

ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
13 DECEMBER 2016

Present: Councillor McElligott (Chair)
Councillors Eden, D Edwards, Ennis, Gavin, Hoskin, Jones, Livingston, McKenna, Pearce, Robinson, Stanford-Beale, Vickers and J Williams.

Apologies: Councillor O'Connell.

35. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

36. MINUTES OF OTHER BODIES

The Minutes of the following meeting were submitted:

- Children's Trust Partnership Board - 12 October 2016

Councillor Gavin informed the Committee that Councillor O'Connell had been unable to attend meetings of the Partnership Board and requested that the Conservative and Green Groups discuss their representation on the Board.

Resolved -

- (1) That the Minutes be noted;
- (2) That the Conservative and Green Groups discuss their representation on the Children's Trust Partnership Board.

37. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

Questions on the following matters were submitted, and answered by the Lead Councillors:

Questioner	Subject
Councillor Josh Williams	Arthur Hill Pool
Leslie Macdonald	Short Breaks
Ramona Bridgman	SEND Transport
Ben Cross	Short Breaks
Ben Cross	Children's Centres
Alice Carter	Short Breaks

(The full text of the questions and replies was made available on the Reading Borough Council website).

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38. SCHOOLS FOR SANCTUARY

Zainab Koroma, Deputy Chair Reading City of Sanctuary, gave a presentation on Schools for Sanctuary. A bid had been launched in October 2014 for Reading to become a City of Sanctuary, an organisation that aimed, in each city, to build a culture of hospitality for people who sought sanctuary in the UK and to increase awareness about facts and issues affecting sanctuary seekers. One of the objectives of the organisation was to support local schools to work towards schools for sanctuary status and also to promote positive stories about sanctuary seekers and to dispel myths and promote the work of City of Sanctuary. The presentation set out how schools could achieve Schools of Sanctuary status and stated that the Schools of Sanctuary programme could contribute towards education standards, equality and diversity through Personal, Social and Health Education, Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning outcomes, the Children's Services Improvement Plan and the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Resolved -

- (1) That the presentation be noted;**
- (2) That Zainab Koroma be thanked for her presentation.**

39. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE 2015-2016

The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report providing the Committee with the provisional performance of schools in Reading for the academic year 2015-2016 at the following five Key Stages:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception Year Children)
- Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)
- Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6, ending with SATs)
- Key Stage 4 (end of compulsory secondary age, typically GCSE qualifications)
- Key Stage 5 (end of sixth form education, typically GCE A Level)

The report stated that the 2015-16 provisional results had shown continued progress towards the targets that had been set within the Raising Attainment Strategy, which was being driven by the School Improvement Team. The Borough's schools had been working with a specific focus to reduce the performance gaps in a number of groups as relevant to the individual school. Comparisons with the national picture would not be released until spring 2017.

The authority had continued to improve the proportion of schools judged to be good or outstanding, with an increase from 77% at the end of July 2015 to 83% by October 2016.

The report stated that the Council was responsible for ensuring that all pupils in the Borough could and did access education. For maintained schools, that included the responsibility and authority to intervene as required. For academy schools the authority had no power of intervention but was expected to challenge any underperformance and, if necessary, report unresolved concerns to the Regional

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School's Commissioner, with whom the Council had a continuous dialogue through the Sub Regional Board.

Resolved -

- (1) That the levels of performance at each of the five stages as set out in section 4 of the report be noted and all of the pupils who had worked hard in the last academic year, along with staff in Reading's schools be congratulated;**
- (2) That the evidence of accelerated improvements over time in all phases be noted, although further improvement was required to secure the absolute level of achievement set out in the Raising Attainment Strategy, particularly in relation to those who were most vulnerable;**
- (3) That Reading's absolute level of attainment in both the primary and secondary phase being above the national average levels be noted;**
- (4) That the increasing proportion of schools that were achieving judgements of Good or Outstanding from Ofsted be noted.**

40. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report providing the Committee with an overview on the framework that the School Improvement Team was undertaking to work with schools towards a self-improving school system. A copy of the School Improvement Framework document was appended to the report.

