

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

AGENDA



Tuesday 14 November 2017

at 4.30 pm

**in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors Clark, Harrison, James, Lauderdale, Moore, Morris, and Sirs.

Co-opted Members: Jo Heaton, C of E Diocese and Stephen Hammond, RC Diocese representatives.

School Heads Representatives: Mark Tilling (Secondary), David Turner (Primary), Alan Chapman (Special).

Six Young Peoples Representatives

Observer: Councillor Thomas, Chair of Adult Services Committee

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on date 17 October 2017 (*previously circulated and published*).

4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS

No items.



5. KEY DECISIONS

- 5.1 School Admission Arrangements for 2019-20 – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*

6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 6.1 Departmental Annual Procurement Report – Children's Services Committee – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*
- 6.2 Educational Outcomes for Children Looked After – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*
- 6.3 The Future of Space 2 Learn – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*
- 6.4 To Nominate Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*
- 6.5 Transfer of Schools Budget 2018/19 - *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 7.1 Supported Accommodation and Outreach Support for Vulnerable Young People – Procurement Outcome – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*
- 7.2 Children's Hub Update – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

FOR INFORMATION

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 12 December at 4.30pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

14 November 2017



Report of: Director of Children's & Joint Commissioning Services

Subject: SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS
FOR 2019-20

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Key Decision test (ii) applies. Forward Plan Reference Number: 068/18 CAS

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To consider and agree the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Hartlepool for 2019-20 academic year.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 It is a mandatory requirement of the national School Admissions Code that all schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted to schools, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school (oversubscription). Admission arrangements are determined by admission authorities. The local authority (LA) is the admission authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, while the Governing Body is the admission authority for Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools, and the relevant Trust for an Academy or Free School.
- 3.2 All admission authorities must set admission arrangements annually. Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the admission authority must first consult on those arrangements. If there are no changes proposed they only need to be consulted on at least every seven years. Consultation must be for a minimum of six weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before those arrangements are to apply. The consultation period allows parents and carers, other schools, religious authorities and the local community to raise any concerns about proposed admission arrangements.

4. PROPOSALS - CONSULTATION FOR ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019-20 ACADEMIC YEAR

- 4.1 There are no changes proposed to the current admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools that require public consultation.
- 4.2 The published admission number for each Community and Voluntary Controlled School is detailed in **APPENDIX 1** to this report which Committee are asked to approve. The admission numbers for Voluntary Aided, Foundation Schools and Academies are included for information.
- 4.3 The admission arrangements including the over-subscription criteria in respect of Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, for which no changes are proposed, are included in **APPENDIX 2**.
- 4.4 The co-ordinated Admission Schemes for primary schools and secondary schools for 2019-20 will be formulated and published on the Authority's website by 1 January 2018, in accordance with the 2014 Schools Admissions Code.

5. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is a statutory requirement of all admission authorities that admission arrangements for 2019-20 are determined by 28 February 2018 and these must be published on their website for the whole offer year. The LA must receive a copy of the admission arrangements of other admission authorities, including Academies, before 15 March in the determination year and provide details on its website of where these can be viewed. Information on how to refer objections to the Schools' Adjudicator (which must be made by 15 May 2018) will also be available on the website.
- 5.2 The LA must publish online, with hard copies available for those who do not have access to the internet, a composite prospectus for parents by 12 September 2018, which contains the admission arrangements for each of the state-funded schools in the LA area to which parents and carers can apply.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There will be a breach of statutory duty imposed on the LA if admission arrangements are not determined by 28 February 2018 and published on the Council's website by 15 March 2018.

7. CHILD AND POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no child and poverty considerations.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations.

9. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 There are no staff considerations.

10. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

10.1 There are no financial considerations.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Members are recommended to agree the following recommendations in respect of Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, when determining the admission arrangements for 2019/20:

- that the admission numbers, as recommended in **APPENDIX 1**, be approved
- that the current admission arrangements, detailed in **APPENDIX 2**, be approved.

12. CONTACT OFFICER

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PROPOSED ADMISSION LIMITS 2019-20

Community and Voluntary Controlled School	2019-20
Barnard Grove Primary School	45
Clavering Primary School	60
Fens Primary School	60
Golden Flatts Primary School	30
Grange Primary School	50
Greatham C of E Primary School	15
Hart Primary School	15
Kingsley Primary School	60
Lynnfield Primary School	55
Rift House Primary School	30
Rossmere Primary School	55
St. Helen's Primary School	45
Throston Primary School	60

Voluntary Aided, Foundation, Academy or Free School*	2019-20
Brougham Primary School	45
Eldon Grove Academy	75
Eskdale Academy	30
Holy Trinity CE Primary School	30
Jesmond Gardens Primary School	45
Sacred Heart R.C. Primary School	60
St. Aidan's C.E. Memorial Primary School	50
St. Bega's R.C. Primary School	25
St. Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School	40
St. John Vianney R.C. Primary School	30
St. Joseph's R.C. Primary School	24
St. Peter's Elwick C of E Primary School	15
St. Teresa's R.C. Primary School	45
Stranton Primary School	50
Ward Jackson Church of England VA Primary School	25
West Park Primary School	45
West View Primary School	55
Dyke House Sports & Technology College	250
The English Martyrs R.C. School & Sixth Form College #	260
High Tunstall College of Science #	241
Manor Community Academy	250
St. Hild's CE VA Secondary School	190

* Please note that proposed admission numbers for these schools are for guidance only

#an increase in PAN is planned, however, this is subject to the completion of a new building



Hartlepool Borough Council

School Admissions Arrangements
2019-20

5.1 Appendix 2

CURRENT ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS APPROVED ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR 2019-20

The admissions policy for entry to community and voluntary controlled primary schools, effective from 2019-20 admissions round, is as follows:

Parents/guardians are invited to express preferences for up to 3 primary schools in priority order and give reasons for their preferences.

- In the first instance, places will be awarded to those pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care (ONE) Plan where the school is named as the most appropriate educational setting for the child.
- The remaining places will be awarded in the following priority order:
 - 1) those children who are looked after children and previously looked after children (*previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order*)
 - 2) those children who have brothers or sisters who will be attending the school in September 2019
 - 3) those children who live in the school's admission zone
 - 4) those children who are distinguished from the great majority of other applicants whether on medical grounds or by other exceptional circumstances and who would suffer significant hardship if they were unable to attend the school
 - 5) those children who live closest to the school as determined by a 'straight line' distance measurement; from the (ordnance survey) address point for the child's home to the (ordnance survey) address point of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system.

Tiebreaker:

If more children qualify under a particular criterion than there are places available, priority will be given to those children who live closest to the school (as described under criteria 5).

Definitions:

Looked After Child - A 'looked after child' is a child who is in the care of a local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

Sibling - Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/guardian's partner and, in every case, the child should be living in the same family unit at the same address. In all cases the responsible parent will hold the child benefit for those children permanently living at that address. A brother or sister living at the same address must be attending the preferred school at the same time as the child who is applying. Please note - this criteria only applies to siblings who are of compulsory school age, not younger siblings who attend a nursery setting attached to a school

Twins or multiple birth children - If you have more than one child who are twins or part of a multiple birth going through the application process this year, you must make a separate application for each child and indicate on each online or paper form that your child has a sibling also going through the process. For community and voluntary controlled schools, we will offer a place to the other child(ren) if one of your twins/multiple birth children is offered the last place available and you have applied to the same school for the other child(ren).

Distance - Distance will be measured by a straight line distance measurement from the (ordnance survey) address point of the child's home address to the (ordnance survey) address point of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

Medical Grounds/Exceptional Circumstances – A panel of specialist officers will determine whether the evidence provided is sufficiently compelling to meet the requirements for this criterion. If you think your child has a particular medical or social need to go to a certain school, you must provide supporting evidence from a doctor, psychologist or other professional involved with your child. The supporting evidence must relate specifically to the school you are claiming medical grounds/exceptional circumstances for, and clearly demonstrate why it is only that school that can meet your child's needs in a way that no other school can. If you are applying on-line for a place under this criterion, please send your supporting evidence to the Admissions Team by the closing date, which should include your child's name and date of birth.

NB: Exceptional social reasons do not, in the view of the Authority, include domestic inconvenience arising from parents' work patterns, child-minding problems, separation from particular nursery/primary school friends. Problems of this kind are widespread and cannot be classed as exceptional. Medical reasons do not include temporary conditions. They are permanent medical conditions which require special treatment available at the preferred school only. Medical evidence must be provided and the Authority's officers must be satisfied that the child would suffer to a significant degree if he/she went to any other school.

NOTES:

Criteria 1 Applications

- Applications from children who are looked after must be accompanied by a letter from the Social Worker confirming the legal status of the child and the reasons for the school preferences. Any change of legal status and/or placement arrangements must be notified to the Admissions Team.
- Applications for previously looked after children must be accompanied by a copy of any Special Guardianship Order, Adoption Order or Child Arrangements Order.

Criteria 2 Applications

To obtain a school place under the sibling criteria the sibling must still attend the school at the time when the child for whom the place is sought joins the school. This criterion only applies to siblings who are of compulsory school age, not younger siblings who attend a nursery setting attached to a school.

Criteria 4 Applications

A panel of officers will determine whether the evidence provided is sufficiently compelling to meet the requirements for this rule. The evidence must relate specifically to the school applied for under Criteria 4 and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only school that can meet the child's needs. Criteria 4 applications will only be considered at the time of the initial application, unless there has been a significant and exceptional change of circumstances within the family since the initial application was submitted.

All schools in Hartlepool have experience in dealing with children with diverse social and medical needs. However in a few very exceptional cases, there are reasons why a child has to go to one specific school.

Few applications under Criteria 4 are agreed. All applications are considered individually but a successful application should include the following:

- specific professional evidence that justifies why only one school can meet a child's individual needs, and/or
- professional evidence that outlines exceptional family circumstances making clear why only one school can meet the child's needs
- if the requested school is not the nearest school to the child's home address clear reasons why the nearest school is not appropriate
- medical cases – a clear explanation of why the child's severity of illness or disability makes attendance at only one specific school essential.

Evidence should make clear why only one school is appropriate.

Examples of cases which have been accepted under Criteria 4

- A child with limited mobility who is only able to walk to their nearest school, as their admission zone school is further away.
- A child for whom only one school is suitable due to child protection issues.

Examples of cases which have not been accepted under Criteria 4

- Case made for continuity of child minding arrangements, such as using a childminder that children are already familiar with who caters for children attending certain schools, or childminding by family members living close to a specific school. These cases were

not upheld because they are not exceptional. Many families rely on complex childminding arrangements.

- Cases made for children with specific learning and/or behavioural needs where the professional evidence submitted is not school specific. All schools are able to support children with a wide variety of individual needs. If a child's individual needs warrant a Statement of Special Educational Needs or ONE Plan the Statement or ONE Plan will name the appropriate school.
- Medical cases where even though there is a severe illness, more than one school could deal with the child's needs.

How to apply under Criteria 4

- Parents/guardians should submit all relevant information including professional evidence, with their application. If applying online, written information should be received before the closing date for applications and include the child's name and date of birth. Information provided after the closing date will only be considered when there are significant changes of circumstances.
- Applications under Criteria 4 will only be considered when supported by a letter from a professional involved with the child or family, for example, a doctor, psychologist or police officer. Supporting evidence should demonstrate why only one named school can meet the social/medical needs of the child or family.

Admission Zones

Admissions Zones are used in Criteria 3 for community and voluntary controlled schools. Some of the secondary schools (foundation and voluntary aided) have also adopted the council's criteria and will also use primary admission zones to prioritise applications. A child is not guaranteed a place at an admission zone school.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

14 November 2017



Report of: Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning

Subject: DEPARTMENTAL ANNUAL PROCUREMENT
REPORT – CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non key.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To advise Committee of contractual activities where the annual value of the anticipated contract exceeds £60,000 for Goods and Services or £100,000 for Works.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council delivers a range of services through a combination of direct provision by the Council's own staff, contracts with the private and voluntary sector and partnership agreements with strategic partners. This report provides information on existing contracts for Children's Services and enables Members to provide input to the strategic direction for the future delivery of these services. This will enable Members to consider potential changes to the service specification, or potential alternative delivery models, where there is a robust business case.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 To achieve these objectives the Department has produced a Departmental Annual Procurement Report (DAPR) for Members to review.

4.2 The DAPR is divided into the following four Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Procurement processes either underway or forthcoming which do not have any members interests recorded against them.

Appendix 2 – Not for Publication information on the contracts detailed in Appendix 1.

This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information

Appendix 3 – Procurement processes either underway or forthcoming which do have member's interests recorded against them.

Appendix 4 – Not for Publication information on the contracts detailed in Appendix 3.

This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information

Information listed in the Appendices is sorted in chronological order based on the contract end date. Details of the information in the Appendices is provided below.

- 4.3 Each appendix consists of two parts which are detailed below – NOTE: Parts 1 and 2 are only provided when there are contracts in that period.

4.3.1 **Part 1 - Procurement processes for contracts commencing PRIOR to 1 September 2018**

To ensure that members have sufficient time available to them to discuss and influence commissioning strategies this report has been constructed on the basis that a lead time of 12 months is required prior to contract commencement.

Part 1 details those activities where the 12 month period described above is not available. As a result of shortened timescales, it would be impractical to change direction on these projects, however, the opportunity to influence the arrangement will come up again at contract review / renewal.

4.3.2 **Part 2 - Procurement processes for contracts commencing ON OR AFTER 1 September 2018**

Part 2 provides details of procurement processes where a 12 month, or greater, timescale is available prior to contract commencement. The inclusion of this information is aimed at facilitating discussions around commissioning strategies.

5. COMMENTS FROM FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

- 5.1 A report was presented to Finance and Policy Committee in September which set out all contracts across the council. These were considered by members. Members highlighted concerns about the CAMHS (LAC) contract and the service currently being provided and asked for further consideration by Children's Services Committee.
- 5.2 A review is currently being undertaken in relation to the support provided to our Looked After Children in relation to their emotional wellbeing. Options are being considered and these will be presented to Children's Services Committee once an options appraisal has been completed.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None – risks are managed by the existing procurement process.

7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial considerations associated directly with this report, although there will be financial considerations in relation to individual procurements decisions, and/or the development of alternative service delivery business cases.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 None – legal issues are managed by the existing procurement process.

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Not applicable.

10. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 10.1 There is no direct impact on Child and Family Poverty issues although there is the possibility of indirect impacts, depending on the commissioning / procurement strategies employed.

11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations applicable to this proposal.

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no staff considerations applicable to this proposal.

