

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 14 March 2017

Time: 2.00pm – 4.20pm

Present: Councillors J Whitehead (Chairwoman), D Brown (Vice Chairman), P Ashcroft (substituting for D Divine), Sir P Brown, S Bywater, P Downes, M Leeke, Z Moghadas, L Nethsingha, S Taylor, J Wisson and F Yeulett (substituting for S Hoy).

Co-opted Member: A Read

Apologies: Councillors D Divine (substituted by Cllr P Ashcroft), S Hoy (substituted by Councillor Yeulett) and M Loynes.

258. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Divine, who was substituted by Councillor P Ashcroft, Councillor Hoy, who was substituted by Councillor Yeulett, and Councillor Loynes.

There were no declarations of interest.

259. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 28 FEBRUARY 2017 AND ACTION LOG

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2017 as a correct record, subject to the removal of the word 'one' from the third bullet point on page 8. The corrected minute read "One Members noted the improving performance being achieved at NCA (North Cambridge Academy) and emphasised their wish to see this maintained." A Member asked that it should also be recorded that there had been no intention to call into question the personal, professional or financial integrity of the Executive Principal, Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust during discussion of the Review of Secondary Education in Cambridge City. The corrected minutes were signed by the Chairwoman.

260. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No petitions or public questions were received.

DECISIONS

261. FREE SCHOOL PROPOSALS

Standing item. There was no business to discuss.

262. CAMBRIDGESHIRE CULTURE

The Committee received a report from the Interim Executive Director for Children Families and Adults (CFA) and presented by the Head of Cambridgeshire Music which sought the Committee's agreement to proposed changes to the purpose, scope,

structure and membership of Cambridgeshire Culture. He explained that Cambridgeshire Culture was a Member-led committee which had been set up to manage a fund which was created following the sale of a number of paintings from the Council's Art Collection. Since its creation, Cambridgeshire Culture had done much good work through numerous projects across a wide variety of art forms. The proposed changes were designed to continue this success by improving internal and external engagement across the county, ensuring continued access for schools to enhanced cultural opportunities and supporting the joint development of cultural programmes with external partners.

The following points arose in discussion of the report and in response to Members' questions:

- The proposals should be revised to make clear the reporting structure for Cambridgeshire Culture;
(Action: Head of Cambridgeshire Music)
- Members welcomed confirmation that some of the existing funds had already been used to successfully seed-fund projects which had subsequently become financially self-sufficient. The Committee would wish to see this model continued in future;
- Paragraph 2.1.4: It was confirmed that the two representatives of the Cambridgeshire School Improvement Board would represent the views of all of the education phases listed.

It was resolved to:

- a) Agree the proposed changes to the purpose, scope and structure of Cambridgeshire Culture;
- b) Agree the proposed membership of Cambridgeshire Culture.

263. FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROVISION: GAMLINGAY

The Committee received a report from the Interim Executive Director for Children Families and Adults and presented by the Strategic and Policy Place Planning Manager.

Following a consultation carried out in 2016 by the CAM Academy Trust (which ran Gamlingay First School (GFS)) and the Stratton Educational Trust (which ran Gamlingay Village College (GVC)) about future educational provision in Gamlingay proposals had been submitted to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for GFS to become an all-through primary school for 4-11 year olds and a feeder school for Comberton Village College as part of the CAM Academy Trust with effect from September 2017. It was proposed that GVC would transfer from the Stratton Educational Trust to the CAM Academy Trust followed by the closure of GVC by summer 2018. GFS would relocate to the GVC site as soon as practicable after 2017. The proposals awaited final approval by the Department for Education.

Provision had already been made within the Council's capital programme for the expansion of GFS to a two form entry in response to additional need for primary school places in the area. In view of the proposals which had now been submitted to the RSC it was proposed to bring forward this capital project in order to adapt and expand the

current GVC site to deliver all-through primary education for 4-11 year olds. This proposal had been reviewed by the Capital Programme Board and, subject to the agreement of the Children and Young People Committee, would be submitted to the General Purposes Committee for approval.

