



ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY 28 APRIL 2014

The Achieving for Children (AfC) Board of Directors met for the first time since the launch of AfC on 28 April 2014 in Twickenham and considered the following substantive items:

AfC Budget and Financial Plan for 2014-15

Paul Bettles, AfC Director of Finance, presented the proposed AfC budget information for 2014-15 and Chris Smith, AfC Head of Financial Control, presented the AfC Financial Plan. There is still work to be done to finalise the budget, for example around accommodation, health and safety and ICT but the intention is to have the budget ready for approval by the Board in July. The Financial Plan is due to be completed in draft by the end of June and will set out AfC's cash flow throughout the year. It will need to be approved by the two Councils. The Board discussed both the Budget and the Financial Plan, in particular the outstanding issues that need to be resolved.

The Board also discussed payroll implementation and asked Ian Dodds, Director of Standards and Improvement, to communicate to AfC employees to clarify what they should expect to receive in April's payslip and the actions to take if pay is incorrect.

Opportunities to Bid for Services

Nick Whitfield, CEO of AfC, provided the Board with an overview of potential opportunities for AfC to deliver services outside of Kingston and Richmond. This includes bidding to deliver services on behalf of another Local Authority or providing consultancy support to other organisations.

The Board discussed one specific bid to deliver services on behalf of another Local Authority and evaluated the opportunity in terms of AfC's priorities, capacity, ability to fill the criteria and possible key risks. The Board agreed an approach to reviewing the bid, should SLT recommend to go ahead with it.

AfC Business Planning

Ian Dodds outlined the proposed AfC Business Planning framework to the Board which sets out how the programmes and projects in the AfC Business Plan will be delivered. The Board provided feedback on the proposals including in relation to reporting to the Board. Based on the Board's feedback, amendments will be made to the framework, before being finalised by Ian. The final version of the Plan will be submitted to the two Councils in October.

There was also a discussion about the importance of establishing strong links between the Board and SLT and for Board members to be regularly kept informed of key issues relating to AfC which will help them to fulfil their role. As such, it was decided that an annual meeting between the Board and SLT would be built into the meeting schedule and on a regular basis members of SLT would attend the Board to present on areas of work and issues relating to their service area.

AfC Headline Objectives for 2014-15

David Groves, chair of the Board, presented a paper setting out the proposed objectives for AfC, the Board, the chair of the Board and Nick Whitfield, as CEO of AfC. The Board discussed all the objectives and emphasised the need to ensure that they all align with the AfC Business Plan. The Board also expressed the importance of demonstrating the difference that we have been able to make as a community interest company rather than remaining part of the Councils.