

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

29 July 2009

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Adrienne Simcock, Director of Children's Services
Sue Johnson, Assistant Director, Planning and Service Integration
Paul Briggs, Assistant Director, Resources and Support Service
John Robinson, Parent Commissioner
Penny Thompson, Childcare Marketing Officer
Peter McIntosh, Schools Transformation Project Manager
Anne Smith, Head of Information Planning and Support Services
Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer
Mark Gwilt, Team Manager, Children and Families Service
Peter Davies, Principal Youth Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

1. Proposal to Designate Springwell School to Admit Pupils with Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) – *Assistant Director, Planning and Service Integration*

Type of decision

Key (test 2 applies)

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report was to inform the Portfolio Holder of the outcomes of the publication of the statutory notice to designate Springwell School to admit up to 8 pupils in the age range 6 – 11 years with special educational needs relating to behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

Issues for Consideration

The report provided a summary of the earlier consultation around the proposal. It gave information about the publication of statutory notices and included information about the context of the notice.

During the 6 week notice period, no responses had been received. The report identified the next steps which must be taken i.e. that the Portfolio Holder was under a legal obligation to decide the proposals within 2 months after the consultation period.

The Assistant Director, Planning and Service Integration outlined some positive comments made about provision for this group of pupils after a recent inspection of Springwell School.

The Portfolio Holder queried whether if there was a need, provision could be made for any further pupils to be accommodated there. It was confirmed that a small increase would be permitted, but this was unlikely to be necessary as mainstream schools worked hard to include pupils with BESD and pupils who had attended Springwell could be integrated back into a mainstream school, if progress had been made.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the outcomes of the statutory notice period relating to the proposal to designate Springwell School to admit pupils with BESD

The Portfolio Holder approved the proposal that Springwell Community School was designated to additionally admit up to 8 pupils in the age range 6 – 11 years who had statements of special educational needs for learning difficulties associated with BESD with effect from 1 September 2009.

2. Children's Fund Services – Parent Commissioner

Type of Decision

Key (test 2)

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to share key outcomes of a recent independent evaluation of the Children's Fund with the Portfolio Holder. It also sought approval to undertake a tendering and procurement process to re-commission Hartlepool Children's Fund activity and mentoring services.

Issues for Consideration

Hartlepool's commitment to the prevention agenda had been building since the Children's Fund Partnership was first founded in 2001. The report brought the Portfolio Holder up to date with current service configuration outlining how services were provided in the North, Central and South areas of the town based around activities

and mentoring, a befriending service and participation work.

The report showed how the Children's Fund programme had developed and provided a foundation on which preventative services for families with children aged 5 – 11 years had been based. A breakdown was given of funding and monitoring of the total £395,000 received from the Children's Fund grants.

The Portfolio Holder expressed concern that anyone who was acting in an anger management role should received appropriate training and that parents should received appropriate support.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved a tendering and procurement process be undertaken to recommission Hartlepool Children's Fund activity and mentoring programmes in line with Council procurement processes.

3. Children's Services Department Plans – Departmental and Divisional Plans 2009/10 – *Assistant Director, Planning and Service Integration*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to approve the Children's Services Departmental Plan 2009/10 to 2010/11 which had been prepared for the Children's Services Department and to note the Children's Services Departmental Divisional Plans 2009/10.

Issues for Consideration

The Children's Services Departmental Plan 2009/10 was attached with the accompanying plans for each of the four divisions within the department which had been produced in line with corporate planning requirements. The plan outlined the key drivers for the activities of the Children's Services Department as well as the 6 corporate objectives.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder formally approved the Children's Services Departmental Plan 2009/10 – 2010/11 and noted the divisional plans for 2009/10 which underpin it.

4. General Sure Start Grant Capital – Early Years Capital – *Childcare Marketing Officer*
Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to seek approval to allocate early years capital to private day care settings in Hartlepool.

Issues for Consideration

A report had been presented to the Portfolio Holder on 10 March 2009 setting out the funding available for Sure Start Children's Centres and Early Years Capital. The Portfolio Holder approved capital spend on a number of projects leaving an allocation of £183,570 in 2009/2010 and £351,807 in 2010/2011. The 2009/2010 allocation can be carried forward to 2010/2011 but all grants must be spent by 31 March 2011.