The following points arose in discussion of the item and in response to Members' questions:

- Members noted a significant change in views locally regarding the preferred model for primary provision in Gamlingay since the matter was previously considered by the Committee some years ago;
- Members noted that the report did not contain details of the actual cost of the revised proposals. Officers stated that work to finalise the figures was in hand and that these would be available when the final proposals were due to be submitted to the General Purposes Committee in May 2017;
- Paragraph 4.2.1: A Member noted that it was not guaranteed that the lease on the GFS site would revert to the Council when the site was vacated as this might be subject to the approval of the Secretary of State for Education. This raised the possibility of a shortfall in the funds available to deliver the proposed all-through primary school on the GVC site. The Director for Learning stated that any disposal of the site would, if permitted, be a matter for the Assets and Investments Committee;
- Officers confirmed that the proposals had the support of local Members;
- A Member questioned the transport implications for students during the transitional period. Officers confirmed that children who currently attended the middle school would be offered the choice of whether to pursue their education via a two tier or three tier model and that the Local Authority would honour that choice by providing free school transport;
- A Member noted that there was now greater public recognition of the benefits of matching school phase provision to National Curriculum phases and that there were now very few three tier models of provision still in operation.

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the outcome of consultation on future educational provision in Gamlingay;
- b) Endorse the case for bringing forward the capital project to adapt and expand the current Gamlingay Village College site to deliver all through primary education for 4-11 year olds.

264. DELIVERING THE EXTENDED ENTITLEMENT TO AN ADDITIONAL 15 HOURS FREE CHILDCARE FOR ELIGIBLE THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS NATIONALLY FROM SEPTEMBER 2017

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic and Policy Early Years Operations Manager and Strategic and Policy Places Planning Manager which set out the main challenges which the Local Authority faced in meeting its statutory duties in

relation to childcare in light of the additional 15 hours entitlement which would be available to eligible 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017 onward. Officers apologised that the summary of questions contained in the consultation exercise and the responses received in paragraph 2.2.3 were somewhat unclear and offered to clarify them further as required.

The following points arose in discussion of the item and in response to Members' questions:

- Paragraph 2.2.3, second bullet point: The consultation question was 'Should we reduce the deprivation supplements at Bands 3 and 4 by 5p? Yes or No.';
- Paragraph 2.3 - Capital Funding: A Member asked about the outcome of the five bids made by the Council which were unsuccessful. Officers stated that two were being pursued by providers in their own right; one was linked to provision at a special school and following discussions at officer level it had been decided not to pursue this further at the present time; one was already included in the capital programme; and one was an area of need which would still need to be addressed. The requirement that projects must be deliverable by August 2017 had limited the number which could be pursued. Members asked that this should be made more clear in future reports and that officers should ensure that local Members were always made aware of any proposals affecting their Divisions;
(Action: Strategic and Policy Early Years Operations Manager)
- The Chairwoman asked whether sufficient places would be available from September 2017 to enable the Council to discharge its statutory duty. The Strategic and Policy Places Planning Manager stated that it was anticipated that in total around 700 additional nursery places for three and four year olds would be required county-wide, but that demand for places was expected to build gradually from September 2017 onward. An action plan had been developed to target areas where increased demand for places was expected to be most acute, but it was not possible to give a categorical assurance that sufficient places would be available when required due to the various challenges described in the report;
- Officers confirmed their advice that provided the Local Authority could demonstrate that it had taken all reasonable measures to work in partnership with local providers to facilitate adequate provision to meet the extended entitlement for qualifying three and four year olds it would have done all that was required of a Local Authority, even if it was unable to fulfil its statutory duty to provide sufficient places;
- The Early Years Reference Group was working actively alongside parents, providers and the Local Authority to attempt to match provision to need and officers remained optimistic that it would be possible to meet the anticipated demand for additional childcare;
- A Member commented that collaboration between two or more providers to provide a child's full childcare entitlement appeared a feasible solution in urban areas, but questioned the viability of such a model in more rural areas where providers were geographically much further apart;
- A Member sought clarification of the process for facilitating collaboration between providers. Officers stated that funding had been identified to appoint two additional

support officers during the first two years of operation to support providers and to identify and share best practice. The initial focus would be on areas where there was already an identified sufficiency need, but they would be available to work with other providers on request;