The report detailed the authority's categorisation process and explained that there were four categories: System Leaders (S), Strengthening Good Schools (G), Raising Achievement Schools (R) and Schools in a Category (C). An initial category was shared with each school at the start of the autumn term for the following year and where midyear changes were made. Where schools had been categorised as R or C, the school's SPA would arrange a visit to the school to collect additional information and discuss the issues of concern with the Headteacher. The school was required to work with the authority to develop a Raising Achievement Plan or, where a school was subject to Special Measures, a Statement of Action. Authority categorisation R and C would trigger an entitlement package of support that would be designed to accelerate improvement; this would be planned in collaboration with the school, the implementation of which was overseen by the school's SPA. A school would be expected, with support, to demonstrate significant improvement and to move out of a category of concern within a year. A Governing Body would also request authority intervention and any request would be reviewed by the Strategic Lead for School Improvement. A flowchart had been included in the report that outlined the process.

The report stated that there had been no clear and transparent process in relation to the categorisation of schools in September 2015. Headteachers were unaware of the criteria used to arrive at the categorisation and there were no published

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criteria behind each categorisation. Discussions about the categorisation made on a school did not take place before they were informed of which category the school had been placed in.

Schools and Headteachers had been consulted on the Framework in order to finalise the document and this had also been scrutinised by the lead Inspector for the region. School Partnership Advisers (SPA) were meeting with Headteachers and Governors during the current term to discuss the categorisation after the summer 2016 meeting of the School Monitoring Group.

Resolved -

- (1) That the processes within the school improvement framework be approved;**
- (2) That the process within the framework on the categorisation of schools be approved;**
- (3) That the continued focus on ensuring that all schools were at least good and focus remained on the more vulnerable learners be supported.**

41. EARLY YEARS SERVICE 2016/17

The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report providing the Committee with an update on the priorities of the Early Years' Service 2016/17.

The report explained that the Childcare Act 2016 had taken forward the Government's commitments to secure an additional entitlement of childcare support for working parents. This extended the current universal entitlement for all three and four year olds to 570 hours a year of early education/childcare. The new entitlement of an additional 570 hours a year would bring their entitlement to 1,140 hours per year for three and four year olds in families where all parents were working.

The Childcare Act 2006 had required local authorities in England to ensure a sufficiency of childcare for working parents, parents studying or training and for disabled children. Childcare sufficiency related to the provision of registered childcare for children aged 0 to 14 years old and up to and including 17 years old for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disabilities (SEND). The childcare sufficiency duties included the requirement to shape and support the development of children in the area and to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. There was also a duty on local authorities to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents relating to the provision of childcare, services or facilities that might be of benefit to parents and prospective parents, children and young people. This had been strengthened by the Childcare Act 2016. The Family Information Service undertook this role.

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Alongside the introduction of the Childcare Act 2016 there were a number of additional policy initiatives that would impact on the early years and childcare provision, these included the following:

- National Living Wage;
- Automatic enrolment for employees pensions from April 2016;
- Tax free childcare;
- 30 hours childcare;
- National Early Years Funding Formula;
- Right to Request;
- Changes to universal credit.

The impact of these changes had been considered and included in the changes to the national funding formula and the development of the 30 hours entitlement.

The report included a summary of priorities for the Early Years' Service in 2016/17 that included: the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, 30 hours childcare, national early years funding formula, right to request, the Family Intervention Service and consultations.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

42. PROGRESS WITH RAISING YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND REDUCING NEET

The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report setting out the continued progress against the ambition to increase the participation of young people and reduce the published Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) statistics.

The report explained that the 2015 Department of Education (DfE) NEET data had reported the percentage of Reading's 16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment or training as 8.1%, a decline of 1.8% from 2014. The 2016 DfE NEET data had reported the percentage as 4.7% an improvement of 3.4% from 2015. 2016 had seen a 2.7% improvement in 16 and 17 year olds participating in education or training rather than just moving from NEET into work with training. It had also seen a 3.2% improvement in 16 and 17 year olds who had been made an offer of an education place under the September Guarantee.

