

Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel – 9th January 2015 - AGENDA ITEM 8

Response of the Executive Members to the Recommendations of the Respite Care and Short Breaks Working Group

The Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel on 15th November 2013 made recommendations to Councillor Jeremy Blatchford as Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services following the Panel's consideration of the report of the Respite Care and Short Breaks Working Group

"Minute CAY 15 - Report of the Respite Care and Short Breaks Working Group

The Panel and the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services complimented the working group on their thorough investigation and for producing an excellent report. The involvement of, and consultation with parents and carers was particularly highlighted.

Councillor Kemp, Lead Member of the Working Group expressed thanks for the support provided and the work carried out by Gail Smith, Strategic Commissioning Officer and Mike Newman, Strategic Commissioning Team Leader. The cross-cutting issue of the wider transition to adulthood would be taken up by the Life Course (Cradle to Grave) Working Group.

Concluded:

(1) that the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services be recommended to endorse the process for extending the current NCH contract for one year, on the basis that this will allow North Somerset to develop an innovative, effective and cost efficient new service which will be exposed to the wider market of care providers;

(2) that the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services be recommended to support the development of a 14-25 service which will provide more effective transitional arrangements between children's and adults' services, will promote individuals' journey towards independence, and which will make the best use of existing council assets and buildings;

(3) that the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services be requested to recognise the efforts of the Respite Care and Short Breaks Working Group to see the service as part of a wider transition to adulthood, including the need to work closely with Adult Services; and that arising from this, he agrees to the monitoring of the continued development of the 14-25 service;

(4) that the officers be recommended to present this report to the Joint Commissioning Group (under the auspices of the People and Communities Board) as part of the governance/decision making process.”.

The response is as follows-

1. In reviewing the report of the working group, I note particularly the excellent engagement with parents and carers, and their continued involvement with developing this service. Given the importance of providing stability and continuity while we make these changes, and mindful of the positive approach by the current provider to seeking a more efficient provision, I have supported this recommendation by approving the direct award of the interim service to the current provider (*Decision 14/15 P&C44, signed on 18th November 2014 refers*).

2. I recognise that work continues on developing and designing this service, and the ongoing involvement of service users in this work which is very positive. I also note that there is an emerging theme in recent work around providing continuity of support to young people and their families during the transition to adulthood, with a focus on achieving optimum independence. The new service supports the changing statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014, and thus I fully support this work.

3. I will continue to monitor and support the work in developing the 14-25 Service, and will ensure that links are made with the Executive Member for Adult Care to facilitate closer working across the age range.

Councillor Jeremy Blatchford
Executive Member for Children and Young People’s Services