

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) held at
2.00 pm on 15th October, 2013**

Present:

Cabinet Member: Councillor Duggins

Deputy Cabinet Member: Councillor Innes

Shadow Cabinet Member: Councillor Lepoidevin

Other Member: Councillor Lucas

Employees (by Directorate):

Chief Executives: A. Hook, L. De-Voisey-Williams

People: A. Pepper, J. Sembi, D. Wilson

Resources: S. Bennett, V. Castree, J. Newman

Public business

16. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

17. Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) meeting held on 4th September, 2013 were agreed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

18. Adoption Service Report 2012/13

The Cabinet Member considered a joint report of the former Director of Children, Learning and Young People which detailed the work of the Coventry City Council Adoption Service and appended to which was the annual Statement of Purpose (SOP), which was required to be compiled and kept under regular review, at least annually. Updated figures for 2013/14 were provided at the meeting.

The report detailed the new Integrated Family Placements Service which aimed to provide a service for children that was designed around the child's lifeline. A secure outcome of permanency was the priority for the wide range of children for whom this was needed, at the earliest stage, whether via Adoption, Special Guardianship Orders or Long Term Fostering. Located within the Integrated Family Placement Service, the aim of the Adoption Service was to provide a comprehensive Adoption and Post-Adoption Service, including the provision of Adoption Support Services, to all parties affected by the adoption process that was consistent with Best Practice, National Standards, Guidance and Regulatory Requirements.

Officers were congratulated for making the comprehensive document user friendly and were questioned on aspects of the report including:-

- Recording and understanding why people who make initial enquires about becoming adopters decide not to pursue this route.
- Frequency of training and preparation groups, and where they are held
- Approved adopters outside of the City

The Cabinet Member noted that the report had been considered by the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) at their meeting held on 29th August, 2013 (their Minute 13/13 refers)

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People):

- 1. Notes consideration of the report by the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)**
- 2. Accepts the Adoption Service Report 2012/13**
- 3. Approves the updated Statement of Purpose**
- 4. Approves that the Council remains committed to the new model in achieving the greatest number of adoptions compatible with achieving the best outcomes for the children concerned.**

19. Comments, Compliments and Complaints 2013/13 – Children's Social Care Services

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director, People, which provided details of the comments, compliments and complaints received during 2013/13, the themes that arise from them and the learning and service improvements that have resulted from the feedback received.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) endorses and approves the publishing of the Comments, Compliments and Complaints 2012/13 – Children's Social Care Services report on the Council's website.

20. Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board Recommendation on the CLYP Social Care and Early Intervention Fundamental Service Review

The Cabinet Member considered a briefing note which indicated that the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) identified the CLYP Fundamental Service Review (FSR) from the Transformation Programme Progress Board report as an area for scrutiny and had considered this item at their meeting on 2nd September, 2013 (their Minute 14/13 refers).

The Scrutiny Board had raised concerns that the financial targets had not been met and had indicated that they wanted to explore the reasons behind this and whether lessons could be learnt for future reviews. The Scrutiny Board had made

recommendations to the Cabinet Member to address these concerns.

In addition, to making recommendations to the Cabinet Member, the Scrutiny Board had also requested that:-

- 1) That an accurate report is created detailing how many children had been prevented from entering care due to early intervention work and that this report is circulated to members of the Finance and Corporate Scrutiny Board (1) and the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2).
- 2) That a report is brought to SB (1) with an update on progress and action being taken to deliver the financial targets and savings in January, 2014.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member agrees to work with officers and the Chair of the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board to review the model on which financial targets are based in order to seek assurance that the model is accurate and targets achievable. This review should take into account relevant contextual information from the original review raised by the project team and external partners, as well as information from the recent Peer Reviews. If the Cabinet Member is not satisfied, then he will consider referring the issue to the Audit Committee.

21 **Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues to report.

22. **Any Other Public Business**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at: 2.30pm)