13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 There are no asset management considerations applicable to this proposal.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 It is recommended that Members:
- i) Note the contents of the Appendices to the report and;
 - ii) Indicate to officers any issues they wish to be considered when detailed commissioning of individual services is undertaken.

15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 To enable Members to influence decision making and strategy in relation to forthcoming commissioning activities.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 There are no background papers.

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

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6.1 Appendix 1 – Part 1

Procurement processes for contracts commencing PRIOR to 1st September 2018

Ref No	i. Contract / Service Description	ii. Details of current contract terms e.g. In-house, contracted out, voluntary agency, partnership etc.	iii. Contract Start Date	iv. Contract End Date (inclusive of contractual extensions) and details of extension options e.g. '31/3/19 – including 1 year extension period'	v. Funding stream	vi. Proposed Commissioning / Procurement Strategy	vii. Reason (for proposed strategy)
29	Supported Accommodation for teenage parents	Contracted Out	06/10/2008	31/10/2017	17046	Commission external provider	In house delivery option not viable
35	CAMHS (LAC)	Contracted Out	01/04/2017	31/03/2018		Under review	Possibility of alternative delivery option
37	Supported Accommodation for Vulnerable Young People	Contracted Out	05/01/2009	27/10/2017	17047	Commission external provider	In house delivery option not viable
38	Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) Framework	Contracted Out	11/01/2014	10/01/2018	17211	Commission external provider	In house delivery option not viable
	NE12 Framework – Residential Education Placements and Day Placements	Contracted Out	01/02/2016	31/01/2018 (including 1 year extension period)		Commission external provider	In house delivery option not viable

Procurement processes for contracts commencing ON OR AFTER 1st September 2018

Ref No	i. Contract / Service Description	ii. Details of current contract terms e.g. In-house, contracted out, voluntary agency, partnership etc.	iii. Contract Start Date	iv. Contract End Date (inclusive of contractual extensions) and details of extension options e.g. '31/3/19 – including 1 year extension period'	v. Funding stream	vi. Proposed Commissioning / Procurement Strategy	vii. Reason (for proposed strategy)
40	Advocacy Service for Children & Young People	Contracted Out	01/11/2016	30/10/2020 (including 2 year extension period)	17213	Commission external provider	In house delivery option not viable
46	Supported Accommodation for Care Leavers and LAC	Contracted Out	01/04/2013	31/03/2025 (including 2x 4 year extension periods)	17213	Commission external provider	In house delivery option not viable
	Tees Valley Children's Homes Framework	Contracted Out	01/04/2016	31/03/2020 (including 2 year extension period)		Commission external provider	In house delivery option not viable
32	Emergency Duty Team	Contracted Out	01/04/2017	31/03/2021	17250	Commission external provider	In house delivery option not viable

Procurement processes for contracts commencing ON OR AFTER 1st September 2018

Ref No	i. Contract / Service Description	ii. Details of current contract terms e.g. In-house, contracted out, voluntary agency, partnership etc.	iii. Contract Start Date	iv. Contract End Date (inclusive of contractual extensions) and details of extension options e.g. '31/3/19 – including 1 year extension period'	v. Funding stream	vi. Proposed Commissioning / Procurement Strategy	vii. Reason (for proposed strategy)
41	EIG Mentoring	Contracted Out	01/04/2015	31/03/2019 (including 1 year extension period)	22617	Under review	Possibility of alternative delivery option
42	Short-breaks - Extended Activities, afterschool activities for families of disabled children (respite). Also, 11 wk playscheme for provision for same client group	Contracted Out	01/04/2016	31/03/2019 (including 1 year extension period)	22556	Commission external provider	In house delivery option not viable

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

14 November 2017



Report of: Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services

Subject: EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non key.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To provide indicative performance information in relation to the educational outcomes for Children Looked After (CLA) for the school year 2016-17.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Support for Looked after Children

3.2 The local authority takes the role of supporting CLA very seriously with everyone in their role as corporate parents being responsible for improving outcomes for this group of children and young people.

3.3 The Virtual School Headteacher champions the needs and educational achievements of children looked after with headteachers across all school providers, aiming to maximise the potential of children looked after to achieve appropriate and relevant qualifications and to accredit all achievement.

The Virtual School undertakes the following actions:

- provides support and challenge to headteachers, designated teachers and social workers to prioritise educational outcomes for children looked after
- provides support to foster carers in relation to the education of children in their care

- monitors pupil progress, achievement, attendance and exclusions of children looked after of statutory school age and uses this information to identify appropriate interventions for those children who are experiencing difficulties
- supports Personal Education Planning meetings for targeted pupils
- monitors the quality of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) giving feedback to social workers and designated teachers
- provides training to designated teachers on their roles and responsibilities
- provides training to teachers, social workers and foster carers in relation to supporting the education of CLA
- oversees the allocation of Pupil Premium Plus to maximise educational outcomes for CLA.

Number of Children Looked After

3.4 The tables below show, by educational phase and school type, the number of children looked after as of 26th September 2017.

As of 26/09/17	Pre Nursery	Nursery	Primary		Secondary		Post 16	Total
			KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4		
Hartlepool LAC	51	6	30	65	50	38	49	289

As of 12/12/16	Attend Hartlepool School			Attend a school outside Hartlepool			Total
	Mainstream	Special school	PRU/ Secure Unit/ Remand	Mainstream	Special School	PRU / Secure Unit/ Remand	
Hartlepool children looked after (Nursery- Y11)	134	22	2	20	11	0	189

3.5 There are also 82 children who are looked after by other local authorities and live in Hartlepool. Of these children, 38 attend Hartlepool schools. The Virtual School continues to offer the same educational support to these children as it does Hartlepool children.

Special Educational Needs

3.6 Nationally 28.5% of school age children looked after have an Education, Health and Care Plan or Statement of SEN. These figures are much higher than the total population with SEN which stands at 2.8%¹. Hartlepool has been broadly in line with the national average at 28% for the previous five years. For most of these pupils it is not appropriate to expect them to be able to attain in line with an educational level for their age. Their progress is

¹ Department for Education, July 2016, Statistical First Release, Special Educational Needs in England.

- therefore carefully monitored to ensure that appropriate targets are set and they make good progress from their starting points
- 3.7 At present 44 (23%) Hartlepool children looked after aged 0-25 years² and 37 (20%) of school-aged children looked after have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan or Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Schools

- 3.8 The table below shows the percentage of CLA attending a school judged good or outstanding by Ofsted.

% Attending a good or Outstanding school	Primary	Secondary
Hartlepool LAC	67%	66%

In Hartlepool three secondary schools and four primary schools are not judged good/outstanding; 51 CLA attend these schools.

The Virtual School ensures that any transfer of school places for Hartlepool CLA will be to school judged good/outstanding by Ofsted, and meet the children's individual needs.

School Attendance

- 3.9 The attendance of all children who are looked after who attend Hartlepool schools, including those from other authorities, is monitored twice every half term. Good attendance is rewarded and any concerns are raised with social workers and officers in the local authority Attendance Team.

% attendance	% children reaching each attendance band		
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
100%	23%	15%	44%
95-100%	87%	71%	55%
93-100%	90%	78%	88%

Exclusion

- 3.10 CLA should be held to the same high standards of behaviour as their peers. This means that sometimes fixed exclusions of CLA occur. However, headteachers in Hartlepool understand that it should always be a last resort for children looked after. Every effort is made to intervene early and prevent behaviour that could result in exclusion. All schools have comprehensive behaviour management strategies in place and identified designated teachers for CLA. If a CLA receives a fixed term exclusion, the Virtual School aims to support schools to provide education off site from the first day so that foster placements are not put under additional pressure by the exclusion.

