

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**3 OCTOBER 2016**

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Vickers.

**20. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 4 July and 23 August 2016 were confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

**21. MINUTES OF OTHER BODIES**

The Minutes of the following meeting were submitted:

- Children's Trust Partnership Board - 13 July 2016

**Resolved - That the Minutes be noted.**

**22. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS**

A question on the following matter was submitted, and answered by the Lead Councillor for Children's Services and Families:

<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Councillor Josh Williams	Short Breaks

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

**23. DRAFT CHILDREN'S SERVICES LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Further to Minute 19 of the meeting held on 23 August 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 developing the Council's Improvement Plan required by Ofsted, following the June 2016 Inspection of the Council's Services for Children in need of help and protection, Children looked after and care leavers. A copy of the Reading Children's Services Learning and Improvement Plan working draft was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report explained the overall judgement by Ofsted had been the Children's Services in Reading were inadequate. This judgement was as a result of children who needed help and protection being inadequate; children looked after and achieving being inadequate (including graded judgements of requiring improvement for both adoption performance and experiences and progress of care leavers) and leadership, management and governance being inadequate.

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As a result of the overall judgement of the inspection of the service Edward Timpson MP, Minister of State for Children and Families had written to the Leader of the Council of his intention to issue the Council with a Direction under Section 497A(4) and (4B) of the Education Act 1996. The direction would require the Council to co-operate with, comply with instructions from and provide assistance to a Commissioner for Children's Services and the Secretary of State for Education.

The report explained that the Ofsted framework 'Monitoring local authority children's services judged inadequate' that had been published in May 2016 and updated in August 2016, had set out the main activities and timetable that Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) undertook when carrying out monitoring visits to local authorities where children's services had been judged inadequate.

The first activity, which had taken place on 22 September 2016, had been an action planning meeting that had been led by the Senior HMI and the Lead Inspector for the South East Region. The purpose of the meeting had been for Ofsted to ensure that the local authority had a sufficient understanding of the recommendations to plan appropriately following the inspection judgement. The early working draft of the Council's action (improvement) plan had been shared with the Lead Inspector prior to the visit, to assist planning, as required under the framework.

The monitoring framework required local authorities that had been judged to be inadequate to provide a written statement of action (an Action Plan) to the Secretary of State for Education and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) within 70 working days from the local authority receiving their inspection report. For the Council this date was 11 November 2016.

The Reading Children's Services Learning and Improvement Plan working draft replaced the previous service improvement plans, incorporated outstanding actions from the earlier plan and responded to the 18 recommendations that had been set out by Ofsted in their inspection report dated 5 August 2016.

The report explained that Ofsted's recommendations for improvement had been matched against the Department for Education's (DfE) three pillars of reform (People and Leadership, Practice and Systems, Governance and Accountability) in order to demonstrate how Reading's vision and drive for improvement would deliver fundamental reform across the children's social care system in order to safeguard the needs of children. Addressing Ofsted's recommendations would be consistent with delivering the Council's own policies for the service.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That the working draft of the Learning and Improvement Plan be scrutinised and commented on and the strategic approach being taken by the Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services be endorsed;
- (2) That the submission of the draft Ofsted Action Plan to Council on 18 October 2016 before submission to Ofsted be noted;
- (3) That the Committee receive a quarterly progress report.

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**24. ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ADOPT THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY PROJECT**

The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report providing the Committee with an overview of plans to set up a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) across the Thames Valley.

The report explained that the Council provided adoption services as part of Children's Services with a team comprised of a team manager, an assistant team manager and 7.3 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) social workers and supported by 1.2 FTE business support staff. The team recruited potential adopters, identified placements for children who were unable to live safely with their birth families and provided support to adopters. In 2014/15 the authority had recruited 14 adopters and had placed 25 children for adoption.

The report stated that the proposal was to seek in principle agreement to join Adopt Thames Valley (ATV) and work was underway to develop ATV as a partnership between seven local authorities (Bracknell Forest, Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham, Swindon and potentially Reading) along with two Voluntary Adoption Agencies (PACT and Barnardos). The local authorities and voluntary agencies were working to develop a new shared service that would provide adoption services across the geographical area of the participating local authorities.

