

SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN AND FAMILIES)

THURSDAY, 7TH JUNE, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor J Chapman in the Chair

Councillors B Atha, B Gettings, G Hussain,
J Illingworth, A Khan, A Lamb, P Latty,
K Renshaw, A Sobel, B Urry

CO-OPTED MEMBERS (VOTING):

Ms J Ward – Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)

1 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents.

2 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

3 Late Items

There were no late items.

4 Declarations of Interest

Councillor J Chapman declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7, Call In – LCC13002: Young Carers. Due to having donated various tickets to events to 'Willow Young Carers'. Minute No. 7 refers.

Councillor S Bentley, signatory to the Call In, declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7, Call In – LCC13002: Young Carers. Due to involvement with 'Willow Young Carers'. Minute No. 7 refers.

5 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Charlwood, Coulson, C Gruen, M Rafique and Co-opted Members; Ms A Craven and Ms N Cox.

Councillors Urry, G Hussain, Atha and Illingworth were in attendance as substitutes.

6 Call-in of Decision - Briefing Paper

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development informed Members of the Call In arrangements in accordance with the Council's Constitution and the options of action available to the Board. It was reported that the following options were available to the Board:

- Release the decision for implementation; and
- Recommend that the decision be reconsidered.

7 Call-In - LCC13002: Young Carers

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development presented the background papers to a decision which had been Called In in accordance with the Council's Constitution. The decision was a Delegated Decision Notice LCC13002: Young Carers.

The Chair welcomed the following to the meeting:

- Councillor S Bentley – Signatory to the Call In;
- Councillor A Lamb – Signatory to the Call In and Member of the Board;
- Councillor J Blake – Executive Member for Children's;
- Nigel Richardson – Director of Children's Services;
- Paul Bollom – Interim Lead Commissioner for Children's Services; and
- Ian Dunn – Strategic Category Manager.

Councillor S Bentley outlined the reasons for the Call In of the decision. These included the following:

The lack of information contained with the report accompanying the DDN which meant that the rationale behind the decision could not be understood

In response to the concerns raised , officers present raised the following issues:

That the decision had been taken to provide an enhanced service with the aim of reaching more young carers than had previously been possible with the arrangements that were in place. Officers highlighted that there was not being a cut to the services provided.

Councillor Blake, Executive Member for Children addressed the Board. She re-iterated that the changes planned to be made would improve the service provided to young carers; increase resources being put into the service and reach more young carers.

In response to Member comments and questions, the following issues were discussed by Members with Officers and Cllr Blake:

- the definition of the term 'young carer';
- how the proposed arrangements would operate in practice;
- the need for greater information to be included within reports to help Members and the public understand the changes being made to services provided by the Council.

Councillor Lamb was invited to summarise the reasons for calling in the decision and re-iterated earlier comments with an emphasis on the need for

greater detail to be contained within reports accompanying DDNs and a need for a review of the decision making process.

In summary Members agreed that further work needed to be undertaken with regards the publication of decisions.

Members were asked to consider the options available to them.

8 Outcome of Call-In

Following a vote by Members present, it was

RESOLVED –

- (a) to release the decision for implementation; and
- (b) to request that the wider issue of report writing be raised with the Chief Democratic Services Officer.