

# **CHILDREN'S AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD 19 June 2012**

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor Cath Hill (Children's and Community Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Sally Robinson, Assistant Director, (Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services)  
Dean Jackson, Assistant Director (Performance and Achievement)  
Peter McIntosh, Head of Planning and Development  
Julie Reed, Project Officer  
Danielle Swainston, Sure Start and Extended Services and Early Years Manager  
Christine Hutchinson, Cultural Collections Officer

Emma Armstrong, PA to CEMT (Minutes)

## **1. Schools' Capital Works Programme 2012/13 (Phase 2) – Head of Planning & Development**

**Type of decision**

Key decision, test 1 and 2 apply. Forward plan reference: CAS 123/12

**Purpose of report**

To seek approval to the formation of a Schools' Capital Works Programme for 2012/13 – Phase 2.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Head of Planning and Development reported that previously on 27 March 2012 a report had been submitted, to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, outlining Phase 1 Schools Capital Works Programme for 2012/13.

It was noted that the report provided detail of funding available and set out condition and development fund programmes to enable works to proceed during the summer break for schools unaffected by a national announcement for Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP). These recommendations were previously approved by the Portfolio Holder.

It was also noted that a report was submitted to Cabinet on 24 October 2011 indicating that expressions of interest for PSBP had been submitted

to Partnerships for Schools (PfS) – now known as the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for the following four Hartlepool schools:

- Manor College of Technology
- Barnard Grove Primary School
- West View Primary School
- Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School

On 24 May 2012, the Secretary of State announced the names of the schools to be taken forward in the PSBP.

- Manor College of Technology
- Barnard Grove Primary School
- Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School

It was explained that it is expected that the LA will be contacted shortly to be given an indication when work will start to develop proposals for these schools. However, it will be a Governing Body and Cabinet decision whether to take the programme further and that decision cannot be made until further details of the Terms and Conditions of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangements are known.

Capital works schemes for the PSBP schools are a high priority but it is prudent to defer further works at these schools until a final decision has been made. However, it will be necessary to carry out some works at Manor College of Technology and Barnard Grove to meet health and safety regulations and to address areas of the schools which require immediate attention.

It is proposed to further protect the funding required to carry out works at Manor College of Technology and Barnard Grove schools should PSBP not go ahead. This funding will be in the region of £1.4m and will be released to carry out other worthy schemes should these schools go forward for the PSBP. Therefore a Phase 3 Programme will be provided to Portfolio Holder when further information is obtained.

West View Primary School was not selected to go forward for the PSBP. It is therefore proposed to include capital works for West View Primary School in the Phase 2 programme as detailed in Appendix 1.

The Portfolio Holder noted that the three schools identified are badly in need of repair works and if the allocated funding is not required that it could be utilised within other school projects for similar works.

### **Decision**

- i) To further defer capital schemes for Manor College of Technology and Barnard Grove Primary School until a final decision on PSBP is made.
- ii) To approve the schedule of 2012/13 capital works schemes – Phase 2 as summarised at Appendix 1, subject to the LA agreeing contributions from schools towards individual schemes in line with the shared

funding principles established by the Schools Forum.

- iii) That the Child and Adult Services Department are allowed dispensation and discretion to authorise works where a significant health and safety risk is exposed in advance of formal approval by the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.

## **2. Loan in 2013: Lucian Freud "Head of a Woman"** (Assistant Director, Community Services)

### **Type of decision**

Non key

### **Purpose of report**

To seek authorisation from the Portfolio holder for the temporary loan of a painting from the Museum Collection to an international touring exhibition during 2013.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Cultural Collections Officer presented the report and explained that the Culture and Information Services had been approached by the British Council to request the temporary loan of the painting *Lucian Freud "Head of a Woman"* (HAPMG 1971.38) for inclusion in their exhibition *Lucian Freud: Brazil / Venezuela 2013*.

It was clarified that all associated costs of the loan are to be covered by The British Council and that the artwork would be transported in its bespoke crate, door-to-door, nail-to-nail, by highly experienced international art handlers and shippers and that a professional art courier would accompany the work during transportation. On the artworks return from the British Council in January 2014, it would not be loaned out again until 2015.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder approved this loan to the British Council and welcomed it as an opportunity to raise the public profile of Hartlepool. It was also requested that appropriate signage be noted with the painting to specify that the piece is on loan from the Museum of Hartlepool.

### **3. Oscars Pricing Structure – Increase in Prices** *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

#### **Type of decision**

Non-key

#### **Purpose of report**

To seek approval for a change in charges for OSCARS out of school service. To seek approval to offer an additional service of a breakfast service during school holidays.

#### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The report was presented by the Sure Start and Extended Services and Early Years Manager and explained that OSCARS is an all year round childcare service operated by Hartlepool Borough Council. It offers both after school club provision and holiday club provision. The after school service operates from 3.15pm - 6pm for 39 weeks a year. The holiday service operates from 8.30am - 5.45pm for 11 weeks of the year.

It was reported that the existing fee structure was approved by Children's Services Portfolio Holder in August 2010. It is proposed to increase prices from September 2012, these were detailed in the report with the proposed price for After School session would be £7.50 and for Holiday Club would be £17.50.

The price for afterschool is higher than comparisons with other providers. The average market price for afterschool care is £7.10 (excluding school based provision). The price for holiday care is slightly lower than comparisons with other providers. The average market price for holiday care which is £17.84 (excluding school based provision).

