

ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

26 June 2017

The Achieving for Children (AfC) Board of Directors met on 26 June 2017 in Twickenham. The following substantive items were considered:

Annual Accounts and Report

The Board received the annual accounts and report, which the Audit and Risk Committee had previously reviewed. The Board approved the accounts and authorised the Chair, once agreement had been received from both Council Directors, to sign the accounts.

CQC Feedback and Action Plan

The Board were taken through the Learning and Development Plan, which was initially developed prior to the CQC inspection and updated to reflect the inspection feedback. The Board discussed the health governance within AfC and welcomed the appointment and experience of the Associate Director of Health Services. The Board discussed the pressure on the service, staffing, budget challenges and the investment being made in Moor Lane.

The Board were informed that, at a review of the action plan, it is possible that some of the timescales would need to change. They were also informed that a project manager had been appointed to ensure momentum is maintained.

SEND Review

RHe introduced the key findings of the report and noted the projected need for additional SEND places by 2021. It was confirmed that provision for 19-25 year olds was included in the report and was covered in one of the workstreams. The Board discussed the need to swiftly develop actions to ensure sufficient appropriate local provision for children. The Board also discussed the financial pressure for the DSG, noting that increased local provision is the most sustainable medium term strategy for reducing expenditure. It was agreed that the action plan for the SEND Review would be considered by the Board at its meeting in October.

It was agreed that RHe would lead the discussion around leadership and oversight of SEND provision to ensure that it reflects the financial and services pressures of the service.

RBWM Contract and Legals

It was confirmed that the draft legal documents would be received by 4 July. The Board agreed, subject to agreement from the Council Directors, to delegate approval of the service delivery contracts, Memorandum and Articles of Association, Revolving Credit Facility and Inter-Authority Agreement to the NEIDs and the Chief Executive and/or Deputy Chief Executive.

AfC Governance Update

The Board noted the update on the evolution of the Board. The Board noted that there were 179 applicants for the NEID vacancies with interviews scheduled for the end of June and during July.

AOB

The Board received a report on adoption and fostering services in AfC. It was noted that Ofsted require AfC to register as a voluntary adoption agency and an independent fostering agency, which would result in additional inspection. IDo to progress.