- A Member said that it would be useful if Members could be provided with a written briefing note on the arrangements so that they would be able to signpost constituents, both parents and potential providers, to the most appropriate sources of information and support. This should include information about how families could identify their eligibility for additional childcare and register to access their entitlement through HMRC;
(**Action:** Strategic and Policy Early Years Operations Manager)
- A Member questioned whether there would be sufficient support for vulnerable families;
- The proposed hourly rate to be paid to all Cambridgeshire providers for the delivery of the universal and extended entitlement for three and four year olds of £4.04 per hour would represent an increase in funding for some providers, particularly those in more rural areas;
- Members emphasised the importance of maintaining the high quality of Early Years provision available in Cambridgeshire, as well as addressing the quantity available;
- A Member questioned whether there would be some areas of the county where it would not be viable to deliver the proposed additional provision. The Strategic and Policy Early Years Operations Manager stated that officers were working with the Early Years Providers Reference Group to discuss various ways in which providers might deliver all or part of the total entitlement. The challenge for the Local Authority was to work collaboratively with providers and parents to match up demand and provision to deliver each child's full entitlement;
- Members expressed strong concerns that the report was unclear about the exact level of funding proposed, noting that a figure of £4.04 per hour was stated at paragraph 2.2.3, but that Appendix 3 referred to 'overall funding of £4.42 per hour' and equivalent funding of £4.64 if supplementary and access funding was taken into account. Officers acknowledged that the presentation of the information was confusing and explained that the figure of £4.42 per hour was the sum paid to the local authority. Once deprivation funding, special educational needs (SEN) Inclusion Fund contributions and Local Authority centrally retained funding was deducted from this figure it produced the figure of £4.04 which was the base rate which would be paid to all providers. The figure of £4.04 was the sum which had been quoted in the consultation exercise and which providers were using as their baseline figure for planning purposes. In addition to this base rate figure some providers would receive additional funding relating to factors such as deprivation funding and pupil premium funding;
- One Member sought confirmation from officers that adequate arrangements would be in place from April 2017 onward and reassurances that both providers and parents had been sufficiently engaged in the consultation process and prepared for the introduction of the new arrangements. If this was not the case the Member was minded to propose that implementation should be delayed. In discussion it was

noted that a decision by the Committee not to approve the implementation of the £4.04 base rate with effect from April 2017 would mean that providers would lose the transition funding which this would make available to them prior to the introduction of the extended entitlement in September 2017. This would have a significant negative impact on providers whose planning assumptions were based on receiving this sum from April onwards. The rate allocated from central government would not change whether it was implemented with effect from April or September so there would be no benefit to providers or families in delaying its introduction. Officers confirmed that a thorough consultation exercise had taken place with the outcome being fed back to providers and reported to the Cambridgeshire Schools Forum. In light of the discussion and the additional clarification and assurances offered by officers the Member said that they would not propose that the implementation of the new funding arrangements were delayed, but stated that they were still not entirely reassured;

- Members emphasised the importance of senior officers reviewing reports submitted to the Committee to ensure that they contained all of the information needed by Members to make fully informed decisions and that this information was presented as clearly and concisely as possible.

It was resolved to:

- a) Approve and support the proposed approach to ensure that the Council fulfils its statutory duties with regard to the extended entitlement to early learning and childcare for eligible 3 and 4 year olds;
- b) To confirm the adoption of the Early Years Funding Formula with effect from 2017/18.

INFORMATION ITEMS

265. CHILDREN'S CHANGE PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report by the Interim Director for Children's Social Care and Lead for Children's Services Transformation which advised on changes in service design and the results of Phase One of the Children's Change Programme. Members had requested that updates should be submitted to the Committee at key points during the transformation process for information and comment in addition to the regular reports made to Group Spokes.

