

## **CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 9 July 2019

### **Present:**

Councillor Nicky Dykes (Chairman)  
Councillor Judi Ellis (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Marina Ahmad, Yvonne Bear, Kevin Brooks,  
Hannah Gray and Neil Reddin FCCA

Joan McConnell  
Emmanuel Arbenser  
Angela Leeves and Ben McGowan

### **Also Present:**

Councillor Peter Fortune, Will Harmer and Chris Pierce

#### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Christine Harris, Revd. Roger Bristow, Mr David Hullah, and Mrs Michelle Fribbens.

#### **2 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS 2019/20 CSD19096**

The Committee considered a report which sought confirmation of the appointment of Co-opted members to the Children, Education and Families PDS Committee for 2019/20.

### **RESOLVED: That**

- 1. The following Parent Governor Representative appointments be made to the Children, Education & Families PDS Committee for 2019/20 with voting rights:**
  - Emmanuel Arbenser, Special School Parent Governor
  - Michelle Fribbens, Primary School Parent Governor
  - David Hullah, Secondary School Parent Governor
- 2. Reverend Roger Bristow representing the Church of England and Mrs Joan McConnell representing the Roman Catholic Church be appointed as Co-opted Members to the Children, Education & Families PDS Committee for 2019/20 with voting rights;**

**3. The following Co-opted Membership appointments be made to the Children, Education & Families PDS Committee for 2019/20 without voting rights:**

- **Mrs Angela Leeves as Early Years Representative**
- **Mr Ben McGowan as Young Peoples Representative**

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Yvonne Bear declared that she was a Governor at Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust.

Councillor Kevin Brooks declared that he worked for Bromley MIND, based at Oxleas.

Councillor Marina Ahmad declared that her husband worked for Bromley Healthcare.

Mrs Joan McConnell declared that she was Vice-Chairman of the Governing Body at St Joseph's Primary School.

Councillor Peter Fortune declared that his wife was a teacher at a school in the Borough and a moderator.

In respect of Minute 17c, Councillor Neil Reddin declared that he had a client who delivered SEN Transport in the Borough.

**4 MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION, CHILDREN & FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 13 MARCH 2019 AND 8TH MAY 2019**

The minutes of the Education, Children and Families Select Committee meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019, and 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019, were agreed, and signed as a correct record.

**5 QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING**

No questions were received.

**6 MATTERS OUTSTANDING AND WORK PROGRAMME Report CSD19114**

The Committee considered a report setting out matters outstanding from previous meetings and the proposed work plan for 2019/20.

The Committee noted that Scrutiny of the Director of Children's Social Care had been added to the Work Programme for the January meeting.

During the course of the meeting the following additional items were requested for the Work Programme:

- Sufficiency of childcare places (meeting to be confirmed)
- Narrowing the Educational Gap Update (October 2019)
- Children's Speech and Language Therapy Update – Information Item (October 2019)
- Children Missing Out on Education (meeting to be confirmed)

**RESOLVED: that**

- 1. Progress on matters outstanding from previous meetings be noted; and**
- 2. The Work Programme for 2019/20 be noted.**

**7 QUESTIONS TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING**

There were no questions.

**8 PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE**

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families, Cllr Peter Fortune, attended the meeting to respond to questions from the Committee. The Portfolio Holder gave a brief introduction highlighting the following issues:-

- The Corporate Parenting Board was now working more effectively, strengthened by the clearer work programmes for partners.
- Post-Ofsted, work was being undertaken to ensure that improvements were sustainable and the services provided were ambitious for children.
- The Adult Education service was now rated Good by Ofsted and a celebration event had recently been held.
- Good progress was being made in a number of service areas: the Youth Offending Service, Adult Education, and Children's Services.
- The Portfolio Holder had undertaken a number of visits to schools across the Borough, including a recent trip to Darrick Wood with the Director of Education.
- Bromley had once again performed well in the London Youth Games.
- The Portfolio Holder highlighted that the Annual Corporate Parenting Fun Day was due to take place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

