

# EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



**REPORT OF:** Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education

**LEAD OFFICERS:** Strategic Director of Children's & Education (DCS)

**DATE:** Thursday, 11 February 2021

**PORTFOLIO(S) AFFECTED:** Children, Young People and Education

**WARD/S AFFECTED:** (All Wards);

**KEY DECISION:** N

## **SUBJECT:**

Evidence Based Practice of CADS

### **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report details the development, implementation and impact of BwD's Children's Advice and Duty Service or the "The Front Door" to Children's Services.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Executive Board: Notes the content of the report and endorses and recognises the impact of the implementation of CADS in BwD based on the 52 week evaluation of the model.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

Professor Thorpe and his team were commissioned to undertake a piece of research regarding the functioning of Blackburn with Darwen's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub in 2019. Recommendations from the findings of this research informed the development of a new multi agency approach and the development of CADS to determine whether children, young people and their families required a social work service. Appendix 1 details the background in more detail.

### **4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS**

Identifying key requirements on a statutory basis in the Children's Social Care Service to ensure the right children received the right level of intervention to meet their needs. A robust response to concerns about children's welfare or safeguarding is a key role of the Council and our Children's Services.

### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

We worked to ensure that our statutory obligations and statutory guidance was fulfilled, alongside key improvements in performance.

### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The reduction in case loads has supported quality offer to children and families. Retention of staff has improved. The number of children looked after has decreased. All of these actions have led to Children's Services utilising resources more effectively.

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

CADS offers a quality service for partner agencies and the public to ensure our statutory obligations are fulfilled.

## 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

We have strengthened the number of social workers at the front door to determine thresholds.

## 9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below.

Option 1  Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2  In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision.

Option 3  In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision.

## 10. CONSULTATIONS

Professor Thorpe's Team who conducted the research to inform new ways of working.

## 11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

## 12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

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<b>DATE:</b>	28 January 2021 v2
<b>BACKGROUND PAPER:</b>	