



## **ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS 15 July 2015**

The Achieving for Children (AfC) Board of Directors met on 15 July 2015 in Kingston. The following substantive items were considered:

### **Review of the Annual Report and Annual Accounts**

The Board was presented with the Annual Report and the Annual Accounts for AfC for 2014-15 which set out the company's overall performance during 2014-15. Both the report and the accounts have been audited by an external auditor who has provided positive feedback, and the Board thanked finance colleagues in particular for preparing the accounts and the successful first audit. The Board discussed and then approved both the report and the accounts.

### **Kingston Ofsted Inspection**

The Board was delighted to note the successful outcome of the Kingston Children's Social Care and Early Help inspection by Ofsted, acknowledging that the draft report is due to be received shortly and final report to be published in August. The Board congratulated and thanked all staff for their dedication and high quality work that has resulted in this success. Well done!

### **Special Education Needs (SEN) Transport**

Ian Dodds, Director for Standards and Improvement, presented proposals for SEN school transport in Richmond to be delivered by AfC, rather than Richmond Council as currently is the case. This will enable AfC to plan the service for both boroughs to improve effectiveness and cost. We look forward to welcoming our new colleagues on 1 August.

### **Commissioning, Governance and Reporting**

The Board discussed how the AfC governance, commissioning and reporting arrangements have worked during 2014-15. The discussion focused upon what lessons have been learned and what improvements could be made. The enhancement of the role of the Non-Independent Executive Directors in understanding and challenging performance as well as shaping future strategy was agreed to be positive. David Groves, the chair of the Board, to take this forward with Nick Whitfield, AfC Chief Executive and both Councils.

### **Communications Protocol**

Ian Dodds presented a Communication Cascade Protocol for use in emergencies to ensure that relevant people in AfC and both Councils are aware of 'critical incidents' (defined as events that cause significant harm, suffering, loss or damage) and 'significant incidents' (defined as events that will have some impact on the operation of the company but fall outside the definition of a critical incidents). Ian explained that it had been tested in the previous week against live incidents and revised accordingly. Ian confirmed that Gold Command (Nick Whitfield) and Silver Command (Ian Dodds) will make the judgement on how the incident is categorised and instigate the protocol.