The Early Years Capital funding is provided through the General Sure Start Grant to support settings to offer flexible extended free nursery entitlement. Officers are currently working with schools and settings to ensure all settings are offering the extended entitlement as per statutory guidance received from Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Guidance on the allocation of the Early Years Capital funding sets out a requirement for local authorities to prioritise spend on the private and voluntary sector although it could be spent on the maintained sector. A letter from the DCSF sent to local authorities dated 13 May 2009 strengthened the need for local authorities to allocate this element of funding to the private and voluntary sector in order to continue to improve their early learning environments.

The report set out the proposed allocation of a proportion of the Early Years Capital grant for private day care settings. The Portfolio Holder indicated that it was important that buildings should meet the required standards.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the allocation of early years capital to private day care settings.

5. To Approve Change of Name of Dyke House School and Variation to Instrument of

Government – Governor Support Officer

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to seek approval from the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services to change the name of Dyke House School to Dyke House Sports and Technology College with effect from 1 September 2009, and subsequent variation to the Instrument of Government.

Issues for Consideration

The report set out the background to the change of name and varying the Instrument of Government for Schools.

The Portfolio Holder stated that she was pleased that the school was able to become both a Sports and Technology college.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:-

- approved the change of name of Dyke House School to Dyke House Sports and Technology College with effect from 1 September 2009.
- Approved the variation to the Instrument of Government with effect from 1 September 2009 attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

6. To Note and Reaffirm a Correction to the Change of Name of Elwick Hall Church of England (CE) Voluntary Aided Primary School and Instrument of Government for the Federated Governing Body of Elwick Hall CE Voluntary Aided Primary School and Hart Primary School – Governor Support Officer

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to draw the Portfolio Holder's attention to a correction to the change of name of Elwick Hall CE Voluntary Aided Primary School and reaffirm the Instrument of Government for the Federated Governing Body of Hart Community Primary School and Elwick Hall CE Voluntary Aided Primary School with effect from 1 September 2009.

Issues for Consideration

The report set out the background to the change of name and new Instrument of Government.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services noted and approved the change of name of Elwick Hall CE Voluntary Aided Primary School to St Peter's Elwick Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School and, subject to this amendment reaffirmed the Instrument of Government considered and approved at the meeting of the Portfolio Holder on 21 April 2009.

7. Approval of Revised Instrument of Government for St Hild's Church of England Voluntary Aided Secondary School – Governor Support Officer

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report informed the Portfolio Holder of a change to the size of the Governing Body of St Hild's Church of England Voluntary Aided Secondary School and variation to the Instrument of Government for the school with effect from 1 September 2009.

Issues for Consideration

The report set out the background to the Governing Body's decision to change the size of the Governing Body and subsequent variation to the Instrument of Government.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:-

- Noted the decision of the Governing Body of St Hild's Church of England Voluntary Aided Secondary School to reduce the size of the Governing Body
- Approved the revised Instrument of Government in

accordance with the School Governance Constitution (England) Regulations 2007 with effect from 1 September 2009 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

8. Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies – *Governor Support Officer*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to request the Portfolio Holder's consideration and approval of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school governing bodies where vacancies currently exist and to those which will occur during the autumn term.

Issues for Consideration

The report summarised the process for inviting applications for representative governors and the criteria for their selection. A schedule setting out details of vacancies together with applications received in respect of the vacancies had been considered at the General Purposes Committee held on 10 July 2009 and these were detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

The Portfolio Holder expressed concern that so few elected members were on governing bodies and highlighted a Member who had expressed a desire to sit on a governing body.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of representative Governors to serve on school governing bodies where vacancies existed and those which would occur in the autumn term.

9. Relocation of Kiddikins Childcare - *Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to seek approval for the relocation of Kiddikins Neighbourhood Nursery to the Hindpool Close Children's Centre.

Issues for Consideration

The Childcare Act 2006 placed a duty on Local Authorities to improve the outcomes of children aged 0 – 5 years through the development of Children's Centres. Children's Centres need to offer early education integrated with childcare, family support, outreach to parents and child and family health services.

