



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on Tuesday, 12th March, 2019 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Wednesday, 13th March, 2019

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Friday 22nd March, 2019 and therefore, the decision can be implemented on Monday, 25th March, 2019

Present:

Chair - Mayor Ros Jones (Mayor of Doncaster with responsibility for Budget and Policy Framework)

Vice-Chair - Councillor Glyn Jones (Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Equalities)

Cabinet Member for:

Councillor Nigel Ball	Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure and Culture
Councillor Joe Blackham	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services
Councillor Rachael Blake	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care
Councillor Nuala Fennelly	Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools
Councillor Chris McGuinness	Portfolio Holder for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment
Councillor Bill Mordue	Portfolio Holder for Business, Skills and Economic Development
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio Holder for Customer and Corporate Services.

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

No public questions or statements were made at the meeting.

Decision Records dated 26th February, 2019, be noted.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. To Reconfigure the Doncaster Children's Trust as an Arms Length Management Company

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted and agreed:-

- (1) to change the current Articles of Association of Doncaster Care Services Trust (DCST) and create an Arm's Length Management Company;
- (2) revise the underpinning contract to support provision of a sustainable social care offer; and
- (3) delegated to the Director of Corporate Resources and Director of People in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People the final amendments to the contract prior to contract sign off.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools presented the report to Cabinet stating that in November 2013 the direction provided by the Secretary of State required the Council to contract with Doncaster Children's Services Trust for the provision of its Children's safeguarding services.

She reported that an Ofsted re-inspection which took place in November 2017 achieved a 'Good' rating and following this a core strategic group meeting of Senior Officers was established to review and progress a sustainable business model and associated company structure.

The report outlined the proposed change in governance arrangements for Doncaster Children's services Trust to an Arm's Length Management Company wholly owned by Doncaster Council.

Councillor Fennelly advised that the delivery model was capable of continuing to deliver sustained improvement while maintaining operational independence. It also strengthens the working relationships and partnership with Team Doncaster.

She pointed out that the report also outlines the changes to the service contract and the initial contract term of 5 years with two potential two-year extensions. The proposals would be considered by the Secretary of State later in the month and were consequently subject to confirmation and ratification.

Councillor Fennelly stated that the proposals build on the existing strengths and the next stage of organisational development. All parties had been working towards the new arrangements being in place by 1 April 2019. She recommended the report to Cabinet for approval.

Following the introduction of the report, Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

Councillor Joe Blackham welcomed the report and the proposed direction of travel and the benefits and gains it would bring. He commented that he hoped that by following these proposals the future ambition would be to have all departments together under one directorate.

Mayor Ros Jones sought an update with regard to the recommendations of the Future Placement Needs Strategy group highlighted at paragraph 44 of the report. Officers responded stating that the Trust's Joint Leadership Team would be considering the recommendations on the 27th March, 2019 whilst consulting with the Cabinet Member. It was reported that the Council had been working with the Trust since January 2018 on the context of the wider Place Plan. It was highlighted that joint commissioning would also be undertaken with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in relation to Health.

Debbie Hogg, Director of Corporate Resources reported that the Section 75 agreement would provide the opportunity to look holistically in relation to resources and the opportunity to make the right decisions whilst having some flexibility.

Mayor Ros Jones requested that Executive Board be provided with an update to ensure all Members were fully aware of the way forward. Members were advised that a report on the Joint Health & Care Commissioning Strategy with Doncaster CCG would be considered at Director's Meeting on the Monday 18th March and following that discussion an update on the report would be submitted to Executive Board.

Councillor Chris McGuinness supported the proposals and wished to comment that paragraph 22 of the report showed that the proposed contract provided more stability and certainty.

Lee Golze, Head of Business Transformation and Strategic Commissioning provided Cabinet with details of the gains the proposals would provide. He stated that the shared vision was for children to remain at home or as close to home as possible. The aim is to bring children back into the Borough by shaping the market to cater for their needs. For those children who cannot remain at home, better provisions would be available. It was also noted that whilst there was no detail to give Members, there would also be significant financial savings.

Councillor Nuala Fennelly asked that following the introduction of the new proposals was there any indication of when Doncaster would come out of intervention. Debbie Hogg, Director of Corporate Resources highlighted that the minister would be undertaking a further review in September and it was hoped that the intervention would be lifted following that review. She also wished to state that the contract was structured in a way that should this occur the amendment to the contract would be much easier.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Options were considered prior to the DfE's review. The recommendation for the future delivery model was supported by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

for Children and Families and confirmed in writing to the council on the 17 December 2018. The report outlines the Council's commitment and execution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families expectations.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Debbie Hogg, Director of Corporate Resources.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker