

**ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
27 July 2017**

The Achieving for Children (AfC) Board of Directors met on 27 July 2017 in Twickenham. The following substantive items were considered:

Q1 Finance and Resulting Actions

DGr summarised LKo's Management Outturn Q1 2017/18 Report and the Board noted in particular the pressure facing the DSG budgets in both boroughs and the non-DSG budget pressures in Kingston, particularly social care placements and SEN transport. LKo confirmed that SLT has reviewed the position and developed an action plan.

The Board discussed the range of potential options to reduce expenditure, noting that many now require political approval due to their potential impact on children and families.

NWh advised the Board that Kingston have commissioned Ernst and Young to do a deep dive into DSG and children's services budgets which may help identify new possibilities for savings and help Councillors understand the pressure the service faces. This work is expected to be completed during the Autumn.

The Board noted that the new Commissioning Team is now operational and expected to ensure consistency of practice across both boroughs.

The Board agreed the need to develop a sustainable medium term budget that each Council can afford, and that NEIDs should be involved in discussions with Lead Members regarding the options as part of the Board's accountability. LKo to organise a workshop for September.

2016/17 annual and 2017/18 Q1 service performance

RHe and IDo advised the Board regarding the service performance data for the 2016/17 financial year, and for Q1 of the 2017/18 financial year, and shared the contractual performance data spreadsheet. The Board congratulated staff on the very strong performance. The very low number of 'red' rated indicators was welcomed, as was the detailed analysis of reasons for that rating and future prospects for improvement.

RBWM Admission and AfC Governance

The Board were informed that the legal documents are not yet ready for signing. IDo explained the outstanding issues, most particularly the contract price. It was agreed that the material risk is to ensure that there is not a structural budget gap regarding staffing. It was agreed to delegate to the NEIDs, the Chief Executive, and the Deputy Chief Executive to sign the appropriate legal documents following their agreement between the lawyers and the approval of the Councils.

AfC Policies

The Board were updated on the planned review of AfC strategies, policies and procedures including policy requirements arising from the admission of RBWM. It was confirmed that trade unions are on notice of the policy review programme. The Board agreed that the updated draft Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations would be issued to the whole Board for review and comment, and then IDo would finalise and issue them. The remainder of the policies would be grouped into themes and NEIDs, in pairs, would review policies within a theme.