
MEETING	DECISION SESSION - EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
DATE	26 SEPTEMBER 2017
PRESENT	COUNCILLOR RAWLINGS

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Executive Member was asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests that he may have in respect of business on the agenda.

No additional interests were declared.

19. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 28 March 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

20. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

21. HOSTING THE NORTH AND HUMBER REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY

The Executive Member considered a report which provided an update on progress towards establishing the North and Humber Regional Adoption Agency (RAA), following the in-principle agreement by Executive on 9 February 2017 (Minute 117 of that meeting refers).

The North and Humber would be one of three RAAs in the Yorkshire and Humber Region, alongside West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire. The RAAs would deliver adopter recruitment, timely linking of children with a suitable adoptive family and adoption support to child and family. Local authorities (LAs)

would retain responsibility for looked after children, individual adoption plans and matching a child with an adoptive family.

Good progress had been made, with the six LAs working together to draw up a strength-based service delivery model (Appendix 2) that would operate under the terms of a partnership agreement covering legal and governance arrangements, the budget, staffing and funding contributions. LAs would contribute equally to fund the core functions of the RAA, the first annual contribution being £40k each.

The Executive Member noted that the proposals no longer included the transfer of staff to the RAA under TUPE, as envisaged in the report to Executive. Officers confirmed that staff would remain within LAs due to the size of the geographical area and the need to retain a local feel to the service. This approach had been endorsed by the Department of Education. The Executive Member also queried the financial implications of the proposals and asked to be included in consultation on the terms of the partnership agreement, to ensure that these were satisfactorily addressed.

Resolved: (i) That the decision to establish a North and Humber Regional Adoption Agency, to be known as 'One Adoption North and Humber', from the amalgamation of the adoption services of East Riding, North Yorkshire, North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, Hull and York councils, be confirmed.

(ii) That City of York Council be confirmed as the host local authority.

(iii) That the RAA delivery model as a single service through the creation of a Head of Agency and three Service Managers managing the entirety of the regional adoption service be approved; the Head of Agency to report to the Leadership and Management Board and line manage the Service Managers, who will each manage a single team covering two localities (paired local authorities).

(iv) That York's Director of Children, Education & Communities, in consultation with the Assistant Director of Legal Services and the Executive

Member for Education, Children & Young People, be authorised to approve the terms of the detailed partnership agreement.

Reason: To provide a pro-active response to government requirements that is cost-effective and builds upon the existing strengths of the partner local authorities.

Cllr Rawlings, Executive Member

[The meeting started at 4.10 pm and finished at 4.26 pm].