

ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4 December 2018

The Achieving for Children (AfC) Board of Directors met on 4 December 2018. The following substantive items were considered:

RBWM two day Ofsted Focused Visit

The Board received a briefing on the two day visit from Ofsted. Any actions identified as a result of the visit have been put in place. The letter from Ofsted is due to be published on 20 December.

Health Strategy

Officers took the Board through their presentation highlighting the priorities, challenges and recommendations regarding the delivery of health services. It was recognised that commissioning across the three boroughs would be particularly complex due to the needs of the children and, therefore, measuring impact will be difficult.

The Board agreed that a First 1,000 Day service would be instrumental in getting the best start for children and the RBWM DCS reported that RBWM have set up such a service and could share practice in an early conversation.

SEND Transformation Plan

It was noted that the plan is for Kingston only but the intention is to also produce a plan for Richmond. The Board noted the six workstreams: strategy and guidance; commercial thinking; local provision; early intervention and transition; assessment and planning; and home to school transport; with detail on each in the plan.

The plan will be subject to public consultation. The four key areas addressed in the inspection are included in the plan and the importance of buy in from CCG and Public Health was noted as essential in order to move things forward.

Key to the transformation is more parental engagement and, as there is no parent/carer forum currently, this is being done in other ways such as the parent/carer coffee mornings being held. Parental engagement sits in the Strategy and Governance workstream although engagement runs through the other workstreams. It was confirmed that beneath the main plan, the workstreams will be producing detailed delivery plans.

It is proposed to launch the plan on 7 December with the consultation closing on 20 January. Going forward, the Board will have oversight of the plan through the Managing Director.

Berkshire Sensory Consortium opportunity

The RBWM DCS presented his report highlighting the background, the principles and the benefits of hosting the consortium.

The Board agreed the proposal to develop a contract, with delegated authority to the Managing Director and Chair of the Board to secure a five year contract subject to the detail of the contract and indemnification of redundancy costs by the member authorities.

Pip update

The Board received an overview of PiP Programme 2, the internally focused programme. The impact and progress measures in the evidence plan are currently based on data so, over the next six months, further evidence will be collected from staff and Corys, the external evaluators. Corys are linked in nationally and will be able to provide comparisons with other authorities.

With regard to the impact of the new Strengthening Families Plus team, a piece of analysis will be done to identify what type of intervention is currently having the biggest impact on children and families to ensure the additional resources provided under the programme are used in the best way.

Budget Setting

The AfC Director of Finance presented her report and confirmed that AfC are fully engaged in the budget setting processes with the three Councils. The Board received a breakdown of growth, costs of placements and medium term savings 2019/20-2021/22. A budget workshop would be held in January to ensure Board members have a good understanding of the budget position.

Local Safeguarding Children Board

The joint Kingston and Richmond LSCB Chair outlined to the Board the timescales around the legislation. The Board noted that the plan needs to be with the DfE by June 2019 for implementation in September 2019. It was noted that there is no funding formula in the new arrangements. Child Death Overview Panel will not be part of the new arrangements and will be moving to Health. The Chair reported that the plan needs to include a strong link between CDOP and flow of information into safeguarding arrangements.

He also reported that there is currently a strong partnership on the Board and AfC have good safeguarding practices.

For Richmond, the interim DCS is currently the lead, the interim DCS for Kingston is the lead there and for Windsor and Maidenhead, it is their DCS. It is not possible to have consistency on the LSCBs across all three boroughs due to the different landscapes, but good practice will be shared.