

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: 8 October 2019

Time: 2.00pm – 3.35pm

Venue: Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillors S Bywater (Chairman), S Hoy (Vice Chairwoman), D Ambrose Smith, A Bradnam, P Downes, L Every, A Hay, M Howell, S Taylor and J Whitehead

Co-opted member: A Read

Apologies: Councillor J Wisson, substituted by Councillor M Howell

Co-opted member: F Vettese

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

244. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were noted as recorded above. There were no declarations of interest.

245. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2019

The minutes of the meeting on 10 September 2019 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

246. ACTION LOG

With the consent of the Chairman, a revised action log was tabled which showed updates received since the meeting documents were published (copy at Appendix 1). The updated action log was noted.

A Member commented that in discussion of the draft Best Start in Life (BSiL) Strategy at the previous meeting they had asked that consideration should be given to offering vaccinations at Children's Centre. The Executive Director, People and Communities stated that she had fed this comment in to the BSiL Action Group, along with the suggestion that language skills be identified as a central risk factor.

247. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

KEY DECISION

248. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IN SOUTH FENLAND TO SEPTEMBER 2020 (KD2019/072)

The Committee was advised of the intention to issue a competitive tender for the provision of child and family centre service in the South Fenland area (covering March,

Chatteris and Whittlesey) in conjunction with Peterborough City Council. A further report seeking approval to go out to tender would be submitted to the meeting on 4 December 2019. Members were asked if there was any information that they required in this report. To ensure continuity of provision during the tender process the Committee was invited to agree to the direct award of a contract to the existing service provider, Ormiston Families Trust, for the provision of services from the end of the current contract in March 2020 to 30 September 2020 at a cost of £199,500.00

Arising from the report, Members:

- Asked that the December report should specify which services were delivered internally and which were delivered by external providers;
(Action: Commissioner)
- Noted the observation that all Members with Divisions in Fenland had been advised in writing about the proposals and that no responses had been received. Two committee members with Fenland Divisions commented that this should not be interpreted as a lack of interest on the part of those Members, but as an indication that they were content with the proposal.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) agree the direct award of a contract with Ormiston Families Trust for the provision of Child and Family services in South Fenland to 30 September 2020, at a value of £199,500;
- b) note the intention to go out to tender for the South Fenland Child and Family Centre Services, as part of joint tender exercise with Peterborough City Council.

DECISIONS

249. FINANCE MONITORING REPORT: AUGUST 2019

The Committee reviewed the position to the end of August 2019. Officers reported that there were no material changes to any budgets within the responsibility of the Children and Young People Committee. The £1.7m pressure on the revenue position remained unchanged, but the reduction in the number of children in care which had been reported at the previous meeting had continued during this period. The next two months would be a key period in relation to the High Needs and Home to School Transport budgets. The report also recommended increase of £920k in the overall scheme budget for Cromwell Community College to the General Purposes Committee, to be funded by prudential borrowing. These costs related to unforeseen delays to the project caused by unforeseeable archaeological and highways issues. Officers now judged that these costs would be up to £920k and revised the recommendation to reflect this position.

Arising from the report, Members:

- Paragraph 1.2: Commented that total expenditure did not add up to £8.7m as shown in the table. Officers stated that the total expenditure figure of £8.7m was correct, but that the figure relating to Education Directorate expenditure was incorrect;

- Asked whether it could be made more clear in the appendices which expenditure fell within the remit of the Adults Committee and which was the responsibility of the Children and Young People Committee. Officers stated that that this was not easy as the tables related to the whole of the People and Communities Directorate. The cover report was then used to highlight key issues and trends for the relevant committee. A Member asked whether the lines relating to other committees might be greyed out. Officers undertook to look into this.
(**Action: Strategic Finance Business Partner**)
- Noted that the number of care proceedings per month increased by 72% in the period February to April 2019 compared to the preceding 10 months and asked for more information. The Service Director, Children and Safeguarding stated that the relatively small numbers involved could lead to large percentage changes. It had been anticipated that this temporary increase in numbers might happen following changes to team managers. The numbers had now declined which indicated that the system was now working better than had previously been the case.
- The Chairman stated that MS4 sign-offs for capital projects had originally been costed at £1.4m. Following challenge from Members this sum had reduced significantly. He was hopeful that this figure could still be reduced further and asked that officers continue to pursue this.
(**Action: Strategic Finance Business Partner**)

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) review and comment on the report;
- b) recommend to the General Purposes Committee (GPC) an increase of up to £920k in the overall scheme budget of Cromwell Community College to be funded by prudential borrowing as outlined in section 2.4.2.

