

CABINET MEMBER (CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE)

17th July, 2012

Cabinet Member

Present: Councillor O'Boyle

Shadow Cabinet

Member Present: Councillor Lepoidevin

Employees Present:

D. Francisco (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
C. Green (Director of Children, Learning & Young People)
J. Newman (Finance and Legal Services Directorate)
A. Parks (Children, Learning & Young People Directorate)
U. Patel (Customer & Workforce Services Directorate)

In Attendance:

K. McFadden
E. Slack (Work Experience)

Apologies:

Councillor Kershaw Cabinet Member (Education)

Public Business

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

(a) The minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2012 were signed as a true record.

(b) There were no matters arising.

3. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the item of business indicated in Minute 8 below headed "Electronic File Sharing for Foster Carers" on the grounds that this item involves the likely disclosure of exempt information and that there would be no public interest in disclosing that information, as defined in Schedule 12A of the Act, in particular paragraph 3.

4. Commitment to the Every Disabled Child Matters Charter

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People which proposed Coventry City Council to sign up to the Local Authority Disabled Children's Charter developed by the Every Child Matters campaign organised by Contact a Family, the Council for Disabled Children, Mencap and Special Educational Consortium. The Charter and the commitments it contains aims to improve the quality of services for disabled children and their families.

Every disabled Child Matters (EDCM) is a campaign to get rights and justice for every disabled child. The campaign works closely with the disabled children's sector and 34,000 supporters to lobby Government to ensure disabled children and their families have the services and support they need to lead ordinary lives.

An important component of the campaign was to ask local authorities to sign up to Local Authority Disabled Children's Charter. There was also a charter for Primary Care Trusts.

The Local Authority Disabled Children's Charter is a set of commitments that local authorities sign up to show that they are committed to disabled children and their families. EDCM published a new Local Authority Disabled Children's Charter in Spring 2011 which included updated commitments reflecting new duties on local authorities. The Charter was attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

The Council has made significant improvements to its services for disabled children over the last two to three years. The provision of short breaks has been significantly expanded using funding first from the Aim High for Disabled Children grant and subsequently maintaining this investment from the Early Intervention Grant.

The City Council had not previously signed up to the Charter as it took such commitments very seriously. The City Council wanted to be confident that it would achieve or be close to achieving the Charter's aims within a year of signing. The improvements in the Council's services together with the commitment to work with our NHS and adult services colleagues on joint development of services through the appointment of a Joint Commissioning Manager for Disabled Children meant that the Council were confident of the progress they would make to achieve the Charter's aims over the next twelve months.

RESOLVED that after due consideration of the report and the matters raised at the meeting, the Cabinet Member signed the Local Authority Disabled Children's Charter on behalf of Coventry City Council.

5. Report on the progress of the review of the delivery of Advice and Information (A1) by the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) to young people in Coventry

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People which outlined the progress made in relation to the review and detailed proposals for the future delivery of services.

A review of the delivery of advice and information to young people was proposed in November 2011 and a commitment was given by the Integrated Youth Support service (IYSS) to consult with young people on their views about how, when and where services should be made available. A petition bearing 13 signatures had previously been submitted by Councillor Walsh calling on the Council to ensure that young people were fully consulted prior to any future decisions being made about the delivery of advice and information following the relocation of the One Stop Shop. A number of mechanisms have been employed to undertake this consultation, including the use of survey monkey questionnaires which were completed by over 520 young people and follow up focus groups in which 42 young people took part. A professional stakeholders' focus group was also held to support the process and to explore further the initial findings of the questionnaires. Consultation had

also taken place with staff currently employed to support this service in order to involve them in helping to shape the revised model for delivery.

Following analysis of the information received from the review and consultation, the IYSS management team had identified the following as information to shape the new model of delivery of services. Young people attending education wanted to be able to access advice and information in their own neighbourhoods, including at school/college during lunchtime and at a city centre base on Saturdays. Those not in education or training preferred to have access to daytime and early evening provision within their own areas.

Given that the service formally known as the One Stop Shop was obliged to move out of its base at the foyer at the end of March 2012, it was necessary to base staff temporarily in two centres managed by the IYSS, in Jardine Crescent and Broad Street.

The proposed model for delivery would built on this approach and would deliver a combination of centre based/school based advice and information in a number of areas of deprivation during the daytime and early evening and would also offer city centre provision on Saturday afternoons.

Alongside delivery from the two identified bases at Jardine Crescent and Broad Street, it was anticipated that other youth service sites which would have delivery directly supported by the Advice information youth workers would be in Radford, Spon End and Wood End. This would be achieved by staff working in small teams of two, on a rota basis, so that young people would know when and where they were available.

