

**CHILDREN AND HEALTH
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Wednesday 21st September 2011**

PRESENT – Councillors O’Keeffe, Law Riding, Desai, Entwistle, Patel, Riley, Solkar, Taylor, D. Smith, Julie Slater, Gee, J. Smith, John Slater.

Also Present –

Councillor M. Bateson	Executive Member Children’s Services
Councillor M. Khan	Executive Member Adult’s Services,
Councillor D. Talbot	Executive Member Culture, Leisure and Sport
M. Zammit	Link Chief Officer
G. Rhodes White	Strategic Director Families, Health & Wellbeing
M. Bobat	Head of Service Schools and Culture
S. Tingle	Head of Service Families, Health and Wellbeing
D. Harrison	Executive Director of Public Health, Engagement & Partnerships
C. Allen	Head of Public Protection
R. Parr	Associate Director of Finance – Teaching Care Trust Plus
G. Rich	Scrutiny Officer

RESOLUTIONS

11 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed those present. Apologies from Councillors Foster and Wright, J. Berry, (Senior Supporting Officer), S. Osman (Director – Environment, Housing and Neighbourhoods), H. Devonport (Director of Education), B. Simpson (Chair of School Governors Forum) F. Kershaw (Blackburn Church of England Diocese) and P. Harrison (Salford Diocese) were recorded.

12 Minutes of Meeting held on 13th July 2011

The Strategic Director for Families, Health and Wellbeing provided the Committee with a further update on the situation with Southern Cross Care Homes. The Strategic Director informed Members that the two Southern Cross Care Homes in Blackburn with Darwen had now been successfully transferred to the new owner.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the minutes of the meeting held on July 13th 2011 were agreed as a correct record.
- 2) That the update from the Strategic Director on Southern Cross Care Homes be noted.

13 Declarations Of Interest in items on this Agenda

Declarations of Interest received from:

Councillor Desai – Personal Interest - Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport — Agenda Item 6.3 – Culture, Leisure and Sport Task and Finish Group reports.

Councillor Taylor - Personal Interest – Agenda Item 4.1 – Transformational Agenda ‘RAG Report’ Adult Portfolio.

14 Work of the Executive

14.1 Transformational Agenda, Portfolio

Culture, Leisure and Sport Portfolio

The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport informed the Committee that all areas of his Portfolio had reached their targets with the exception of Community Centre transfers (LEI-05). The Executive Member informed the Committee that Community Centres were being put out to tender and once this process had concluded then this part of the Transformational Agenda will also have achieved the required budget savings.

Children’s Portfolio

The Executive Member for Children’s Services provided Members with an update on areas of the Transformational Agenda where the service may be struggling to meet budget targets.

Members were made aware of the reconfiguration of the Children’s Centre Network and the re-modelling of Service Teams (CHI – 03-003). It was explained that the consultation with St. James School had not yet commenced, however it is hoped that once this has been completed this section of the Transformational Agenda should turn green by the end of the year.

The Executive Member informed the Committee that the re-model of the Social work teams (CHI-02-001) had been fully met and the required savings had been met in this area. Members were informed that due to severe pressures being placed on the service by the high level of referrals into Social Care, further financial pressures are being placed on the service. The department is currently exploring ways in which these financial pressures can be alleviated.

The Strategic Director for Families, Health & Wellbeing informed Members that demand for service within Children’s Social Care is expected to

continue to rise and this is the greatest challenge that they are facing. She further explained that investment in the preventative Think Family programme would enable them to help families earlier, thus helping to alleviate pressures on the 'front door.'

Members discussed the issues around Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) and were informed that the Authority had just appointed another IRO through the agency.

Members were also informed that there had been a change in the cultural background of those families accessing services. More families from Black, Minority and Ethnic Communities (BME) are now represented in families in need; this has been accredited to the fact that they now have a greater comfort in accessing services.

Adult's Portfolio

The Executive Member for Adult Services informed the Committee that there had been no changes to his Transformational Agenda 'RAG' report since the last meeting. The Executive Member updated Members on the current position with regards to the TUPE contracts (ADU – 02 – 003). Members were informed that the first organisation was close to agreeing a contract and the Executive Member hoped that this would be signed next month (October 2011). Members were also informed by the Executive Member that he hoped a further two organisations would sign contracts in December 2011.

Members were concerned about the quality of service that would be being delivered with these new contracts. The Executive Member explained that providers are being asked to give a price that will enable them to continue to deliver an efficient and quality service, whilst at the same time enabling them to continue to make profit. Providers are not being told what price they need to work at and the Authority is willing to negotiate.

Members were informed that the full £770K would not be saved but contingencies are in place should it not be achieved. The Executive Member expressed his confidence that the Service would achieve a balanced budget by the end of the year.

RESOLVED –

That the Transformational Agenda updates for the Culture, Leisure & Sport, Children's and Adult Portfolios be noted.