250. SERVICE COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE DRAFT 2020/21 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Chairman stated that the report contained an appendix which was exempt from publication and asked whether any members of the Committee wished to discuss the information contained in that appendix. Two Members wished to do so. The Chairman stated that the Committee would discuss the information contained in the public report before considering whether to exclude the public and press from discussion of the exempt appendix.

Sections 1-5 of the report contained standard information which would be included in the reports to all policy and service committees. Sections 5.5–5.6 set out the schemes which had been added to the capital programme since it was agreed by Council in February 2019. Section 5.7 set out three schemes which it was proposed to remove from the programme at the current time due to a slowdown in local population growth. Section 5.8 set out schemes where there was a change in total scheme costs. This included the proposals relating to Eastfield Infant and Nursery School and Westfield Junior School which had been the subject of extensive discussion previously by the Committee.

Arising from the report, Members:

- Asked about community infrastructure levy (CIL) contributions per district. Officers stated that this varied significantly and undertook to look at how this information could most usefully be provided outside of the meeting;
(Action: Lead Education Officer)
- Asked about the current position on CIL contributions in relation to Huntingdonshire District Council. Officers stated that they understood that discussions were continuing and that some progress had been made;
- Questioned why the figures relating to capital works at Cromwell Community College differed from those contained in the Finance Monitoring Report which had been discussed previously (minute 249 above refers). Officers stated that this was a timing issue and that the figures in the capital report would be updated when it returned to Committee;
- Noted that the Joint Development and Control Committee had rejected the Wing School planning application and asked whether this was likely to lead to increased costs for the revised plans. Officers commented that this might be the case as some elements of re-design might be required.

The Chairman invited the Committee to consider whether to exclude the public and press from the meeting for discussion of those projects included in the exempt appendix to the report on the grounds that it contained exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

On being proposed by Councillor Bywater, seconded by Councillor Hoy, it was resolved unanimously to

exclude the press and public from the meeting for discussion of the exempt appendix to the report.

It was resolved to:

- a) note the overview and context provided for the 2020-21 Capital Programme for People and Communities (P&C);
- b) comment on the draft proposals for P&C's 2020-21 Capital Programme and endorse their development.

251. SERVICE COMMITTEE REVIEW OF DRAFT REVENUE BUSINESS PLANNING PROPOSALS FOR 2020/21 TO 2024/25

The Committee was advised that the position had changed from that set out in the report following recent spending review announcements by Government. The figures

were being revised to reflect this and would be included in the next iteration of the report. Officers were still forecasting an in-year overspend on revenue costs and uncertainty remained around what the schools funding settlement would be. Any decisions taken now would have implications going forward, so the need to ensure a sustainable baseline was imperative.

Arising from the report, Members:

- Questioned the balance to benefit ratio of holding a referendum to increase council tax and whether the cost of holding a referendum might represent good value for money if a higher council tax limit was approved. Officers stated that 1% of council tax equated to around £2.9m. Council tax referendums held in other parts of the country had not generally been successful in obtaining agreement to higher rate;
- Noted the decision to end the Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) contract in February 2019 and asked whether front line staff would have the resources necessary to maintain frontline services given the proposed reductions to management costs. The Service Director, Children and Safeguarding confirmed that this would be the case. Historically, the Council had a high spending per capita on children's services and work was continuing to make service delivery as cost effective as possible. Efficiencies were being sought within the management structure and the service was confident that these changes could be made without impacting on front-line services. The detail of the proposals would be expanded as the business planning process progressed and these had been discussed with the staff concerned;
- Two Members commented that, in their judgement, reductions in management and back office support staff would inevitably impact on those delivering front line services. They asked that this should be explored more fully in the next iteration of the report;
(**Action: Service Director, Children and Safeguarding**)
- A Member voiced their unhappiness that the money saved by the decision to end the contract with MST was not being re-invested in early help support services as had been stated at the time, but was being offered up as a saving;
- Asked that officers should review historic grants to ensure that they still represented good value for money;
(**Action: Service Director for Children's Services/ Service Director, Education**)
- A Member commented that they deemed some of the proposed savings aspirational and some unacceptable. They judged it to be counter-productive to reduce funding to youth justice and support services as this could lead to greater costs in the longer term.

Councillor Whitehead, seconded by Cllr Downes, proposed a 2.99% increase in council tax if this was allowable without the need for a referendum.

Speaking to the motion, Councillor Whitehead commented that her understanding was that the Government settlement would be based on a 1.9% increase in council tax. She called on the Committee to support her call for a 2.99% increase in council tax if this was allowable without the need for a referendum. If this was approved she would wish to see the money invested in children's services.

