

ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

6 February 2018

The Achieving for Children (AfC) Board of Directors met on 6 February in Twickenham. The following substantive items were considered:

SEND provision

The Board received the SEND context and 3 year plan presentation from the Windsor and Maidenhead DCS. It was recognised that there could be more challenge around schools off rolling and incentives for schools who are the most inclusive. The Board noted that a working group had been set up to work with schools who have pupils at risk of exclusion.

Kingston Ernst & Young Review

The E&Y review has been completed, but the presentation is not yet available for general circulation. However, the Board noted that further areas for investigation had been identified.

Q3 Performance Review

The Board received the quarter 3 reports from the Chief Operating Officer. The Board were informed that the current capacity in AfC was not felt to be sufficient to meet the requirements of the new GDPR regulations and it may be necessary to approach the Councils for additional resources. The DCS Q3 reports for the two operational areas were also received along with the finance update.

The DCS for Richmond and Kingston communicated the following key points from his report: AfC has 2,500 SEN statements to transfer to EHCPs by the 1 April 2018 deadline; AfC is legally required to become an Independent Fostering Agency and it is hoped registration will take place in September 2018; key priorities under the sufficiency strategy are to develop local provision for children looked after and leaving care.

The DCS for Windsor and Maidenhead communicated the following key points from his report: a Deputy Director for Children's Social Care had been appointed; one third of schools in the borough are judged to be Outstanding, with none inadequate; focused work to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils is showing a positive impact.

Budget

The Board recognised the budget as challenging and the risks of not meeting the savings targets and being able to deliver services within budget. They felt unable to sign off the budgets until further analysis is carried out and a letter would go to the three Councils from the Chair of the Board and the Chief Executive explaining reasons for delaying the sign off. The Recovery Board in Kingston has been meeting during the financial year to monitor spending and these meetings will continue to address funding shortfalls and expenditure.