Activities that had been carried out to achieve these improvements had included:

- The appointment of a 14 to 19 Participation Advisor;
- Performance Management rather than contract management of the Council's Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) provider Adviza;
- A NEET Governance Group;
- Partnership working between the Department of Children, Education and Early Help Services and Elevate Reading to establish a NEET Operational Group;
- Sharing the Risk of NEET indicators report with Reading College.

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The report explained that the DfE had recently changed the reporting requirements for local authorities to report on its young people. From September 2016 the upper age limit of the cohort of young people to be included in the data submission had changed. Authorities would only be required to include information about young people up to the end of the academic year in which they had their eighteenth birthday. In addition from September 2016 the NEET and Not Known figures would be combined, this would be calculated by the DfE and sent back to the authority on a monthly basis. The new combined figures would only report on years 12 and 13.

The report stated that it was clear that following the cessation of the Berkshire Framework Agreement, the Council needed clarity as to the long term intentions for commissioning the IAG service. A review was being conducted by the 14 to 19 Participation Advisor, supported by contracts, commissioning and Elevate Berkshire, to determine the long term commissioning strategy. The strategy would include an investigation on the validity of an internal or external service and would seek to understand better the commissioning and procurement approaches of local authorities across the country.

Resolved -

- (1) That the continued progress of increasing participation of the Borough's young people and reducing the NEET statistic be noted;**
- (2) That the changes to the way that DfE tracked and recorded data relating to young people be noted;**
- (3) That the steps being taken to reduce the cost of the IAG service while maintaining an effective and efficient service be noted.**

43. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report on the outcomes of the school transport consultation and to seek views on the proposed changes. A proposed draft of the revised appeal process was appended to the report.

The report stated that the aim of the proposals was to streamline the procedures, to ensure greater efficiency of the process and to reduce the overall cost of home to school transport arrangements. The consultation period had been from 16 June to 16 August 2016 and there had been three proposed changes on which views had been sought:

- Withdrawal of free transport on denominational grounds;
- Changes to the Transport Appeal process;
- Changes to the payment of Transport arrangements for young people over 16 and children under five who had Education, Health and Care Plans or Statements of SEN.

Proposal 1 - The report explained that as it was not a legal duty to provide free transport, the Council was proposing that the current arrangement would cease from July 2017. This would generate a saving of £20k per annum. All children who

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currently received free transport would continue to do so until either the end of year 6 for primary pupils or the end of year 11 for secondary pupils.

Proposal 2 - The adoption of the new DfE guidance which would mean the introduction of a revised appeal process.

Proposal 3 - The Council was proposing to seek contributions towards the cost of travel to and from school for all children older than 16 and younger than 5 from September 2017 who had an Education, Health and Care Plan. This would not apply to students going to college but it would apply to all students who were over 16 on 1 September 2017 who needed to travel to school. An annual parental contribution of £456 towards the transport cost would be required from 1 September 2017. The average total cost to the Council was approximately £3,800 for the current transport costs for an individual child or young person.

The report stated that the Council was committed to ensuring that all travel arrangements were considered on an individual and child by child basis, which took into account specific needs. In coming to this proposal the Council had looked at the charges made by similar authorities, the average contribution being £500 per year. Before making the charges the family would be contacted by the Transport Service who would explain the costs and the arrangements for paying, the authority would also want to hear about family circumstances that would hinder the collection of payment.

Richard Blackmore, Head of Education, informed the Committee that a number of those who had responded to the consultation had revealed personal information that had been difficult to redact without altering the response and therefore the responses to the consultation had not been included with the public report.