Cllr Fortune then responded to questions making the following comments:-

- A Bromley delegation had attending a meeting with Nick Gibb (Schools Minister) regarding lagged funding. At the meeting the delegation had also taken the opportunity to raise concerns surrounding high needs funding. It was essential to work with schools and the whole school system to highlight the impact of this lack of funding.
- There was no deliberate delay in releasing high needs funding where a need had been identified. There was a 20 week statutory assessment process and during this time there were a number of steps that needed to be taken to ensure that a child's needs were accurately identified and appropriate support put in place. Where a quick release of additional funding was required and a need had been identified "Pupil Resource Agreements" could be put in place. Officers were currently reviewing the process to identify where improvements could be made.
- As far as the Portfolio Holder was aware Buller's Wood School for Boys was on course. Nothing had been highlighted by the DfE
- The planning application for the Aeronautical College at Biggin was due to be considered by the Development Control Committee in July. The Portfolio Holder reminded members that this was an FE college and outside of the Departments responsibility. The matter was with the Planning Department.
- The decision to withdraw from the pan-London agreement in relation to unaccompanied asylum seeking children was a collective decision taken within the leading group. There was no requirement for the decision to be considered at a scrutiny committee as the original arrangement was voluntary and Bromley had met its original commitment.
- In relation to the Council-wide Transformation Programme; this represented a corporate shift in the way the business of the local authority was delivered. There were well reported and documented challenges on the horizon in terms of local government funding. For the Children, Education and Families Portfolio the particular challenges included: placements, SEN Transport, and staff retention. Work was ongoing and the Council was currently three months into its 4 year transformation programme, a needs-led, holistic approach to service redesign across the Council. A project officer had now been secured and regular updates would be provided to the Committee as work progressed. The Portfolio Holder stressed that any service redesign needed to be deeply and professionally thought through and the wider impact of any changes given due consideration. Going forward there would be less focus on silo working.

The Committee thanked the Portfolio Holder for the update.

**9 CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO PLAN  
UPDATE  
Report ECHS19062**

The Committee considered a report presenting the 6-monthly update of the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan 2018-22.

The Plan focussed on four priority outcomes: Safeguarding, Life chances, resilience and wellbeing, Implement the SEND reforms, and Ensuring efficiency and effectiveness.

Members noted that key achievements of the 2018 to 2022 Portfolio Plan for the second half of 2018/19 were:

Priority 1 – Safeguarding:

- The Bromley Safeguarding Children Board held a successful conference during the autumn 2018 providing training and greater awareness of safeguarding issues in Bromley.
- The first annual Children's Social Care Conference, held in October 2018, focussed on social work values and practice including safeguarding. The second annual conference was planned for October 2019.
- The Children's Performance Framework was now embedded with associated weekly, monthly and annual reports and analysis provided; The monthly Performance Digests for Children's Social Care and Education had been refreshed.

Priority 2 – Life chances, resilience and wellbeing:

- A new school improvement strategy was presented to maintained schools on 29 April 2019.
- Work to close the achievement and progress gap continued with the Improving Outcomes for Bromley's Disadvantaged Pupils Conference and recruitment to the Closing the Gap project. A Summer conference on reciprocal reading was planned for July 2019
- Commissioning of complementary vocational alternative provision offer was underway, using a £250k p.a. pump prime investment
- There had been 1 permanent exclusion from primary schools in 2018/19 year to date.

Priority 3 – Implement the SEND Reforms:

- 7 Primary Specialist Leaders in Education had been recruited, training had taken place and they were ready to commence delivery in schools to model effective practice in supporting pupils who had SEND.
- Establishing Service Level Agreements with all mainstream schools with additionally resourced provision.

- The SEN Statutory Assessment Team had been restructured with case allocations realigned providing a far greater emphasis on placing children and young people at the centre.
- A Group Leader had been appointed to lead the SEN Advisory Teams, bringing together expertise and a much stronger offer of support to schools and settings across the continuum of provision and age range (0-25yrs).
- A Quality Assurance and Improvement Lead (QAIL) was being appointed to drive the improvements in working practices, quality and timeliness of the statutory process.
- The extended 2019-22 strategy was being drafted for implementation in September 2019
- An Expression of Interest had been successful to establish a new primary Free Special School for children who had ASD with a profile of more complex needs. Phase 2 was underway and the school was likely to open in September 2020.

Priority 4 – Ensuring efficiency and effectiveness:

- User Voice Framework launched in October 2018 continued to help improve how the department collated and used feedback from residents and service users, with associated guidance and best practice being rolled out.

