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Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday, 9th June, 2021 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Friday, 11th June, 2021

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on (Wednesday, 23rd June, 2021). The decisions will not be implemented until after this date and time.

Present:

Chair - Mayor Ros Jones (Mayor of Doncaster with responsibility for Budget and Policy)
Vice-Chair - Councillor Glyn Jones (Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business.)

Cabinet Member for:

Councillor Lani-Mae Ball	Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Young People
Councillor Nigel Ball	Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure, Culture and Planning
Councillor Rachael Blake	Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities
Councillor Mark Houlbrook	Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Waste
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources
Councillor Andrea Robinson	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

Apologies:-

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Joe Blackham and Councillor Phil Cole.

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

There were no public statements submitted at the meeting.

Decision Record Forms from the meeting held on 9th March, 2021 (previously circulated) were noted.

DECISION 1

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. To agree the service delivery model for public health services for 5-19 year olds.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) agreed to the commencement of a tender process to find a suitable provider or providers to deliver Public Health Services for children and young people aged 5 to 19 years old in Doncaster;
- (2) supported the extension of current contracts for Public Health 5 to 19 services by 4 months to align with the academic year; and
- (3) approved the delegation of the contract award to the Director of Public Health, after consultation with the Portfolio Holder and subject to compliance with the Council Procedure Rules.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure, Culture and Planning, introduced a report which set out options for the delivery model for Public Health Services for children and young people aged 5 to 19 years old.

Cabinet was advised that the Health and Social Care Act 2012 set out a local authority's statutory responsibility for delivering and commissioning Public Health services for children and young people aged 5 to 19 years. This was primarily discharged via universal Public Health Services implementing the national Healthy Child Programme.

Councillor Ball pointed out that the 5 to 19 element of the Healthy Child Programme was led primarily by school nursing services, providing place-based services and working in partnership with education and other providers.

It was noted that other partners key to the delivery of the Healthy Child programme were services providing sexual health, substance misuse and smoking cessation interventions. In Doncaster, these services were provided via an integrated service, Project 3, specifically developed to meet the needs of young people aged 11 to 18.

Councillor Ball spoke of how the Council wanted to ensure that it had services that were making the most effective use of limited resource, in order to have the greatest impact possible. To this end, the Council had been exploring the potential to integrate the School Nursing and Project 3 services together into one delivery model, with one provider overseeing provision of Public Health Services for 5 to 19 year olds across Doncaster.

Councillor Ball highlighted that effective integrated pathways had the potential to provide a more effective and efficient health system truly centred on the service

user and its communities. It was recommended to retender Public Health Services for 5 to 19 year olds, using an integrated service delivery model.

Councillor Ball emphasised that although there would be inevitable teething issues with a new delivery model, it was felt that the issues were not insurmountable and there was the potential to provide an innovative, effective and efficient service offer for school aged children and young people, which should outweigh any initial concerns.

To conclude, Councillor Ball commended the report to Cabinet seeking approval to award a service contract for 5 to 19 aged young people in terms of Public Health Services.

Cabinet welcomed the report and the integration of services in to one delivery model which provided the opportunity to use the resources to make a greater impact and provide better services.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 1 – To retender public health services for 5-19 year olds using the current service delivery model.

Option 2 – To retender public health services for 5-19 year olds using an integrated service delivery model.

Option 4 - Do nothing.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt.

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Rupert Suckling, Director of Public Health.

DECISION 2

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. 2020-21 Quarter 4 Finance and Performance Improvement Report

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) noted the Quarter 4 performance and financial information;
- (2) approved the virements in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules, as detailed at Appendix A, the Financial Profile;

- (3) approved the signing of Section 256 agreements with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for projects with a total value of £3.346m, as detailed at paragraph 145 of the report;
- (4) noted the allocations of block budgets in the Capital Programme, detailed at Appendix A – Financial Profile, in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules (sections A & B);
- (5) noted the carry forwards approved by the Chief Financial Officer, detailed in the Finance Profile attached at Appendix A;
- (6) approved the allocation of £6.035m underspend in 2021/22, as detailed within paragraph 140 of the report;
- (7) delegated the allocation of the £2.00m severe weather and road safety reserve to the Director of Economy and Environment and Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151), in consultation with the Mayor; and that the programme of works in respect of highways be expedited; and
- (8) delegated the allocation of the £3.906m Leisure Fund to the Director of Public Health and Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151), in consultation with the Mayor of Doncaster.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Mayor Ros Jones introduced a report which focussed on Quarter 4 of the 2020-21 financial year, and detailed the Council's financial position against the backdrop of responding to the global pandemic.

The Mayor, in summarising the report, highlighted that the Council had demonstrated a one team approach to delivering essential services and responding in novel ways to support individuals and communities.

Cabinet, in noting the amounts of monies for approval by Cabinet to be carried forward, (Appendix A), requested that these should be monitored, including ensuring that Cabinet Portfolio Holders be regularly appraised of these figures so that they may ensure that the Council was on a good financial even keel. In addition, Members also spoke of the need for the Council to be proactive in addressing areas of need in a timely manner.

In response to a question regarding whether the £20k underspend in Planning could be utilised immediately in order to move forward for the Council's ambition to get key Masterplans in place across principal towns across the Borough, Damian Allen, the Chief Executive, gave an undertaking to progress this.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no other alternatives considered or rejected.

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.

DECISION 3

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. St Leger Homes of Doncaster Ltd (SLHD) Performance and Delivery Update: 2020/21 Quarter Four (Q4) and year end outturn.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the progress of St. Leger Homes of Doncaster's performance outcomes and the contribution St. Leger Homes of Doncaster makes to supporting Doncaster Council's strategic priorities.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report which provided an update on St. Leger Homes of Doncaster's Performance and Delivery report for 2020/21 Quarter 4 and year end outturn.

In presenting the report, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Business, stated that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, last year had seen a significant drop in performance. He added that at the start of the first lockdown period, much activity, especially routine repairs and lettings, were suspended for a period of approximately ten weeks, which adversely affected overall performance. Current social distancing requirements and operating Covid safe working practices continued to impact on the day to day operation of St. Leger Homes, including reducing performance on bringing void properties back into use. However, it was noted that on a monthly basis, performance continued to return to more normal levels.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jones, highlighted the following Key Performance Indicators (KPI) that were off target:-

KPI 2 - Void Rent Loss and KPI 3: Average number of calendar days to re-let standard properties

Performance in this area was impacted by a larger number of voids than usual, going into the year because of the previous year's flooding, the suspensions of lettings at the start of the pandemic and the need to reduce the number of repairs staff in a building at any one time. As a result, the number of voids increased during the year. This had been steadily falling since Christmas and was still subject to very close monitoring.

The average void period has also been falling throughout the year and it was

expected that this would continue over the forthcoming months, getting performance back on a month-by-month basis closer to target.

KPIs 4, 5 and 6 which covered the homeless indicators.

Performance in these areas had been extremely challenging and was still problematic.

Considerable work was taking place right across the homelessness partnership to address the increasing demand for support and SLHD was starting to see the figures reduce from the highs experienced in the winter months.

KPI 14 a: Number of tenants and residents helped in to training and education:

This indicator was considerably off target because the normal courses ran by the St. Leger World of Work programme were impacted by the suspension of training by Doncaster College in the first lockdown period and again post-Christmas.

The Mayor acknowledged that Covid-19 had prevented works being carried out on empty properties, however, she spoke of the need for the void properties to be reduced, and that this area be closely monitored.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no other alternatives considered or rejected.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt.

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Dave Richmond, Chief Executive, St. Leger Homes of Doncaster.

DECISION 4

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

9. Performance Challenge of Doncaster Children's Services Trust: Quarter 4, 2020/21.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the progress of Doncaster Children's Services Trust performance outcomes and the contribution that the Trust makes to support the Council's strategic priorities.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities, introduced a report which provided an update on the

current progress of DCST's performance against key performance indicators, including the response to Covid-19, and the impact on the delivery of services.

Despite Covid-19 and demand pressures, the Trust's performance remained strong across its contractual Key Performance Indicators, in terms of timeliness and compliance. Councillor Blake highlighted that the Trust's current improvement focus was on ensuring consistency of practice quality throughout the social care system across the Doncaster Borough.

Councillor Blake stated that the impact of Covid-19 had been felt most during Quarters 2, 3 and 4. Between July, 2020 to March, 2021 the Trust had seen an increase in:-

- Referrals of 720 which was an increase of +24%
- Children and Family assessments of 886 with an increase of +26%
- Section 47s initiated 451 with an increase of +56%
- Children in Care numbers had increased from 517 at the end of January 2021 to 550 at the end of March, 2021.

Increased number of children had placed additional pressure on the Trust's placement costs, and had meant an increase in the use of out of area placements. The Trust remained committed to the partnership Future Placement Strategy as a means of increasing local provision through growth of foster carers, and the Trust's residential offer.

The impact of Covid-19 on children and families was clear with the increased levels of demand for the Trust's support, and increased complexity of need for those requiring social care intervention.

The financial impact of Covid-19 had been estimated at between £1.3m and £1.9m for 2020/21. This and other cost pressures would continue into 2021/22, and beyond.

Councillor Blake reported that Ofsted had conducted a Focussed Assurance Visit in February, and this had resulted in some changes being incorporated into the Trust's improvement plans. Inspectors had praised the work of front line staff throughout the pandemic. It was anticipated that the next inspection would take place in Autumn, 2021.

Caseloads in the Trust had increased during quarters 2 and 3, due to the additional demand pressures, and the Trust and Council had taken action to reduce this pressure, including additional resource and redesign of the Multi-Agency front door for children. At the end of Quarter 4, caseloads had reduced in accordance with the Trust's caseload policy.

The Trust, with Council support, had developed approaches to reduce agency costs, including the creation of a Social Worker Academy and Social Worker Attraction and Retention Strategies.

The Trust and the Council continued to invest in innovative practice such as Mockingbird, Pause and Domestic Abuse Navigators. The Trust was also working

in partnership with St Leger Homes to deliver a local project designed to assist care leavers into independence, by securing properties to rent and ongoing support to sustain independent living.

A Doncaster Children's Partnership Recovery and Resilience Programme had been established to keep children and families safe, working with strategic safeguarding partners including the Council, Police, Health and Schools.

In commenting on the report, the Mayor emphasised the importance of the Council's role as a Corporate Parent and acknowledged the need, despite service pressures, to get looked after children housed in appropriate accommodation at the earliest opportunity and working in partnership with parents, which should ensure best life chances for children in care in the future.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no other alternatives considered or rejected.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt.

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

James Thomas, Chief Executive of Doncaster Children's Services Trust.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker