



ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS 27 October 2015

The Achieving for Children (AfC) Board of Directors met on 27 October 2015 in Kingston. The following substantive items were considered:

Dame Moira Gibb leaving the Board of Directors

Dame Moira Gibb has resigned from the Board of Directors as of the 31 October 2015. The Board expressed a formal thank you to Moira for all of her work and support provided to Achieving for Children and the Board. Recruitment for a replacement Non-Executive Independent Director will begin shortly.

Education- 2015 performance and the key priorities of the new Director of Education Services

Charis Penfold, in her new role as Director of Education Services, attended the Board and provided an overview of the educational outcomes from Summer 2015 and her priorities going forward. Her focus will be on reducing the attainment gap between pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant; working with schools and colleges to develop alternative provision; and working with schools to develop different models of school to school support and improve existing models.

The Board welcomed Charis into her new role and look forward to working with her in the future.

Social Care Integration

Rob Henderson, Deputy Chief Executive, provided the Board with a progress update regarding the social care integration. Discussions focused on: the opportunities to improve practice and ensure consistency provided by integration; recruitment and retention of social care staff; the potential integration of the Single Point of Access/ Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub; Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children who go missing; the numbers of children placed in secure or residential accommodation; and understanding the impact of radicalisation.

Staff Survey

Nick Whitfield, Chief Executive, presented the results of the 2015 Staff Survey. The Board was delighted to note that more people responded to the survey and that responses to every question were more positive than a year ago. The Board discussed the impact of initiatives such as the staff awards and Christmas Parties upon staff appreciation and morale. More detailed results will be available later in the autumn at which point SLT and the Board will consider actions to improve performance further in time for the 2016 survey.

Achieving for Children Youth Board

Rob Henderson presented the report about the Youth Board, which is now established and has representatives from both boroughs. The Board emphasised its desire to work with the Youth Board to inform future decision, and welcomed their proposed focus upon youth centres and services around risky behaviours.