

## **Achieving for Children Board of Directors - 26 January 2017**

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

### **Quarter 3 Performance Review**

The Board discussed the Q3 reports from Robert Henderson, DCS (RHe), Lucy Kourpas (LKo), the Director of Finance and Ian Dodds, Chief Operating Officer (IDo).

The Board noted the strong performance in Kingston and Richmond, and Rob Henderson confirmed that the indicators about care leavers are a priority for the Corporate Parenting Panel with a plan that has been put together to look at individual needs to focus on where impact can be made. The Board discussed school Ofsted outcomes from the Autumn term, including reflecting on AfC's approach for school grading and Ofsted inspection preparation. The Board noted that the CQC inspection was taking place on 1 and 2 February 2017.

LKo introduced the finance report and the Board noted and welcomed that controllable budgets are expected to outturn in line with budget and discussed retaining some of these centrally next year. LKo explained the work being undertaken regarding DSG and high needs pressures, including lobbying government. The Board then discussed the SEN transport pressures, especially Kingston, and noted the reports that Kingston will be considering in this regard.

IDo presented his COO report highlighting delivery of Business Plan programmes. The Board discussed the key next steps and risks or challenges to achieving our objectives.

### **DfE Partners in Practice**

NWh presented his paper about the DfE's Partners in Practice programme where our proposal has been successful in securing approximately £7.5m of funding over the next three years. The Board congratulated Nick and colleagues on putting forward such exciting proposals that will improve practice in Kingston, Richmond and Windsor and Maidenhead as well as building our capacity to work with other local authorities, all of which will help us recruit and retain high quality staff and have a broad base of staff expertise at a time of financial pressures. The Board discussed the need for effective and efficient oversight and proposed single quarterly reports for Board and DfE which IDo would take forward. It was noted that a DfE representative would sit on the PiP governance group.

The Board then discussed the need for a subsidiary company for the social work agency and agreed that a more detailed paper on this would come to the February Board and then to the Councils as a Reserved Matter. This would include any potential HR implications.

## **Review of the Strategy for Growth**

IDO led a discussion about updating the growth strategy to set the vision for the future growth of AfC. The consensus was approximately six LAs, focused within a reasonable distance of Kingston and Richmond and structured in three or four operational areas. It was agreed that AfC should focus upon its current core business with potential to expand into associated health services where this would improve services to young people and their families. IDO would prepare the Strategy for consideration by the owners.

## **Any other business**

The Board agreed to recommend to the Councils to continue the appointment of the current auditor for AfC for the financial year 2017/18, as a reserved matter, to keep AfC in line with Richmond and Kingston. IDO was authorised to undertake the procurement for an auditor for the 2018/19 financial year via the appropriate route.

It was agreed that an additional Board meeting be held in February with 2017/18 budget as main discussion item.