The key anticipated benefits of the Adopt Thames Valley Model were:

- Improved outcomes for children through the availability of a large pool of adopters;
- Improved ability to place harder to place children for adoption (older children, children with disabilities, sibling groups and BME children);
- Improved experience for adopters through quicker matches with children who needed placements;
- Better value for local authorities through economies of scale in the recruitment and assessment process for adopters;
- Potential savings for local authorities through placing children with adopters more quickly;
- Improved adoption support services across a wider geographical area.

The report explained that work had started on the project in December 2015 and over the duration of the project there had been some significant changes. There was now a group of local authorities and voluntary adoption agencies that were committed to the project, the DfE had committed to funding the project and there was no expectation of contributions from partner local authorities to the cost of the project. Some of the key activities and events in the planned time line were set out in the report.

The report stated that one of the key risks associated with joining an RAA was the potential loss of influence in the governance and oversight of adoption activity. However, Councils joining Adopt Thames Valley would do so as equal partners and would be assured a full and active role in the governance of the new service. This

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potential change was a key element of the new adoption legislation and all authorities would be compelled to join an RAA at some point up to 2020. The second area of risk related to finance. However, the economies of scale offered by Adopt Thames Valley offered real potential for delivering services in the most efficient and effective way more successfully than could be done by any authority working alone. The main influence over the cost of the new service would be the level of activity, the number of children being adopted would continue to be driven by children's services and therefore outside the influence of Adopt Thames Valley, whereas there was confidence that Adopt Thames Valley would contribute to increasing the pool of adopters available, potentially impacting positively on the overall costs of adoptions services. In addition, because Adopt Thames Valley was being established as a shared service local authority partners would be able to manage the risks associated by being able to shape and influence the service through their participation in the governance arrangements and ultimately by giving notice and leaving Adopt Thames Valley.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That joining Adopt Thames Valley be agreed 'in principle';
- (2) That a report with more detail in relation to the financial implications of the project prior to a final decision being taken be submitted to a future meeting;
- (3) That officer work with partners in Adoption Thames Valley to develop a service that was affordable and met the needs of Reading residents (including the sharing of relevant information) be agreed.

**25. ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT 2015 - 2016 FOR CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report providing the Committee with an overview of complaints activity and performance for Children's Social Care for the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. A copy of the Children's Social Care Complaints 2015/16 Summary Report was appended to the report.

The report stated that during the period the service had received 87 statutory complaints which was an increase of one (1.26%) over 2014/15, of which:

- 22 had been resolved through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) by the Social Care Teams;
- 65 had progressed to a formal investigation.

During the period seven complaints had progressed to Stage 2 investigation.

The report explained that the Customer Relations Team had continued to raise awareness of the complaints process and in accordance with recommendations from Ofsted had worked with operational teams to encourage children and young people to submit complaints where they had been dissatisfied with the service they had received.

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Resolved -

- (1) That the contents of the report and intended actions to improve the management of representations and complaints in 2016/17 for Children's Social Care be noted;
- (2) That the continuing work to raise awareness of the complaints process and to encourage its use by children and young people be noted.

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

The Director of Adult Care and Health Services submitted a report providing the Committee with a summary of Adult Safeguarding and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards within Reading Borough Council. A copy of the Safeguarding Recovery Plan was attached to the report at Appendix A, a copy of a presentation entitled Making Safeguarding Personal was attached to the report at Appendix B and a copy of an Adult Safeguarding Audit Form was attached to the report at Appendix C.

The report explained that the Safeguarding Recovery Plan had been developed to ensure improvements were made to safeguarding in the Borough in a timely way. The plan included the development of local policies and procedures to locally apply and support the Pan-Berkshire policy and procedures. The Plan also included further development to the Council's website to raise awareness of Adult Safeguarding. There would be a staff hub within the intranet containing all policies and procedures and pathways for safeguarding supported by awareness training.

