

Worcestershire County Council

Agenda

Cabinet

Thursday, 24 October 2019, 10.00 am
County Hall, Worcester

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DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:
'Disclosable pecuniary interests' and **'other disclosable interests'**

WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3rd party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
 - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:
 - You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests** **OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
 - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

Cabinet

Thursday, 24 October 2019, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester

Membership: Mr S E Geraghty (Chairman), Mr A T Amos, Mr A I Hardman, Mr M J Hart, Mrs L C Hodgson, Ms K J May, Mr A P Miller, Dr K A Pollock, Mr A C Roberts and Mr J H Smith

Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
1	Apologies and Declarations of Interest	
2	Public Participation Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in writing or by e-mail indicating both the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the working day before the meeting (in this case Wednesday 23 October 2019). Further details are available on the Council's website. Enquiries can also be made through the telephone number/e-mail address listed below.	
3	Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting The Minutes of the meeting of 26 September 2019 have been previously circulated	
4	Scrutiny Report: The Relationship between the Family Front Door and Schools	1 - 4
5	Use of Children's Centre Buildings - Transfer of the Centre at Abbey Park First and Middle Schools, Pershore	5 - 8

NOTES

- Webcasting**

Members of the Cabinet are reminded that meetings of the Cabinet are Webcast on the Internet and will be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website. Members of the public are informed that if they attend this meeting their images and speech may be captured by the recording equipment used for the Webcast and may also be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website.

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To obtain further information or a copy of this agenda contact Nichola Garner, Committee & Appellate Officer on Worcester (01905) 843579 or email: ngarner2@worcestershire.gov.uk

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website.

Date of Issue: Tuesday, 15 October 2019

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CABINET
24 OCTOBER 2019**SCRUTINY REPORT: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
FAMILY FRONT DOOR AND SCHOOLS**

Relevant Cabinet Member

Mr A C Roberts

Relevant Officer

Director of Children's Services

Recommendation

- 1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families recommends that Cabinet:**
 - (a) receives the Scrutiny Report on the relationship between the Family Front Door and Schools, together with the response from the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families; and**
 - (b) notes the Scrutiny Report's findings and recommendations and adopts the response of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility as the way forward.**

Background

2. Launched in July 2016, the Family Front Door (FFD), Initial Contact and Referral Team is the central point for all referrals for children and young people aged 0 to 18 years and living in Worcestershire where there are safeguarding or child protection concerns for them. The FFD identifies and makes decisions around the levels of need for children and young people to ensure that the right services and intervention are provided to meet their needs at the right time.

3. On 24 January 2017, Ofsted published their report entitled '[Inspection](#) of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers; and Review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board'. The overall judgement for Worcestershire was 'inadequate'. Following the Ofsted judgement, an eight-point Service Improvement Plan (SIP) was developed by the Children, Families and Communities Directorate to cover all of the recommendations made by Ofsted.

4. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel identified as part of its work programming process that it wished to look at how the relationship between the Family Front Door and Schools was working.

5. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) agreed at its meeting on 26 September 2018 that a Scrutiny Task Group led by Councillor Jane Potter (Vice-Chairman of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel) would be set up to

scrutinise this issue. Initially, the Task Group planned to look at how the relationship between the Family Front Door and Partners was working. It was however decided on reflection, that the focus of the Task Group should be narrower, and the Scrutiny would concentrate on the relationship between the FFD and Schools. The revision to the Scope was agreed by the OSPB at its meeting on 5 December 2018.

6. The Terms of Reference for the scrutiny were:

'to investigate how the Service is currently working, taking into account the relationship between the County Council and School partners, and the progress made since the Ofsted Inspection and subsequent monitoring visits'.

Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

7. The OSPB considered the Scrutiny report on 30 September 2019 and fully endorsed the recommendations. The Board also requested that the Cabinet Member with Responsibility provides timescales and targets for the recommendations adopted. The report is included at Appendix 1.

Response of the Cabinet Member

8. The Scrutiny process provides for the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility to submit to the Cabinet a response to the Scrutiny Report's findings and recommendation to be considered alongside the Scrutiny Report.

9. The response of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families on behalf of the Cabinet, is included as Appendix 2

Supporting Information (available electronically only)

- Appendix 1 – Scrutiny report: Relationship between the Family Front Door and Schools.
- Appendix 2 – Response of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families on behalf of the Cabinet.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Specific Contact Points for this report

Samantha Morris, Scrutiny Co-ordinator and Alison Spall, Overview and Scrutiny Officer.
01905 844963. scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and minutes of OSPB meetings on 26 September 2018, 5 December 2018 and 30 September 2019 – available [here](#)

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CABINET
24 OCTOBER 2019**USE OF CHILDREN'S CENTRE BUILDINGS – TRANSFER OF
THE CENTRE AT ABBEY PARK FIRST AND MIDDLE
SCHOOLS, PERSHORE**

Relevant Cabinet Member

Mr A C Roberts

Relevant Officer

Director of Children's Services

Local Member

Mrs E B Tucker

Recommendation

- 1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families recommends that Cabinet:**
 - (a) approves the proposals for the future use of the Children's Centre building Blossom Vale at Abbey Park First and Middle Schools as outlined in paragraphs 6 - 10 below; and**
 - (b) authorises the Director of Children's Services to take all necessary steps to give effect to the above.**