14.2 **Recommendations Report**

Each Executive Member provided an update on recommendations to their Portfolio from the relevant, previous year's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Children's Services Portfolio

The Executive Member for Children's Services updated the Committee on the current position of each of last years Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations.

Members asked questions about Tauheedul Boys School and their intake and the possible impact this may have. The Executive Member informed the Committee that it was hard to ascertain the impact of this school at this moment in time.

Adult Services Portfolio

The Executive Member for Adult Services updated the Committee on the current position of each of last years Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations. Members had no questions for the Executive Member.

Culture Leisure and Sport Portfolio

The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport updated the Committee on the current position of each of last year's Sustainable Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations for his Portfolio. Members had no questions for the Executive Member.

RESOLVED –

That the update on last year's recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for Children's, Adult's and Culture, Leisure and Sport Portfolios be noted.

14.3 **Priorities and Risks for the Municipal Year**

Each Executive Member was invited to highlight their key priorities and risks for the rest of the Municipal year from the lists that they submitted prior to the meeting.

Children's Portfolio

Before outlining her key priority and risks the Executive Member advised the Committee that that she felt that they should avoid scrutinising the issue of Social Care and their budget. She explained that this is a highly

inspected and regimented area of the Council that produces a number of reports for various Committees and felt that this could be a duplication of work.

The Executive Member then went on to recommend what she felt should be further scrutinised.

Priority

The development of an integrated service for children with disabilities aged between 0-25

Risks

- Pressure on placements and on Children in Our Care and children subject to Child Protection Plans, leading to budget pressure.
- Continued increase in Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET) and Youth Offending Team (YOT) numbers and the impact of changes to the Connexions service.

Adult Portfolio

The Executive Member highlighted to the Committee the two key priorities and the one key risk for his Portfolio from his initial list. These were:

Priorities

- Prevention and Personalisation - development of the Centre for Independent Living with key partners, improved advice, information and signposting, Telecare and Reablement, Personal Budgets, reducing Residential Care usage and improved out of hours support.
- Delivering efficiencies whilst retaining a safe service.

Risk

- Pressures placed on the budget by the increasing demand on the service as a result of an ageing population and the leads led nature of the service.

Leisure, Culture & Sport Portfolio

The Executive Member outlined his priorities and risks to the Committee and then highlighted the two key priorities and one risk to the service, which were:

Priorities

- Meeting the re:refresh targets and income generation in Leisure
- The implementation of the Gateway model for libraries.

Risk

- The failure to achieve future year's savings targets across the Portfolio.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the Executive Members for Children's Services, Adult Services and Leisure, Culture and Sport be thanked for their presentations.
- 2) That the key risks and priorities for the Children's Service, Adult and Culture, Leisure and Sport Portfolios be noted.

15 Care Trust Plus Budget Update Presentation

The Associate Director for Finance from Teaching Care Trust Plus gave a presentation on the savings they have to make during this financial year and the progress they are making in achieving these targets.

It was explained that Care Trust Plus need to find £6.3 million worth of savings during this financial year, however they aim to save more than this in order to help with their savings the following year. To date they have delivered savings of £5.7 Million.

The Associate Director for Finance explained that there were also significant risks that needed to be managed whilst delivering the savings. These risks included the impact of the current NHS reorganisation and a higher level of demand for services than was planned for. Members asked questions on the issue of increased demand and enquired if there were any specific illnesses that place a greater demand on the service. Members were informed that alcohol related illnesses and illnesses such as cancer and coronary related diseases have led to an increase in demand.

Following the presentation Members asked further questions of both the Associate Director of Finance and the Executive Director of Public Health.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the Associate Director of Finance and the Executive Director of Public Health be thanked.

- 2) That the presentation be noted.

16 **Task and Finish Group Reports**

The three Task and Finish groups presented their reports and recommendations for the reviews that had been undertaken between June and September 2011. The Chair reminded Members that they had put in a significant amount of work in order to complete these reviews and encouraged Members to keep up the same high levels of work over the next six months.

RESOLVED –

That the Task and Finish Group reports for Children’s Services, Adult Services and Culture, Leisure and Sport be noted.

17 **Work Programme**

The Committee discussed the work plan for the rest of the municipal year for each of the three Task and Finish Groups, and considered the recommendations of the Executive Members in their decisions.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the Children’s Task and Finish Group are to scrutinise the continued increase in NEET and YOT numbers and the impact of changes to the Connexions service.
- 2) That the Adult Task & Finish Group are to scrutinise the issue of Prevention and Personalisation.
- 3) That the Culture, Leisure and Sport Task and Finish are to look at the area they wished to cover prior to their first meeting.

18 **Council Forum**

The Committee were asked to note a report that was sent to Council Forum providing them with an up date on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED –

That the Council Forum Report be noted.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....