² Department for Education, Department of Health July 2016, Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years.

Children Looked After	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Fixed Term Exclusions- incidents	18	40	37
Fixed Term Exclusions- no. of pupils	11	17	15
Permanent Exclusions	0	0	0

Fixed term exclusions have reduced slightly from the previous academic year. The Virtual School is to continue to work with schools to ensure that action is taken to reduce the number of exclusions received.

Attainment on Entry to Care

- 3.11 Data indicates that over the last three years on average only 23% of Hartlepool CLA entering care were working in line or above national expectations. Whilst in care the majority of CLA therefore need to make above average progress in order to reach expected levels and narrow the gap with their peers.

Key Stage	Working at or above age related expectations (%) 2014-17
EYFS	38
KS1	28
KS2	21
KS3	19
KS4	8

In Key Stage 4, on average, only 8% of young people taken in to care are working at or above age related expectations. This therefore has a negative impact on the results achieved at the end of Key Stage 4. Young people who enter the care system in Key Stage 4 have limited time to be able to make the progress required to achieve in line with national averages for the key indicators such as English, maths and science.

Academic Progress of CLA

- 3.12 Attainment data for English and maths is collected by the Virtual School each half term and analysed. Any areas of concern are raised with schools and social workers in order for children to be supported to make personal progress.

Foundation Stage

- 3.13 There were two children in Reception in 2016. 50% of the children achieved a Good Level of Development³ by the end of Foundation Stage.

³ Children are defined as having reached a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage if they have achieved at least the expected level in: the early learning goals in the prime areas of learning (personal, social and emotional development; physical development; and communication and language) and the early learning goals in the specific areas of mathematics and literacy.

Achieved GLD	Hartlepool children looked after	All Hartlepool	National all children
2015	40%	68.4%	66.3%
2016	40%	68.4%	69.3%
2017	50%	TBC	TBC

The Virtual School Headteacher is to continue to work alongside Early Years School Improvement colleagues to analyse this early years data. This will lead to actions being put into place to support children looked after making progress throughout the Foundation Stage, and ensure that schools, day care settings and foster carers have appropriate training in relation to the needs of children looked after.

Year 1- Phonics

- 3.14 The phonics screening check identifies children who need extra help with phonic decoding in order to improve their reading skills. The screening check is for all Year 1 pupils and children in Year 2 who previously did not meet the standard of the check in Year 1.

	Number children looked after in Year 1	Number who met threshold
2015	3	2 (66%)
2016	5	3 (60%)
2017	7	3 (43%)

Key Stage 1 Results

- 3.15 The table below shows Key Stage 1 attainment over time

KS1	2015 attainment		2016 attainment		2017 attainment	
	Hartlepool	National CLA	Hartlepool	National CLA	Hartlepool	National CLA
Total no. of CLA Pupils	8		3		7	
Reading	75%	71%	100%	49.8%	57%	TBC
Writing	62.5%	63%	50%	37%	57%	TBC
Maths	62.5%	73%	50%	45.6%	57%	TBC

In 2016-17, of the cohort of seven children, one has an Education, Health and Care Plan for learning. They have made personal progress but are not achieving in line with their peers.

Key Stage 2 Results

3.16 The table below shows Key Stage 2 attainment over time.

KS2 L4+	2015 attainment		2016 attainment		2017 attainment	
	Hartlepool	National LAC	Hartlepool	National LAC	Hartlepool	National LAC
Total no. of CLA Pupils	15		6		9	
English	Reading 86.7%	71%	Reading 0%	41%	Reading 56%	TBC
	Writing 73.3%	61%	Writing 60%	45.7%	Writing 89%	TBC
Maths	80%	64%	60%	41%	56%	TBC
Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar	73.3%	54%	40%	43.7%	78%	TBC

For the 2016-17 cohort of nine children, one has an Education, Health and Care Plan for learning needs.

Key Stage 4 Results

3.17 The table below shows Key Stage 4 attainment over time.

	2015 attainment		2016 attainment		2017 attainment	
	Hartlepool	National children looked after	Hartlepool	National children looked after	Hartlepool	National children looked after
% 5+ A*-C (incl E&M)	18.8%	15.9%	17%	13.6%	23% ⁴	TBC
%5+ A*-C	25%	18%	17%	TBC	23%	TBC
%5+ A*-G	62.5%	-	67%	-	77%	-
%1+ A*-G	81.3%	-	83%	-	77%	-

The cohort was 13 pupils. Three (23%) have an Education, Health and Care Plan. Two of these pupils were not entered for GCSEs but did achieve qualifications at an appropriate level.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 The Virtual School is to:

- Continue to monitor pupil progress and target resources to support pupils to make above expected progress.
- Provide a range of opportunities via Pupil Premium Plus to support the academic achievement of children looked after.

⁴ For 2017 outcomes, attaining a Grade 4 or above in English and in maths was counted in this measure

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no risk implications.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 All CLA aged 3 to 16 years are eligible for Pupil Premium Plus/Early Years Pupil Premium from the first day they are looked after. Each CLA is allocated to £1900. The Virtual Head is responsible for managing pupil premium funding for the children and young people Hartlepool looks after and for allocating it to schools. The Virtual School transfers £330 of premium per pupil each term directly to the child's school. The further £910 is retained centrally by The Virtual School. This central fund is then used to support the academic attainment of all CLA. Further funding may be requested by a child's school via the completion of the child's Personal Education Plan. The Plan provides evidence for the reason for the request and the impact the funding will have on the child's academic attainment.
- 6.2 In the financial year 2016/17 requests to the central fund included one to one tuition, equipment, small group literacy and maths intervention and homework groups.
- 6.3 The centrally held fund is also utilised to pay for three members of Hartlepool school staff to support the work of The Virtual School. These staff have expertise in relation to the needs of CLA and are used to directly support CLA and teachers across Hartlepool in order to raise the attainment of CLA. It also funds support for the Virtual School from the Educational Psychology Service.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal considerations contained in this report.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 No consultation was required in the production of this report.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 9.1 There are no child and family poverty considerations contained in this report.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations contained in this report.

11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no staffing considerations contained in this report.

12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no asset management consideration contained in this report.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 Committee is recommended to agree that the Virtual School is to:
- a) continue to monitor pupil progress and target resources to support pupils to make above expected progress
 - b) provide a range of opportunities via Pupil Premium Plus to support the academic achievement of CLA.

14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 The recommendations are such in order that CLA make above average academic progress in order to narrow the attainment gap between them and their peers.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 15.1 There are no background papers associated with this report.