In response to a question concerning the impact of moving to temporary accommodation on levels of school attendance, the Director of Children's Social Care confirmed that issues were managed on a case by case basis. Issues centred on the size of families and the availability of suitable property but families were always located as near as possible. The Director of Education noted that families could not be forced to move their children to a different, more local, school when they were placed in temporary accommodation. Whilst the Local Authority had a duty of care, Officers would seek to work with and support families. Ultimately it was a decision for individual families who may want some continuity in their child's life and for their child to maintain existing friendship groups and support networks. The Director of Education confirmed that Education Welfare Officers would always follow up where concerns about individual attendance had been raised.

The Chairman noted that in the past the Committee had received a report concerning the sufficiency of childcare places across the Borough. It was agreed that this should be added to the work programme.

In response to a question, the Director of Education confirmed that ensuring that there was sufficient local provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) was inherent in all the work undertaken by his department. Over the previous few months there had been a drive in terms of engagement and this work had resulted in the development of an engagement strategy. In terms of sufficiency, the application for a new free

school in the Borough had been approved and in-depth work had begun. A further needs analysis would be conducted and work to deliver additional secondary places had been factored into the departmental work plan for the year. The Director of Education confirmed that parental engagement would be part of the process.

The Committee requested that an update on narrowing the educational gap be presented to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED: That progress on the actions associated with the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan 2018/22 for the second half of 2018/19 be noted.**

**10 PRE DECISION SCRUTINY OF DECISIONS FOR THE CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

The Committee considered the following reports where the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Holder was recommended to take a decision.

**A PROVISIONAL OUTTURN REPORT 2018/19  
Report FSD19051**

The Committee considered a report providing the provisional outturn for 2018/19.

Members noted the latest projected overspend of £3,192,000 on controllable expenditure at the end of 2018/19. The Head of ECHS Finance reported that the vast majority of the overspend would be managed through growth built into the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

In response to a question concerning underspends arising from vacant positions, the Head of ECHS confirmed that vacancies were being advertised and that the underspends arose as a result of elements of delay in parts of the recruitment process.

Members welcomed the increased usage of the Children's Centres and the increased income being generated.

**RESOLVED: That the Portfolio Holder be recommended to endorse the 2018/19 provisional outturn position for the Education, Children and Families Portfolio.**

**B BUDGET MONITORING 2019/20  
Report ECHS19052**

The Committee considered the budget monitoring position for 2019/20 based on activity up to the end of May 2019.

Overall the position for Education was a predicted £155k underspend. This was due in the main to vacant posts and additional income expected to be collected in SEN Transport.

The Children's Social Care division was currently overspending by £1,478k (net of management action of £186k). For the budget in 2019/20 growth was given in the budget of £4,049k. This was partially offset by agreed mitigating management actions of £900k, leaving a net budget increase of £3,149k. The management actions had not all been found in year as yet but it was assumed that further sums would be found this financial year. The figures also included the contribution from Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) of £1.9m for 2019/20. Officers had negotiated an increase of £900k over the previous 2018/19 contribution rate.

Members noted that the main budgetary pressures in Children's Social Care were: agency costs (£800k); placements (£250k); and direct payments for children with disabilities (£400k) relating to 4 families who would otherwise have required high cost residential placements.

In terms of delivering the £900k management action, the Committee noted that the service was currently approximately £186k short. Specialist internal foster carers were being trained for more complex cases in order to avoid high cost residential placements and, more importantly, to provide a more appropriate placement for children. The Portfolio Holder highlighted to the Committee the specific challenges and difficulties around securing placements and the constant determination shown by social workers to secure the best placements for children.

Members expressed concern about the overspend which had been a regular occurrence in recent years. In relation to what appeared to be an emerging trend of the number of children in care being above projected numbers, a Member requested that the Committee be provided with the actual figures for the past five years compared to the projected numbers for the past five years in order to provide reassurance that numbers were not being artificially depressed and that budgets were realistic. The Director of Children's Social Care reported improvements had been made in the accuracy of predicting numbers of children coming into care and data was being more effectively scrutinised. Work was being done to permanency plan for children at an earlier stage however, Children's Social Care was a needs-led service and children had differing levels of complexity.