An Options Appraisal was being developed that proposed that safeguarding concerns were triaged by the Safeguarding Team, ensuring the Care Act 2014 and the Mental Capacity Act 2005 were implemented appropriately. This suggested option would ensure there was only one entry point for safeguarding adults, which would help mitigate and manage risk whilst ensuring continuity of practice and discharge of the Council's duty of care. The Plan would include the Deputyship Team being managed by the Safeguarding Team Manager within the proposed restructure, due to the continual overlap between safeguarding, deputyship and appointee-ship. The Council was the main provider of appointee-ship and deputyship in the Borough and the office acted currently as a deputy for approximately 124 residents and appointee for a further 125 residents. A Court Visiting Officer had recently visited and audited the Deputy's Office and had advised the Office of the Public Guardian that the Deputyship Team were running an excellent service and there were no concerns or major recommendations. However, a separate report had set out plans to review the service to ensure it could operate on a 'cost neutral' basis as it was not a statutory service.

The report set out the four priorities of the Safeguarding Adults Board as follows:

**Priority 1** - Establish effective governance structures, improve accountability and ensure the Safeguarding Adults agenda was embedded within relevant organisations, forms and boards;

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**Priority 2** - Raise awareness of safeguarding adults, the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board and improve engagement with a wider range of stakeholders;

**Priority 3** - Ensure effective learning from good and bad practice was shared in order to improve the safeguarding experience and ultimate outcomes for service users;

**Priority 4** - Coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what each agency did.

It had been decided that Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) was embedded throughout everything the Council did in adult safeguarding; therefore this was not listed as a priority in its own right.

The report detailed the outcome of the Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) for Mr I and Mrs H and explained that to address the findings of the SAR the Safeguarding Adult's Team had launched training around the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Safeguarding L1, L2 and L3 training in response to the findings and were also planning more workshops for support staff. The Safeguarding Team would address further the findings of the SAR through introducing the Social Work Occupational Standards into supervision, staff appraisals. A Quality Assurance Framework was being developed to ensure improvements to practice and accountability. Through casefile auditing the Safeguarding Team were able to feedback any continued problems and training needs, ensuring continued improvements in safeguarding across the Borough.

**Resolved** - That the report be noted and the plans to secure continued improvement in the Safeguarding Service be endorsed.

## **27. CARE ACT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

The Director of Adult Care and Health Services submitted a report providing the Committee with an overview of the Council's performance against the duties set out in the Care Act 2014 which had come into effect from April 2015. A copy of the South East Regional Summary was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report explained that the regional summary gave headline findings for the South East and detailed aggregated responses from seven County Councils and 11 Unitary Authorities. The regional survey showed that all local authorities had reported that they had embedded the necessary changes to be compliant with the Act and believed that the Act had had a positive impact on practice. However, there were some factors where Reading had appeared to be doing less well:

- A slight decrease in overall demand for Adult Social Care appeared to have been recorded. The Directorate had carried out a major transformation programme which had included the review of existing cases and a new practice model, Right 4U. In this model people who might previously have been offered state funded care were helped to connect to support already available in their own communities. The total number of people who had had a response was therefore not reducing, but the demand for state funded support had seen a slight decrease, although there had been an overall increase in customer satisfaction;

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- Carers support had been refined and information and advice was jointly commissioned with health partners and West Berkshire Council;
- In Reading the levels of safeguarding activity had increased greatly, heavily influenced by the massive escalation in Deprivation of Liberty referrals and assessments;
- Preparation of adulthood/managing transitions had led to a major increase in expenditure, and officers were working on plans to improve the early notification of adolescents who might need Adult Social Care and help their families prepare for the support that might be available;
- Commissioning with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) had been identified as an area that required further development and a recent workshop had facilitated the identification of a number of areas where joint commissioning would be beneficial.

The report concluded that Reading could be confident that there was a robust monitoring of performance and plans in place to promote the delivery of targets.

**Resolved - That the Council's performance against the duties of the Act as reported in the final 'stocktake' be noted.**

## **28. ETHICAL CARE CHARTER PROVIDER COMPLIANCE**

The Director of Adult Care and Health Services submitted a report providing the Committee with a summary of provider compliance following visits carried out to all framework providers by officers between November 2015 and June 2016 and a survey sent to providers in August 2016 to assess compliance. Details of the three stages of the Ethical Care Charter (ECC) were attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report explained that following signing the Ethical Care Charter (ECC) the Council had carried out extensive consultation with providers to assess their capability to meet its requirements. This had led to a new four year Home Care Framework contract (HCF) which had started in June 2015 and had been structured (including fee levels) to include a range of these requirements. The Council continued to work in partnership with HCF providers, individuals and their representatives to monitor delivery of these requirements in implementation. During the first year of the contract officers had concentrated on ensuring mobilisation of all providers and the sustainability of the home care sector.

The report stated that the Council and providers on the HCF were compliant with stage one of the ECC and the success of this was evidenced through the performance of the HCF particularly in picking up care packages during holiday periods such as Christmas and the summer and during the junior doctor strikes. They had enabled people to be discharged from hospital and from the Community Reablement Team in a timely way. HCF providers and their staff played a major role in offering companionship and conversation to often lonely and isolated individuals and this also made a significant difference to the quality of their lives. Individuals were put at the centre of the service and through more sustainable pay providers could retain a more stable workforce. However, as the Living Wage increased this would put added pressure on the Council's budget. There was a

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need to continue working closely with providers to ensure that improvement continued and piloting alternative ways of engaging care workers.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That the delivery of the UNISON Ethical Care Charter and provider compliance with stage one continue to be monitored and a report be submitted to the Committee on an annual basis;
- (2) That officers report on the progress of stage 2 compliance in the next annual report.

(Councillor Jones declared a non pecuniary interest and left the meeting for this item and took no part in the discussion or decision. Nature of interest: Councillor Jones was employed by UNISON.)

**29. SCRUTINY REVIEW UPDATE - CONTINUING HEALTHCARE FUNDING**

Further to Minute 43 of the meeting held on 3 February 2016, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report providing the Committee with an update on the progress of the scrutiny review of Continuing Health Care Funding. A copy of the report that had been submitted to the 3 February 2016 meeting was attached to the report at Appendix 1 and an extract from the Minutes of that meeting was attached at Appendix 2.

The report explained that the Task and Finish Group were investigating the level of CHC funding in Reading because, along with two neighbouring authorities, the level of funding was significantly lower than the national and regional average. This affected residents who may be ruled ineligible, and also had an adverse impact on the financial sustainability of the Council's Social Care services, as they were required to fund a larger proportion of high care placements than other local authorities.

The Task and Finish Group had held two question and answer sessions, the first with Lindy Jones, former Services Manager Care Governance, Contracts and Continuing Health Care, Wokingham Borough Council and with Cathy Winfield, Chief Officer North West Reading, South Reading, Newbury and District and Wokingham CCG. The Task and Finish Group would meet again to consider the feedback from these two sessions and the next steps, with the aim of reporting their findings and recommendations to the 13 December 2016 Committee meeting.

The Task and Finish Group heard that there were officer meetings being planned with the aid of managers from NHS England (NHSE) and the Association of Directions of Adult Social Services in England (ADASS) to attempt to resolve the issues identified. The outcome of this meeting would further inform the task and finish group's recommendations.

**Resolved - That the progress of the Continuing Health Care Funding scrutiny review be noted.**



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**30. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCESS AND DATA ON EXCLUSIONS**

The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report detailing the process for admissions across Reading Borough Council, the current position of admissions for Reading schools and information on school exclusions. A table setting out school exclusion information was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report stated that the Council had adopted the mandatory requirements set out in the Schools Admissions Code and detailed the school admission process, how admissions worked, local authority responsibilities and allocating places.

The report stated that there had been an increase in the primary and secondary pupil population in the Borough which had put a demand on school places. The £61m school expansion programme, due to be completed in autumn 2016, had created 2,520 primary school places and the opening of the WREN and Maiden Erlegh in Reading secondary schools would create 1,880 new places over the coming years. The School Admissions Team worked with School Place Planning to ensure place sufficiency but there were currently 101 new to the country in-year applications (62 primary and 39 secondary) and 25 new to area in-year applications (eight primary and 17 secondary) which would increase further pressure on school places.

The report included the primary and secondary timetables for applications of admission to primary and secondary schools in September 2017.