Resolved -

- (1) That the proposals for future action be agreed;**
- (2) That the provision of free transport to children whose parents or carers wished their child to attend a school on denominational grounds where that school was not their nearest school, or the Local Authority determined that suitable education could be provided at a nearer school, be removed;**
- (3) That the current appeals process for families or carers who wished to challenge a decision made about home to school transport be simplified and the new appeal process, as described in the report, would be adopted in accordance with the latest DfE guidance;**
- (4) That contributions from parents or carers to contribute towards the cost of the transport arrangements for children over the age of 16 and under 5 be sought.**

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44. PROPOSED APPROACH TO SHORT BREAK AND DIRECT PAYMENT PROVISION

Further to Minute 39 of the meeting held on 3 February 2016, the Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report outlining the proposed direction with regard to the provision of Short Break and direct payments for children and families of Reading who had disabilities and/or Special Educational Needs. A summary of the Short Break Consultation was attached to the report at Appendix A.

The report proposed that the Council continued to provide a range of options in the provision of support to children and their families with disabilities or SEN. In order to appropriately meet the needs of the population and to ensure appropriate financial control there would be a review of the current provision and operational system in the award of packages of support to children and families. The Council would publish a revised set of criteria, in April 2017, that would assist children and families with disabilities and SEN in understanding their entitlement to support. A robust system of assessment and review would ascertain the needs and requirements of individual child and family circumstances in order to ensure that the approach that had been requested was appropriate. The Council would identify the outcomes required from providers for children accessing short break intervention and would then invite providers to tender for short break contracts. The contracts once awarded would be managed robustly to ensure the correct outcomes were achieved for the correct families. This approach would ensure the delivery of financial control and success in the achievement outcomes. Where children and families opted for direct payments the Council would ensure, in line with the requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014, that the Local Offer was maintained and accessible and families could use this to assist them in securing their own individualised support. This proposal therefore ensured the Council was compliant with legislation in offering a range of support. It also ensured that appropriate families were identified for support and that providers were directed to deliver appropriate outcomes to safeguard and promote the welfare and opportunity of Reading's Children.

The Committee discussed the report and requested that an update report be submitted to the meeting in June/July 2017.

Resolved -

- (1) That support be provided to children and families with disabilities and SEN through a range of direct payments and the provision of short breaks;**
- (2) That eligibility to direct payments and short breaks be identified through the publication of criteria, subject to assessment and appropriate review;**
- (3) That the provision of short breaks be secured and delivered through outcome based contracts with a range of providers to ensure that varied services achieved appropriate outcomes for Reading's children in need of support;**

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- (4) That an update report be submitted to the June/July 2017 meeting.

45. CHILDREN'S SERVICES LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

Further to Minute 23 of the meeting held on 3 October 2016, The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report providing the Committee with an update on the progress being made in implementing the Council's Improvement Plan, following the June 2016 Inspection of the Council's Services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. An overview of the RAG rating against the Improvement Plan was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report stated that the each action in the Improvement Plan had been RAG rated in the initial stages of developing the Plan and was reviewed on a monthly basis by the Children's Directorate Management Team and the Corporate Management Team. Progress and any proposed changes to the RAG status was scrutinised and approved by the independently chaired Children's Services Improvement Board (CSIB).

The report stated that progress continued to be made against the majority of actions within the Plan, with the overall direction of travel presenting an improvement since the previous month. A total of three actions had been RAG rated dark green, these remained within the plan for six months and continued to be monitored by the CSIB to ensure that improvement was sustained. A total of 38 actions had been RAG rated light green, these were in progress and on track for completion by the agreed date.

There were four actions that had been RAG rated red as at 1 November 2015, as follows:

- The creation of an effective and affordable Children's Services structure;
- Implementation of effective performance management mechanisms to ensure that data and information was timely and used to inform practice;
- Implementation of restorative practice into the pathways plans and family group conferencing;
- Increase in the permanent establishment of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) service to reduce caseloads and ensured IROs were able to effectively fulfil their Quality Assurance responsibilities including undertaking mid-way audits.

There were 15 actions that had been RAG rated as amber as at 1 November 2016 and these were set out in the report.

Resolved -

- (1) That the progress being made be scrutinised and the strategic approach being taken by the Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services be endorsed;

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- (2) That the current RAG status of key actions and the prioritisation and sequencing of activities based on the current resource availability be noted;
- (3) That a further progress update report be submitted to the next meeting.