**ACTION: That the Committee be provided with the actual figures for the number of children coming into the Council's care for the past five years compared to the projected numbers for the past five years in order to provide reassurance that numbers are not being artificially depressed and that budgets are realistic.**

A Member stressed the need for council departments to work together to ensure that all available grant money was spent on adapting homes to enable children to remain in a home environment. The Director of Children's Social



Care confirmed that an Occupational Therapy Service was now based in Children's Social Care and the grant was being used appropriately.. Through collaboration with the Housing Department a creative approach was also being taken to adapting homes to enable children to remain in the same home into adulthood.

In response to a question, the Director of Children's Social Care highlighted that levels of staffing were fluid. A huge recruitment drive had been undertaken and at the time of the Ofsted inspection earlier in the year 80-85% of staff were permanent. For a number of reasons this had recently fallen to 75% however there were a number of new staff who were due to join the Council. Exit interviews were conducted with staff to understand their reasons for leaving. Members were reminded of the challenges around recruitment and the relatively small pool of qualified children's social workers across London. Work was being undertaken to attract staff from outside London however there remained stiff competition and whilst the Council's Caseload Promise helped neighbouring Local Authorities were offering attractive salaries to attract new social workers. The need to ensure that the Council had the right skill mix was also highlighted. The Director of Children's Social Care also emphasised that the Service was growing and developing its internal talent.

**RESOLVED: That the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:**

- 1. Note that the latest projected overspend of £1,323,000 is forecast on the controllable budget, based on information as at May 2019; and**
- 2. Agree to the release of the carry forward funding as set out in section 5 of the report.**

## **11 PRE DECISION SCRUTINY OF EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

### **A CHILDREN'S SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY: BETTER CARE FUND AND FUTURE FUNDING STRATEGY Report ECHS19**

The Committee considered a report presenting the outcome of a review of Speech and Language Therapy for children and young people in Bromley including the implications of the recent Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) analysis undertaken by Public Health and recommendations for a re-designed and sustainable service.

Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) for children and young people in Bromley was primarily provided by Bromley Healthcare (BHC) through a contract held by NHS Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG), jointly commissioned with the Council. On 12th September 2018 an Executive report was agreed by Members requesting additional 'one-off' funding from the Better Care Fund for the SLT service. Subsequently, commissioners from

the London Borough of Bromley (LBB) and NHS Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) conducted a review of the service.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Integrated Strategic Commissioner confirmed that there would be improved, more positive communication with parents as a result of better availability of services such as the drop in sessions at Children's Centres. In relation to ensuring the quality of provision at the Children's Centre drop in sessions, the Integrated Strategic Commissioner confirmed that the delivery of the service would be monitored in order to ensure that standards were maintained.

The Chairman requested that the Committee be kept updated on progress at a timely point.

**ACTION: that the Committee be kept updated on progress at a timely point.**

**RESOLVED: That the Part 1 report be noted.**

**B AUTHORISATION FOR EXEMPTION TO AWARD A FURTHER  
INTERIM CONTRACT FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING SERVICE  
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND FUTURE  
PROCUREMENT OPTIONS  
Report ECHS19067**

The Committee considered a report setting out the proposed joint response to changes in policy landscape in relation to the plan, proposed in the 16 January 2019 Executive report, to jointly commission a new service that incorporated both the community wellbeing and specialist clinical CAMHS services currently commissioned in Bromley.

The contract for the Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Service had been held by Bromley Y since 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 following a competitive tender process for a three year contract with the option to extend for a further two years. The two year extension option was applied. On 16 January 2019 Executive approval was granted to extend the contract term further, via an exemption, from 1 December 2019 to 31 May 2020.

The contract, held by the Council, worked alongside the local clinical and community mental health services for children and young people commissioned and procured by Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG), delivered primarily by NHS Oxleas but also by Bromley Y. The services commissioned by the Council and BCCG provided a pathway for children and young people's mental health support in the Borough.

On 7 January 2019, the NHS long-term plan (NHS LTP) was published, setting out key ambitions for the NHS over the next 10 years. Among the policy directives revealed in the LTP were: the intention for partnerships of commissioners and providers to lead Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs) and

a reduced necessity for market testing and competitive procurement in favour of collaborative work such as alliances and other partnerships. In light of these significant changes in national policy, BCCG have confirmed to the London Borough of Bromley (LBB) that there will no longer be circumstances in the near term in which they would wish to re-procure the NHS Oxleas contract, including the Children and Adolescent Mental Health service (CAMHs).

