

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE** held on 6 January 2015 at County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Councillor K Gillott (in the Chair)

01/15 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

02/15 **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 42 schools detailed in the Director of Legal Services report.

03/15 **APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS TO SERVE AS LA GOVERNORS ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES** **RESOLVED** that the following person be appointed to serve as a LA Governor on a school governing body under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007:-

D Beaumont – Mickley Infant School

04/15 **CHILD PROTECTION MANAGER (VULNERABLE CHILDREN)** **POST** Approval was sought to appoint an additional temporary Child Protection Manager to lead on child sexual exploitation and associated vulnerabilities.

Child sexual exploitation was a form of abuse. A series of high profile cases had identified that child sexual exploitation had been under-reported, and in many instances, has remained undetected. A recently published report into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham, was written by Professor Alexis Jay. Professor Jay's report detailed that around 1,400 children were sexually exploited between 1997 and 2013. In over a third of these cases, the children were previously known to social services because of abuse and neglect.

The Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board, together with Derby Safeguarding Children Board, had agreed a joint strategy to tackle child sexual exploitation in Derbyshire. The now-named Derbyshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (DLSCB) had developed its own action plan which set out the issues to be tackled in Derbyshire.

The proposed post was required to provide a single line of management oversight of children and young people who were vulnerable as they were at risk of abuse through child sexual exploitation, trafficking, or from going missing. The post would be based within the Child Exploitation Team at the Derbyshire Police HQ. The main duties of the post would be to:

- Oversee appropriate prevention and identification of cases
- Work alongside agencies in referring and assessing children and young people
- Ensure appropriate support to child victims through the prosecution process and beyond
- Assist Derbyshire Police in the identification and prosecution of perpetrators
- Work with the Local Safeguarding Children Board in the implementation of the Child Exploitation Strategy
- Lead in the current trafficking pilot in Derbyshire
- Provide expert advice and support to the children's workforce
- Oversee the management of missing children in Derbyshire
- Responsibility for the development and implementation of the E-Safety Policy across the children's workforce.

The post would be grade 13 and the estimated cost for one year would be £53,000 including on-costs. The post could be funded from the CAYA underspend earmarked reserve

RESOLVED that approval be given for recruitment to this temporary post.

05/15 FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT Approval was sought to agree funding for development work to increase fostering capacity.

The Council cares for 632 (as at 31 October 2014) children and young people, and has a duty to provide sufficiency of care placements, with regard to numbers and type.

The care placements of these children & young people were detailed in the Strategic Directors report.

Focusing on our 458 fostered children, Derbyshire currently placed 23 % of our fostered children in Independent Fostering placements which compares well with national average usage of 31%. Further increasing the percentage of in- house foster placements would improve outcomes for children in care and produce significant budget savings. On average an IFA placement costs at least £12,500 p.a. more than DCC. An added driver was that the age profile of current carers suggested that many would seek to retire over the next few years.

Building our overall fostering capacity is essential in redressing the balance between residential and family based care. The specialist DCC Contract carer scheme for teenagers with complex needs costs about £70,000 p.a. less than DCC residential care and for the majority of young people, though not all, supported them to achieve better outcomes.

iMPower was commissioned in July 2014 to undertake a project with the fostering service to identify existing strengths to build on, opportunities for service improvements and financial savings. The report by iMPower had recommended a structured and sustained programme of change, framed around current staff and carer values, focusing on improving the two key metrics that will increase the in-house share. This programme would involve implementing a number of changes, co-produced with staff and foster carers, across the four main opportunity areas:

- a) Enhancing enquiry quality
- b) Improving the carer experience through their 'journey to approval' and, ultimately, conversion rates to approved carers
- c) Increasing utilisation
- d) Strengthening the support offer and carer experience.

The end goal of this project was to avoid imminent cost growth and realise cashable savings by increasing the proportion of looked after children who were placed in in-house fostering placements, while maintaining or improving placement quality and outcomes for looked after children.

The modelling suggested that, after a three-year period, net savings to the council base budget would be significant (with a further £177,000 p.a. of cost avoidance given the baseline trend). This is inclusive of:

- (a) Extra capacity required to recruit and support in-house foster carers (as modelling is based on a unit cost per placement)
- (b) Change costs, whether internal or external.

This proposal would help CAYA to achieve the savings in the costs of Children in Care which were already in its savings plan.

The underpinning theme for the programme was that involving foster carers in co-production of the developments was the best way of achieving sustainable and comprehensive change.

To implement the proposed programme, agreement was sought for one time-limited project manager (Grade 13); two additional recruitment and assessment social workers (Grade 9 to 11) and some additional capacity within CAYA Business Services Support (Grade 4/5) and a part-time Communications Officer (Grade 10) within Chief Executives Public Relations (this would be a reduced continuation of current arrangements).

Agreement was sought to extend the contract with iMPower, at a cost of £150,000 (plus 10% on costs so £165,000) for 15- 16 and £35,000 for 16-17, with some of this subject to achieving targets and thus savings. Agreement was also sought to maintain a specific marketing budget of £60,000 for 15-16 and thereafter £50, 000 per annum.

RESOLVED to approve the funding and related work to increase fostering capacity.

06/15 SITE NOTIFIED FOR EDUCATION ON MILL LANE IN CODNOR
Approval was sought to the de-notification of an area of privately-owned land identified as part of a future site for Codnor Primary School.

Codnor Primary School had 239 pupils on roll with a net capacity of 258 and was located on Whitegates, Codnor. The projected number of pupils at this school for the foreseeable future was around 245. The site area of the school was 8862m².

Land on Mill Lane, Codnor, (shown on the attached plan to the report) was notified in the Amber Valley Local Plan in January 1978 as playing fields for Codnor Primary School. Approximately half of the site was part-owned by Derbyshire County Council and the other part of the site was in private ownership. The total area of the notified site is 9512m².

The detached playing fields had been maintained in a minimal way only as the distance from the school made their use infrequent and limited. It took over 15 minutes to walk from the school in Whitegates to the field in Mill Lane and the route was along the busy A610 passing a number of shops making safeguarding and supervision of pupils a significant issue.

Recent proposals for housing development in Codnor had led the County Council to review options for the use of this land and its notification of the site. The size of the whole area was less than would be required to replace and enlarge the existing primary school, and it was clear that the school utilised the field behind its current buildings as a playing field and not this detached area.

If large-scale housing development was proposed and approved in the Codnor area, it was more likely that the County Council would exercise its option to seek a developer's provision of a new site and funding to deliver a new school.

The owner of the part of the notified site not owned by the Authority had employed a consultant to review the position regarding the notification of his

land as he wished to develop and expand his current business. His expansion relies on using his land that is notified but this was not possible without a change to the notified status. The outcome of this review had identified the limited options for future educational use of the site, and the County Council had been asked to make a commitment to purchase the land or to de-notify it.

At the recent public inquiry on the Amber Valley Borough Council's Core Strategy, the lack of immediate plans for the educational use of notified sites led to comment that the Local Authority needed to have clear identifiable plans for the use of notified sites and should not limit their potential for alternative development.

The Council was not in a position to purchase the privately-owned area of the notified site and in any event, given its limited benefit to the school, such a purchase could not be supported.

In view of all of these factors, it was recommended that the privately owned area be de-notified whilst retaining the land owned by the County Council as detached playing fields for the use of the school.

RESOLVED to agree to Amber Valley Borough Council being asked to de-notify the area of land (as identified by the shaded area on the plan attached to the report) as privately owned, on the basis that it was no longer required for future educational use.

07/15 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 2 December 2014 (contains exempt information).
- (2) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children and Younger Adults on Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service (contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).