It was reported that following a survey of parents, it is proposed that OSCARS offer a breakfast club before the holiday care. The benefits and aims were identified in the report under 5.3. The opening hours of the service would be 8am – 8.30am during school holidays and it was proposed that a fee of £1.00 was levied to cover all the costs. The average market price for breakfast club was identified as £1.84 per hour.

The Portfolio Holder requested clarification why Breakfast club was not available on Term Time days. This was due to the logistics of the service and the need to ensure the children are at school at the appropriate start times, this would not be achievable within the timeframe of Breakfast Club. The Portfolio Holder welcomed these increased services and hoped the uptake was positive.

#### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder approved the increases in prices for out of school care and holiday care and approved OSCARS to deliver an additional service of

a breakfast club during school holidays.

#### **4. Annual Report and Statement of Purpose for Exmoor Grove Short Break Care Unit** *(Director of Child and Adult Services )*

##### **Type of decision**

Non key

##### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of this report is to present to the Portfolio Holder the Annual Report of Exmoor Short Break Care Unit 2011/12 and the Exmoor Grove Statement of Purpose for 2012/13.

##### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The report was presented by the Assistant Director, (Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services) who explained the Children's Home National Minimum Standards 2011, require the authority to review the Statement of Purpose on an annual basis.

It was explained that Exmoor Grove short break services are part of a range of support provided to children and their families as documented with Hartlepool Borough Council Short Break Care Statement.

Exmoor Grove has had a very positive 12 months following the refurbishment and reopening in February 2011. The staff team have remained consistent and the unit have received positive feedback OFSTED inspections, Regulation 33 independent visits and from children, their parents and carers.

In November 2011, OFSTED carried out an inspection of Exmoor Grove and judged the service to be good with some outstanding element. Previously the service had been judged as satisfactory. OFSTED visited again in February 2012 and reaffirmed the unit's good judgment and advised that the unit was continuing to make good progress.

The Friends of Exmoor Grove was established in 2011. The unit staff support parents and carers undertake fundraising activities for the unit which includes staff, children and their families.

The Portfolio Holder welcomed this fundraising activity and asked if it could be explored to see if links could be made with local Youth Clubs to increase this activity.

##### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder approved the Exmoor Grove Statement of Purpose for publication and noted the 2011-12 Annual Report.

## **5. Young Carers Strategy 2012-15** *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

### **Type of decision**

For information only.

### **Purpose of report**

To seek approval from the Portfolio Holder for Children's and Community Services of a Young Carers Strategy, revised Policy and Procedure and proposed improvements to service provision, including tendering for a new service.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The report was presented by the Assistant Director, (Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services) who explained that the Council have a statutory duty and responsibilities for young carers.

It was reported that over the past year, taking into consideration the learning from the Young Carers Pathfinder, work has been undertaken to establish how to improve services for young carers. Consultation has been undertaken with young carers; those they care for; staff from Hartlepool Carers who currently provide the service and managers within both elements of Child & Adult Services.

The Young Carers Strategy, policy and procedure and action plan were attached as appendices. This is the first strategy specifically focussed on the needs of young carers in Hartlepool. The strategy is also underpinned by a commitment to a "Think Family" approach to supporting and safeguarding both young carers and those they care for (HMG 2010).

The Assistant Director explained that Young carers live and care in a range of circumstances and identifying them can be difficult. In 2011, Hartlepool Carers were providing support to 83 children and young people who had a caring responsibility.

In July 2011 local consultation work took place with young carers (junior & senior groups) and their parents/carers in Hartlepool as part of developing the strategy and to assist with the commissioning of services for young carers. The three themes that underpinned this message and what they said they wanted from services were:

- Someone to talk to and get practical help and information;
- Get a break from caring;
- Help who I care for get the support they need.

This strategy proposes the development of an integrated Think Family approach by managers and practitioners within Child & Adult Services; other statutory agencies and service providers; which reflects the continuum of need across universal, prevention and safeguarding services.

The Portfolio Holder expressed her enormous gratitude and respect for Young Carers. She also raised the issue of promotion of the services for

Young Carers. It was agreed that officers will look into creating factsheets for teachers and young people to promote these services. The Portfolio Holder also raised that this could be promoted via the Hartlepool Mail.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder for Children's and Community Services approved the Young Carers Strategy, revised policy and procedure and proposed improvements to service provision, including tendering for a new service.

## **6. Adoption Score Cards** *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of this report is to inform the Portfolio Holder of the Council's performance in relation to the recently published Adoption Scorecards which measure the effectiveness of local authorities in placing children for adoption.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Assistant Director, (Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services) presented the report which detailed the adoption score cards and explained that they currently provide performance data against three indicators:

- The average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted; Hartlepool has an average of 458 days and currently ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the performance tables of all local authorities in the country.
- The average time it takes for a local authority to match a child to an adoptive family once the council has formerly decided that adoption is the best option against a target that has been set at 7 months (213 days); Hartlepool' average performance is 171 days and is ranked 20<sup>th</sup> when compared nationally.
- Children who wait less than 21 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family expressed as a percentage. In Hartlepool 82% of all children are placed within 21 months, where the UK average is 58%.

The Portfolio Holder raised that this is a good news story for Hartlepool and shows commitment and hard work by all officers involved. She reiterated that the responsibility of placing a child in the right place is difficult and the correct decisions however are more vital than driving down performance targets.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder noted the council's performance in this area and the action plan attached in appendix 1 and thanked all officers involved.

The meeting concluded at 11.01 am.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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