A Member noted that whilst the contract with Bromley Y had been very successful there was still a gap of a minimum of 6 weeks if children needed intervention. The Member stressed that there needed to be a focus on closing this gap as any child experiencing severe mental health difficulties required support and gaps in the provision of support could have a negative impact.

**RESOLVED: That the Executive be recommended to:**

- 1. Agree the award of a further short term contract to Bromley Y, via an exemption to competitive tendering, for ten months from 1 June 2020 to 31 March 2021. This will ensure sufficient time for a successful tender process and adequate time for the production of a new service specification, while maintaining continuity of service and support to vulnerable young people. It will also avoid the disruption of the NHS England funded Trailblazer which is currently due to finish in March 2021.**
- 2. Agree the proposal for proceeding to procurement of an integrated Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Service (Tier 1 & 2 only) with an initial contract term of five years, with two options to extend for two periods of up to two years each, making a total potential contract term of nine years. The contract will be procured with funding from both BCCG and LBB.**
- 3. Note that BCCG have given a commitment to provide resources to support the procurement and contract management of the Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Service, as well as the transfer of core costs and NHS England Trailblazer funds to LBB in a joint funding agreement in accordance with Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006.**

## **12 SCRUTINY OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

The Director of Education gave a brief introduction highlighting the following points:-

- The Department was divided into four service areas: Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND); Early Years, School Standards and Adult Education; School Place Planning; and Access and Inclusion.

- Whilst the majority of schools in Bromley had converted to academy status the Local Authority continued to retain a number of key statutory duties including amongst others: SEND; attendance and inclusion; and place planning. Bromley schools were open to working in partnership with the Local Authority. There remained some areas of partnership working that required further improvement – such as cross phase collaboration – but positive steps were being taken.
- The standard of education across Bromley was exceptionally high although bridging the gaps in educational attainment continued to be a key focus.
- As a Local Authority, Bromley continued to perform well with the allocation of school places.
- The Local Authority worked well with early years providers and there would continue to be a focus on the key point of transition into primary school.
- Since taking up post at the beginning of the year, the Director had looked to improve communication with schools: a revamped schools circular had been launched and work was underway on developing an education specific website.
- SEND Reforms continued to be a high priority for the Directorate. The service was due a local area inspection jointly led by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The SEND Governance Board was responsible for overseeing delivery of the projects and to this end a three year action plan had been developed which would result in the delivery of some exciting new initiatives. Whilst there were significant increases in the level of demand for SEND Services, this was a national challenge not unique to Bromley.
- The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Trailblazer was in roll-out phase with work starting in earnest in September 2019, when a learning and leadership event would be held.
- A review of services for pupils at risk of exclusion was ongoing. There had been a fall in levels of primary exclusions and similar results were now needed in secondary.
- Elective Home Education was monitored on a monthly basis and the DfE's next steps in terms of legislating for compulsory registration, something supported by the majority of Local Authorities, were awaited.

The Director then responded to the following questions making the following comments:

- There was no direct causal link between acadamisation and a rise in rates of exclusion. Reducing levels of exclusion was dependant on ensuring that there was support available in terms of suitable alternatives. The Local Authority worked with schools to ensure that support and appropriate provision was in place. If any concerns did arise in terms of a particular school or Trust having unusually high rates of exclusion these would be followed up with the appropriate bodies: the DfE, Regional Schools Commissioner, and Ofsted.

- In terms of appropriate safeguarding measures for children who are electively home educated: any newly home educated children would receive a home visit to ensure that suitable education provision is in place. Any concerns that may arise would be followed up with an appropriate referral. There were limitations to the Local Authority's powers to intervene and currently there was no legal requirement to register their children as electively home educated. Such a system of registration would provide an additional element of protection.
- Children that were missing out on education were closely monitored through monthly reports reviewed by the Director of Education to ensure that an appropriate offer of education for every single child. The Committee requested that a summary level report be provided to the Committee concerning children missing out on education for more than three months over the previous 12 months.
- In terms of effective place planning, the Director confirmed that the Local Authority had effective professional dialogue with the agencies it needed to work with to deliver its statutory responsibilities for the sufficiency of school places.
- There was engagement with businesses through the Bromley Business Partnership. Apprenticeship and Work Experience opportunities were identified through the partnership. In addition, the Youth Employment Scheme was undergoing a review.

