

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 13th December, 2016 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Friday, 16th December, 2016.

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, 29th December, 2016 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Friday, 30th December, 2016.

Present:

Vice-Chair - Councillor Glyn Jones (Deputy Mayor and Portfolio holder for Adult Social Care and Equalities) (in the Chair)

Cabinet Member for:

Councillor Joe Blackham	Portfolio holder for Regeneration and Transportation
Councillor Nuala Fennelly	Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools
Councillor Pat Knight	Portfolio holder for Public Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Chris McGuinness	Portfolio holder for Communities, the Voluntary Sector and Environment
Councillor Bill Mordue	Portfolio holder for Business, Skills, Tourism and Culture
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio holder for Housing

Apologies:-

Apologies for absence were received from Mayor Ros Jones and Councillor Tony Corden.

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Prior to formal commencement of the meeting, Jo Miller, Chief Executive made the following announcement:-

"Homelessness is rising in most of our towns and cities, and Doncaster is no different to any other in that respect. However no one needs to sleep rough or be homeless at Christmas and we are working hard with our partners towards making sure that accommodation and support is offered to those who need it.

That's why we've worked positively with the Tent City organisers since the day they arrived on 19th December. They wanted to raised awareness of homelessness issues and help those in need and we've supported them in that from the word go. Tent City planned to be here for a very short period and said that they were going to close on 10th December, 2016. Unfortunately that hasn't happened.

We've had staff available from across the Doncaster partnership agencies day and night, working with Tent City organisers and those who are camped there. Working with our partners, we have identified 60 people who had said they are homeless, and all have been

offered the opportunity to speak to services and get support. Only 43 people have taken up this offer and 17 decided not to engage with any services. 33 people have been offered accommodation, 18 took up this offer and 15 people refused. Of the remaining 10 people, 8 were not homeless and 2 had no access to public funds, so they were offered other options.

We will continue to work very hard with our partners to assist those at Tent City and others that are homeless, but we have come to the view that Tent City itself is no longer sustainable and we must bring this to a resolution. The site is acting as a magnet for people from within Doncaster and outside the borough with some people choosing to stay on the site rather than take up offers of accommodation and others who are not homeless being drawn to it. We are at the point where the camp, despite its very best intentions, has the potential to undo some of the good work it set out to do by not moving on.

For these reasons, we need the camp to come to an end, so we have applied to the courts for an order of possession of the site, which if granted means it must be vacated. Though the camp would be dismantled, our work with the organisers and those in need will continue.

This is a difficult decision, and not one that will be universally popular, but we believe it's the right course of action. We must focus on the needs of those who really require our help, rather than enabling the continuation of an increasingly unsafe site, where those staying there can become ever more vulnerable and potentially not getting the support they need, which is surely in everyone's interest".

Cabinet welcomed and thanked Jo Miller for the update and believed this was the right course of action to be followed.

Public Questions and Statements

There were no public questions or statements made at the meeting.

Decision records dated 29th November, 2016, were noted.

DECISION 1.

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| <p>1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE</p> <p>6. Introduction of 2017 Tenancy Agreement.</p> <p>2. DECISION TAKEN</p> <p>Cabinet:-</p> <p>(1) Endorsed the proposed changes to the Tenancy Agreement, as identified in Appendix A to the report; and</p> |
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(2) Noted the consultation timetable outlined in Appendix B to the report.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received a report which sought approval of proposed changes to the **(SLHD) Tenancy Agreement** in order to bring it up to date and would strengthen the contractual agreement between the Council and its tenants and contribute to the efficient and effective management of Doncaster's Council Housing, thereby improving the quality of life for tenants and the community as a whole.

Members noted that the existing Tenancy Agreement was introduced in 2010 and had not been subject to change since its introduction. Over the last 6 years, the whole operating environment had changed, new legislation had been introduced, housing practice had changed, and there was a need for the Council to change how it operated to respond to these changes and to ensure that communities remained vibrant and safe places. It was noted that there had been extensive consultation with tenants and staff in both St Leger Homes and DMBC and Appendix 2 of the report contained the outcome of that consultation. It was reported that the new agreement would come into effect from the 1st April, 2017.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Two options had been considered. The second option would result in tenants not having a contractual agreement that concisely specifies the obligations of the landlord and tenant, this could limit SLHD's ability to take action against tenants who breach this agreement; this would be detrimental to communities.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Susan Jordan, Chief Executive, St Leger Homes of Doncaster

DECISION 2.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Revision to Foster Care Progression Scheme and Special Guardianship/Child Arrangement Order Allowances.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

(1) Agreed to amend foster carer allowances in line with the foster carer

progression scheme paper and to allow Special Guardianship/Child Arrangement Order/Residence Order (SGO/CAO/RO) payments to be made at level one, two and three dependent on the complexity of needs of the child (option 3), by:

- implementing a revised Foster Carer Progression scheme;
- implementing a revised Special Guardianship, Child Arrangement Order, Residence Order Allowances Scheme;
- adopting minor modifications to the current means test model to bring this in line with the DfE means test model; and
- noting adoption allowances remain linked to foster carer level 2. Consultation of adoption allowances and any proposal to amend the existing means test for adopters will be undertaken as part of the overall process to establish a South Yorkshire Adoption Agency.
- Approving the final Due Regard Statement and implications outlined within it; and

(2) Agreed this approach to implementation.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Approval was sought to implement revised Foster Carer Progression and Special Guardianship/Child Arrangement Order/ Residence Order Allowances Schemes. The report presented the updated Financial Assessment Criteria for Special Guardianship/Child Arrangement Order / Residence Order Allowances, together with the intended timeline for implementation.

The proposals had been subject to public consultation with foster carers and with carers who were in receipt of Special Guardianship, Child arrangement Order, and Residence Order allowances and the report presented the findings and outcome of the consultation with the final, updated due regard statement taking into account anything arising from the consultation.

Members welcomed the report and in terms of people accessing training to become a Foster Carer, were pleased that the scheme presented was much fairer.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

1. Do nothing

We are not required to make changes to the current system other than instigate an annual payment review process. However, payments under certain circumstances could be reduced without detriment to children and in some cases should be raised to encourage those foster carers who are caring for the most complex and challenging of children to apply for an SGO/CAO. This option brings no cost saving other than savings made through more stringent financial review (the means test).

2. Amend foster care allowances in line with the foster care progression scheme paper and make SGO/CAO/RO payments to carers who have not undertaken basic training at level one (the fostering national minimum rates)

As explained above most local authorities already operate a progression scheme and we wish to explore the option for the following reasons:

- Rewards carer developing skills
- Supports carer's financial planning
- Rewards carers commitment to complex children
- Rewards a commitment to Doncaster
- Helps the service to recruit and keep the best foster carers.

Currently the majority of SGO/CAO/RO payments are made to family members of children who would otherwise have come into care. The majority of family members have not undertaken basic training and do not therefore meet all fostering regulatory requirements. These carers would be paid at level one fostering rates which are set at the national minimum allowance rate. All carers for children subject to an SGO/CAO/RO would be entitled to undertake training in order to receive higher lever allowances.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Paul Moffatt, Chief Executive Doncaster Children's Services Trust

DECISION 3.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. Transfer of Family Support Services to Doncaster Children's Trust.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) Agreed the proposal, subject to the Secretary of State issuing a supporting Statutory Direction, to transfer the low level case holding family support function, with immediate supporting budget, to Doncaster Children's Services Trust;
- (2) Noted the draft proposed budget of £730,280 and agreed that the Chief Financial Officer undertake the final negotiations on the on-going and any one-off funding to be provided to the Trust and sign off the final budget in

consultation with the Mayor;

- (3) Agreed that the transferring service falls under the same arrangements as approved by the Doncaster Children's Trust Report to Cabinet on 17th September 2014; and
- (4) Approved that subsequent decisions that may be required following the issue of a Statutory Direction by the Secretary of State that is in accordance with the recommendation made to Cabinet, be delegated to the Director of Children's Services and the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Mayor and Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

It was proposed that, subject to the Secretary of State issuing a supporting Statutory Direction, to transfer the low level case holding family support function (of DMBC's family support services), with immediate supporting budget, to Doncaster Children's Services Trust.

Members noted that the proposals were dependent upon the Council and the Trust agreeing the final budget to fund the transferred services and the related support services.

Councillor Nuala Fennelly expressed the importance of the delegation at recommendation 4 of the report and sought assurance that no decision would be made prior to their approval. Members were reminded that paragraph 10 of the report stated that the delegated decision was also subject to approval from the Secretary of State and it was hopeful that a response would be received by the end of January 2017.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 1: DO NOTHING – By doing nothing the services would continue to be delivered by DMBC and DCST. Fragmentation and inconsistencies in service delivery would remain and there would be no identified resource to continue the work around a parenting strategy.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Damian Allen, Director of Learning Opportunities and Skills (DCS)

DECISION 4.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

9. Doncaster Place Plan.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:

- (1) noted the overall direction of travel within the Place Plan; and
- (2) following the completion of the consultation exercise, a further report be submitted to Cabinet for further discussion.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report on the Doncaster Place Plan which described a vision for, and proposes the future state, of health and social care services in Doncaster. It was reported that there were three major challenges that national and local health and care systems were addressing which were as follows:-

- The health and wellbeing gap. Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy was lower in Doncaster than the national average. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and revised BME health needs assessment were part of the process of identifying health and wellbeing gaps.
- The quality gap. Outcomes were not consistently good for everyone and although services were improving it can be difficult for people to find the right services, right first time.
- The finance gap. All organisations have financial challenges.

Members were advised that the Doncaster Place Plan was the local health and care partnership response to the challenges and fits with the current Health and Wellbeing Strategy and was consistent with individual organisational plan e.g. the Adults, Health and Wellbeing Transformation Plan. The Plan was also consistent with the published South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)

The report highlighted that there was an agreed vision and 3 cohorts of people or groups of people who had been identified to help planning, which were as follows:-

- Early help and prevention;
- Integrated Intermediate Health and Social Care; and
- Enablement and recovery

It was highlighted that local people should see more integrated and seamless care at the frontline but also better integrated planning and commissioning. Members noted that this would start with integrated intermediate health and social care. Members were made aware that consultation would be taking place with staff,

patients and the public in December and January, and following the completion of the consultation, a further report would be submitted to Cabinet for further discussion.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 1: Do nothing. Rely on individual organisational plans by themselves to address the 3 gaps.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

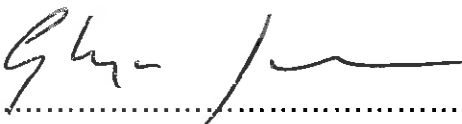
There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Dr Rupert Suckling, Director of Public Health.

Signed.......... Chair/Decision Maker

16/12/16