

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE** held on 8 September 2015 at County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Councillor J Coyle (in the Chair)

In attendance - Councillor Mrs J Street

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Bisknell and D Greenhalgh

76/15 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member

77/15 **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 a new Instrument of Government to be made for the school detailed in the Director of Legal Services' report.

78/15 **CHILDREN & YOUNGER ADULTS (CAYA) SERVICE SPENDING 2015/16** The Cabinet Member was informed of the results of the latest CAYA service budget monitoring with major variances highlighted; progress on delivery of budget reductions and the projected year end earmarked reserves balances taking into account anticipated drawdowns and additions during the year.

The current forecast year end position for CAYA's expenditure funded by the Council was an overspend of £5.225m. A number of actions were in place to minimise any overspend. Any shortfall in closing the gap would be met by the use of CAYA's 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 £2.063m 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.

In relation to CAYA Budgets the forecast overspend was £5.225m which was net of the approved use of reserves to cover known delays in the achievement of specific budget reductions advised to Cabinet on 5 May 2015.

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

Changes to either of these assumptions would affect the projected overspend and based on the level of staff turnover seen in previous years, a reduction in the overspend of between £1.000m and £2.000m could occur due to vacancies arising in year. The CAYA senior management team were responsible for approving recruitment to every vacancy that arose within CAYA to ensure savings were made wherever possible taking into consideration the need to maintain services.

Should the expenditure be above budget by the end of 2015/16, CAYA would drawdown from its earmarked reserve of prior year underspends to provide the additional resources. The available balance of that reserve is estimated at £7.733m.

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

The projected end year position of the CAYA earmarked reserves was shown in Appendix 2 to the joint report and predicted a net reduction of £5.615m.

Within this, £7.733m was the balance of the prior years' underspend which the department intended to use in this and future financial years to manage the impact of budget reductions.

A further £1.009m 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.

Reward grant income of £3.620m from the Troubled Families initiative was being held with the intention of supporting the Early Help service over the next three years to continue its work with troubled families.

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

79/15 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:-

C Cutting – Ripley Nursery School

H Hempsall – The Viilage Federation of Carsington & Hopton CE Primary School and Kirk Ireton CE Primary School

(2) to approve the nomination of the following persons to serve as Local Authority Governors under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 20012:-

P Akehurst – Somercotes Infant School

N Luscombe – Grindlefors Primary School

80/15 SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN Approval was sought for the County Council to join the “Safe Families for Children” pilot project across the East Midlands.

Safe Families for Children (SFFC) was a volunteer organisation that gave support to families in crisis. It was founded in Chicago in 2003, by child psychologist Dr. David Anderson. In the U.S., it had apparently proven highly effective in the fight against family breakdown, preventing child neglect and abuse, and had brought about significant reductions to the numbers of children entering the care system.

A pilot of SFFC had been running in the UK since 2013-14, across 13 Local Authorities in the North East. SFFC claimed that this had already delivered significant financial cost savings to participating Authorities.

In 2015-16, SFFC has secured funding from the Department for Education’s Innovation Fund to extend the pilot scheme into 5 new regional ‘hubs’, one of which was the East Midlands. To date, six Local Authorities had indicated that they werere interested in participating in this pilot: Nottingham City; Nottinghamshire; Lincolnshire; Northamptonshire; Derby City and Derbyshire.

Dartington Social Research has agreed to evaluate the impact of the pilot and whether it delivers cost savings to Local Authorities through the prevention of care.

It is proposed that the Council joined the regional pilot in October 2015, and continued to participate in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years subject to successful outcomes. The SFFC service would roll-out to families in Erewash, with priority being given to families in the Cotmanhay area.

In its first year in 2015-16, the East Midlands 'hub' was expected to serve over 100 families (approximately 240 children). This would include approximately 40 children from Derbyshire.

Although it could not be guaranteed that SFFC would deliver financial savings to the Council, the emerging evidence looked promising. The involvement of Dartington Social Research was also positive.

Given its emphasis on empowering volunteers within local communities to support local families in need, the SFFC 'offer' would be consistent with, and add value to, the Thriving Families work which was currently taking place within Erewash. In view of the budget reductions the Council needed to make, and the potential impact of these budget cuts on Early Help services, it would be increasingly important to empower local communities, and to be able to access community resources to support families in need.

The DfE had awarded SFFC £2.35 million from the Innovations Fund in 2015-16, to extend its activity into 5 new pilot areas, including the East Midlands. Therefore, there would be no cost to the Council to participate in the scheme in 2015-16. The Council will not receive any funding directly from SFFC as a result of joining the scheme in 2015-16, but would benefit from access to a free volunteer service for up to 40 Derbyshire children and families between October 2015 and March 2016.

The draft Partnership Agreement stated that, if the results from the first year of the pilot were positive, Local Authorities in the East Midlands who were part of the programme would commit to pay Safe Families for Children £60,000 per year during 2016-17 and 2017-18 as part of the scale up phase. This commitment would be triggered by the achievement of stretching targets, including demonstration that SFFC can reduce the flow of children into care by 10 per cent; better child mental health and reduced parental anxiety for those supported by Safe Families volunteers.

There was no specific budgetary provision to meet the £60,000 per annum contribution, the cost for both 2016-17 and 2017-18 would therefore have to be funded from CAYA's previous years' underspend.

It was proposed that the Council's participation in the pilot was approved under Protocol 8 of the Financial Regulations (sole supplier).

RESOLVED that approval be given for the County Council to join the "Safe Families for Children" pilot project in 2015-16, and to continue to participate in 2016-17 and 2017-18 if the pilot achieves the outcomes specified in the Partnership Agreement.

81/15 MELBOURNE ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION – FUTURE DISPOSAL OF BUILDING This report was withdrawn at the meeting.

82/15 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 11 July 2015 (contains exempt information).
- (2) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children and Younger Adults on Catering Cashless Systems – Maintenance Contracts (Contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information)
- (3) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children and Younger Adults on Mrs H – Request for financial assistance with extension to home (contains Information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual)
- (4) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children and Younger Adults on Hatton Community Education Centre Future disposal of land (contains Information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual)