

ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

21 August 2018

The Achieving for Children (AfC) Board of Directors met on 21 August 2018. The following substantive items were considered:

Future direction of AfC

The Board were briefed on the main discussion points and decisions at the Joint Committee meeting on 11 July 2018. These included:

The Councils' priority for AfC is to focus on financial recovery; AfC should continue to develop children's homes, supported accommodation and respite provision.

Recruitment of Chief Executive

The Board were informed that the Councils are having discussions concerning the recruitment of a new Chief Executive and the Board will receive a draft proposal to agree before submission to the Councils for the November Joint Committee.

Voluntary Adoption Agency and Independent Fostering Agency Ofsted inspections

The Board received a report outlining the reasons for adoption regionalisation and for AfC becoming part of a Regional Adoption Agency. The host authority for the South is Southwark with Merton having a 'spoke' with five staff expected to transfer from AfC to work in Merton.

It was explained to the Board that it is an Ofsted requirement that AfC register as an Independent Fostering Agency. This registration is being done as one agency across AfC's three authorities.

Corporate Governance Framework

The Board discussed any changes that could be made to make it more effective, identify what it needs from the Company in order to receive assurance, what more Board members could do for AfC in co-production of the work and whether one set of data/information could be produced for a number of purposes including Board meetings.

Q1 Performance

Finance: The Board recognised the considerable budget pressures. Conversations are ongoing to address this through the recovery plans and related decisions needed by officers and Members.

It was reported that, overall, performance looks positive with capacity in SEN to meet EHCP deadlines is being addressed.