



Notes of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team)

18 October 2016

-: Present :-

Mayor Oliver and Councillors Excell, Haddock, Manning, Mills and Parrott

(Also in attendance: Councillors Barnby, Bent, Bye, Darling (S), Doggett, Morey, Stockman and Sykes)

1. Election of Chairman/woman

Councillor Mills was elected Chairman of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Amil and King.

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman/woman

Councillor Parrott was appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) for the ensuing Municipal Year.

4. Urgent Items

The Committee considered the items in Minute 10, and not included on the agenda, the Chairman being of the opinion that it was urgent by reason of special circumstances i.e. the matter having arisen since the agenda was prepared and it was unreasonable to delay a decision until the next meeting.

5. Children's Services Improvement Plan: Six Month Update

The Policy Development and Decision Group received an update on the Children's Services Improvement Plan. It was noted that the improvement plan had recently been refreshed to ensure a tight focus on the recommendations made by Ofsted and is subject to regular review.

Resolved:

That the progress set out in the Improvement Plan be noted.

6. Transforming Care Partnership and Integrated Personal Commissioning - UPDATE

The Policy Development and Decision Group received an update on Transforming Care Partnership and Integrated Personal Commissioning. It was noted both of these initiatives support delivery of the new model of care and are part of a range of new approaches encouraging a strength based approach to support service users and patients with self help and resilience.

Resolved:

That the submitted report be noted.

7. School Place Planning

The Group received a presentation on the future role of the Local Authority in School Place Planning.

8. Torbay's Strategy for Achieving Educational, Excellence Everywhere: Vision and Priorities 2016 - 2020

The Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) made the following recommendations to the Mayor:

- (i) that the Strategy for Educational Excellence Everywhere 2016/2020, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Mayor, Executive Member for Adults and Childrens and key stakeholders, be authorised to make any final changes to the Strategy; and
- (iii) that the Group receive regular updates on performance.

The Mayor considered the recommendation of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) set out above at the meeting and the record of his decision, together with further information is attached to these Minutes.

9. Annual Youth Justice Plan

The Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) made the following recommendations to the Mayor:

- (i) that the Youth Justice Plan 2016/2017, as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be approved; and
- (ii) that the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Mayor, Executive Lead for Adults and Children and statutory partners, be authorised to make any final changes to the Plan.

Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) Tuesday, 18 October

The Mayor considered the recommendation of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) set out above at the meeting and the record of his decision, together with further information is attached to these Minutes.

10. Torbay Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 2016/17

The Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) received the Torbay Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan for 2016-17. It was noted that the business plan had been developed and focussed on priorities in light of the Children's Services Ofsted inspection October 2015.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Minute Item 8

Record of Decision

Torbay's Strategy for Achieving Education, Excellence Everywhere: Vision and Priorities 2016-2020

Decision Taker

Mayor on 18 October 2016

Decision

- (i) that the Strategy for Educational Excellence Everywhere 2016/2020, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Mayor, Executive Member for Adult's and Children's and key stakeholders, be authorised to make any final changes to the Strategy; and
- (iii) that the Group receive regular updates on performance.

Reason for the Decision

The revised strategy sets out a vision for delivery of the Council's educational support services, within a new phase of reforms that will see a significant shift in its role and responsibilities.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Tuesday, 1 November 2016 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Torbay now has a diverse economy of educational providers across primary, secondary and post 16 phases, including maintained schools, academies, special, studio and grammar schools. Alongside the programme of structural reform that created academies, studio and free schools that are accountable to central rather than local government, there has been a sustained programme of qualification and curriculum reform.

In March 2016, the Department for Education set out its vision for further educational reforms which will require Torbay Council to refresh its own approach towards working with local schools to further improve outcomes for children and young people. More recently, the Government has announced its intention to allow the creation of more Grammar schools. Although the detail of the Government's proposal has yet to be published, Grammar schools are already a feature of the local offer and should not materially impact on the strategy.

The revised strategy sets out a vision for the delivery of the Council's educational support services within a significantly changed operating landscape. A copy of the strategy and associated action plan is attached in Appendix 1. The action plan will be populated in partnership with schools and key stakeholders to ensure a consistent and shared approach towards improvement activity.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The challenge for local authorities is that the reform programme has removed many of the levers to direct change whilst leaving the duties imposed unchanged. As a consequence, change can only be achieved through collaboration and brokerage within a complex network of provider and stakeholder relationships.

The revised strategy sets out a proactive approach that seeks to maximise our influence and involvement in the development of education provision within the context of national reform and legislative powers.

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes – Reference Number: I025080

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

Published

24 October 2016

Signed: _____
Mayor of Torbay

Date: 24 October 2016

Minute Item 9

Record of Decisions

Annual Youth Justice Plan

Decision Taker

Mayor on 18 October 2016

Decision

- (i) that the Youth Justice Plan 2016/17, as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted Report, be approved; and
- (ii) that the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Mayor, Executive Lead for Adults and Children and statutory partners, be authorised to make any final changes to the Plan.

Reason for the Decision

To meet the Council's statutory requirement.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Tuesday, 1 November 2016 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Torbay Youth Offending Service is performing well with low levels of re-offending and use of custody. Re-offending rates are the third lowest nationally and the fourteenth lowest for the rate of offences per offender. First time entrants have reduced further from 66 (2014/15) to 52 (2015/16) but remains close above the rate for the south west region and statistical comparators. One of the priorities for the 2016/17 plan is to sustain the downward trend.

The number of young offenders in Torbay reduced from 107 (2014/15) to 80 (2015/16) although the level of complexity and vulnerability increased. Essentially the service is working with a smaller cohort of young people who are more entrenched in their offending behaviour, which is often of a more serious nature. The area for action for 2016/17 acknowledges this change.

Funding for the service is provided by partner agencies, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and a central grant from the Youth Justice Board (YJB). There have been reductions in both local contributions and YJB grant for 2016/17 which has been offset to an extent by the use of slippage and an increase in the OPCC contribution. Work is underway with local partners to find a sustainable solution for 2017/18 onwards taking account of the outcome of a Ministry of Justice review of youth justice which will be known before the end of the year.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None – There is a statutory requirement placed on the Local Authority by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

Published

24 October 2016

Signed: _____
Mayor of Torbay

Date: 24 October 2016