



ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY 20 MAY 2014

The Achieving for Children (AfC) Board of Directors met on 20 May 2014 in Kingston and considered the following substantive items:

Opportunities, challenges and objectives for 2014-15 to 2016-17

Graham Willett, Director for Education Services, Rob Henderson, Deputy CEO of AfC, and Sylvia Chew, Director for Kingston Children's Social Care, attended the meeting to provide the Board members with an overview of the opportunities, challenges and objectives for their service areas that could then be discussed with the Board.

Discussion with Graham focused on: the need to ensure sufficient school places; establishing relationships with free schools; increasing the provision of sixth form in Richmond; creating opportunities for greater school to school support; and tackling attainment gaps.

Discussion with Rob focused on: how to protect resources for the non-statutory preventative services in the face of the need to make efficiencies; the move from Troubled Families to the Complex Families programme; working more holistically with adult services and extending the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub to cover both children and adults; driving the Domestic Violence Partnership; improving the participation of children, young people and families; improving the reach areas of Children's Centres; understanding the resource implications of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Reform in relation to supporting young people with a disability up to the age of 25; and responding to new statutory responsibilities for young carers.

Discussion with Sylvia focused on: developing consistent policies, procedures and protocols across AfC; maintaining a stable staff group which offers opportunities for individual and organisational growth and development; building on the Team Around the Child model to ensure a seamless service for children, young people and families who move between Children's Social Care and Prevention and Early Help; ensuring planning and development of services is fully informed by the experiences of children and young people; and ensuring service quality continues to improve and achieves recognition in both boroughs by Ofsted.

The Board thanked Graham, Rob and Sylvia for attending and providing an interesting and useful insight into their services areas.

AfC Business Plan

Ian Dodds, Director of Standards and Improvement, introduced an early draft of the AfC Business Plan. The Plan sets out a range of information including the purpose of AfC, our organisation, our services, our partners, our business strategy; our financial plan, our programmes and how we will measure our progress. Ian set out the process and timescales for finalising the Plan- a final version will be sent to the two Commissioning Councils in October 2014. The Board discussed the Plan and

provided feedback, specifically in relation to the programmes of work and references to the business strategy. The Board also requested that Ian adds an executive summary of the Plan to set out key messages.