

CABINET – 24 MAY 2016

Comments from the Performance Scrutiny Committee On Support for Continuing Delivery of Early Intervention Services (Future Arrangements for Children’s Social Care)

Background

At its meeting today the Performance Scrutiny Committee considered the report before Cabinet at Agenda Item 6 that set out proposals on support for continuing delivery of early intervention services.

The comments below are presented to Cabinet in order that they can be taken into consideration in Cabinet’s discussion and decision.

- 1) The Committee considered a number of issues connected to provision in rural areas. They highlighted the roles of the mobile bus service, libraries and the local & community support teams.
 - Members supported efforts already underway to investigate opportunities provided by the integrated supported transport project;
 - In response to concerns raised about the use of library staff to provide support currently available in children’s centres the Committee noted that this was part of an ongoing conversation and would necessitate appropriate support and training;
- 2) The Local & Community Support Staff would be key in implementing the proposals successfully as they would be vital in taking forward the current conversations with the 42 community led centres and the libraries.
- 3) The Committee considered the issue of stigma and noted that the proposals included plans for some universal access to continue in Council run facilities but also through community led provision in the outreach centres and where available in community led centres. Again the conversation with the community and community engagement were vital. Officers responded positively to the need for local advisory groups to continue.
- 4) Health provision including midwifery, post natal sessions and health visitors was an important aspect that could be provided in any facility and would avoid the possibility of perceived stigma.
- 5) Concerns were raised about the additional spending on the two new shared centres and the need to be very clear about the additional benefit they added in areas that already had provision.
- 6) Monitoring of these proposals as they developed should be undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee.
- 7) There was an unsuccessful suggestion that £0.5m be taken out of the proposals and shared among the children’s centres.