46. READING LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report presenting the Committee with the Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report. The Annual Report was presented by Fran Gosling-Thomas, Independent Chair of the LSCB, and a copy was attached to the report.

The report explained that the Annual Report had focused on the achievements and ongoing challenges for the LSCB and partners specifically against priorities. The priorities for the 2015/16 year were as follows:

- Priority 1 - Domestic Abuse;
- Priority 2 - Strengthening the Child's Journey and Voice;
- Priority 3 - Child Sexual Exploitation and other Particularly Vulnerable Groups;
- Priority 4 - Neglect
- Priority 5 - Effectiveness and Impact of Reading LSCB

Evidencing the impact of safeguarding work was key to understanding what worked and how it could be improved. Throughout the report the impact of work had been highlighted, alongside what had been delivered.

The report explained that in previous years the Annual report had focused on work being carried out individually by LSCB partners. However, it was positive that this year the content more widely reflected the work carried out in partnership. The report listed the key LSCB achievements for 2015/16 under the priority headings and listed the ongoing concerns which the LSCB would continue to challenge in 2016/17 all of which were included within the LSCB Improvement and Development Plan for 2017.

Resolved -

- (1) That the Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report be noted;
- (2) That Fran Gosling Thomas be thanked for her work as Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

(Councillor Stanford-Beale declared an interest in the above item, stayed in the meeting and took part in the discussion. Nature of interests: Councillor Stanford-Beale was Chief Executive Officer of Autism Berkshire).

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47. PROPOSAL TO REMODEL READING CHILDREN'S CENTRES

Further to Minute 8 of the meeting held on 4 July 2016, the Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report providing the Committee with an outline of the Family Support and Children's Centre review. Details on the building proposed per Hub was attached to the report at Appendix A and Reading Children's Centre Cluster Demographic profile, October 2016, was attached to the report at Appendix B. A document setting out the proposed use of the buildings was tabled at the meeting.

To save the 32% of funding from the Children's Centre budget the report set out a remodelled Children's Centre service offer which targeted resources to meet the needs of vulnerable children in their early years as a priority and focused on clear early intervention and prevention. A summary of how the Children's Centre Service would be remodelled under the proposal was as follows:

- Establish four fully integrated Children and Family Centre hubs. These would be in areas of highest need to deliver the core Children's Centre offer and to provide space for the provision of additional family services;
- Deliver some services or activities from satellite buildings;
- Integrate fully Reading's Health Visiting service within the remodelled offer to ensure all children under five had universal contacts and early identification of additional needs;
- For families in need of support, re-focus the work on targeted support in group and one-to-one sessions for families;
- Realign the Children's Centre offer to focus on pre-birth to three year olds;
- Reduce the current spend by £400k by the start of the Financial Year 2018/19.

The proposals also took into consideration the introduction of 30 hours early education entitlement for three year olds from September 2017. This would result in a reduction of demand from families for universal activities in Children's Centres and more emphasis being placed on the pre-birth-two year age range.

Resolved -

- (1) That the proposed consultation on the Children's Centre Offer for local children under 5 years and their families be endorsed and the results of the consultation and a set of recommendations be submitted to Policy Committee in May/ June 2017 for decision;
- (2) That the approach and timetable for a 12 week consultation on the Children's offer for local children under 5 and their families, starting on 4 January 2017, be endorsed.

48. HEALTH VISITORS/SCHOOL NURSE SERVICE OPTIONS

The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report setting out the proposed next stage in the delivery of the mandated universal

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Health Visitors and School Nurses Programme. The following appendices were attached to the report:

Appendix A	Key objectives of the Reading Health Visiting Service
Appendix B	Key objectives of the Reading School Nursing Service
Appendix C	Key objectives of the Children's Centres/Early Intervention Services
Appendix D	In House and Third Party Provider Risk Assessment
Appendix E	Outcomes which would be improved by an Effective 0 to 19 years' Service

The report stated that officers had looked at several options for the Service, which were set out in the report, on how to continue to run the Public Health nursing service in the Borough from September 2017 onwards. In all options the services would need to deliver against the mandated public health functions and standards as a package of universal and targeted services, which would enable risk assessment and early identification of additional needs, ensure that families received early help and support upstream before problems developed and as a result reduce demand downstream on higher cost specialist services. The report explained that the budget was part of the ring fenced public health grant and had been produced in discussion with the Director of Public Health and Director of Adult Care and Health Services.

