

## **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 Wednesday, 18 January 2017 at 3.00 pm in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Portsmouth

### **Present**

Councillor Ryan Brent (in the Chair)

Councillor Rob Wood

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **2. 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.

#### **3. Forward Plan Omission**

The Cabinet Member explained that as set out on the agenda and in the notice of omission, this decision is a Key Decision for the purposes of the Forward Plan as defined in Article 13 of the Constitution but was not included in the Forward Plan for 28 November 2016 until 28 February 2017 and is therefore an omission from the Forward Plan. The Chair of the City Council's Scrutiny Management Panel had been notified of the decision being made, in accordance with the City Council's Constitution (General Exceptions, Section 15). As the decision must be taken by such a date that it is impracticable to defer the decision until it has been included in the next Forward Plan, this decision will not be subject to call-in.

The report by the Director of Children's Services includes the reasons why urgent action has to be taken in connection with this proposal.

The Cabinet Member noted the Forward Plan Omission.

**4. Exclusion of Press and Public**

The Cabinet Member advised that he would consider this matter in open session as far as possible. If members or officers needed to discuss the exempt appendix in any detail, the meeting would need to move into exempt session. This was agreed.

**5. Authority to spend in relation to the procurement of an intensive family support service for Portsmouth**

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The report was introduced by Nicola Waterman (Head of Troubled Families).

The Cabinet Member invited Councillor Wood as opposition spokesperson to ask questions.

Councillor Wood said that it was clear that the Council is seeking to do more for less in relation to the provision of intensive family support and asked officers to give a brief explanation of how this will be achieved. Nicola Waterman and Alison Jeffery (Director of Children's Services) outlined the changes to the current service model, advising that they are not unprecedented and that the current provider, Barnardo's, is already working differently to increase the service's capacity in response to increased demand. Additionally, children's centres and public health delivery has been re-shaped to provide a much stronger early help offer that will complement the external contract. Councillor Wood commented that it was important to note that doing more for less may have unintended consequences in relation to the outcomes families achieve but recognised the necessity for doing so in the current financial climate.

The Cabinet Member thanked officers for their report and said that he felt that the proposals were pragmatic and risk sensible on how the council will achieve the targets set by the government.

**DECISION: The Cabinet Member gave authority to spend up to the maximum contract value proposed for the procurement of a new intensive family support service.**

The meeting concluded at 3.25 pm.

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Councillor Ryan Brent  
Chair