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

14 November 2017



Report of: Director of Children's & Joint Commissioning Services

Subject: THE FUTURE OF SPACE 2 LEARN

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non key.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the future of Space 2 Learn (S2L) and to seek endorsement of the proposed action.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 S2L was constructed to be a purpose-built learning environment which would enable all schools throughout the town to test out new ideas in teaching and learning ahead of the Primary Capital Programme (PCP) and Building Schools for the Future (BSF) investment. The project was intended to help change how teaching and learning takes place in our schools by being a test-bed for the very latest in Information and Communications Technology (ICT), furniture, construction techniques and environmental sustainability.
- 3.2 Following the change of government in 2010 PCP and BSF funding was withdrawn; one new school (Dyke House College) was built in Hartlepool using BSF funding, all secondary schools received BSF funding to provide ICT infrastructure and kit refresh which was supported by a five year managed service contract. Jesmond Road Primary received PCP funding to build Jesmond Gardens Primary.
- 3.3 S2L opened in September 2010. The build was funded using LCVAP (Locally Coordinated Voluntary Aided Programme – a source of funding for Voluntary Aided schools to help them to fund projects outside the scope of the Devolved Capital grant) and Schools Devolved Capital. The building sits on Church of England diocesan land in the grounds of St Hild's school. A five year lease was granted to the Council to manage and maintain the building. This lease

agreement has expired but the Council continue to manage and maintain the building. All costs associated with managing and staffing the building have been funded by Schools' Forum; this funding has been approximately £100,000 per annum. Since the building opened there has been no significant investment in ICT equipment as the available budget has not allowed for this.

- 3.4 There are three members of staff employed, full time, to operate the building and to deliver sessions to schools. All schools in Hartlepool can access S2L free of charge, including transport costs, while Schools' Forum is funding the centre. Schools usually access S2L for half-day or full-day sessions. Even though schools can access the centre for free not all do. S2L is mainly used by some primary schools to support the delivery of the ICT curriculum. For those schools that do access S2L this is an invaluable resource as they lack good quality ICT equipment within their school estate, and some schools do not necessarily have the expertise to deliver some aspects of the ICT curriculum. S2L has operates an equipment loan scheme for schools whereby schools may loan equipment for extended periods of time to use in school, usually on a topic basis.
- 3.5 In 2016 Schools' Forum questioned the value for money that S2L delivered to all schools. It was acknowledged that all schools in Hartlepool could access the facilities and expertise, but that a decreasing fraction of all schools did. Some schools, especially secondary schools, indicated that it was difficult to timetable half- or full-day blocks for pupils and teachers to access S2L; others indicated that they now felt that they had the expertise and equipment in school to deliver the relevant parts of the curriculum themselves. Schools felt it would be better if S2L offered some kind of service level agreement that individual schools could buy into. This would then mean that those schools who needed the facility could buy back the service.
- 3.6 After much debate and discussion, Schools Forum made the decision to grant two further academic years of funding to S2L to cover the school years 2016-17 and 2017-8. It was hoped that during this time, an appropriate funding model could be developed with schools which was sustainable. Schools Forum confirmed this decision in September 2017.
- 3.7 It has not been possible to produce a sustainable service funding model in partnership with schools. Therefore, S2L will cease to operate on 31 August 2018. The staff and all stakeholder partners, including the Church of England diocese, are aware of this.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 S2L will continue to operate in its current format up to the end of the 2017-18 academic year.
- 4.2 As the building lease has expired Hartlepool Borough Council will hand the building back to St Hild's school and the Church of England diocese before 31

August 2018. The school and the diocese will be responsible for determining the future use of the building.

- 4.3 In September, Schools' Forum considered a number of options for the assets contained within S2L, in particular the equipment inside the building. It was felt that some of this equipment could enhance the emerging offer at the newly developing Centre for Excellence in Creative Arts (CECA), also on the 'St Hild's campus'. Schools' Forum agreed at a meeting on 21 September 2017 that the equipment within S2L will be transferred over to CECA once S2L has ceased to operate at the end of the formal school year (July 2018). This will allow for the most valued elements of the S2L offer to continue at a charge to interested schools. This would also enable the equipment loan scheme that some schools utilise at present to be continued for some time.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council will continue to support the offer from S2L on behalf of Schools' Forum for the remainder of the academic year 2017-18. However, given the decision by Schools' Forum to cease this service from 31 August 2018, there is a risk to the continuance of the offer throughout the year if the staff at S2L find alternative employment before the end of July 2018.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The front of the building has been damaged by vandals. The diocese has indicated that, under the terms of the expired lease, they would need this to be repaired before they accept the building handover. This repair will cost approximately £4000 from the S2L budget.
- 6.2 Where redeployment opportunities cannot be achieved for the members of staff currently employed to work at S2L, there will be potential redundancy costs.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The terms of the lease agreement between Hartlepool Borough Council, St Hild's School and the Diocese of Durham should be considered when handing back the building. This is normal practice and officers foresee no unusual circumstances surrounding the hand-back to the diocese at the end of 2017-18.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 All schools were consulted through their Schools' Forum representative in advance of the Schools' Forum decision referred to in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 was made.

- 8.2 Before a decision was reached regarding the future of Space to Learn, an options appraisal was carried out with the S2L Management Committee, including representation from the diocese. It was acknowledged that it was not financially viable to continue to operate the centre in its current format without continued financial support from Schools' Forum.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 9.1 Child and family poverty issues have been considered in the production of this report and there are none to report.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 Equality and diversity issues have been considered in the production of this report and there are none to report.

11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are currently three members of staff directly employed to work at Space 2 Learn. Staff have been consulted with in relation to the future of the facility and they understand that it will close no later than 31 August 2018. The Council's Human Resources team are supporting the staff with redeployment opportunities.

12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 As referred to in paragraph 6.1, the front of the building has been damaged by vandals. The diocese has indicated that, under the terms of the lease, they would need this to be repaired before they accept the building handover.
- 12.2 Other than the vandalism to the front of the building the centre has been kept in good condition and will not require any other significant investment before being handed over.
- 12.3 As referred to in paragraph 4.3, Schools' Forum has agreed that many of the equipment assets within S2L will be transferred to the adjacent Centre for Excellence in Creative Arts in order to enhance the curriculum offer there, and to ensure that schools can still utilise the equipment that can currently be temporarily loaned to them.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 It is recommended that Committee

- a) note the contents of this report
- b) note the decision by schools to cease funding S2L after 31 August 2018
- c) endorse the decision by Schools' Forum to transfer relevant internal assets from S2L to the adjacent CECA.

14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 Moving the internal assets to CECA will further enhance the offer from that centre, thus supporting the offer to Hartlepool pupils and the communities in which they live. This asset transfer will also ensure that the valuable resources continue to be used as effectively as possible.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

15.1 There are no background papers to this report.

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

14 November 2017



Report of: Director of Children's Services and Joint
Commissioning Services

Subject: TO NOMINATE LOCAL AUTHORITY
REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON SCHOOL
GOVERNING BODIES

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 This is a Non Key decision.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To update members of the Children's Services Committee in respect of vacancies that currently exist for local authority representative governors, and to request that members recommend nominees to the governing bodies where vacancies currently exist.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Reports have previously been presented to the Children's Services Committee in February and July 2015 alerting members to the requirement that local authority governors are now nominated by the local authority but appointed by the governing body on the basis that the nominee has the skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school, and meets any other eligibility criteria they may have set.

A schedule (**Appendix A**) is attached setting out details of vacancies which currently exist, together with applications received (**Appendix B**). **These items contain exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government), (Access to Information), (Variations Order 2006) namely, information relating to any individual (Para 1).**

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 There are no proposals.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no risk implications

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 There are no financial considerations

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 There are no legal considerations

8. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 There are no child and family considerations

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations.

10. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

10.1 There are no staff considerations

11. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

11.1 There are no asset management considerations

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 The committee gives consideration to applicants as set out in Appendix B in respect of local authority nominations for consideration by governing bodies where vacancies currently exist.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 To ensure that the nomination of local authority governors will contribute to the effectiveness of the governing body to which they are appointed.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 14.1 There are no background papers

15. CONTACT OFFICER

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

14 November 2017



Report of: Director of Children's & Joint Commissioning Services

Subject: TRANSFER OF SCHOOLS BUDGET 2018/19

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-key decision.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 Schools Forum has decided to transfer £0.550m (0.88% of School Block) from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. As the transfer exceeds the 0.5% limit set by the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA), the local authority must now apply for disapplication to the Secretary of State for Education by the deadline of 30 November 2017 to implement the decision of the Schools Forum. This report seeks the Committee's approval to make the disapplication request to the Secretary of State for Education.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council is responsible for providing support to children in schools and young people age up to 25 years with Special Educational Needs. This support is funded from the High Needs Block of funding.

3.2 In the financial years 2013/14 to 2016/17, expenditure on these support services was less than the available funding. Therefore, the Schools Forum agreed that £0.550m from the High Needs Block should be transferred to the Schools Block. This decision required annual approval by the Forum.

3.3 As part of a base lining exercise for the introduction of the National Funding Formula, the ESFA 'based lined' this annual transfer by permanently assigning the £0.550m funding to the Schools Block. However, this decision fails to recognise that demand, and therefore expenditure, on High Needs support has increased in the current year and will exceed the available recurring budget. In

2017/18 this overspend can be funded from an existing risk reserve, but this is not sustainable in 2018/19 or beyond.

- 3.4 To address the High Needs Block recurring budget pressure, School Forum and local authority officers have reviewed this position. After consultation with all schools, the Schools Forum voted at its meeting on the 1 November 2017 to transfer the historic £0.550m back from Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2018/19. **Of the 12 voting members at Schools Forum, 11 agreed to the transfer and one disagreed.**
- 3.5 As the £0.550m exceeds 0.5% of the Schools Block, the local authority must now apply to the Secretary of State for Education for disapplication before 30 November 2017 to implement the decision of the Schools Forum.
- 3.6 The decision of the Schools Forum enables the Council to determine the per pupil rates paid to individual schools/providers for the children and young people they are educating and supporting in their school or educational setting.

4. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Should the Secretary of State not agree to the disapplication request the Council will have to reduce the per pupil rates referred to in paragraph 3.6. in order to ensure a balanced budget is set. Whilst the £0.550m will then be reallocated to schools (if the disapplication request is refused), there is a significant risk that schools supporting a high number of SEN cases will not receive the required per pupil funding because the pupils requiring the support are not proportionately distributed across all schools. In recognition of this risk, the Schools Forum voted to approve the transfer of this funding to the High Needs block so that the funding could be more effectively targeted to where it is needed most.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The transfer of £0.550m is required to help address the significant budget pressure in the High Needs Block.

6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Schools Forum can agree to transfer up to 0.5% of the Schools Block to other blocks. Should the funding request exceed 0.5% the local authority must apply for disapplication by the 30 November 2017.

7. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no child and family poverty considerations.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Hartlepool Borough Council is committed to ensuring that all children and young people, regardless of their individual needs, receive a good education. The Council also has an obligation to ensure that public funds are used appropriately, and to ensure sound financial processes are in place to mean that over- and underspends on budgets are managed appropriately.

9. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no staff considerations.

10. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no asset management considerations.

11. CONCLUSIONS

- 11.1 Historically, Schools Forum has agreed to transfer £0.550m from the High Needs Block to the Schools Block. Owing to significant budget pressures on the High Needs Block, Schools Forum has reviewed this position for 2018/19.
- 11.2 After consultation with all schools and Chairs of Governors, the Forum agreed at their meeting on the 1 November 2017 to transfer the £0.550m (0.88%) back from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. **The vote was 11 members agreeing to the transfer and one against the transfer.**
- 11.3 As this transfer request exceeds the limit set by the ESFA, the local authority must now apply for disapplication by 30 November 2017 to implement the decision of the Schools Forum. The Schools Forum decision protects the funding available to schools/education establishments supporting children and young people with SEN.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 It is recommended that Members:
- a. note the contents of this report
 - b. note the decision by Schools Forum to move £0.550m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2018/19
 - c. agree to the Council making a disapplication request to the Secretary of State for Education in order to implement the decision of the Schools Forum for the 2018/19 financial year.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 This transfer request has been agreed by Schools Forum on the understanding that the local authority would apply for disapplication before the statutory deadline of 30 November 2017.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 14.1 There are no background papers to this report.

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

14 November 2017



Report of: Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services

Subject: SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION AND OUTREACH
SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE –
PROCUREMENT OUTCOME

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the outcome of the procurement exercise to commission supported accommodation services and support for vulnerable young people.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Supported accommodation is the term given to the support the Council provides to young people aged 16-24, including care leavers, young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, children in need, looked after children, and teenage parents who are pregnant or have children. The Council has a statutory duty to provide accommodation to persons under 18 who have been assessed as requiring accommodation under the Children Act 1989, or because they are owed a duty under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and duties towards homeless young people under the Housing Act 1996.

3.2 Historically, the Council has had rolling block contracts for supported accommodation and support services. This is funded through the allocation that was previously known as the 'Supporting People' allocation, the ring fence around this budget was removed in 2009. Services procured via this funding are subject to the new procurement solution.

3.3 In October 2016, the Council received notification from one of its supported accommodation providers announcing that the organisation had taken the decision to focus on specialising in providing support to a smaller number of

client groups. This has resulted in the provider not continuing to provide generic Young Peoples support services in Hartlepool. This current service provision will end in October 2017.

- 3.4 Current contracts for Floating Support and supported accommodation for teenage parents were due for renewal. The contracts were extended to fall in line with the procurement time frame so that future provision in this area was part of this procurement of services.

4. CATEGORIES OF SERVICES

- 4.1 The services within the procurement process were divided into three Lots based upon different categories of need as described below:

- Lot 1: is for the provision of supported housing and crash pads in Hartlepool for children looked after, care leavers, homeless and unaccompanied asylum seekers. This provision includes inreach and outreach support to young people aged 16-24 transitioning from the service into their own tenancy. The Service has been awarded for a 5 year period and includes a 5 year extension clause which will be reviewed in accordance with the needs of young people in Hartlepool, provider performance and availability of funding.
- Lot 2: is for the provision of supported housing for young parents, including in reach support and outreach support for those transitioning from the placement. The Service has been awarded for a 5 year period and includes a 5 year extension clause which will be reviewed in accordance with the needs of young people in Hartlepool, provider performance and availability of funding.
- Lot 3: is for the provision of floating support, providing advice, guidance and practical support to those vulnerable young people who are living within their own tenancy. The Service has been awarded for a 2 year period and includes 8 x 1 year extensions which will be reviewed in accordance with the needs of young people in Hartlepool, provider performance and availability of funding.

- 4.2 For all of the above contracts performance management and delivery of outcomes by the Services will be continually reviewed throughout the period of the contracts and will also be considered at the point of awarding the extensions.