In discussion of the motion:

- The Vice Chairwoman commented that all policy and service committees would have compelling cases for additional funding for particular projects or business areas. She judged that these should be considered together when all of the relevant information was available so that the relative merits of each proposal could be fully assessed;
- A Member commented that they judged it to be premature to debate a possible increase in council tax at this stage. The Chairman concurred.

Councillor Whitehead stated that she was content to withdraw her motion if the Committee could consider it when the next iteration of the report was considered and the outcome of the technical consultation was known. The Chairman stated that it would be open to her to raise the question again at that time.

It was resolved to:

- a) note the overview and context provided for the 2020-21 to 2024-25 Business Plan revenue proposals for the Service;
- b) comment on the draft revenue proposals that are within the remit of the Children & Young People Committee for 2020-21 to 2024-25.

INFORMATION AND MONITORING

252. PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES RISK REGISTER

The Committee reviewed those elements of the People and Communities Directorate risk register which related to the business of the Children and Young People Committee. The Executive Director, People and Communities highlighted Risk 5 which related to the recruitment and retention of the People and Communities workforce. Following the successful campaign to recruit social workers to adult social care services a similar model had been launched in July 2019 to recruit more social workers to children's services. To date, 42 applicants had been invited to interview, 15 had been offered jobs and six were already in post.

Arising from discussion of the report, Members:

- Commented that it was unclear from the narrative whether the 'triggers' described had actually happened or whether they were identified risks. The Chairman stated that the current presentation was somewhat ambiguous and that Members needed to know what was a current issue and what was a potential risk. The Executive Director, People and Communities stated that the report followed a standard corporate template and that she would report Members' comments back to the Strategic Management Team for consideration.
(Action: Executive Director, People and Communities)

- Asked for more information about Risk 12 - Insufficient availability of affordable Looked After Children placements. The Executive Director, People and Communities stated that the campaign to attract more in-house foster carers had been a success, but that the mix of placements remained a challenge.
- Asked how many social workers were European Union (EU) residents without settled status in the United Kingdom. Officers stated that this did not apply to large numbers of qualified social workers, but was more of an issue with care workers. A number of work streams had been established with partner organisations and local stakeholders to address this issue. The Vice Chairwoman asked all members of the Committee to encourage any EU residents who had not already applied for settled status to do so as soon as possible.

It was resolved to:

note and comment on the People and Communities Risk Register.

DECISIONS

253. AGENDA PLAN, APPOINTMENTS AND TRAINING PLAN

The committee agenda plan, appointments and training plan were reviewed. A Member asked whether the Outcome Focused Review of Cambridgeshire Music: Member Reference Group was still in existence or had been disbanded. The Chairman asked for clarification of the position.

(Action: Lead Education Officer)

A Member asked why the two Members appointed to the Fostering Panel were not drawn from the membership of the Children and Young People Committee or the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee. The Chairman stated that membership of the Fostering Panel demanded a heavy time commitment and that the current appointees had offered to take this on. They were not political appointments. The Chairwoman of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee welcomed the opportunity to broaden the pool of councillors involved in work in support of the Council's children in care.

A Member suggested that it might be useful to include the full membership of the committees to which the Children and Young People Committee was appointing representatives to give context to the appointments.

(Action: Democratic Services Officer)

It was resolved to:

a) note the following changed to the published agenda plan:

- i. November 2019: Service Director's Report for Education deferred to December 2019
- ii. December 2019: Free School Proposals removed
- iii. December 2019: Maintained Nursery School Review deferred to January 2020
- iv. December 2019: Service Directors' report for Children and Safeguarding moved forward to November 2019

- v. December 2019: Schools Funding Formula update: Moved forward to November 2019
- vi. January 2020: Installation of Fire Sprinklers in School Building Projects
- vii. March 2019: New item - Cambridgeshire Music

b) note the Committee appointments;

c) note the Committee training plan.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee will meet next on Tuesday 12 November 2019 at 2.00pm in the Swansley Room, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne CB23 6EA.

Chairman
(date)

Appendix 1

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE

Minutes-Action Log



Introduction:

This log captures the actions arising from Children and Young People Service Committee meetings and updates Members on progress. It was last updated on **07 October 2019**. Updates included since the action log was published on 30 September 2019 are shown in red.

