

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**21 MARCH 2013**

### **PRESENT**

Councillor B. Shaw (In the Chair),  
Councillors Bowker, Mrs Dixon, Higgins, Reilly, D. Western and Lloyd (ex officio  
Member of the Committee).

#### In Attendance

Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services (Deborah Brownlee)  
Joint Director, Services for Children, Young People and Families (Strategic and  
Professional Lead for Healthcare) (Carol Baker Longshaw)  
Troubled Families Co-ordinator (Jenny Hunt)  
Acting Director of Legal and Democratic Services (Jane Le Fevre)  
Democratic Services Manager (Peter Forrester)

Also present: Councillors Blackburn, Ross and Walsh

### **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adshead, Candish, Chilton,  
Cordingley and Duffield.

### **29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of Personal Interests were reported to the meeting:

Councillor Bowker in relation to his involvement at Broomwood Children's Centre.  
Councillor Ross in relation to his involvement at Stretford, Gorse Hill and Lostock  
Children's Centre (as he had been invited to speak at the meeting)

RESOLVED: That the Declarations of Interest made to the meeting be noted.

### **30. CALL IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION: E/4.03.13-5 - CHILDREN'S CENTRES**

The Committee had been called to consider a call in of Executive decision number  
E/4.03.13-5 in respect of Children's Centres which had been considered at a  
meeting on 4th March 2013.

The call-in had been submitted by Councillors Adshead, Cordingley, Duffield,  
Lloyd and D. Western and was based around inaccurate information, inadequate  
consultation, alternative options not being given sufficient consideration and  
insufficient information being given. The Chairman had permitted consideration of  
the request to explore the issues raised about inaccurate information and  
insufficient information.

The Chairman set out the scope of the proceedings and the options available to  
the Committee. The Committee could request that the Executive give further  
consideration to its decision, but could not overturn the decision.

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The Committee had received the initial report and supporting documentation to the Executive, the decision notice, call-in proforma and a supplementary report from the Executive Member for Supporting Children and Families. The report set out a detailed response to the points set out in the call-in request. The Executive Member for Supporting Children and Families, Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Service and Officers from the Directorate were in attendance to respond to the Committee's enquiries.

Councillor Ross, as Shadow Executive Member for Children and Families, was invited to expand on the reasons for call-in and explain why he considered that the Executive should be requested to reconsider its decision.

The Committee asked a number of questions about the proposed changes to the services including the use of volunteers, the range of services to be provided and the location of services. The Executive Member and Officers responded to the questions. They stated that volunteers would be given a high level of support and indicated that whilst the current range of services could no longer be provided, they would be focused on the needs of the most vulnerable children and families. Services would be developed in light of user needs and it was difficult to be specific about their range and location at the current time.

The Scrutiny Committee were also concerned about ensuring that the reconfigured services met their objectives. They were reminded that the Executive had committed to making regular reports on progress to Scrutiny Committee as part of their response to the budget scrutiny report.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee were requested to decide on whether, in light of the information set out in the report and the discussion at the meeting, the decision should be referred back to the Executive for further consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Committee feel that the concerns raised in the call-in request have been adequately dealt with and that no further action be taken.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and finished at 7.40 pm