The report explained that after detailed consideration of the options and, given the current pressures which the Council was facing, the preferred option was as follows:

- To bring the health visitors service and school nursing service together into a single contract;
- That the service be commissioned from an external partner for two years with an option of a one year extension, with effect from 31 September 2017;
- That there was sufficient scope in the contract to agree contract variation to respond to the needs of children;
- As part of the scope a requirement had been built into the contract that the Service Manager, although line managed by the contractor, had a dotted line to the Head of Early Help and Family Intervention and would be a key member of the management team of Children's Services to champion the health of children and young people;
- That the services would be based in the Children's Centres/Schools to provide their universal offer to children;
- The management and monitoring of the current contract would be via a programme management approach including the Council's Early Help Services and Public Health. All parties were seeking to ensure that this service offer was integral to the Council's offer and that the mandatory requirements were met to a high standard;
- That the Council considered other linked health projects which could be integrated into the service offer to young parents to consider how vulnerable parents could be supported and that the number of children born into vulnerable situations was reduced. Any such proposals would need to meet public health outcomes and standards if funded from the public health grant.

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Resolved -

- (1) That the commissioning of the Health Visitors and School Nursing Service as a single service be approved and the Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services be granted delegated authority for this responsibility;
- (2) That the Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services be given authority to award the contract, in consultation with the Director accountable for Public Health grant spend, the Director of Public Health and the Lead Councillors for Children's Services and Families and Health.

49. WEST BERKSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND OXFORDSHIRE SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION PLAN - UPDATE

The Director of Adult Care and Health Services submitted a report providing the Committee with an update on the development of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for West of Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (BOB). A copy of the Transformation Plan was tabled at the meeting.

The report stated that some work streams were to be welcomed as positive steps forward. The workforce strategy enabled new options for sharing the cost of staff training and development and facilitating 'rotation' of key staff to enhance career development and share access to hard to recruit professionals. Investment in delivering public health messages was planned, with a projected wider economy of scale.

Wendy Fabbro, Director of Adult Care and Health Services, reported that there were concerns about the transparency of the STP which would be an issue with regard to scrutiny of the document. There were also issues around the role of Councillors and the Council itself in respect of leadership and initiation. However, the detail was at a very high level and so it was unclear as to what might happen. The STP stated that a 'do nothing' scenario would result in a £479m deficit at the end of 2020/21 which would clearly need to be managed very carefully. A joint scrutiny of the STP, its intended and potential impact on the health and care system and on each local authority, had therefore been suggested.

The Committee discussed the report and the proposed closure of the hydrotherapy pool at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and agreed that the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust should be requested to carry out a public consultation on the proposed closure.

Resolved -

- (1) That the plans to participate in a West Berkshire (Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham) scrutiny of the STP, its intended and potential impact on the health and care system and on each local authority, in terms of achieving specified quality indicators and financial sustainability be endorsed;

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- (2) That a further report be submitted to the next meeting on the analysis of the survey invited from Reading citizens in the publication of the BOB STP in early November 2016;
- (3) That further options to work with Healthwatch in scrutinising the plans be explored;
- (4) That the Council write to the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust requesting them to carry out a public consultation on the closure of the hydrotherapy pool at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

50. UPDATE ON ADULT SAFEGUARDING AND THE DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS (DOLS)

Further to Minute 26 of the meeting held on 3 October 2016, the Director of Adult Care and Health Services submitted a report providing the Committee with an updated summary of Adult Safeguarding and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards within the Council since the last report. A copy of the Safeguarding Recovery Plan was attached to the report at Appendix 1, an updated proposal for the restructuring of the Safeguarding Adult Team was attached at Appendix 2, a copy of the Safeguarding Adults Quality Assurance Framework was attached to report at Appendix 3 and a copy of the Reading Annual Performance Report 2015/16 was attached to the report at Appendix 4.

