



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

**5 November 2018**

**-: Present :-**

Councillor Mills (Chairman)

Elected Mayor Oliver and Councillors Amil, Ellery, Excell, Haddock, Parrott, Stockman and Stocks

(Also in attendance: Councillors Bye, Darling (S), Morey and Thomas (D))

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### **56. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) held on 1 October 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **57. Early Years Sufficiency Annual Report**

Members considered the submitted report on the Early Years Sufficiency Annual Report which provided an update on the sufficiency of places for childcare for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 – 14 years (or up to 18 years for disabled children). The report demonstrated that overall there were sufficient childcare places, although there was a need to increase capacity in some areas such as school holidays and longer daytime hours.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Elected Mayor be recommended to approve the Torbay Childcare Sufficiency Report (September 2018) set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report enabling its publication; and
- (ii) that the Policy Development Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) receive an update on progress of implementing the actions in the Torbay Childcare Sufficiency Report at a future meeting.

The Elected Mayor considered the recommendation set out in (i) above at the meeting and the record of decision, together with further information is attached to these Minutes.

### **58. Annual Adoption Report**

Members considered a report which provided an update on adoption social care activity between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018. It was noted that there

continues to be a sustained government focus upon adoption as part of permanence planning in order to secure better outcomes for children by increasing the choice of adopter, avoiding drift and delay and improving post adoption support.

Torbay has continued as an active member of Adopt South West (AdoptSW) with the focus of the last year being meeting the timescale of the transition to the Regional Adoption Agency, Adopt SW, for the 'go live' of 1 October 2018. Members noted that Alison Botham, Director of Children's Services, was a member of the Adopt South West Board and therefore provides a direct link to the Board from the Council.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Annual Adoption Report 2017/2018 set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be noted; and
- (ii) that the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) receive updates on progress at a future meeting as part of Member oversight of the establishment of the Regional Adoption Agency.

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Chairman

## Record of Decision

### Early Years Sufficiency Annual Report

#### Decision Taker

Elected Mayor on 05 November 2018

#### Decision

That the Torbay Childcare Sufficiency Report (September 2018) set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved, enabling its publication.

#### Reason for the Decision

The Childcare Sufficiency Report 2018 provides an overview of the local child care market, changes in the supply and demand for places and the actions necessary to ensure these are sufficient, accessible child care places in Torbay.

The Childcare Sufficiency Report 2018 takes into account significant changes in Government Policy including the ongoing expansion of Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) for disadvantaged two year olds and the extended entitlement (30 hours per week) for working parents of three and four year olds which came into effect from September 2017.

Following its approval, the Childcare Sufficiency Report 2018 will be published on the Council's website as well as providing the evidence base for the ongoing dialogue with providers, partners and stakeholders on the development of future capacity.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 16 November 2018 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### Information

The Childcare Act 2006 placed a duty on local authorities to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient childcare for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 – 14 years (or up to 18 years for disabled children).

As part of these duties, Torbay Council was required to report annually to Elected Members on the local arrangements to ensure those duties meet and ensure any report is available and accessible for parents.

The submitted Early Years Sufficiency Annual Report demonstrated that there were sufficient childcare places in Torbay to meet the statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of places for children entitled to a funded place. However, there was a need for growth to accommodate the growing numbers of young children in Torbay through increased birth rates and migration from other areas (5% of the Torbay population are aged under 5 years old and may require a childcare place). There was also a need to accommodate children aged under 2 who are not yet funded.

The Elected Mayor considered the recommendation of the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team) at the meeting on 5 November 2018 and his decision is set out above.

**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**

8 November 2018

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
The Elected Mayor of Torbay

Date: 8 November 2018