In 2004 Hartlepool developed five Phase 1 Children's Centres in line with government requirements. Hindpool Close Children's Centre was designated in partnership with Kiddikins Neighbourhood Nursery with Kiddikins delivering the integrated childcare and early learning.

Children's Centre guidance sets out the need for all services to be co-located in order to provide a hub of services for children and families. Kiddikins nursery is currently based in the Horsley buildings on the Headland which is proving to be a difficult building in terms of delivering integrated services. A number of other issues had contributed to this centre being unsustainable in its current location.

The report set out proposals to relocate Kiddikins to the Hindpool Close Children's Centre therefore offering integrated services for children and families in the north of the town.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the relocation of Kiddikins Neighbourhood Nursery to the Hindpool Close Children's Centre

10. Hartlepool Youth Service Operational Plan 2009/10 – Principal Youth Officer

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report was to inform the Children's Services Portfolio Holder of the main activities which would be undertaken during the year 2009/10 by the Hartlepool Youth Service.

Issues for Consideration

The plan had two main sections. The first identified the strategic priorities, including policy drivers and underpinning legislation. It then added to this local perspectives, needs assessment and young people's views to give a comprehensive picture as to the direction in which the Youth Service should be going.

By profiling Hartlepool Youth Service against what may be seen as an ideal service, the plan was able to identify the gap that needs to be bridged. The second section of the plan detailed the specific activities for the year in the operational plan. It was that which bridged the gap in moving Hartlepool towards being an ideal youth service. The Youth Service worked closely with other partners and was one of the key agencies in the development of the Team Around the Secondary School, the structure by which targeted youth support is driven out across the town. The Youth Service would be enhancing its existing provision on Friday and Saturday nights to increase the options available to young people in diverting them from risky and potentially antisocial behaviour. There was also a need to develop the involvement of young people in the planning of the service.

The Portfolio Holder commented that teachers, social workers and youth workers all should have a positive impact on young people's lives.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the Youth Service operational plan 2009/10.

11. Direct Payments – Head of Business Unit (Family Support)

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to the Portfolio Holder information regarding the increase in rates for Direct Payments for disabled 16 and 17 year olds and parents of disabled children. The report also set out proposals for rates of payments for overnight stays in respect of Direct Payments. Direct Payments enabled these groups to arrange their own services as an alternative to services arranged by the Local Authority and agreement would be sought to recommendations in respect of hourly and overnight rates.

Issues for Consideration

The report provided information on the legislative background of Direct Payments and the financial implications of the increase in the rates of Direct Payments.

The Portfolio Holder clarified that the PCT would bear part of the cost of residential care when necessary on an individual basis.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:-

- Approved an hourly rate of £10.79
- Approved an overnight rate of £60 for a ten hour 'sleep over' period, and an hourly payment of £10.79 for any additional hours exceeding ten hours for an overnight stay.
- Approved an hourly rate of £10.79 after one hour, for those circumstances where a young person/child is awake and in need of support or attention throughout the night or for long periods during the night. This was in line with employee rights and working time regulations.
- Approved in exceptional circumstances a payment for an overnight residential placement of £311 per night

12. School Term and Holiday Dates: School Year 2010/2011 – Governor Support Officer

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to seek the agreement of the Portfolio Holder to the pattern of school term and holiday dates for the school year 2010/2011 for community and controlled schools in Hartlepool. It also sought the agreement of the Portfolio Holder in recommending those dates to the governing bodies of aided and foundation schools in Hartlepool.

Issues for Consideration

The report detailed the current state of play nationally, regionally and locally on the pattern of the school year and recommendations for the school year 2010/2011 which would follow the proposed regional model which had been consulted upon.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:-

- Approved the Hartlepool term dates for school year 2010/2011
- Agreed to recommending those dates to governing bodies of Aided and Foundation schools in Hartlepool.

13. Children's Services Departmental Plan Quarter 4 Progress Report – *Assistant Director (Planning and Service Integration)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made towards achieving Children's Services Departmental Plan actions and performance indicators (PIs) for the period to 31 March 2009.