Background – Blossom Vale Children's Centre

2. In June 2016 Cabinet agreed a range of recommendations relating to the provision of effective prevention services for children and young people including optimising the use of children's centre buildings for delivery in localities.
3. Cabinet approved the proposals for the future use of a number of children's centre buildings where consultation was not required; this included the proposal that the Children's Centre building known as Blossom Vale located at Abbey Park First and Middle Schools in Pershore continued to be used by the Parenting and Family Support provider for the delivery of services.
4. This decision was implemented and a lease for Blossom Vale Children's Centre was granted to Action for Children when the contract for the provision of parenting and family support services in the Wychavon area was novated to them in September 2016.
5. The building is integral to the school site and comprises an office and one multi-purpose activity room which have continued to be used for the delivery of a number of services including monthly activity sessions, weekly family learning sessions, speech

and language drop-ins, school holiday activity sessions, stay and play sessions and various parenting courses. The office serves also as a base for family support workers in the Pershore area.

6. The lease with Action for Children expired on 31 March 2019 at which point Action for Children advised that they did not wish to take on a new lease due to the low level of direct service provision they were delivering at the site and the wish by the school to use the space for expanded early years' provision and continued delivery of existing activities and health provision. Abbey Park First and Middle School originally expressed an interest in running the centre during the children's centre consultation that took place in 2016. In April 2019 the Abbey Park Schools Federation (Pre-School, First and Nursery and Middle School) confirmed that they were still interested in taking on the lease of the centre in order to be able to extend their pre-school provision which was full and to support the ongoing delivery of health services, family learning and other activities. They have also recently been approached by the Community Midwives service who wish to have an administration base at the school with the view to developing more services in the future.

7. In June and July 2019 the Federation carried out a consultation with parents and carers of the children using the school (letter at Appendix 1) outlining their plans for the use of the centre should the transfer be agreed. The letter contains the following description of the Federation's proposals:

"Abbey Park Schools Federation would very much like to actively promote and run Blossom Vale Children's Centre, in order to enhance the services our Federation can offer to our pupils and parents, as well as other local families. Abbey Park First and Nursery School already has a very successful Nursery and Pre-School, both of which are full during certain sessions. We could use the Children's Centre to provide additional capacity for some sessions, allowing more children from Pershore and surrounding areas to be able to access Early Years Education.

We also have links with Worcestershire County Council's Family Learning Team, who can offer courses to our local parents and children, free of charge. As well as our Local Community Midwife team, who are based at Abbey Park Middle School and are offering courses and workshops to 'Parents to be'. The Speech and Language team who have been using the Centre for some time, have also agreed to stay, so the service they offer will remain unchanged. Action4Children will still be offering courses such as 'Birth and Beyond'. We have also pencilled in some messy play sessions for under 4 year olds.

Abbey Park has a passion to provide services to our local families from birth to age 12 and aspire to becoming a community hub offering a variety of services, whether their children are pupils or not. We intend to promote Blossom Vale Children's Centre as much as possible, making use of its wonderful resources on a regular basis.

As a Federation of schools, we have links with a large range of professional services and with our dedicated staff, we hope to be able to make the Children's Centre a wonderful asset to our community."

8. A total of 53 responses were received by the Federation, with 52 of the responses supporting the proposal to transfer the centre to the schools. The one response that did not agree with the proposals included the comment "I would like the children's centre to remain independent from the school." Comments in favour of the proposals did refer to

the need for the centre to be self-funding and not detract from the leadership of the schools. Full details of the comments received are in the summary document at Appendix 2.

9. Through a collaborative approach between the schools and Action 4 Children and other providers, a full range of services continue to be delivered at the centre pending a decision on the formal transfer to the school.

10. It is therefore proposed that the Children's Centre building known as Blossom Vale in Pershore be leased by the Council to Abbey Park Schools Federation for the continued provision of early childhood services.

Legal, Financial and HR Implications

11. There are no direct negative implications relating to the Council's statutory responsibilities in relation to the sufficiency of children's centre delivery arising from this report. The proposals for the centre will have a positive impact for families in the area through the provision of a range of activities and services and extended early childcare provision. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient early years and childcare places to meet the needs of families in the county. The core purpose of children's centres set out in statutory guidance is to improve outcomes for young children and their families and reduce inequalities between families in greatest need and their peers in:

- child development and school readiness;
- parenting aspirations and parenting skills; and
- child and family health and life chances.

12. There are no direct financial or HR implications for the Council arising from this report. Lease arrangements with non-funded providers such as schools specify that rent is payable should the activities at the centre produce a surplus once running costs are taken into account.

Privacy and Public Health Impact Assessments

13. A privacy and public health impact screening has indicated that a full assessment is not required.

Risk Implications

14. There are no identified risks arising from the proposals that cannot be managed through the proposed lease arrangements with the Federation.

Equality and Diversity Implications

15. An Equality Relevance Screening has been completed in respect of these recommendations. The screening did not identify any potential Equality considerations requiring further consideration during implementation.

Supporting Information (available electronically only)

- Appendix 1 - Consultation letter to parents/carers

- Appendix 2 - Consultation responses

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points
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Specific Contact Points for this report
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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Children's Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda papers for the meeting of the Cabinet held on 16 June 2016