

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

21 June 2022

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Jim Lindridge (In the Chair)

Councillors Boddy, Groves, Harrison, Little and Moore

Co-opted members:

Lisa Greig (as substitute for Zoe Westley, Special Schools Head Representative)

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2. Councillor Cassidy was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Leedham

Officers: Sally Robinson, Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services
Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning
Paul Reynolds, Mockingbird Lead
Ann Turner, Governor Support Manager
Jane Wilson, Fostering Team Manager
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Leedham,
Zoe Westley, Special Schools Head Representative
Mark Tilling, Secondary Schools Head Representative
David Turner, Primary Schools Head Representative

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2022 were received.

4. **High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) 2022-24** *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – General Exception Provision applies.

Purpose of report

To approve the SEND capital allocations for 2022 -2024 and to authorise officers to explore options for the development of further provision and obtain costs for these works.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Department for Education had notified the Council of the following allocations for 2022/23 and 2023/2024:to either support an increase in SEND provision or to improve the quality of current SEND provision:-

2022/23	2023/2024	Total
£962,737	£732,295	£1,695,032

Elected Members had approved, in March 2021, the allocation of SEND capital funding for 2021/22.It was proposed to allocate the following to existing programmes of work, approved in March 2021, due to an increase in costs over the last year which mirrored a national picture in relation to rising costs:-

ASD Sixth Form to be developed at former Throston Library site	£106, 937	The quote for the development of the 6 th form was undertaken before supply costs had significantly increased. The council's building team have recently reviewed the quote and costs have been quoted as £306,937. This is an increase of £106,937 from an original quote. It is important that this work is implemented as this allows for more space to be used for 11-16 year old pupils at the Catcote main site on Catcote Road.
Catcote Academy new places build	£46,574.89	Additional costs incurred after Sport England objection therefore scheme needing to be amended.
Springwell build	£55,000	Additional costs incurred due to fire compartmentalise survey findings undertaken within the build (these are estimated costs as not received formal quote yet)
Total	£208,511.89	

It was proposed that the remaining funding £1,486,520.11 supports the development of enhancing mainstream provision to meet SEND needs. The current gaps in provision included Moderate Learning Difficulties for secondary aged children and ASD for primary age children. Officers were currently working with schools to identify options to deliver this enhanced provision. It was expected that this additional provision would need additional accommodation however at this point there were no costs. These costs would be submitted to Committee when identified.

The Assistant Director responded to clarification sought regarding funding issues, details of the increased costs and issues arising from development of enhancing mainstream provision to meet SEND needs.

Decision

- (i) The allocation of High Needs Capital provision allocations as set out in the report were approved.
- (ii) Officers were authorised to explore options for the development of further provision and obtain costs for these works to present to Committee at a later date.

5. Amendment to Golden Flatts/Lynnfield Primary Schools Instrument of Government *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key decision

Purpose of report

To seek approval of the Committee to amendments to the Instrument of Government of the Federation of Golden Flatts and Lynnfield Primary Schools in accordance with the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended by the School Governance (Constitution and Federation) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report set out details of a proposal to reduce the governing body from the current 17 to 13 with the removal of two Parent Governor positions and two Co-opted Governor positions. This would bring the Federation closer in line with the numbers on governing bodies of most of the remaining maintained schools. Two Parent Governor places would be retained which met the minimum requirements of the governance regulations. A copy of the revised Instrument of Government was appended to the report.

Elected members debated issues arising from the report with reference to recruitment of parent governors generally and expressed views that parents should be encouraged to apply to become governors.

Decision

The revised Instrument of Government for the Federation of Golden Flatts and Lynnfield Primary Schools was approved.

6. Mockingbird Family Model *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee with details of the Mockingbird Family Model and an update on the implementation of Hartlepool's pilot constellation

Issue(s) for consideration

The report set out an outline of the main principles and objectives of the Mockingbird Family Model and an update on the implementation of Hartlepool's pilot constellation. The report also set out details of the funding already received from the Department for Education and the financial implications of ongoing funding for the model and its potential expansion.

The Fostering Team Manager and Mockingbird Lead Officer were in attendance at the meeting. The Officers provided the Committee with comprehensive details relating to the Model and responded to clarification sought from elected members regarding the operation of the model.

A member of the Fostering panel referred to a presentation which had been made to the Panel regarding the Model and suggested that the presentation be made to this Committee also.

Decision

The report was noted.

7. The Role of the Children's Services Committee

Type of decision

For information

Issue(s) for consideration

The Committee received a presentation by the Director outlining the role and remit of the Children's Services Committee as set out in the Council Constitution and the service areas of the authority that fell under its management. The presentation also included an overview of the strengths and challenges together with the budget position.

The Chair reminded Members of the important role and the collective responsibility in undertaking their duties on the Committee. The Chair referred to the particular importance of all elected members understanding their responsibilities as corporate parents. The Committee was strongly encouraged to attend the forthcoming corporate parenting member training on 28 June to demonstrate to young people and their carers that elected members care and have their interests at heart. An invitation was also extended to the Annual BBQ on 4 July.

Decision

That the presentation be noted.

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on 19 July 2022 at 4.00pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

The meeting concluded at 17:30

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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