

EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

Minutes of the meeting held at 5.00 pm on 24 April 2014

Present:

Councillor Stephen Wells (Chairman)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP, Chairman, Education PDS Committee.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING

No questions had been received.

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st August 2013 be agreed.

5 PROPOSED ASSIMILATION OF RESPITE AND THE BEHAVIOUR SERVICE INTO KINGSWOOD AND GROVELANDS PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT

The Portfolio Holder considered a report outlining the outcome of the consultation recently undertaken on the proposed assimilation of Respite and the Behaviour Service into Kingswood and Grovelands Pupil Referral Unit.

In September 2013, an Interim Executive Board was established to replace the management committee of the Bromley Pupil Referral Unit after a number of concerns were identified following a review of the provision. In December 2013, the Secretary of State for Education granted an academy order for the Bromley Pupil Referral Unit to become an alternative provision academy under the sponsorship of Bromley College of Further and Higher Education. Due diligence processes were now underway, and it was expected that the Bromley Alternative Provision Academy would open in September 2014.

The Behaviour Service was formed of a range of services which comprised the Home and Hospital Tuition Service (this service was included within the bundle of services to be market tested), the Respite Service, the Primary Behaviour Service and a management and administrative function. The

Respite Service offered a preventative function that worked with young people identified as having difficulty in managing their behaviour within mainstream school, and was judged by schools that commissioned places as being an effective service. The Primary Behaviour Service offered in-school support to Local Authority Maintained primary schools on behavioural issues.

It was proposed to assimilate the Respite Service into the Bromley Pupil Referral Unit to allow the Bromley Alternative Provision Academy, upon conversion, to become a hub for behaviour support services in Bromley and better support the full continuum of behaviour needs at an earlier stage, supporting more young people to remain in a mainstream setting. It was also proposed to relocate the Primary Behaviour Service, currently based at Bromley Civic Centre, to Grovelands (one of the two Bromley Pupil Referral Unit sites). This would encourage greater integration between the two services with the intention that the Local Authority would commission, upon conversion, the Bromley Alternative Provision Academy to deliver this service. It was expected that the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) would apply for any affected staff under such an arrangement.

A consultation had been undertaken on these proposals which included group and individual meetings with affected staff, a consultation paper distributed to stakeholders across the Borough, and consideration of the proposals by Members of the Education PDS Committee at its meeting on 18th March 2014. The consultation closed on 11th April 2014 and, following consideration of the responses, a number of amendments had been made to the proposal (subject to approval) which included moving the implementation date back to July 2014.

Cost implications for recharges of approximately £133k to the Local Authority had been identified, should the functions of Respite and Primary Behaviour Support services be integrated with the proposed Bromley Alternative Provision Academy, as Dedicated School Grant would no longer be used to contribute to the overheads and support costs of delivering these services in-house. The Education Budget Sub-Committee had considered the cost implications of any reorganisation of these services at its meeting on 8th April 2014, and had requested the Council's Executive consider how the recharge position should be managed, should the proposed reorganisation of these services be agreed.

In considering the report, the Portfolio Holder noted the consultation responses received. A range of concerns had been raised on the proposal, including the move of the Respite Service to the Kingswood site, and how the Respite Service would continue to be delivered into the future. The consultation had highlighted that the Respite Service was highly valued by Bromley schools, and the Portfolio Holder underlined the importance of ensuring that the Respite Service continued to deliver a high quality service which supported young people at Bromley schools to remain in mainstream education. The proposed assimilation would support a more joined-up provision to meet the full continuum of behaviour needs at an earlier stage,

and the Portfolio Holder noted that a combined service could also provide staff with wider opportunities for continuous professional development.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The responses provided to the consultation on the assimilation of the Respite Service with Kingswood and Grovelands Pupil Referral Unit be noted;**
- 2) Amendments to the assimilation process made following careful consideration of the consultation responses be noted;**
- 3) Cost implications arising from the proposal and the need for a decision to be made about how the budget shortfall would be funded corporately be noted;**
- 4) The proposed assimilation of the Respite Service with Kingswood and Grovelands Pupil Referral Unit (in advance of the planned Academy conversion under the sponsorship of Bromley College of Further and Higher Education) be agreed; and,**
- 5) The Chief Executive, Executive Director of Education, Care and Health Services and Director of Human Resources ensure that the staffing implications of the transition are managed in accordance with the Council's established policies and procedures.**

The Meeting ended at 5.12 pm

Chairman