Phase One of the transformation of children's services had focused on reviewing and re-designing the top level management structure to support the integration and local delivery of early help and targeted services.

The following points arose in discussion of the item and in response to Members' questions:

- Paragraph 3.1.4: Members sought clarification of the arrangements for Family Meetings given the decision that the Family Group Conferencing Service (FGCS) should close. Officers advised that the FGCS had engaged with small numbers of families close to the time cases were brought to court. The revised arrangements would re-invest the funding from the FGCS to provide earlier and on-going

engagement with families and on-going social worker support. The new Integrated Front Door access to early help and support services was also designed to streamline the support process by directing families to the right type of support at the point of first contact;

- Members endorsed the role of the 14-25 Service in supporting the period of transition between child and adult services, noting the particular issues which arose at this point;
- Paragraph 6.1.1: Members sought further information about the possible budget shortfalls and historical financial pressures described and clarification of the systems in place to monitor and address these. Officers stated that savings would be sought from within the wider Children Families and Adults Directorate budget to address the possible £75k shortfall in savings identified within Children's Social Care and Enhanced and Preventative Services which was included in the 2017/18 Business Plan. The historical pressure of £1.1m included a number of unfunded posts which had been created to address particular needs and costs associated with the use of agency staff. It was recognised that most social care departments made some use of agency staff as a cost-efficient way to manage fluctuations in demand, but work was underway to look at how to manage down usage from the current level of around 16%;
- Officers stated that they did not expect to see an immediate decrease in demand for services following the transformation project, but that over time it was expected that this would be the case;
- The Interim Executive Director for Children Families and Adults said that the commitment to support any child or young person as a Looked After child where this was deemed to be in their best interest remained unchanged. However, it was also the duty of the Council to ensure that this was done as efficiently as possible and to ensure the best possible outcomes for those within the Council's care;
- A Member expressed significant reservations about the Phase One restructure of posts taking almost £500k out of the budget for children's services and asked whether any Educational Psychologist posts had been lost. Officers stated that the main impetus for the restructure had been to deliver the most efficient and effective service to customers and that there had already been a small reduction in the number of complaints received which would be a Key Performance Indicator for the success of the transformation programme going forward. No Educational Psychologist posts had been lost as a result of the restructure;
- Paragraph 3.1.1 – District Based Delivery Model: A Member welcomed the provision of additional resources in the South Cambridgeshire District in response to concerns raised by a number of local stakeholders about impact of the model on the population footprint of the District;
- A Member expressed concern about the impact of reducing the number of locality teams on rural communities and the staff supporting them. During the Phase One Consultation Members of the Children and Young People Committee had arranged two staff consultation events to hear direct the views of the staff involved. One area of concern to emerge during these discussions was the increased time spent travelling rather than working with clients if the geographical area covered by staff

members was increased. Officers stated that there was a clear commitment to a district-based, locally delivered service model. However, not all existing property assets were located in areas best suited to delivering this model. Much work was also done in clients' own homes;

- Paragraph 6.1.2: Members sought clarification of the number of possible redundancies arising from the Phase One restructure. The Interim Director for Children's Social Care advised that there would be nine voluntary redundancies within middle and senior management grades and the possibility of two compulsory redundancies, although attempts to accommodate these members of staff within the Local Authority were being actively pursued.

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the changes in service design and the results of the conclusion of phase one.

266. CHILDREN'S CENTRES: UPDATE

The Committee received a report by the Head of Family Work which provided an update on the Children's Centres programme of work and advised on the timescales for future engagement and public consultation.

Initial proposals had been brought before the Committee in October 2016 and a number of Member briefing sessions and seminars had been held since to keep Members informed and to seek their views. The commitment to delivering the suite of services currently offered by Children's Centres within a district-based model was consistent with the wider transformation of services contained within the Children's Change programme. There was a recognised need to ensure that services were accessible to the most vulnerable and to address any identified gaps in services. Ways were also being sought to increase capacity, including by working with health providers to integrate services where this was considered appropriate and beneficial. A formal consultation would be carried out in summer 2017 and proposals relating to this consultation exercise would be submitted to the Committee after the local government elections in May.

