

**COUNCIL**  
**25 MAY 2017**

## **REPORT OF CABINET - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN**

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### **Children's Social Care – Service Improvement Plan update**

1. The Council has had a Safeguarding Improvement Board running for the last 18 months. However, following the outcome of the Ofsted Report, it has taken the opportunity to refresh its remit and membership to oversee the Service Improvement Plan. The Children's Social Care Service Improvement Board met for the first time in its new form on Tuesday 28 February 2017 and agreed its Terms of Reference. An independent chair (Nigel Richardson (ex-DCS of Leeds City Council)) has also been appointed for the Service Improvement Board.
2. The Service Improvement Plan document consists of two pages, the first being the SIP, outlining the 8 improved outcomes the Council is seeking to achieve along with the eight work-streams and associated projects the Council believes will deliver them and address our 14 Ofsted Recommendations. The second page illustrates the link the SIP has with other key strategic documents, e.g. the Council's Corporate Plan, the Strategic Economic Plan and the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) Business Plan. The business plan for the WSCB next year will focus on support and challenge for the SIP, will have a specific priority around the lived experience of the child and will consider the impact that child sexual exploitation, neglect and domestic abuse has on this experience. The Service Improvement Board will provide formal updates to WSCB on a quarterly basis.
3. The Cabinet has noted the progress made in developing the Children's Social Care Service Improvement Plan (SIP) and the governance arrangements to manage delivery and monitor performance. The Cabinet has reviewed and approved the Service Improvement Plan and delegated authority to the Director of Children, Families and Communities in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families to update the Service Improvement Plan as appropriate.
4. Programme and project management support has now been identified and mobilised to support delivery of the SIP. Key lines of accountability and ownership have been established across the entire SIP, and coupled with the additional capacity and capability now deployed there are a number of successes and achievements that have already been delivered at this relatively early stage.
5. The SIP will be supported by a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) dashboard that will monitor the performance of services delivered to children and young people in Worcestershire. The intention is to keep the number of KPIs to a manageable and meaningful number so that a sharp focus is maintained on the key performance metrics.
6. Following a self-assessment exercise and feedback from Ofsted and partners, it was identified that a number of the Council's core Children and Families strategy

documents required updating to re-establish key objectives, reflect current practice and set out the improvement required. As a result, the Cabinet has reviewed and approved the following strategies:

- The Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy for Looked after Children and Care Leavers which will ensure that we better understand, plan and meet future accommodation demand for Looked after Children and Care Leavers within Worcestershire
- The Corporate Parenting Strategy which sets out the Council's approach to delivering effective corporate parenting responsibilities across the whole Council and partner agencies to our Looked after Children and Care Leavers population, and
- The Care Leavers Strategy which sets out the key responsibilities for the Council and our partners to ensure that our Care Leavers receive the support, help and guidance they may need to be able to support themselves, as they transition into adulthood to live independently.

## **Resources Report**

7. After the first ten months of 2016/17 and forecasting for the remaining two months of the financial year an overall financial pressure of £0.5 million is anticipated. This forecast has reduced from last month's forecast pressure of £0.8 million and represents 0.2% when compared with the County Council's revenue budget. The most significant forecast pressures relate to older people residential and nursing placements of around £2.2 million, and £1.3 million in relation to Home to School Transport. The Cabinet has endorsed the Leader of the Council's conclusions concerning revenue budget monitoring up to 31 January 2017.

8. The Cabinet has noted the savings and efficiency programme target for 2016/17, which includes £3 million carried forward for delivery from last financial year, totals £27 million and is forecast to be achieved on a cash basis.

9. The Cabinet has endorsed the Leader of the Council's conclusions concerning the County Council's Capital Budget for 2016/17 which totals £147 million. The actual capital expenditure at 31 January 2017 is £85 million or 58% of the budget which is as anticipated. The spending profile is expected to increase over the remainder of the current financial year.

10. The Cabinet has noted the impact of the Actual Takeover by Mercia Waste Management Limited of the Energy from Waste Plant from its Engineering, Procurement and Construction contractor. The handover of the facility to Mercia Waste Management Limited follows a 33-month construction programme, which has seen the facility built on time and to specification. The Energy from Waste facility is the largest single piece of capital infrastructure in Worcestershire and Herefordshire and marks the virtual elimination of landfill in the two counties. It will turn 200,000 tonnes per year of waste into electricity, exporting 15.5MW of electricity to the grid which is sufficient to power all the homes in Kidderminster.

**Mr S E Geraghty**  
**Chairman**

## **Contact Points**

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## **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 background papers for the meetings of the Cabinet held on 6 April 2017.