### **13 YOS UPDATE** **Report ECHS19064**

The Committee considered an update on the work and strategic priorities of the Youth Offending Service including progress achieved in reducing offending. The report also provided highlights of the planned work for the year ahead.

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) was a statutory service created under the auspice of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The service worked with young people aged 10-17 years old and provided assessments, intervention and support to children and young people who committed offences as well as support to their families and victims of crime. Members noted that the YOS Governance Board had been strengthened and included a range of partners. A new inspection framework was in place and as a result of this when the Service received the inspection that it was due it would be difficult to compare the outcome with the previous inspection.

In response to a question, the Head of the Youth Offending Service reported that parenting assessments were undertaken for all young people who entered the Service. The aim was to get parents to work with the Service voluntarily rather than going down the route of parenting orders. A lot of good work was delivered in relation to supporting parents and families and the impact of this work could be analysed.

Members expressed concern that the report lacked information regarding the performance of the Service in relation to the Inspection Framework.

The Committee noted that a series of Practice Assurance Stocktakes (PAS) would be undertaken across the Service in readiness for the impending inspection. The PAS would be based on the new inspection methodology. It was agreed that the outcome of the PAS would be presented to the Committee when available.

**ACTION: That the Committee be presented with Practice Assurance Stocktakes for the YOS to enable Members to clearly assess performance and have visibility that the service is performing well against the inspection framework.**

The Chairman also raised concerns that relationships with local businesses could be further improved. This was an area that the Committee would review further at a future meeting. The Director of Children's Social Care reported that work to strengthen the Youth Employment Service was ongoing.

**ACTION: That the Committee further review the relationships that exist with local businesses and be provided with an update on the ongoing work to strengthen the Youth Employment Service.**

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

#### **14 CONTRACTS REGISTER AND DATABASE Report ECHS19065**

The Committee considered an extract from the March 2019 Contracts Register for detailed scrutiny. Members noted that the Contracts Register contained within Part 2 of the agenda contained a detailed commentary on each contract.

It was noted that no contracts were flagged for concern.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

#### **15 QUESTIONS ON THE CHILDREN EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS INFORMATION BRIEFING**

The Children, Education and Families PDS Information Briefing comprised three reports:

- Children, Education and Families Risk Register
- Basic Need Update
- Spending on Primary, Secondary and Special Schools 2018/19

#### **16 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006, AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

**RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the items of business listed below as it was likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if**

**members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.**

**The following summaries  
refer to matters involving exempt information**

**17 PRE DECISION SCRUTINY OF PART 2 (EXEMPT) EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

The Committee considered the following reports on the Part 2 agenda for the meeting of the Executive on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019:

**A CHILDREN'S SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY: BETTER CARE FUND AND FUTURE FUNDING STRATEGY  
Report ECHS19066**

The Committee considered the report and supported the recommendations.

**B AWARD OF RE-TENDERED CONTRACT FOR PHASE 2 WORKS & EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION AT STEWART FLEMING PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Report ECHS19055**

The Committee considered the report and supported the recommendations.

**C TRANSPORT GATEWAY REVIEW  
Report ECHS19041**

The Committee considered the report and supported the recommendations.

**D AUTHORISATION FOR EXEMPTION TO AWARD A FURTHER INTERIM CONTRACT FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND FUTURE PROCUREMENT OPTIONS  
Report ECHS19067**

The Committee considered the report and supported the recommendations.

**18 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT 2018/19 Q.4**

The Committee considered the regular update on the performance of services for children noting the outturn of key performance indicators.

In order to manage expectation, a Member suggested that it may be helpful to include a column which indicates the expected timescale for moving indicators to Green. The Assistant Director for Strategy, Performance and Engagement suggested that whilst there were some indicators where this would be possible it would not work for all indicators. It was agreed that Officers would give further consideration to how this could be achieved and whether any additional narrative could be included in the report.

**ACTION:** That Officers give further consideration to additions that could be made to the narratives to reflect the anticipated timescales for moving indicators to Green where appropriate.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

The Meeting ended at 9.45 pm

Chairman