

## **ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS 22 June 2016**

The Achieving for Children (AfC) Board of Directors met on 22 June 2016 in Twickenham. The following substantive items were considered:

### **Annual Report and Statement of Accounts**

David Groves, chair of the Board, informed the Board members that the Achieving for Children Audit and Risk Committee recommended at the Committee meeting earlier in the day that the Board approve the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, following feedback from the external auditors. Prior to submission to the external auditors, the NEIDs had reviewed and challenged the report and the accounts with officers from AfC. The Board particularly noted the outstanding report from external audit, and thanked all finance colleagues for this success. The Board then approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.

### **Leaving Care Specification**

Ian Dodds, Deputy Chief Executive, provided the Board with an update in relation to the re-commissioning of youth accommodation. The intention is to redesign our approach to commissioning supported accommodation for care leavers to broaden the choice of provision and support and to reduce costs. The proposal is to create an open framework with a number of quality assured providers. Ian will liaise with the Board going forward to finalise the specification and prior to the awarding of the contracts.

### **Procurement**

The Board formally approved the awarding of the school meals contact and the award of taxi routes for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities for the 2016-17 academic year. The Board thanked Eamonn Gilbert and his team for these successful outcomes.

### **Growth**

The Board discussed potential growth opportunities for Achieving for Children currently being explored. Nick Whitfield, Chief Executive, then outlined the Partners in Practice bid, which will be submitted shortly to Central Government, which aims to access funding for innovation and improvement projects. We should know if we have been successful with the bid in six to eight weeks.

### **Leadership**

David Groves updated the Board with the proposed changes to the Achieving for Children leadership as a result of Nick's request for flexible retirement with effect from 1 October 2016. The Board discussed the actions required to separate the roles of Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services (DCS), the appropriate process for the DCS appointment, and the timetable for when Nick would be most likely to reduce to 3 days a week.