The report also included a table that detailed information on exclusions that had been collated from school returns. The table specified which group the child/young person was from, including, Looked After Children (LAC), Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN), Free School Meals pupils (FSM), Underperforming Ethnic Groups (UPEG) and Black Minority Ethnic group (BME). The main points of note were as follows:

- There were 23 schools that had reported no exclusions;
- The percentage of all pupils that had been excluded with SEN had decreased by 20%. However, 54% of all pupils excluded were either statemented, had an EHCP or on school support;
- The percentage of statemented or EHCP pupils excluded had reduced to 11%;
- The main reasons for exclusions in primary schools were persistent and disruptive behaviour (42%), physical assault against an adult (22%), and physical assault towards a child (12%);
- The main reasons for exclusions in secondary schools were physical assault to a child (13%), verbal abuse to an adult (13%), persistent and disruptive behaviour (12%). There was a high proportion of reasons being reported as 'other' (48%);
- In primary schools there was a reduction in Black Caribbean (BLB) ethnic group students being excluded - 20 exclusions down to 2 and pupils from the mixed other ethnic group had decreased from 18 to 5;
- Of all exclusions in primary schools the White British ethnic group at 67.4% and in secondary 54.8% was the group that had the highest exclusion rate.

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Councillor Jones proposed that the Committee set up a scrutiny task and finish group to look at school exclusions in Reading.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That the processes of the schools admissions be noted;
- (2) That the levels of, and the data related to exclusions, be noted;
- (3) That the setting up of a scrutiny task and finish group to look at school exclusions be approved.

**31. RAISING ATTAINMENT STRATEGY UPDATE**

The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report providing the Committee with an update against the Raising Attainment Strategy (known as the Reading First Partnership; Educational Ambition and Achievement Strategy) and to provide a benchmark as to where the Council was compared to the milestones and targets set within the Strategy. The report summarised attainment at the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 4. A list of the Ofsted ratings of Reading schools was attached to the report at Appendix I.

The report stated that over 90% of maintained schools, including nursery schools, had currently been judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted; across the Borough for all schools this currently stood at 79.2%. All primary phase schools were above the floor standard for attainment and early indications were that no secondary school would be below the floor target for progress 8; this meant that the Council would have met the milestone for 2015/16. All maintained schools had agreed goals and targets and these were monitored every term through the School Monitoring Group. There was an agreement for academies to share their data and targets through the Regional Schools Commissioner and the academies themselves.

The report stated that new targets and milestones would be incorporated into the strategy once the national picture was available and would have to refer to rankings as well as the overall attainment and progress. These would replace the current appendices in the strategy.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That the Reading First Partnership; Educational Ambition and Achievement Strategy be ratified;
- (2) That amendments to the appendices be made and submitted to the 20 March 2017 Committee meeting;
- (3) That the milestones for 2015/16 having been met be noted.

**32. OUTCOMES FOR READING SCHOOLS**

The Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services submitted a report on the initial outcomes for pupils within Reading Borough Council across all phases. A

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summary of Key Performance Indicators for Key Stage 4 for the academic year 2015/16 was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report stated that the academic year 2015/16 had seen extensive change in education with schools preparing for the introduction of new benchmarks for GCSE performance. The report detailed the performance of schools in the Borough for the academic year 2015/16 at all stages. The overall Council performance was provisional at this stage and any comparisons to the national picture were also provisional. The 2015/16 results had shown progress towards the goals that had been set by the Raising Achievement papers, with improvements against the national average. Schools had been working with a specific focus to reduce the performance gaps in a number of groups as relevant to the individual school.

The report stated that the Council had a responsibility for ensuring that all pupils in the Borough could and did access education and also had a responsibility for all children in the Borough, whichever school they attended. For maintained schools that included the responsibility and authority to intervene as required. For academies the authority had no power of intervention but was working closely with the Regional Schools Commissioner and the DfE Academies Division to challenge and support any underperformance.

The report stated that at Key Stage 2 all primary schools were above the floor standard and in 2015 the results for Level 4+ had been compared to the results for 2016 at expected standard and the ranking on all key measures, except for Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS), had improved dramatically:

- The authority had moved from 113<sup>th</sup> (out of 152) to 75<sup>th</sup>;
- Writing had improved from 100<sup>th</sup> to 56<sup>th</sup> position;
- Maths had improved from 103<sup>rd</sup> to 99<sup>th</sup> position;
- The key measure of combined Reading, Writing and Maths (RWM) had moved from 103<sup>rd</sup> to 49<sup>th</sup>, placing the Borough in the top third in the country and was the first time in the previous ten years that the authority had achieved about the National Average.

