

**ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
25 April 2017**

The Achieving for Children (Afc) Board of Directors met on 25 April 2017 in Twickenham. The following substantive items were considered:

Self Evaluation/Ofsted Preparation

IDo introduced the report and tabled the updated assessment which has no substantial differences to the previously circulated version with regard to quality of services. RHe advised that LAC and Leaving Care teams had now stabilised after the integration of the Richmond and Kingston teams.

The Board discussed the risks to ongoing performance, including achieving the required savings, some of which required difficult political decisions. It was agreed that the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Board would draft a letter to the two Leaders emphasising the need to ensure that savings targets are politically achievable.

Support Services from April 2018

The Board discussed the historical reasons for the services being commissioned from the Councils and the expected needs and priorities of the company in the next five years given the Business Plan and Strategy for Growth.

The Board endorsed the proposed approach to the direct delivery or commissioning of company wide support services. It was agreed that IDo would bring proposed approaches for HR and procurement to the Board meeting on 27 July.

Board Evolution

DGr introduced his report and informed the Board he was meeting with the two Councils' commissioners regarding evolution of the Board and recruitment of new Non-Executive Directors in light of the admission of RBWM and the Strategy for Growth. The Board noted that Liz Bruce, the new DASS for Richmond and Wandsworth, will be the Richmond Council appointed Director on the Board. DGr shared information regarding RBWM's proposed appointees.

Partners in Practice

NWh updated the Board on PiP activity, including extension of contract for Sunderland until September, Afc's appointment as adviser to Dudley and NWh's commissioner role at Reading. IDo confirmed the appointment of two programme managers on the PiP programme .

The Board was then updated on the launch of Signs of Safety and the associated training, including Board member attendance at the initial training sessions. An update on Programme 2 would be provided for the Board meeting on 27 July.

AOB

RHe reported that one of the two applications to establish new special schools was successful. Unfortunately, the unsuccessful application was for the school to be provided at Moor Lane, linking to the CWD team and the SEND respite. Once official feedback on the application is received, next steps would be agreed.