

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

11 May 2010

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

Present:

Councillor Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Sally Robinson, Assistant Director Safeguarding and Specialist Services
Sue Johnson, Assistant Director - Planning & Service Integration
Stephen Haley, Head of Finance (Schools and Children's Services)
Kelly Moss, Children's Trust Manager
Jacqui Braithwaite, Principal Educational Psychologist
Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

69. Annual Review of the Children and Young People's Plan 2009 – 2020 & Lord Laming: The Protection of Children in England Local Action Plan *(Children's Trust Manager)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

To present the final draft of the Children and Young People's Plan annual review document and the Lord Laming Protection of Children in England local action plan, which was an addendum to the Living Safely section of the Children and Young People's Plan, for agreement.

Issues for Consideration

The report provided an overview of the Children and Young People's Plan annual review document, the draft copy of which had been presented to the Portfolio Holder at the meeting on 13 April 2010. The final draft of the Plan annual review had also been presented to the Children's Trust Board on 29 April 2010 for agreement. All 137 actions had been progressed over the past year. Appendix B to the

report, Lord Laming – The Protection of Children in England: Action Plan demonstrated the commitment the Authority had to these recommendations.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the Children and Young People's Plan annual review document and the Lord Laming Protection of Children in England local action plan.

70. Approval of Revised Instrument of Government for St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School *(Governor Support Officer)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the change of the size of the Governing Body of St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School and variation to the Instrument of Government for the school with effect from 1 September 2010.

Issues for Consideration

At its meeting on 4 March 2010 the Governing Body of St Cuthbert's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School formally approved an increase in the size of the Governing Body and draft instrument, giving consideration to a number of constitutional models during its deliberations. The Director of Education in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle had approved the change in size of the Governing Body and subsequent variation to the Instrument of Government was set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

The change in the size of the Governing Body would increase as follows:-

- 8 Foundation Governors (increase of 2)
- 2 Parent Governors (increase of 1)
- 3 Staff Governors (increase of 1)
- 1 Local Authority Governor (no change)

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:-

- noted the decision of the Governing Body of St Cuthbert's

Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School to increase 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 2010 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

71. To Approve Change of Name of Jesmond Road Primary School and Variation to Instrument of Government *(Governor Support Officer)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To request the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services to approve the change of name of Jesmond Road Primary School to Jesmond Gardens Primary School with effect from 1 June 2011 to reflect the change in location of the school and subsequent variation to the Instrument of Government for the school.

Issues for Consideration

The Governing Body of Jesmond Road Primary School at its meeting on 22 March 2010 unanimously approved a change of name of the school from Jesmond Road Primary School to Jesmond Gardens Primary School with effect from 1 June 2011, to reflect the school's relocation to its new building and in accordance with Regulation 31 of the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007, the Instrument of Governance has been varied accordingly to reflect the change of name.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved:-

The change of name of Jesmond Road Primary School to Jesmond Gardens Primary School with effect from 1 June 2011.

The variation to the Instrument of Government with effect from 1 June 2011 as attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

72. Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies *(Governor Support Officer)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

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 where terms of office will expire in the summer and autumn terms 2010.

Issues for Consideration

The report summarised the process for inviting applications for representative school governors. A schedule setting out details of vacancies together with applications received in respect of the vacancies considered by the General Purposes Committee on 16 April 2010 was appended to the report.

The Portfolio Holder expressed disappointment at the number of vacant governor places stating that governors provided a valuable contribution to the community. The Governor Support Officer said that vacancies would be drawn to the attention of new Members at their Induction Training.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school Governing Bodies. A schedule outlining recommendations of the General Purposes Committee was attached as Appendix 1 of the report.

73. Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) Programme *(Principal Educational Psychologist)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder about the Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) Programme and to seek approval for the TaMHS Project Plan including the proposed spending of the TaMHS Grant.

Issues for Consideration

Hartlepool had been invited as part of Phase 3 of a national programme launched in 2008 to be part of the TaMHS programme. The aims of this were to:-

- Improve mental health outcomes for children and young people via interventions delivered through schools.
- Test effective models of effective early intervention work within school based settings, which have a clear impact on improving mental health outcomes for children and young people at risk of an experiencing mental health problems
- Integrate effective early intervention models as part of wider Local Authority and Primary Care Trust (PCT) systems of assessment, referral and intervention work within targeted support services and specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

One year of funding (£222,500) was available for the development of innovative models of therapeutic and holistic mental health support in schools aimed at children and families, for those children and young people aged 5 – 13 who are at risk of or experiencing mental health problems. Statistics showed that 10% of school children would have a diagnosable mental health need.

A small group of stakeholders had been working on the Project Plan (See **Appendix 1**) which, because of the nature of the one year funding, focuses on sustainable developments to improve levels of integrated support to children and young people experiencing emotional health difficulties through three activity strands:

- Training for the schools workforce to support 'whole school approaches' to meeting the emotional health and well being needs of children and young people in universal provision as far as possible
- The implementation of evidence based targeted interventions for those children and young people identified as needing additional targeted support
- Developing clear pathways to specialist support when necessary.

The Hartlepool TaMHS Programme aims to involve all schools and to link the planning for emotional wellbeing with the Healthy Schools programme to ensure sustainability. The proposal is that each school will receive £4,000 to release staff for training and resource targeted interventions for vulnerable groups. Further funding will be

used to increase capacity within the Educational Psychology Team in order to carry TaMHS development work. The Principal Educational Psychologist added that this would complement the work already being carried out by the Team around the Primary Schools.

