

**ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
21 February 2017**

The Achieving for Children (AfC) Board of Directors met on 21 February 2017 in Twickenham. The following substantive items were considered:

**Budget and Financial Plans**

The Board discussed the recommended budget for 2017/18, in particular the achievability of the savings identified and the remaining budget gap even after those savings. LKo and RHe updated the Board about discussions that are ongoing with the Councils about measures that would close the budget gap but require council decisions. The Board approved the budget as proposed, and agreed the need for an updated budget once the RBWM admission date is confirmed and once DfE funding profile is confirmed for the Partners in Practice work.

LKo gave an outline of the implications of IR35 and explained that HR are leading contacting staff affected. It is not believed that there is a significant risk to the organisation of staff leaving.

The Board agreed the financial plan to the Joint Committee in March for agreement. It was agreed that when RBWM join, the document will need to be amended. The medium term financial plan was agreed by the Board and it was noted that this will also go to Joint Committee in March.

**AfC Connect**

IDo presented the report and the reasons for proposing that Connect becomes a ring-fenced business unit with AfC rather than a subsidiary company. The Board discussed the assumptions underpinning the business plan (ie utilization rates, financial risks of non-placed time, the composition of each pod being one manager and four social workers, the recruitment of social workers), and the terms and conditions for social workers and the Connect Director. The Board welcomed the DfE's pump prime funding and reflected that this venture fits very well with the original objectives of establishing AfC.

The Board agreed that AfC sets Connect up as a ring-fenced business unit within AfC and not a subsidiary company.

**CQC Inspection Feedback**

The Board noted the initial feedback given by the CQC on the inspection, although the formal written feedback has not yet been received.

The Board discussed the health provision currently offered by AfC and by RBWM staff who would TUPE to AfC, and the need to have sufficient clinical governance to ensure quality,

and sufficient health provision to warrant the clinical governance requirements. RHe outlined the potential benefits of adding additional health provision where this augmented or integrated with existing provision. The Board agreed with RHe's analysis, and agreed to seek additional health provision within RBK/LBR/RBWM where this helps integrate services and improve outcomes.

### **Governance**

DGr updated the Board on the discussion at the Joint Committee on 8 February 2017 on the governance review. DGr informed the Board that a meeting is taking place on 2 March for NEIDs and the commissioners in preparation to provide the Councils with recommendations for the Joint Committee at the meeting on 20 March.

### **AOB**

GHo alerted the Board members to the Fostering Stocktake which is similar to the one around adoption agencies.