

**Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) held at
2.00pm on Tuesday, 11th March, 2014**

Present:

Cabinet Member: Councillor Duggins

Deputy Cabinet Member: Councillor Innes

Shadow Cabinet Member: Councillor Lepoidevin

Employees (by Directorate):

People: B. Dhummi, M. Godfrey, A. Harley, A. Pepper

Resources: S. Bennett

Public business

30. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

31. Minutes

(a) The minutes of the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) meeting held on 12th November, 2013 were agreed as a true record.

(b) There were no matters arising.

32. Annual Statement of Payments to Coventry City Council Foster Carers

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director, People, which detailed proposals for the annual review of fees and maintenance payments paid to foster carers for 2014/15.

Nationally, maintenance payments are set in line with Government guidance and every year the Fostering Network recommend fees for foster carers. Over time, Coventry's fees had fallen behind the recommended rate. The report sought to address this issue and the proposals, which were detailed in an appendix to the report, included a 6.85% increase in maintenance payments and all other child care allowances and the introduction of a skills fee for foster carers at Level 1.

The Cabinet Member and Deputy Cabinet Member referred to the Foster Care Association Conference held on 5th March, 2014 and requested that their sincere thanks be extended to all the staff in the People Directorate who were involved in the Conference and who had contributed to making it such an outstanding success.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) approves the proposed fee increase for carers for 2014/15 as detailed in the appendix to the report.

33. **Progress Report on Route 21 Care Leavers' Service**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director, People that provided an update on progress of the new Route 21 Care Leavers' Service which had brought together the former 15+ Social Work Team and the Shaftesbury Young People Personal Advisor Service in March 2013. This had enabled the Council to move forward with an integrated service for care leavers which was more efficient and effective in fulfilling the Council's responsibilities as a corporate parent, providing a consistent level of care and support, and improving outcomes for care leavers.

The report indicated that there had been some strong improvements in the delivery of the service to care leavers over the last eighteen months and highlighted the key priorities for the service over the next 6 months.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) notes the progress made to date; endorses the next steps regarding the future development of the service as detailed in the report; and requests a further progress report on the service in six months time.

34. **Early Learning for Two Year Olds and Childcare Sufficiency Duty**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director, People, which sought approval for plans to develop sufficient places, increase participation and deliver on the Department for Education (DfE) targets for 40% of all two year olds in the City to access their entitlement to a funded early learning place. The report also detailed how the City Council's Childcare Sufficiency Statutory Duty was being met, including recent assessment information and recommendations relating to how it is intended to secure sufficient childcare regarding the implementation of the Early Learning Programme for two year old.

The Cabinet Member, Deputy Cabinet Member and Shadow Cabinet Member congratulated officers on the quality and content of the information provided in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2013-2014, which was appended to the report.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) endorses the activity outlined in the report on order to meet the DfE Early Learning two year olds targets and the City Council's Childcare Sufficiency Duty.

35. **Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues to report.

36. **Any Other Public Business**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at: 2.30pm)