In order to maximise update and make best use of staff resources, the new model would be one which promoted day time activities in the youth centres, primarily aimed at those young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEETS). Drop in sessions would be publicised, which would promote opportunities for young people to access support with CV writing, job searches and employment skills whilst at the same time offering access to advice and information on a range of other topics including general, emotional and sexual health, relationships, housing and benefits.

This would enable youth workers to use both their general youth skills and their more specialist advice and information knowledge to a potentially much wider audience. Negotiations were currently underway to develop links between the advice and information staff and the youth service volunteer co-ordinator to explore accredited programmes for NEETS young people.

As well as the centre based provision, negotiations were underway with schools and FE colleges in these areas with a view to establishing lunchtime advice and information sessions delivered by the youth worker.

On Saturday afternoons service would be delivered from the new CSWP site in Sheldon Square, City Centre.

It was envisaged that the model as outlined would promote greater access to services and was in line with expressed preferences of the young people surveyed.

The report indicated that a steering group had been established which included members of IYSS staff from centre based, school based and city wide teams to monitor and

develop this work, including further analysis of information from the survey based on age, gender and ethnicity.

Staff were already based at centres in Jardine Crescent and Broad Street as a temporary measure, whilst detailed planning has been undertaken to establish the new model and locations for delivery. Roll out to Wood End, Radford and Spon End would take place over the summer and negotiations with schools and colleges would hopefully result in lunchtime delivery starting from September in the majority of venues.

RESOLVED that after due consideration of the report and the matters raised at the meeting, the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People): -

- 1. Considered and noted the outcome of the consultation undertaken with young people who are service users and potential service users.**
 - 2. Considered and endorsed the revised Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) which has been undertaken by the service.**
 - 3. Approved the recommendations for a new model of service delivery based on the findings from the review and consultation process as detailed in paragraph 2.3 and 2.4 of the report.**
 - 4. Requested a progress report to be submitted in six months time.**
- 6. Outstanding Issues**

The Cabinet Member noted the outstanding issues relevant to his portfolio and requested that the report be updated accordingly.

RESOLVED that after due consideration of the report and the matters raised at the meeting, the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People): -

- 1. Item 1 headed "Petition – Location of Young Persons One Stop Shop" be deleted as that matter has now been considered and resolved.**
 - 2. With regards to item 2 headed "Implementation of Multi-Systemic Therapy and KEEP", the progress report be submitted to the Cabinet Member meeting scheduled for 22nd January 2013.**
 - 3. With regards to item 3 headed "Review of Payments to Foster Carers and Policy for Family and Friends Care", the progress report be submitted to the Cabinet Member meeting scheduled for 16th October 2012.**
- 7. Any Other Items of Public Business**

(1) Electronic File Sharing for Foster Carers

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Children and Young People which responded to a request to find a solution that would enable the Council to send/receive information to and from foster carers in a secure electronic manner. This would

include information about prospective children who required a placement, as well as information about a specific child in their care.

It was recognised that the current process of sending paper copies through the postage system created a delay in ensuring that foster carers have the relevant information about children placed in their care, as well as impacting the ability to initially place foster children in a timely fashion.

The Directorate drafted a set of requirements to address these issues and the following ICT options (including costs, risks, timescales and effort) were presented to the Council's ICT Strategy Group on 17th April 2012:

- Solution 1 – provided external users with a Coventry.gov.uk email address
- Solution 2 – Implement Microsoft Sharepoint Portal (collaboration website)
- Solution 3 – Use 'Huddle' cloud based collaboration software.

Solution 2 was recommended by both the Children and Young People's Directorate and ICT on the basis that it was the most cost effective and sustainable solution that met the business requirements and utilised software for which the Council was already licensed. The recommended solution also provided the council with an opportunity to implement a collaboration platform that could be used to deliver other similar business needs for other parts of the Council. As the overall cost was within their delegated authority limits, this was approved by the Strategy Board on 17th April 2012.

RESOLVED that after due consideration of the report and the matters raised at the meeting, the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) endorsed the recommendation approved by the ICT Strategy Group.

Private Business

8. Electronic File Sharing for Foster Carers

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Children and Young People which responded to a request to find a solution that would enable the Council to send/receive information to and from foster carers in a secure electronic manner. This would include information about prospective children who required a placement, as well as information about a specific child in their care. A corresponding public report was also submitted to the meeting, Minute 7(1) above refers.

This report detailed the cost of the approved option for consideration.

RESOLVED that after due consideration of the report and the matters raised at the meeting, the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) endorsed the recommendation approved by the ICT Strategy Group.

(Note: At the request of the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People), the private report was subsequently made public on the Council's Committee Management Information System (CMIS) following the meeting as he saw no reason for any of the information to be kept out of the public domain.)

9. Any other items of Private Business

There were no other urgent items of private business.

(The meeting closed at 2.45 p.m.)