

Time commenced – 6.00pm  
Time finished – 7.58pm

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD 25 JUNE 2013

Present: Councillor Whitby (Chair)  
Councillors Allen, Bailey, Bolton, Campbell and Hillier

### 01/12 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Atwal, S Khan and Williams and Alison Brown.

### 02/13 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

### 03/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 04/13 Minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2013 were noted.

### 05/13 Call-in

There were no items.

### 06/13 Residential Children's Homes Topic Review – Cabinet Response and Action Plan

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on the topic review into Residential Children's Homes 2012 to 2013: Are our Children's Homes fit for purpose now and in the future? The report was presented by the Head of Children in Care and the Lead Service Manager Regulated Services.

Members noted that following the completion of the topic review a report was presented to Council Cabinet on 17 April 2013 by the Chair of the Children and Young People Board and Cabinet accepted all of the reports recommendations.

Members received a presentation that identified how the service was taking forwards the reports recommendations.

Members discussed the recommendations in relation to the maintenance of Children's Homes. It was reported that a Service Level Agreement was in operation

and that a customer complaints procedure was in place. Members felt strongly that there should be a dedicated Children's Homes maintenance person. It was reported that this was being considered.

Regarding the recommendation that the reliance on agency staff in Children's Homes needed to end, it was reported that the current use of agency staff was very low compared to when the topic review was undertaken.

In relation to the recommendation that the recruitment process, across the service needs to be far more vigorous and robust and that children from the homes need to be involved in the recruitment process, it was reported that every candidate was now encouraged to visit the relevant home and the children's views were taken into consideration. It was further reported that this would need to be reviewed at some point to determine whether it was working.

In respect of the recommendation that a review of the management structures in the homes needs to be conducted and where possible the structure needed to be flattened and streamlined (whilst recognising the need to be Ofsted compliant), it was reported that this would be done as part of a staffing review.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to note Cabinet endorsement of the topic reviews recommendations;**
- 2. to note the presentation; and**
- 3. to agree that a further update be brought before the Children and Young People Board in six months time.**

## **07/13 Children and Young People Department Priorities 2013-14**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Children and Young People's Directorate Priorities for 2013/14. The report was presented by the Service Director of Commissioning and the Improvement Partner – Children and Young people.

Members noted that during 2013/14, Children and Young People's Services would be working to deliver improvements in five priority areas:

- looked after children;
- improved health of children and young people;
- school improvement;
- safeguarding vulnerable children and young people; and
- better systems and processes and learning from feedback.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to note the revised priorities for 2013/14 alongside the extended Executive Summary; and**
- 2. to note the presentation.**

## 08/13 Work Programme

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Resources on the Outline Work Programme. The report was presented by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer.

Members were given the opportunity to discuss potential work plans and develop the basis for a work programme for the forthcoming year. It was reported that the Chair and the Overview and Scrutiny Officer had met with senior officers to determine key work areas within the Board's remit for the following year. A draft work programme was attached at Appendix 2 of the report.

Members were reminded that the work programme would remain a living document and items could be added or removed across the year to ensure that key items received scrutiny in a timely way.

### **Resolved:**

- 1. that looked after children permanency planning and raising the participation age be added to the work programme; and**
- 2. that pupil projections be added to the work programme; and**
- 3. that routes to school be added to the work programme and brought to the November meeting of the Children and Young People Board.**

## 09/13 Topic Review Selection 2013-14

The Board received a report of the Chair of the Children and Young People Board on Topic Review 2013.

The Board discussed whether to begin the Early Intervention Service review that was postponed in the previous municipal year or to conduct a review into a different topic.

### **Resolved to conduct a review into the Early Intervention Service.**

## 10/13 Children's Centre Visit Programme

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Resources on Children's Centre Visits.

The Board requested that the Overview and Scrutiny Officer set up a programme of visits to Children's Centres across the city to learn more about the work that they do.

### **Resolved to note the report.**

## 11/13 Forward Plan

An extract of the Council Cabinet Forward Plan including items relating to the board's terms of reference was considered. Members wanted an opportunity to consider and comment upon the following item:

- Item 100/12 – Approval of supplier for New Children and Young People ICT Systems

**Resolved to recommend that Forward Plan item 100/12 be brought to a future meeting of the Children and Young People Board for consideration and comment.**

MINUTES END