5. PROCUREMENT PROCESS

5.1 Procurement Process Undertaken

- 5.1.1 The procurement process for all services was via a formal tender process under EU Procurement Directives as the associated total contract value of this group of contracts is above the EU Procurement Threshold for Services. This

procurement was also undertaken in accordance with Hartlepool Borough Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

- 5.1.2 An open procedure contract notice was advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) on August 2017. An invitation to tender was published on the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) Portal on 27th June 2017.
- 5.1.3 The first stage of the procurement process involved a Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) Stage, the deadline date for submissions was 10th July 2017. Twelve submissions were received at this stage of the process and were assessed against the evaluation criteria. Six organisations were successful in progressing to the next stage of the procurement process.
- 5.1.4 The Invitation to Tender (ITT) stage opened on 20th July 2017, with a deadline for tender submissions on 17th August 2017. Two bids were received for Lot 1, one bid was received for Lot 2 and 2 bids were received for Lot 3. The tender submissions were assessed using the evaluation criteria detailed in section 5.2 below.

5.2 Evaluation Criteria

- 5.2.1 A team of officers from Corporate Procurement, Children's Commissioning Team, Housing Team, Children's Social Care and young people who have accessed supported housing services previously were involved in the evaluation of the tenders. Each evaluator evaluated the submissions independently and then the scores were brought together at moderation panels. A moderated score was agreed for each tender quality criteria.
- 5.2.2 Providers who tendered have been successful in the contract award on the basis of their ability to satisfy the Council that they could meet the qualitative requirements of the service specifications and on their pricing using an evaluation methodology of 40% Price and 60% Quality.
- 5.2.3 Compliance with the Council's mandatory requirements and minimum quality standards were specified in the eligibility and subsequent award criteria of the tendering process. Site visits were undertaken to shortlisted providers to verify information provided within the method statements. This process ensured that minimum quality standards had been met by all providers prior to contract award.

5.3 Contract Award

- 5.3.1 The successful providers for each of the Lots are detailed in the table below.

Lot	Provider	Size of provision
Lot 1	Sanctuary	10 self contained units, 2 crash pads, 1 self contained flat

Lot 2	Thirteen Group	6 self contained 2 bedroom units
Lot 3	Thirteen Group	Minimum of 2,250 hours of support

5.3.2 The new contracts will begin on 24th October 2017 for all services.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Transition arrangements are in place for any young person currently utilising the previous provision. The transition will be managed sensitively and will provide the young person with opportunities to be involved in the choice of rooms within the new provision.

6.2 Failure of providers to deliver the required quality of service will be mitigated through regular contract management and service monitoring and evaluation as detailed in the contract specifications.

7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 The procurement process has ensured that the new contracts are within the overall budget allocated to the provision of these services. The delivery of these contracts will provide efficiencies within the service and achieve better value for money.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 applies to any transfers of staff required for the provision of services. This has been completed as part of the contract award process.

8.2 The process adopted complies with the EU procurement regulations and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

8.3 A number of duties may arise for the Council in the provision of housing support to 16-24 year olds. These duties will depend on the individual needs and circumstances of the young person and may include leaving care support and homelessness duties.

9. CONSULTATION

9.1 A number of provider events were held in January, March and April, with good attendance from local and national providers.

At the first event Council officers from Housing, Children's Services and Corporate Procurement presented initial proposals regarding the procurement of services for supported accommodation for vulnerable young people.

The second event considered the financial modeling and service specifications for each of the lotting structures in more detail, allowing providers an opportunity to comment and contribute to the development of the proposals.

The final event was an opportunity to share the preferred solution with providers prior to beginning the procurement process.

- 9.2 Three events with young people currently in supported accommodation or receiving supported housing support were scheduled in February and March 2017. The events considered the following;
- The benefits of the current provision;
 - What can be improved within the current provision;
 - Independent living skills and training;
 - Pathway plans and 'Moving on' strategies.
- 9.3 Feedback from all the consultation and information events were considered as part of the preferred solution.

10. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 10.1 The new supported accommodation services for young people aged 16-24 will keep vulnerable young people safe in suitable accommodation; provide better housing choices for young people at risk of homelessness; encourage young people to be healthier, make a positive contribution and support young people to move on to independent living. Please see **Appendix A**.

11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 The commissioning of supported accommodation services will have a positive impact on all young people as a better range of services will be available.
- 11.2 Service specifications for the new services require providers to deliver accessible, non-discriminatory services that meet the needs of all young people from protected groups, who are assessed as being eligible for supported accommodation. They will also be required to collate data about protected groups.

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no staff considerations for Hartlepool Borough Council employees.

13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 There are no asset management considerations.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 For members to note the contract awards for supported accommodation services for vulnerable young people.

15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 The successful providers have demonstrated the ability to deliver services at, or exceed the minimum standard required.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 Children's Services Committee report – 21st March 2017 (*Supported Accommodation and Outreach Support for Vulnerable Young People – Procurement*)

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

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POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. Is this decision a Budget & Policy Framework or Key Decision? NO If YES please answer question 2 below				
2. Will there be an impact of the decision requested in respect of Child and Family Poverty? If YES please complete the matrix below				
GROUP	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE
Young working people aged 18 - 21	✓			The provision will support vulnerable young people aged 16-24 into accommodation/independent living skills.
Those who are disabled or suffer from illness / mental illness			✓	
Those with low educational attainment	✓			Research shows that young people who access supported accommodation/floating support are more likely to be NEET.
Those who are unemployed	✓			Research shows that young people who access supported accommodation/floating support are more likely to be NEET.
Those who are underemployed			✓	
Children born into families in poverty	✓			Research shows that young people born into families in poverty are represented within the cohort accessing supported accommodation/floating support.
Those who find difficulty in managing their finances	✓			Part of the solution will look to focus on supporting young people with independent living skills including finance management.
Lone parents	✓			Part of the solution will be focused on procuring support for teenage parents.
Those from minority ethnic backgrounds			✓	
Poverty is measured in different ways. Will the policy / decision have an impact on child and family poverty and in what way?				
Poverty Measure (examples of poverty measures appended overleaf)	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE

POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Proportion of young people who are NEET	✓			Independent living skills support will identify pathways into education/employment and/or training.
Overall impact of Policy / Decision				
NO IMPACT / NO CHANGE – the impact will be positive	✓	ADJUST / CHANGE POLICY / SERVICE		
ADVERSE IMPACT BUT CONTINUE		STOP / REMOVE POLICY / SERVICE		
Examples of Indicators that impact of Child and Family Poverty.				
Economic				
Children in Low Income Families (%)				
Children in Working Households (%)				
Overall employment rate (%)				
Proportion of young people who are NEET				
Adults with Learning difficulties in employment				
Education				
Free School meals attainment gap (key stage 2 and key stage 4)				
Gap in progression to higher education FSM / Non FSM				
Achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and all pupils (key stage 2 and key stage 4)				
Housing				
Average time taken to process Housing Benefit / Council tax benefit claims				
Number of affordable homes built				
Health				
Prevalence of underweight children in reception year				
Prevalence of obese children in reception year				
Prevalence of underweight children in year 6				
Prevalence of obese children in reception year 6				
Life expectancy				

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

14 November 2017



Report of: Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services

Subject: CHILDREN'S HUB UPDATE

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To provide members with an update on progress of The Children's Hub.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Children's Hub delivers a service on behalf of Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees councils. It began operations on June 1st 2016.

3.2 The Children's Hub is an integrated single point of access across North Tees providing multi-agency triage and assessment of enquiries about children.

3.3 Professionals and the general public can report concerns about the safety and wellbeing of children and the Children's Hub investigates and takes action where it is appropriate to do so.