Minutes of the meeting on 11 September 2018					
139.	Recommissioning of Young Carers Services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (KD2018/064)	Will Patten/ Oliver Hayward/ Richenda Greenhill	The Service Director for Commissioning to advise when he has exercised delegated authority to commit funding at the time of the award of the contract.	08.01.18: It is expected that the contract will be awarded in October 2019. 07.10.19: Update circulated to the committee by email. A revised timeline looks to have the service in place by August 2020.	Completed

Minutes of the meeting on 21 May 2019

217.	Community Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn/ Helene Carr	To advise the Committee when the Executive Director exercises here delegated authority, in consultation with the Chair of the Children and Young People Committee, to award an Open Framework for Community Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People.	01.07.19: Likely to be September/ October 2019. 10.09.19: Further work taking place around delivery models which is expected to be completed in November/ December 2019.	Expected to be November/ December 2019
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Minutes of the meeting on 9 July 2019

226.	Service Director's Report: Children and Safeguarding	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn	To take an action to the Council's Recruitment and Retention Group to look at the work which could be done with local colleges and health service partners to develop new pathways into social care professions, including apprenticeships, and report back to the Committee in due course.	10.09.19: The Executive Director for People and Communities is chairing a Joint Apprenticeship Group across Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council. Work is also taking place as part of the Adult Health and Skills Sustainable Transformation Partnership. A committee report or briefing note was offered for later in the year as this work progressed.	Completed
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227.	Service Director's Report: Education	Jon Lewis/ Dawn Cave	<p>To consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. running a small pilot project in relation to on Member engagement in education, perhaps with members of the Committee and a small number of schools to test it out before it was rolled out across the county; ii. writing to all Members when the guidance is circulated to schools. 	<p>08.08.19: Alastair Hale to lead on the work around support for Members. The aim is to get something out in September 2019.</p> <p>10.09.19: An item on the proposed guidance to Members on their role in relation to local schools and education would be added to the Members' Seminar programme when a slot was available.</p> <p>03.10.19: Added to the Members' Seminar on 15 November 2019.</p>	Completed
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230.	Fenland and East Cambridgeshire Opportunity Area Update	Jamie Weatherhead	To share the national evaluation of the Opportunity Area programme with the Committee when available.	<p>22.08.19: This will be shared with the Committee when available.</p> <p>02.10.19: Those reports of the national evaluation that have been published so far are available online at www.gov.uk/government/publications/opportunity-area-programme-research-and-analysis</p> <p>The final evaluation reports will be published in early 2021. Case studies of projects (known as Individual Level Evaluations) and a full qualitative evaluation will be published before the end of March 2021 and a full impact evaluation will be published later that year. Should the Department choose to extend the Opportunity Area programme then the timetable for publishing evaluations will change. A further update will be requested by Democratic Services in early 2021.</p>	Completed
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		Jon Lewis	To highlight schools within the Opportunity Area which had accessed support and include some of the qualitative information available around the programme when presenting the unvalidated 2019 examination results in the autumn.	14.08.19: The date of the report containing unvalidated examination reports to be confirmed. 10.09.19: Unvalidated results will be included in the Service Director's report in November 2019.	To be reported 12 November 2019
Minutes of the meeting on 10 September 2019					
238.	Finance Monitoring Report	Martin Wade	A Member suggested that it would be helpful in future to follow any overspends with details of the planned mitigations.	03.10.19: Finance Monitoring Report covering report has been updated to include planned mitigations where relevant.	Completed

239.		Jon Lewis/ Lou Gostling	The Chairman suggested that it would be helpful to include figures as well as percentages to provide context and make clear the numbers of people involved. The example of persistent absenteeism was given. Officers undertook to reflect on how best to present this type of information in future reports.	02.10.19 This feedback has been passed on to Tom Barden and Andy Mailer who have been leading on the report design. They have been collecting feedback from every committee and will be collating this to make changes to the next report.	Completed
		Sarah-Jane Smedmor/ Lou Gostling	To review the narrative around referrals to children's social care to provide greater context to the figures.	02.10.19: This feedback has been passed on to Tom Barden and Andy Mailer and officers are working on a process of collecting the narratives for all Key Performance Indicators to ensure a complete and useful narrative is presented each time.	Completed
241.	Draft Joint Best Start in Life (BSiL) Strategy	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn/ Richenda Greenhill	A report would be brought back around March 2020 to look at progress with the new delivery model.	23.09.19: Added to the agenda plan for 10.03.20.	Completed

		Helen Gregg	Draft BSiL Strategy Appendix 2: Commented that language was crucial to educational success and socialisation and should be shown as a central risk factor. Officers undertook to make this change.	01.10.19: The comments raised will be shared with BSiL implementation group members on 15 October.	Completed
		Helen Gregg	Suggested involving the East of England Ambulance Service in the work.	01.10.19: The comments raised will be shared with BSiL implementation group members on 15 October.	Completed
242.	Youth Justice Plan 2019-22	Anna Jack	To amend the draft report to reflect the discussion about county lines.	26.09.19: Report amended accordingly.	Completed