazardous Route Panel and recommended that it was not hazardous. The Panel recommended improvements to the two crossing points on the route incorporating new signage, possible rumble strips, and ensuring trees and shrubs were cut back.

RESOLVED to approve the Hazardous Routes Panel's recommendation, that the route between Westhouses and Tibshelf School is not hazardous.