3.4 The Children's Hub operates Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5.00pm and 8.30am to 4.30pm on a Friday. It is closed evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays and the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) provides cover for these periods.

4. THE TEAM

4.1 The Children's Hub undertakes a wide range of tasks. Concerns about children are dealt with by a team of Officers, Social Workers, a Designated

Education Officer and the Local Authority Designated Officer. Oversight is provided by two social worker qualified Team Managers.

- 4.2 Integrated partners within The Children's Hub include Cleveland Police, Harbour, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust and CAMHS.
- 4.3 The Children's Hub and its partners share information, risk assess and make decisions to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and their families with the aim of providing the right support at the right time.

5. LEVELS OF ACTIVITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

- 5.1 The Children's Hub is a busy service covering two local authority areas with a children's population of approximately 70,000. On average the Children's Hub deals with over 150 phone calls and approximately 50-70 referrals a day. Some of this activity relates to active cases and these are moved on to the appropriate worker. The remaining referrals that do not have an active worker are assessed by the Children's Hub.
- 5.2 60% of the Children's Hub work relates to Stockton and 40% to Hartlepool children.
- 5.3 The table below provides a summary of Hub activity for the period 1st June 2016 to 31st May 2017.

	Total number of recorded 'contacts' (enquiries)	% of referrals passed to agencies for them to provide support	% of referrals that are passed to Early Help services	% of referrals that are passed for social care assessment	% of contacts (enquiries) that resulted in advice and guidance and/ or no further action
Hartlepool	5,108	10%	6%	24%	60%
Stockton on Tees	8,683	10%	16%	26%	48%

- 5.4 Despite increasing demand and more complex enquiries there has been an overall improvement in a number of key areas including –
- A reduction in referrals for social care assessment for Stockton on Tees (26% against a previous baseline of 40%)
 - More families getting help directly from specialist agencies (eg Harbour) rather than the local authority (a 9% increase for Stockton and 5% increase for Hartlepool)
 - A decrease in the number of 'Strategy' (child protection) meetings for both Local Authorities with the Children's Hub averaging 8 per week compared to 12 per week on the previous baseline.

6. QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 6.1 Both Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees Children's Social Care have a rigorous audit programme in place and the Hub is covered as part of this process. Audits are undertaken by Heads of Service and Service Managers and have revealed no issues with the Children's Hub or its decision making.
- 6.2 North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) came in to provide an external view of the Hub in Spring 2017 and whilst it did not audit any individual cases it provided a positive report on the Hub's progress to date with recommendations for further business improvements.
- 6.3 During their review of The Children's Hub NYCC recommended a number of business improvements including:
- a paperless (or paperlite) approach to day to day Hub business - less printing of referrals and more effective use of ICT to move referrals through the triage, investigation and decision making process. Significant progress has been made on this action and in the first two weeks of October the Hub has moved to paperless working. This has already seen improvements in timeliness of adding referrals to systems, gathering information and making decisions on outcomes for the child.
 - a single social care system - Hartlepool and Stockton have two very different social care recording systems and NYCC felt that one system used by both authorities would be more business effective. This has been considered however is not a feasible option. Hartlepool is satisfied with its current social care system and has no plans to change provider; Stockton has gone through a recent procurement process to move to a new social care system and this is not the same system as Hartlepool. Whilst the Hub can see the benefits of having one system for both Local Authorities it is now accustomed to case recording in two systems and does not think this impacts negatively on the child.
 - an audit of No Further Action enquiries - this has been undertaken (see below).
 - the addition of early help services in the Hub - Hartlepool and Stockton have both developed locality based early help services and the Hub can directly refer into these teams and/ or the professional or parent/ carer can go straight to the service. For these reasons The Hub felt that this was not a recommendation it needed to progress.
 - further audit work on the outcome of Strategy meetings to understand the different outcomes for the child - this work is outstanding and will be undertaken shortly.

6.4 In-depth audits of the Hub's handling of enquiries have been undertaken – one in September 2016 and one in February 2017. On both occasions this involved a team of local authority Heads of Service/ Service Managers, a senior officer from Cleveland Police, managers from TEWV and the NHS Foundation Trust and education colleagues.

6.5 A summary of the audit findings can be found in the table below.

	Referral was clear	Referral included multi agency information	Referral outcome appropriate
Hartlepool Sept 2016 audit	94%	47%	88%
Stockton Sept 2016 audit	100%	78%	100%
Hartlepool Feb 2017 audit	100%	60%	93%
Stockton Feb 2017 audit	100%	64%	93%

6.6 A further audit was carried out as discussed in the recommendations from North Yorkshire County Council peer review. 60% of Hub activity results in No Further Action (NFA) or Advice and Guidance. There are many reasons for this and a recent audit (August 2017) has identified the following:

- improvements in the way the referral is 'categorised' is required. The audit uncovered that over 30% of referrals were finalised as 'NFA' when in fact the Hub had undertaken significant work including information sharing with partners, Social Worker investigation and telephone conversations with parents and referrers to help them understand what action they could take to improve the outcome for the child without social care involvement.
- multiple siblings are often referred into The Children's Hub however action sometimes only need to take place with one child; the remaining members of the sibling group are 'NFA'd'.
- referrals are often received on children already active to the Early Help Service; these referrals are NFA where it is safe to do so that work can continue via Early Help.
- consent is required in the vast majority of cases and sometimes the Hub has to NFA a referral pending the professional seeking consent from the family to progress.

7. NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 The Children's Hub continues to develop and has already made significant progress in its first year of operation. Relationships have been developed between the Children's Hub and Hartlepool and Stockton social care teams. A number of audits have been carried out across the organisations and confidence levels from both local authority children's social care management teams is good.
- 7.2 The next stage of development for the Hub includes –
- Fine tuning day to day enquiry processes with the aim of being 'paperlite'/ paperless
 - A move to 'real time' recording of enquiries onto social care systems so that triage can be undertaken swiftly and without delay
 - Installation of telephone software which allows us to fully understand caller activity including how many people call, how long people wait, how long we spend on the phone and how many calls we 'miss'
 - A move to 'Signs of Safety' – a solution focused approach to social work with an emphasis on involving parents and carers in risk assessment and safety planning.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Hartlepool provides a statutory service for Stockton on Tees and therefore is responsible for one aspect of another authorities social care services. Ofsted inspects children's social care. Hartlepool is therefore subject to Ofsted inspection for both local authorities 'front door' children's social care service. There is a risk that if Hartlepool fails to provide a good service either for itself or Stockton on Tees that the Hub could be seen as not performing effectively.

9. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 Stockton on Tees pays Hartlepool Borough Council for actual activity: ie the proportionate cost of Stockton on Tees enquiries and referrals. Partners also contribute to the cost of The Children's Hub. An agreement has been reached with all partners to fund activity for three years to ensure stability.

10. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no legal considerations.

11. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 11.1 The Hub deals with vulnerable children and families. It aims to mitigate the impact of poverty on children and families by ensuring they are offered

appropriate support. This includes benefit and entitlement maximisation and money management and debt advice where appropriate.

12. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

12.1 There are no equality or diversity considerations.

13. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

13.1 There are no staff considerations.

14. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

14.1 There are no asset management considerations.

15. RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 That members note the contents of the report.

16. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

16.1 The Children's Hub has been operating for over a year and will provide ongoing updates to members.

17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

17.1 None

18. CONTACT OFFICERS

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