In 2015 the results for Level 4B had been compared to the results for 2016 at the higher standard and again schools had performed well across the Borough:

- The authority had moved from 119<sup>th</sup> (out of 152) to 27<sup>th</sup>;
- Writing had not been measured in 2015 at Level 4B;
- Maths had improved from 95<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>;
- The key measure of combined RWM had moved from 109<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, placing the Borough in the top 10 across the country on this measure.

At Key Stage 4 national comparisons were not yet available but the report noted the following:

- The Attainment 8 was at a score of 5.2 (this was an average equivalent grade B across eight subjects for all students in the cohort);
- The percentage of students achieving English and Maths was 65.9%;
- The percentage of students achieving the English Baccalaureate was 29.6%;

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- Early indications were that all Secondary Schools were above the floor targets for Progress 8.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That the levels of performance at all Key Stages, as set out in section 4 of the report, be noted and all pupils who had worked hard in the previous academic year be recognised;
- (2) That all staff and governors at the schools be recognised for their hard work in achieving the outcomes across all phases;
- (3) That the work of the School Improvement Team, in particular, the School Partnership Advisers and the Subject Advisers be recognised for their contribution to the outcomes;
- (4) That a more detailed report, as and when national comparators were available and when the outcomes had been fully validated be submitted to a future meeting.

**33. WEST BERKS, BUCKS & OXON SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION PLAN - UPDATE**

The Director of Adult Care and Health Services gave an update on the West Berks, Bucks and Oxon (BOB) Sustainable Transformation Plan (STP). The Director reported on a closed session of the Health and Wellbeing Board where a presentation was given on the draft submission to NHS England in relation to the plans for BOB to take forward sustainability and transformation. The plans, which were confidential whilst being drafted, were required to make savings. Once the plan had been received and evaluated by NHS England it was hoped the STP could then be made public towards the end of 2016.

The Director reported that there were developments in how the prevention service would be delivered, including information and advice to adopt healthy lifestyles and secondary prevention. There was also recognition across BOB that unlike other STP regions there wasn't a clear patient flow across the three economies of BOB and the focus of the delivery of savings would be across the local health and social care economies, which for Reading was West of Berkshire.

**Resolved - That the position be noted.**

**34. INTEGRATION AND BETTER CARE FUND**

The Director of Adult Care and Health Services submitted a report setting out the Better Care Fund (BCF) integration performance at the end of quarter 1 within the Borough, the BCF reporting and monitoring requirements and the findings from the Joint Commissioning workshop that had been held in September 2016. A letter of approval from NHS England was attached to the report at Appendix 1, a BCF Plan on a Page was attached to the report at Appendix 2 and details of the Commissioning Intentions from the September 2016 workshop were attached to the report at Appendix 3.

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The report explained that the BCF Reading had gained a fully approved assurance by NHS England on 8 July 2016. The BCF for 2016/17 totalled £10.4m and funded a range of integration initiatives that were intended to promote more seamless care and support services, deliver improved outcomes to patients and service users and protect key front line services that delivered value to both the NHS and the authority. The BCF had a particular focus on initiatives that were aimed at reducing the level of avoidable hospital stays and delayed transfers of care as well as a number of national conditions that partners had to adhere to. If any of these conditions were not met the Care Act 2014 enabled NHS England to withhold, recover or direct how the money was used.

The BCF Policy Framework had established national metric for measuring progress of integration through the BCF and partners had to report progress against them each quarter to NHS England. The funding that came directly to the Council for the Disabled Facilities Grant of £815k also included in the BCF was not subject to these conditions.

The report stated that to date Reading had seen some positive local BCF scheme performance, such as an increase in the numbers of patients/service users who had successfully reabled via the Discharge to Assess/Community Reablement Team services, fewer admissions to residential care and reduced admissions to hospital from care homes supported by the rapid response and assessment Team (RRaT). However, as at the end of quarter one this had not translated into clear system wide benefits or a positive impact on the key BCF metrics, namely Non Elective Admissions (NEA) and Delayed Transfers of Care (DTC). The report included tables showing actual figures compared to plan for NEA, DTC and residential and nursing admissions. The report also gave an update in terms of local project performance for Connected Care, Care Homes, the Community Reablement Team, Discharge to Assess and Engagement with Patients and Service Users.

**Resolved - That the position of Integration and Reading Better Care Fund as of end of quarter 1 be noted.**

(The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and closed at 9.13 pm).