The report explained that the Safeguarding Recovery Plan had been developed to include further development of local procedures in line with the Care Act 2014, ensuring teams and practitioners had the tools to effectively practice safeguarding. A further development which would support and ensure the Council was Care Act compliant was an updated proposal for the restructuring of the Safeguarding Adult Team. This would ensure safeguarding in Reading was able to proactively respond to any strategic safeguarding concern that had been raised, supporting both prevention and wellbeing.

The safeguarding auditing system would be supported with a Safeguarding Adults Quality Assurance Framework (SAQAF) that was currently being developed. This would provide further assurance of the quality of safeguarding adults in Reading.

The Safeguarding Adults Board was currently considering how the Council could obtain independent feedback from those that had been safeguarded to further improve and develop practice, to ensure the Council was Care Act compliant with respect to being person centred in its approach, and that work was in accordance with Making Safeguarding Person (MSP) and the six principles of Safeguarding.

The report stated that currently the Council's performance was variable against the first four principles and comparison over the previous two months had highlighted inadequate performance against the Protection principle. Although there was evidence people were being protected, recording of the work being carried out was not being used to complete the necessary safeguarding forms in a timely fashion resulting in inadequate scoring during audit.

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The Safeguarding Adults Team had continued to provide a training programme that included Levels 1, 2 and 3 Safeguarding Training. There were also monthly workshops for practitioners within Adult Social Care.

The report stated that the volume of Deprivation of Liberties Safeguards (DoLs) was still a challenge nationally and officers were awaiting further developments from the recent Law Commission Review and the likely changes and recommendations. Reading currently had less than 40 outstanding DoLs, down from 71 at the beginning of the financial year and officers were working hard to reduce this number further. Best Interest Assessors had a statutory duty to establish whether deprivation of liberty was occurring or was going to occur. An internal Best Interest Assessor rota was being implemented to allow the Council to better meet its statutory duties under the Mental Capacity Act and an internal rota would enable better quality management and accountability for this work, whilst doing so in a more cost effective way by not relying on independent Best Interest Assessors.

Resolved - That the improvements set out in the report be noted and the plans to secure continuing improvement in the Safeguarding Service endorsed.

51. ADULT SOCIAL CARE LOCAL ACCOUNT

The Director of Adult Care and Health Services submitted a report presenting the Local Account, a report of Council's performance in Adult Social Care. A copy of the draft of the Adult Social Care Local Account was appended to the report.

The report explained that the Local Account was a report of the Council's performance in Adult Social Care. It was influenced strongly by sector led improvement good practice requirements and was a useful summary of what the Council was doing well and where it planned to do further work to improve the way that people were supported. The Local Account was aimed at service users, carers, local residents and partners and was presented in a way that should make the information accessible and interesting to this audience.

A full Local Account had been produced for 2014/15, following consultation with Healthwatch Reading, and had been presented in an accessible and user-friendly format. The report had been updated for the Financial Year 2015/16. The Local Account for 2015/16 would follow the same format as the previous year and the contents would include:

- Introduction by the Lead Councillor for Adult Social Care and Director;
- Scene setting/background to Adult Social Care: Adult Social Care vision, key population information and basic information about Adult Social Care Services;
- How we did: key performance indicators, overview of budget information;
- Feedback: survey results, complaints data and recent consultations;
- Forward Look: priority areas to focus on in 2016/17 and beyond.

Resolved - That the Local Account for 2015/16 be endorsed and approved for publication.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
13 DECEMBER 2016

52. ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT 2015 - 2016 FOR ADULT'S SOCIAL CARE

The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Services submitted a report providing the Committee with an overview of complaints activity and performance for Adult's Social Care for the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. A summary of Adult Social Care Complaints 2015/16 was attached to the report at Appendix A.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and closed at 10.03 pm).