



## **Minutes of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team)**

**21 February 2017**

**-: Present :-**

Mayor Oliver

Councillors Amil, Haddock, King, Manning, Mills and Parrott

(Also in attendance: Councillors Brooks, Cunningham, Lewis, Stringer and Stubley)

---

### **24. Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Excell.

### **25. Minutes**

The minutes of the Policy Development and Decision Group held on 23 January 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **26. Private Fostering and Adoption Overview Report**

The Director of Children's Services presented the submitted report which updated members on two areas of social care activity – private fostering and adoption. The Director of Children's Services explained circumstances where private fostering takes place within Torbay and that work to improve the Council's monitoring and oversight arrangements for private fostering would continue as part of the improvement work now underway to address the outcome of the Ofsted inspection.

The Director then went on to outline the annual report for adoption activity from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. It was noted that there wasn't any Councillor representation on the Adoption Panel.

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

- (i) that a Councillor be appointed to sit on the Adoption Panel;
- (ii) that the report be noted;
- (iii) that the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) receive updates on private fostering and adoption activity.

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 decision, together with further information is attached to these Minutes.

**27. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy 2016-20**

The Group considered the submitted report which set out a vision for how local services would develop in order to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable young people. The Head of Education and Learning advised members of the assessment process and professionals who evaluate the need for an Education, Health and Care Plans. The Head of Education and Learning went on to explain the support available if an applicant did not meet the threshold for the Care Plan, but required an element of additional support.

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

That the SEND Strategy 2016/20 attached at Appendix 1 be approved and that the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Member and key stakeholders, be authorised to make any final changes to the Strategy and provide regular updates on progress.

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 decision, together with further information is attached to these Minutes.

---

Chairman

## Record of Decisions

### Private Fostering and Adoption Overview Report

#### Decision Taker

The Mayor at the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) held on 21 February 2017

#### Decision

- (i) That a Councillor be appointed to sit on the Adoption Panel;
- (ii) that the report be noted; and
- (iii) that the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) receive updates on private fostering and adoption activity.

#### Reason for the Decision

To update members on two areas of social care activity – private fostering and adoption.

#### Implementation

The decision will come into force and may be implemented on 10 March 2017 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

The submitted report updated members on two areas of social care activity – private fostering and adoption. The Director of Children's Services explained circumstances where private fostering takes place within Torbay and that work to improve the Council's monitoring and oversight arrangements for private fostering would continue as part of the improvement work now underway to address the outcome of the Ofsted inspection.

The Director then went on to outline the annual report for adoption activity from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. At the meeting it was noted that there wasn't any Councillor representation on the Adoption Panel.

#### Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

#### 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**

2 March 2017

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor of Torbay

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Record of Decisions

### Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy 2016-20

#### Decision Taker

The Mayor at the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) held on 21 February 2017

#### Decision

That the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy 2016-20 set out in the submitted report be approved and that the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Lead for Adults and Children's Services and key stakeholders, be authorised to make any final changes to the Strategy and provide regular updates on progress.

#### Reason for the Decision

To ensure the requirements of The Children and Families Act 2014 are being met.

#### Implementation

The decision will come into force and may be implemented on 10 March 2017 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced the most significant changes in policy for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) for over 3 years and aimed to provide simpler, improved and more consistent help for children, young people and families. The new system extends the rights and protections to children and young people by introducing streamlined, integrated education, health and care plans, extending provision from birth to 25 years of age and strengthening co-production principles.

The revised Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Strategy 2016 – 2020 sets out a vision for how local services will develop, within a significantly changed operating landscape, in order to improve outcomes for some of our most vulnerable young people. A copy of the strategy and associated action plan is attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report. The action plan will be populated in partnership with local area stakeholders in order to ensure a consistent and shared approach towards delivery and service improvement.

#### Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

#### 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**

2 March 2017

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor of Torbay

Date: \_\_\_\_\_