Issues for Consideration

The report summarised progress over the fourth quarter of 2008/09 on the actions and PIs within the Children's Services Departmental Plan 2008/09. Of the 26 key actions the majority had achieved green status and reflected progress across the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes for children. Significant progress had been made in implementing the Schools Transformation Programme.

Three actions had been recorded as amber because their target dates for completion fell within 2010.

A number of Performance Indicators were still awaiting confirmation and a complication had arisen as Key Stage 3 data was no longer reported upon.

The reduction of teenage pregnancies remained a very challenging area and work was continuing to be undertaken to reduce this. An action plan had been developed and the Local Authority continued to work with the PCT in this area.

The Portfolio Holder noted the performance and congratulated the successes of the department.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the performance made in completing actions and in achieving PIs for the Children's Services Department during 2008/09

14. Outreach Package for Children's Centres –
Assistant Director, Planning and Service Integration

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to inform the Portfolio Holder of the result of a recent tender evaluation for an Early Years Outreach Support Package for children across the town aged 0 – 5 years.

Issues for Consideration

Children's Centre guidance required Local Authorities to develop an outreach service to ensure the most vulnerable families were able to access Children's Centre services. The Children's Services Portfolio Holder had approved a service specification to be tendered on 11 November 2008.

Following this, the local authority advertised a restricted tender process that invited expressions of interest from all suitable providers who were interested in delivering a package of support for children in the town aged 0 – 5 years. The tender process had taken place and a provider had been appointed to the contract.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the successful organisation contracted to deliver an outreach service for children's centres.

15. Outcome of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Invitation to Participate in Dialogue (IPD) Stage 1 Evaluations – *Head of Information, Planning and Support Services*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to inform the Portfolio Holder of the outcome of recent evaluations of the IPD Stage and to advise of the two preferred bidders for the next stage of the BSF ICT

procurement.

Issues for Consideration

The report outlined the process for evaluation of the IPD Stage 1 and the outcome of the process. The confidential appendix to the report provided details of the suppliers who submitted IPDs and the two top bidders to go through to the next stage of the process.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the report.

16. Prevention Services – Parent Commissioner

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to update the Portfolio Holder on progress on the development of services to support the prevention agenda. The report also noted the need for long term sustainability planning for prevention services and the need for future development as required by government. The report also reported on the methodology of measuring impact.

Issues for Consideration

Hartlepool's commitment to the prevention agenda had been building since the Children's Fund Partnership was first founded in 2000. This report brought the Portfolio Holder up to date with current service configuration with a particular focus on the Team Around the Primary School incorporating the Family Intervention Project which had been well received nationally. The Common Assessment Framework was well developed in Hartlepool with commitment from all stakeholders. The report also noted Parenting Support and the Think Family Reforms and Participation.

The report showed how the local authority and other stakeholders led by the Children's Trust and Safer Hartlepool Partnership had developed integrated working across the prevention agenda including the shared use of grant funding, other resources and management processes.

The Portfolio Holder congratulated the department for the recognition with regard to the Team around the Primary School. She suggested that links be forged with the Benefits Team who were well placed to assist individuals and families who were carers.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:-

- Noted the progress made in developing integrated prevention services
- Noted the situation in relation to the sustainability of these services with particular reference to those grant funded posts that sit within Children's Services
- Noted the opportunities currently being offered by DCSF to local authorities that could respond swiftly to new short term funding
- Noted the local regional and national interest currently being shown in the model that Hartlepool has developed and support its further development

17. Outcome of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Design and Build Preliminary Invitation to Tender (PITT) Evaluations – Schools Transformation Project Manager

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented for the Portfolio Holder to note the outcome of the recent evaluations of the PITT submissions that identified the two bidders progressing through to the next stage of the BSF Design and Build procurement.

Issues for Consideration

The report outlined the approaches used in the evaluations of the PITT submissions and also the outcomes of the process. The confidential appendix to the report also provided details of the bidders who submitted PITTs and the two bidders progressing through to the next stage of the procurement process

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the two selected bidders to proceed through to the Invitation to Tender (ITT) stage of the BSF Design and Building procurement process.

The meeting concluded at 11.25 am.

P J DEVLIN
CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 3 August 2009