

## EXECUTIVE MEMBERS & CHILDRENS SERVICES ADVISORY PANEL

MONDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2006

### DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 16 October 2006. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Melanie Carr – email: [melanie.carr@york.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.carr@york.gov.uk) , Tel No. 01904 552061

#### 4. INDEPENDENT REVIEWING SERVICE IN YORK REPORT

Members considered a report which provided information on the key aspects of the Independent Reviewing Service. These included that:

- The service carried out statutory reviews of care plans for looked after children which were used to highlight and progress priority concerns
- The service was responsible for investigating and resolving problems in relation to complaints made by looked after children
- In the case of a child at risk, the service was responsible for the production of a good quality, multi agency child protection plan through the involvement of all parties including the child and family.
- The service was responsible for chairing, minuting and administering child protection conferences for all children placed on the Child Protection Register
- Through transitional planning meetings, the service aimed to provide a consistent approach for children as they passed from the 0-10 social work teams to the 11+ social work teams.
- The service had recently introduced a new system to ensure the stability of placements for looked after children up to the age of 11yrs with the intention of extending that to include children up to 14yrs.

The report highlighted the number of reviews, protection plans and conferences arranged over the past three years and gave a progress report on local implementation of the new regulations and guidance.

It was noted that the new Adoption & Children Act 2002 guidance had provided a much clearer framework for developing the service and enabled the team to focus attention on improving all aspects of planning and reviewing activity.

#### Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to note the contents of the report and request further reports on an annual basis.

#### Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the advisory panel be accepted and

endorsed.

REASON: To inform the Executive Member.

## **5. EDUCATION EARLY YEARS AND CHILD CARE PATHFINDER**

Members considered a report detailing the Pathfinder award of new flexible entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds which had increased from 12.5 hours to 15 hours of nursery education provision for 2006/7 and 2007/8.

The report highlighted the aims and objectives of the project which included:

- the delivery of 15 hours of free and flexible early learning and care across the hours of 8-4 or 8-6
- the participation in a national evaluation and giving access to selected settings as part of that process
- acting as a beacon of good practice for other local authorities

It was noted that the intention was to form a Pathfinder Project Board from the existing NEF multi-agency group, which would fit into the existing reporting structure but with a widened remit and purpose.

Members were informed that participation in the pathfinder initiative would require the creation of three new temporary part-time posts. Funding for those posts had been identified and any extension of them would need to be reviewed at the end of the pathfinder.

The report also highlighted the need for a new reference group made up of five headteachers from Primary schools with education nursery provision together with HR, Early Years and Finance staff from the local authority. The intention would be to work on finding a new formula for schools funding for early years.

### Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised:

- i. To approve the membership of the Pathfinder Project Board
- ii. To approve the creation of three additional posts
- iii. To approve the creation of the Headteacher Reference Group

### Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

- REASON:
- i. To ensure that the membership is reflective of the aims of the Pathfinder and that all key stakeholders are involved
  - ii. To co-ordinate and manage the Pathfinder to ensure maximum efficiency

iii. To ensure equity across all settings

## **6. INDEPENDENT STATE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP BOARD (ISSP): YORK LOCAL AUTHORITY IN COLLABORATION WITH BOOTHAM SCHOOL**

Members considered a report which outlined a bid in process to the DfES for funding under the Independent State School Partnership arrangements (ISSP).

It was noted that if the funding of £100,000 was won in the second stage of the bidding process, it would support collaborative working amongst staff from both maintained and independent secondary phase schools and provide master classes for KS4 and KS3 pupils from across the City, spanning pure and applied science to the scientific aspects of art and design.

Members were informed that the first stage bid had been successful and the second stage bid would be submitted early October. If successful, it would provide opportunities for students and their teachers from both private and maintained sectors, to work together in challenging and engaging contexts thus promoting social cohesion in the City.

### Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member should support the furtherance of the bid.

### Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel should be accepted and endorsed

REASON: To enhance provision for a key group of young people, through externally provided resources.

## **7. EARLY YEARS SEN FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**

Members considered a report detailing the funding arrangements for children with Statements of special educational needs (SEN) and about the range of provision available.

The report highlighted the specialist provision that the Local Authority had developed at Hob Moor Oaks Special School and in enhanced resources at St Paul's Nursery and Burton Green Nursery. It was noted that it had worked well but in recent years there had been a significant shortfall in take up of places at Burton Green Nursery and an increase in the number of children with special needs who attended playgroups, day nurseries, private and maintained nurseries.

Some parents had asked the local Authority to formally name one of those settings on their child's Statement and fund the support which was required. This had resulted in the need to realign resources in response to changing patterns of need and parental preference.

Members were asked to consider the closing of Burton Green enhanced nursery resource at the end of the financial year and the use of the current delegated funding of £24k to create a budget which could support children

with Statements of SEN in a much more diverse range of Early Years settings. It was accepted that this would enable the Authority to be more responsive to parental wishes and would be in line with its policy of inclusion.

#### Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member:

- i. Agree to the closure of Burton Green Enhanced Nursery Resource at the end of the financial year
- ii. Ask officers to seek approval from the Schools Forum for the transfer of £24k from the ISB to the Central SEN budget in 2007/8, as an exception to the DfES central expenditure limits

#### Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To ensure a more efficient use of resources and enable the Authority to respond positively to changing patterns of need and demand

### **8. RESTRUCTURE OF EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

Members considered a report which sought approval for a restructure of the Educational Development Service which would clarify the roles and responsibilities of the service, within the context of new legislation and establish a greater emphasis on multi-agency working.

The report detailed how the Education and Inspection Bill currently awaiting Parliamentary assent, placed a different emphasis on the relationship between the LA and schools. It would require LAs to take faster and more decisive action to turn around schools causing concern and would expect them to draw on the expertise of a range of providers to carry out their responsibilities and powers. It would also mean working in partnership with School Improvement Partners (SIPs) to promote high standards in schools.

The proposed restructure would result in a change in the staffing requirements, and the report detailed how that would be achieved without incurring any further net cost to the Authority.

#### Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to approve the restructure of EDs and agree to the change to the staffing structure

#### Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed

REASON: To enable Eds to work within the context of the new legislation

### **9. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (CONSULTATION)**

Members considered a report which detailed the Children's and Young People's Plan covering all services provided for children and young people in the city.

It was recognised that there had been a rapid pace of change over the last two years which had resulted in the need to review the plan twelve months earlier than expected. The advantage of that had been to allow planning for Children's Services to conform to the same timetable as the Local Area Agreement (LAA) which linked all the plans for the area.

Members were informed that a draft plan would be produced shortly before Christmas for approval by the Children's Trust in the new year and recommended for implementation from April 2007.

A Consultation Document included as annex one of the report, outlined the nine most important issues identified as priorities for inclusion in the new plan.

#### Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to endorse the comments of the Advisory Panel.

#### Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the comments of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed

REASON: To progress work in this area.

### **10. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

Members considered a report that detailed the Children and Young People's block of the Local Area Agreement which had previously been prepared by a reference group of the YorOK Board.

It was noted that in preparing the draft block shown in annex one of the report, the board had sought to align the priorities of all the partners delivering services in the city to ensure continuity with existing plans such as the Children & Young People's Plan 2005-2008 and the Children's Services Plan 2006-2009, and in line with the five outcomes of 'Every Child Matters'.

#### Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to endorse the comments of the Advisory Panel

#### Decision of the Executive Member:

RESOLVED: That the comments of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To progress work in this area

