



ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY 12 JUNE 2014

The Achieving for Children (AfC) Board of Directors met on 12 June 2014 in Richmond and considered the following substantive items:

Business Development

Nick Whitfield, AfC CEO, gave an update on the opportunity for AfC to bid to deliver services for another Local Authority that was previously discussed at the meeting on 28 April 2014. Nick also outlined another opportunity that had been identified that was currently being investigated. The Board will be kept up to date with progress with these opportunities.

Election outcomes and implications

Nick Whitfield provided the Board with a brief update about the outcomes and implications from the recent elections in Kingston and Richmond. Richmond has retained a Conservative administration and Kingston has moved from Liberal Democrat to a Conservative Administration. Nick has met the new Leader of Kingston Council, Kevin Davis, to introduce himself and to brief him about AfC. Nick will keep the Board informed as the approach and direction of the Administrations in both boroughs becomes clear.

Financial Plan and Banking

Chris Smith, AfC's Head of Financial Control, outlined the approach to the development of the Financial Plan which sets out AfC's cash flow throughout the year and which is a requirement of the two Councils. The Financial Plan will be submitted to the Councils at the end of June. The Board were keen to state the importance of ensuring there are sufficient resources for business development activity set out in the Financial Plan.

Chris also outlined the situation in relation to Richmond Council's and AfC's bank. Due to an issue with the existing bank, it is necessary to transfer to another bank and Chris set out the transition arrangements.

Opportunities, challenges and objectives

Ian Dodds, Director of Standards and Improvement, provided the Board with an overview of his service area. Discussion focused on: tight timescales for implementing remaining compliance issues; capacity for delivering and meeting new expectations; delays in appointments to key management and frontline posts; getting the right ICT infrastructure in place to drive improvement; and the opportunities for providing consultancy advice to other organisation.

The Board thanked Ian for attending and providing an interesting and useful insight into his service area.

Update regarding leases and licences and Support Services service level agreements (SLAs)

Ian Dodds informed the Board that there are a number of issues relating to the leases and license, for premises and for IT systems that need resolving. Work is

ongoing and Ian will shortly be provided with the list of the leases and licences in relation to their complexity by the two Councils. While some are straight-forward, a number will require additional work but the intention is still for the Councils to meet the agreed deadline of the end of September 2014.

The majority of the SLAs have been agreed and signed although further work is required in relation to the Procurement and ICT SLAs.