The Portfolio Holder referred to one of the objectives i.e. to reduce inappropriate referrals to specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and involve staff in consultation, training and supervision in those schools participating in TaMHS. The Principal Educational Psychologist said that some children had been receiving duplicate referrals both to the Local Authority Service and to CAHMS and the new initiative should prevent this.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the TaMHS Plan and proposed use of the TaMHS Grant.

74. Homeless 16 and 17 year olds – Assessment of Need and Subsequent Provision *(Head of Business Unit (Resources and Specialist Services))*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To present the background and recent developments in the provision of services to homeless 16 and 17 year old young people and present options for variations in service provision.

Issues for Consideration

The report outlined the legislative basis for meeting the needs of these young people and described the current arrangements in Hartlepool for meeting their needs. There had been a signification House of Lords ruling which affected provision of services to homeless young people i.e. where previously homeless young people under the age of 18 had been accommodated under housing legislation this had now been transferred to the Local Authority Children's Services. This approach had financial and staffing implications as young people up to the age of 24 would need to be provided for. It was therefore suggested that the current temporary Young Person's Accommodation Officer should be made a permanent Personal Advisor post located in the Through Care Team.

The Portfolio Holder expressed pleasure that a temporary post was to become a permanent position and agreed that this was an important post which ensured that homeless young people did not become more vulnerable.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder supported:-

- The re-designation of the current temporary Young Person's Accommodation Officer post to a permanent Personal Advisor post working between the Youth Offending Service and the Through Care Team. This post was part funded by the Youth Offending Service and would fulfil their requirement for a named Accommodation Officer.
- That assessment of all requests for accommodation by homeless 16 and 17 year olds to be completed by the Through Care Team and determine need under the Children Act 1989 and provision by the Child and Adult Services Department in conjunction with Housing staff.
- That a monitoring system was developed to determine the overall demand for accommodation by 16 and 17 year old young people in Hartlepool and to use that information to inform the review of Hartlepool's Homelessness Strategy that was due to be published by July 2010.

75. Outdoor Centre Charges for the School Year 2010/11 *(Head of Finance (Schools and Children's Services))*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To request the Portfolio Holder to determine the charges to be set by Hartlepool Borough Council for Hartlepool schools attending the Carlton and Lanehead outdoor centres for the school year 2010/11. Both centres operate in accordance with joint arrangements between former Cleveland Local Authorities – Hartlepool and Middlesbrough. Stockton and more recently Redcar and Cleveland Borough Councils withdrew from the partnership arrangements due to financial constraints.

To note the 2010/11 charges relating to external users of the Carlton Centre which had been determined by the joint Authority Steering Group at their meeting of 22 March 2010.

Issues for Consideration

The report detailed proposed changes for Carlton Outdoor Education Centre and Lanehead Centre, Coniston with effect from 1 September 2010. Hartlepool is the lead Authority for Carlton which is generally used by primary school children whilst Middlesbrough leads on Lanehead used by secondary school children.

As in previous years, those Hartlepool pupils whose parents were on low income would have their fees remitted in full by the Local Authority which mirrored the free school meals entitlement. The free school meals entitlement was currently undergoing consultation to extend access to those pupils whose parents were in receipt of Working Tax Credit with a household income of less than £16,190 and if this was extended, then the same criteria would come into force for Carlton.

The proposed fee scales were outlined in the report and these had been supported by Hartlepool Schools. Also detailed in the report were those fees charged to external users.

The Portfolio Holder stated that she fully supported the use of these facilities by school children as they provided valuable life experience. She was also pleased that staff were making the centre more profitable without losing sight of its aim.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:-

Agreed the proposed charges for Hartlepool Schools to use the Carlton Centre as set out at paragraph 3 (Table 1) of the report with the basic daily rate set at £28.00 with effect from 1 September 2010.

Agreed the proposed charges for Hartlepool Schools to use the Lanehead Centre as set out at paragraph 4.1 (Table 3) of the report with the basic daily rate set at £28.00 with effect from 1 September 2010.

Noted the charges for Carlton Centre users outside the joint agreement as determined by the Joint Authority Management Group as set out at paragraph 3.6 (Table 2) of the report.

76. Safeguarding Children in Hartlepool *(Assistant Director Safeguarding and Specialist Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To update the Portfolio Holder in relation to the arrangements for safeguarding children in Hartlepool and to provide an analysis of statistical information in relation to safeguarding activity between October 2009 and March 2010.

Issues for Consideration

The report provided the Portfolio Holder with information on the arrangements for safeguarding children in Hartlepool. The report provided statistics of children receiving social care services including children in need (537 as at 31/03/10), children subject to protection plans (136) and children looked after (174). Although the number of children receiving services was the same as the previous 6 months, the number of children in need had dropped, but those subject to plans and looked after had increased, which in turn had affected workload capacity.

The number of contacts being received by the duty team had increased, although the average of those progressing to referrals was 12%. There had also been a rise in the number of protection plans

The report detailed the current staffing structure of the service and information in relation to staff vacancies. Two social workers had recently been recruited although these were newly qualified social workers who initially would be unable to take on complex cases. A staffing report would be presented at Cabinet early in the new municipal year.

The Portfolio Holder thanked staff for their sterling work. She said that she hoped that the work of the Team Around the Primary School would reduce neglect. She thanked the retiring Head of Safeguarding, Assessment and Support Business Unit and expressed pleasure that she was to continue to assist the Authority following her retirement.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the contents of the report.

The meeting concluded at 10.43 am.

P J DEVLIN
CHIEF SOLICITOR
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