

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.20pm

**Children and Young People Board
19 November 2013**

Present Councillor Whitby (Chair)
 Councillors Atwal, Bailey, Bolton, Campbell, Hillier, S Khan, Williams

In Attendance: Councillor Rawson

41/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Allen.

42/13 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

43/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

44/13 Call-in

There were no items.

45/13 Revenue Budget Proposals 2014/15 – 2015/16

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Resources on Revenue Budget Proposals 2014/15 – 2016/17. The report was presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People and the Director of Finance and Procurement.

It was reported that the Council Cabinet had published its budget proposals for 2014/15 to 2016/17 for public consultation and that the proposals were in line with the Council's budget strategy agreed by Council in September 2013. It was further reported that the consultation document contained details of individual proposals for saving money to meet the multi-million pound budget challenge facing the Council in 2014/15.

Members noted that the estimated levels of savings required to balance the budget, as reported in the budget strategy in September 2013 was approximately £77 million over the next three years. However, it was also noted that the latest forecast required savings of £81m to balance the budget and that this included £29m in 2014/15, £31m in 2015/16 and £21m in 2016/17.

It was reported that the public consultation would run until 16 December 2013 including consultation with overview and scrutiny boards and that the outcomes

from the public consultation and recommendations from overview and scrutiny boards would be considered by Council Cabinet on 22 January 2014 and presented to Council for approval on 29 January 2014.

It was further reported that the proposals for Children and Young People were covered on pages 35 – 40 of the consultation document and showed that the Directorate would need to find savings of £3.480m in 2014/2015, representing 8.4% of the net budget. Members noted that this equated to a reduction of 28.5 FTE's.

Members noted that the consultation document contained a significant level of existing savings and pressures which were approved as part of the 2013/14 budget agreed by Council Cabinet on 23 January 2013.

Members considered and commented upon the following proposed changes contained within the consultation document:

- Charging families for voluntary accommodation of children

Members asked which families would be targeted. It was reported that there were specific circumstances when charges could and could not be made. For example, families on benefits could not be charged. Members felt it would be important to ensure that less wealthy families also received any information on the charge.

- Explore the potential for negotiating schools contribution to Derby's Safeguarding Board
- Youth Offending Service – review model and seek efficiencies within the service
- Recommission the service in relation to work with young people at risk from sexual exploitation

Members agreed that a commissioning framework should be developed for the sexual exploitation service as it was important to ensure that the right service provision was provided in a timely manner for service users. Members also agreed that staff training standards should be maintained. Members stated that the cost savings should not proceed until such a time that a commissioned service was in place.

- Transfer of Darley Barn to another agency to deliver service to avoid closure
- Reduction in Voluntary Sector Grants

Members felt it was important that voluntary sector grants were reduced in such a way as to avoid creating problems in the future. Members also felt that in terms of disability organisations, the reduction in voluntary sector grants must not create gaps in the provision of services. Members noted that the Council was working with voluntary organisations on alternative sources of funding and income

generation.

- A review of services jointly provided with Health for the Integrated Disabled Children's Service

Members considered and commented upon the Children and Young People 2014/15 to 2016/17 budget pressures.

Members also discussed the recruitment and retention of foster carers and agreed that Corporate Parenting responsibilities must be taken seriously throughout the Council. Members agreed that foster carer recruitment should be prioritised on the home page of the Council's website and through search engines.

Resolved:

- 1. to consider Revenue Budget Proposals for 2014/15 to 2016/17 and make recommendations to the Council Cabinet on the details of the proposed budget;**
- 2. to recommend a commissioning framework be developed for the sexual exploitation service as it is important to ensure that the right service provision is provided in a timely manner for service users and staff training standards are maintained. Cost savings should not proceed until such a time that a commissioned service is in place; and**
- 3. to recommend that Corporate Parenting responsibilities must be taken seriously throughout the Council. It is recommended that foster carer recruitment is prioritised on the home page of the Council's website and through search engines.**

MINUTES END