

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE DECISION MEETING

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care Decision Meeting held on Tuesday, 6 September 2016 at 2.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Ryan Brent (in the Chair)

Councillors Rob Wood

Apologies for Absence

John Ferrett

6. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Ferrett and Sarah Newman, Deputy Director of Children's Social Care.

7. Declarations of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest. However, Councillor Wood wished to record that his son-in-law works for the Harbour School, his daughter works for Motiv8 and his Step Grandson works for the Housing team. He also wished to record that he is a local authority governor at both Charter Academy and Ark Dickens Primary Academy.

8. Budget Monitoring for Quarter 1

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The report was introduced by Graham Smith, Group Accountant. In response to questions the following points were clarified by officers:

- The budget forecast is the best estimate at a point in time and forecast could fluctuate.
- It was noted that the forecast for some external residential placements excluded any external contributions and as such it was anticipated that this would reduce
- Over the last few months the number of unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) has remained stable. The National Voluntary Dispersal Scheme came into force on 1 July and stipulates that each authority should have 0.07% UASC per 10,000 child population. The figure for Portsmouth works out at 31 children and currently the number is fluctuating between 29 and 30 UASC's. If the number of UASC's reaches 31, in the short term it is the Council's responsibility however it is expected that the protocol will be initiated quickly and the Council can ask colleagues in neighbouring local authorities to help. Therefore the risk of having

substantially more UASC's is therefore minimal due to the Scheme in place.

DECISIONS: the Cabinet Member

- (1) Noted the Children's Social Care Portfolio forecast budget position, at the end of June 2016, of £0.4m in excess of current approved cash limit provision.**
- (2) Supported the ongoing process of budget review and implementation of proposals to reduce the projected overspend position and deliver a balanced budget within the area of Children's Social Care.**

9. Children's Lives in Portsmouth - A response to the key issues highlighted by the Children's Society in the recent report

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The report was introduced by Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services. In response to a suggestion from Councillor Wood that the service work with local businesses due to the council's diminishing budgets, Alison Jeffery advised that following an event last week at Portsmouth Football Club there have already been positive developments. These included running a mini football league for care leavers and staff and using the PFC mascot in the recruitment literature for foster carers. Officers are also increasingly looking more outwardly for opportunities and are recruiting more volunteers. Councillor Wood was very encouraged to hear about these initiatives.

The Cabinet Member noted the report.

Councillor Brent wished to record his thanks to officers for their reports.

The meeting concluded at 2.20 pm.

Councillor Ryan Brent
Chair