

ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS 28 July 2016

The Achieving for Children (AfC) Board of Directors met on 28 July 2016 in Twickenham. The following substantive items were considered:

Children's Homes

Rob Henderson, Deputy Chief Executive, and Alison Tywnam, Director for Children's Social Care presented the Board with updated proposals relating to the establishment of two children's homes in Kingston and Richmond. The Non-Executive Independent Directors (NEIDs) have discussed the proposals in detail with Alison, Hazel Gordon (Associate Director for Permanency) and Ashley Whittaker (project lead) between Board meetings. The Board thanked Ashley for the work he has done to progress the project. The Board approved seeking the funding and properties from the Councils to establish the children's homes.

Social Care activity and expenditure

Rob Henderson presented a report setting out detailed information regarding social care activity and expenditure across Kingston and Richmond and in comparison to other local authorities, in light of the continuing projected overspends. The Board discussed the data and the operational and financial pressures on the service. The Board agreed that David Archibald would work with Rob and Alison to further interrogate the data and that an updated report would be shared with the Councils.

Reporting for Quarter 1 2016-17

The Board received and discussed Q1 2016-17 reports relating to performance from: Ian Dodds, Deputy Chief Executive; finance from Lucy Kourpas, Associate Director for Finance; and from Nick Whitfield, Chief Executive. The Board noted the high level of performance and discussed operational and financial pressures in social care and SEND. Based on current cohorts of children, and with assumptions about social care demand for the rest of 16/17, AfC is projecting a significant overspend – the Board instructed Nick Whitfield and the Leadership Team to ensure that expenditure that is not 'demand-led' is within the approved budget, and that actions are taken to minimise the projected overspend in social care.

Moor Lane Feasibility

Simon James, Associate Director for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) presented a report setting out the updated proposals for the Moor Lane site. The plans include developing a 12 bed respite provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and establishing a new special free school with residential provision. The Board approved seeking the capital funding required to establish the respite facility, and supported the application to establish a new special school.

Growth

David Groves, chair of the Board, presented a report setting out potential governance arrangements, should Achieving for Children grow in the future. The

Board discussed the various options and agreed it would be beneficial for Achieving for Children to seek our own legal advice with regards to the various governance models.

The next meeting will be on the 31 August 2016 in Twickenham.