



## **ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY 22 SEPTEMBER 2014**

The Achieving for Children Board of Directors met on 22 September 2014 in Kingston and considered the following substantive items:

### **2014 Educational Performance Review**

Graham Willett, Director for Education Services, provided an Educational Performance Review for 2014 in which he highlighted the outcomes for children and young people in Kingston and Richmond schools. It is testament to the hard work within schools and AfC that results were high once again this year. However gaps in attainment between genders and between the Free School Meal (FSM) and non-FSM cohorts remain at all ages and continue to be large. The Board discussed this with Graham, who outlined the range of activity that has been undertaken, and is being undertaken, to address this, including the Schools Alliance Board identifying FSM attainment as a key strategic project (the Schools Alliance Board comprises of headteachers and governors who are elected by their peers and whose purpose is to provide strategic advice on educational policy development and to help inform AfC's business development).

The Board also discussed attainment and progress within and between secondary schools, including areas of underperformance, and the role of Achieving for Children in addressing this.

### **Implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Reforms**

Simon James, the Associate Director for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, provided an introduction to the SEND Reforms and gave an update on the progress with the implementation of the reforms. The Board recognised the quality of preparation for the reforms, including engagement with parents and other organisations. The Board discussed with Simon the current challenges, such as managing the changes while continuing to deliver the core business, managing the increased expectations of parents and the potential impact of personal budgets, supporting staff whose roles are changing and where staff capacity is being stretched, and how to ensure that the local offer does result in better services being received by those who would benefit from them.

The Board congratulated Simon and his team on the progress that has been made so far.

### **Achieving for Children Business Plan and Business Development Strategy**

Ian Dodds, Director of Standards and Improvement, presented the Achieving for Children Business Plan. The Business Plan sets out our priorities for the next three years through 10 key programmes of work – these focus on developing staff, improving our infrastructure, and improving the quality of our services to children and families. The next three years are summarised as integration, consolidation, and diversification. The Business Plan will now be submitted to the Councils as our owners for review.

Ian also presented the Business Development Strategy, which outlines the type of work that AfC is interested in undertaking beyond Richmond and Kingston and sets out a high-level process for how AfC decides which opportunities to pursue. The Board hopes to recruit a Non Executive Director who has commercial / business development experience to help sharpen up our approach in this new area for us.

In light of the Business Plan and the Business Development Strategy, the Board re-emphasised the clear priority upon continuing to focus upon high quality services within Kingston and Richmond and ensure that we are well prepared for the expected Ofsted inspections.

**New staff**

The Board had coffee with two members of staff: Teresa Candfield, who is the new Associate Director for Health Partnerships and a member of SLT; and Rosemary Hafeez, who has recently been appointed as the Head of School Standards and Performance, and Graham Willett's deputy, and who is a member of Extended SLT.

To all other staff who have joined AfC this term, a warm welcome! David looks forward to meeting you at the Staff Induction on 13 October 2014.