

## **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 December 2016 at 2.00 pm in the Executive Meeting Room, Third Floor, Guildhall, Portsmouth

### **Present**

Councillor Ryan Brent (in the Chair)  
Councillor Rob Wood

#### **10. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Denny.

#### **11. Declarations of interest**

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 and his sister-in-law is the head of the education funding agency. He also wished to record that he is a local authority governor at both Charter Academy and Ark Dickens Primary Academy.

#### **12. Children's Social Care Portfolio Budget Monitoring Report for the Second Quarter 2016/17**

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Graham Smith, Group Accountant introduced the report.

#### **DECISIONS the Cabinet Member:**

- (1) Noted the Children's Social Care Portfolio forecast budget position, at the end of September 2016, of £0.7m 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.**

#### **13. Regional Adoption Agency**

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The report was introduced by Sarah Newman, Deputy Director of Children's Social Care. In response to questions the following points were clarified:

- Adoption performance in Portsmouth has improved every year for the past five years compared to other local authorities in Hampshire. There is therefore a slight concern that if Portsmouth joins with the other LA's in Hampshire that performance will decrease and officers are mindful of that.
- The adoption service had a visit from the DfE last week which found there to be excellent arrangements in place. Ofsted will be responsible for inspecting the new Regional Adoption Agency (RAA).
- The agenda for RAA's is driven by Central Government and arrangements are well bedded in so this will be definitely be going ahead. In reality this will only affect a small number of children each year as approximately 10% of children in care are placed for adoption each year.
- The current cost of allowances and team costs for the Portsmouth adoption service is circa £1.2 million a year. However there is still substantial development to be undertaken in respect of the financial aspects of the RAA proposals in order to identify the required financial contribution from Portsmouth.
- Alison Jeffery explained that progress with the RAA needs to be done carefully and it will be kept under review. There is a governing board consisting of Director of Children's Services for all the Hampshire authorities and the RAA is being discussed at these meetings.
- A further report will more detail will come back in early 2017 once the details of the RAA have been finalised.

**DECISION:**

**The Cabinet Member agreed in principle that the Adoption Service becomes part of the Adoption South Central Regionalised Adoption Agency from 1st April 2018, subject to a further report and decision by the cabinet member once details have been finalised.**

The meeting concluded at 2.25 pm.

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Councillor Ryan Brent  
Chair