The following points arose in discussion of the item and in response to Members' questions:

- A Member commented that there was quite a lot of cynicism amongst parents about the intention to issue the consultation during the school summer holidays. They asked that the consultation should avoid school holiday periods;
- A Member expressed serious concerns about both the direction and timing of the proposals which they felt represented a significant reduction in services. Whilst acknowledging that some services would be delivered through different mechanisms they felt that the extent of the proposed changes should be made clear before the local elections in May;
- Members noted that references to any reduction in the number of Children's Centres had been removed from the proposed consultation as this had not been approved by the Committee;

- The Interim Executive Director for Children Families and Adults acknowledged that there would be a continuing need for a number of Children's Centres which reflected the existing service delivery model. These would be complemented by the creation of alternative delivery models which would continue to offer the local access to services which existed within the traditional Children' Centre, but in ways which would better reflect the changing pattern of local need. However, the delivery model remained very much a work in progress;
- Members noted that the Committee's Spokes had received copies of information leaflets relating to the existing Children's Centres and asked that copies of these should be made available to all members of the Committee for information. Officers stated that these contained factual information only and that the rankings given based on current usage did not mean that the Centres ranked highest would necessarily be those that it was proposed to retain;
(**Action:** Head of Family Work)
- Officers confirmed that it was intended that the consultation exercise would include clear proposals on the way forward, but would also invite suggestions for alternative models of service delivery;
- Members emphasised the importance of ensuring clear and timely communication with all interested parties throughout the process.

It was resolved to:

- a) Note work done to date and timescales for future engagement and public consultation.

DECISIONS

267. RISK REGISTER

The Committee received a report from the Head of Business Intelligence which set out the type and level of identified risk within CFA's business.

Members noted that the format of the CFA Risk Register reflected a corporate template used to record and report risk across each of the Council's business areas. This was due to be reviewed in April/ May 2017 and Members suggested that it would be helpful in future to:

- Use corresponding numbers across the chart to make clear which controls related to which trigger;
- Include a very short narrative indicating how key controls reduced the identified risk.

It was resolved to:

- a) To endorse the Children Families and Adults (CFA) Risk Register and management of the identified risks.

268. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee received a report from the Strategic Finance Manager setting out the financial and performance position for those services for which the Committee held responsibility as at the end of January 2017.

The Interim Executive Director for Children Families and Adults noted the continued pressure on the budget arising from the need to increase staffing levels above establishment and make use of additional agency staff to meet the Council's statutory responsibilities in relation to Children's Social Care, increased legal costs reflecting the rising number of care proceedings and an increased number of Looked After Children with complex needs who required purchased placements until the end of the year. Mitigating actions were in place to address each of these issues.

The following points arose in discussion of the item and in response to Members' questions:

- A Member welcomed the underspend of £180k on Home to School transport which was partially due to the successful pilot project carried out in Ely;
- The overspend on Children's Social Care was an issue which was reflected across the region and not just in Cambridgeshire;
- Appendix 1, Paragraph 2.1: Members welcomed the revision of the Overall Position table to show the original budget next to current expenditure and the current variance as well as the forecast variance outturn. This had been requested at the previous meeting;
- A Member expressed thanks to the Interim Executive Director for CFA for continuing to pursue the issue of legal costs.

It was resolved to:

- a) Review and comment on the report.

269. AGENDA PLAN

It was resolved to:

- a) Note and comment on the Committee Agenda Plan;
- b) Note that a report on the outcome of the inspection of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Services taking place in the week commencing 20 March 2017 would be brought to the Committee when available.

270. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee was next due to meet at 2.00pm on Tuesday 6 June 2017 in the Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall, Cambridge.

The Chairwoman noted that this was the last scheduled meeting for the Committee before the local government elections in May 2017. She thanked Members for their positive contributions and support during the current administration and offered particular thanks and good wishes to the Vice Chairman, Councillor David Brown, who would be stepping down in May.

Councillor Simon Bywater
Chairman