

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

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| MEETING/<br>DECISION<br>MAKER:   | <b>Cabinet</b>  |                                     |
| MEETING/<br>DECISION<br>DATE:  | <b>4<sup>th</sup> December 2013</b>   | EXECUTIVE FORWARD<br>PLAN REFERENCE |
|  |   | <b>E 2593R</b>                      |
| TITLE:   | <b>Re- structuring of Early Years, Children Centre and Early Help (0-11) Services 2014-2016</b> |                                     |
| WARD:  | All   |                                     |
| <b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>   |   |                                     |
| <p><b>List of attachments to this report:</b></p> <p><b>Appendix 1:</b> Resolution of the Early Years, Children &amp; Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel in relation to the Call-in of Cabinet Decision E2593: Re structuring of the Early Years, Children’s Centre and Early Help (0-11 Years) Services 2014 -2016.</p> <p><b>Appendix 2:</b> The Cabinet Response table to the recommendations.</p> <p><b>Appendix 3:</b> Decision and consultation timeline.</p> |   |                                     |

### 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Cabinet received a report at its meeting on 13th November 2013 setting out the recommendations of the Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel (EYCY PDS Panel) following their review of Early Years, Children’s Centre and Early Help (0 – 11 years) Services, together with the Minority Report from Councillor Liz Hardman. The Cabinet agreed to note that the PDS Panel had a number of questions relating to how the restructured services would be delivered; to note the issues raised in the Minority report and formulate their response to the Panel’s recommendations and those of the Minority report.
- 1.3 A call-in request relating to this decision was received and validated on 23<sup>rd</sup> November and the call-in was subsequently heard at the EYCY PDS Panel at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The PDS Panel agreed to uphold the Call-In and ask for the Cabinet decision to be reconsidered at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

### 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the outcome of the call-in by the EYCY PDS Panel (Appendix 1).

- 2.2 Agree the response to each of the recommendations of the EYCY PDS Panel report and the Monitory report (Appendix 2).
- 2.3 Agree the consultation and decision timeline (Appendix 3).
- 2.4 Request that the EYCY PDS Panel receive a presentation from Officers on the developing model at its meeting in January 2013.

### **3 THE REPORT**

3.1 The Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel (PDS Panel) received the report of the Task & Finish Group following their review of Early Years, Children's Centre and Early Help (0 – 11 years) Services on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013. This made a number of recommendations which were considered by the panel. The panel agreed an amended set of recommendations which were included within the 'Re-structuring of the Early Years, Children's Centre and Early Help' report to Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013. A Minority Report was produced by one member of the Panel and was this published along with the Cabinet paper which also set out a number of recommendations.

3.2 The Cabinet, at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November agreed:

- (1) To note that the Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel had a number of questions, in particular which services will be provided at the Children's Centres under the proposed new model, who will run the various Children's Centres, and to whom these services will be available?
- (2) To note the issues raised in the Minority Report; and
- (3) To formulate their response to the Panel's recommendations and to the Minority Report.

3.3 The Call-In request relating to this decision was received and validated on 21<sup>st</sup> - November 2013. The request states that the decision is called-in on the grounds that the Cabinet has failed to respond adequately to either the recommendations of the EYCY PDS Panel or the recommendations contained in the Minority Report. Specifically:

- (1) The Cabinet has not answered the questions raised by the EYCY PDS Panel including which services will be provided under the proposed new model, who will run the various Children's Centres and to whom these services will be available.
- (2) The cabinet has not formulated any response either to the recommendations of the EYCY PDS Panel or to the Minority Report.
- (3) The Cabinet has provided no timetable for formulating such a response; and
- (4) The Cabinet has given no indication about whether it is prepared to reconsider its overall budget to identify alternative areas of saving, as recommended by both the EYCY PDS Panel and the Minority Report.

3.4 The Call-In was heard at the EYCY PDS Panel at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The EYCY PDS Panel agreed to uphold the Call-In and ask for the Cabinet decision to be reconsidered at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 (Appendix 1).

3.5 The recommendations of both the EYCY PDS Panel and the Minority report, along with the Cabinet’s response to each of these recommendations shared with the EYCY PDS panel on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013 are set out in Appendix 2. The table of responses from Cabinet addresses issues 2, 3 and 4 above arising from the Call-In.

3.6 The detail of the model of services, including what will be provided and to whom, is still being developed, but Cabinet has asked officers to undertake more detailed work on a recommended model. The Lead member also offered that a presentation is made by officers to the EYCY PDS panel to update members on the developing model at its meeting in January 2013. The Cabinet has accepted the EYCY PDS Panel recommendation to further explore the potential of a commissioning model. This will require further market testing, so it is not possible at this stage to answer more detailed questions about who will run the services/children’s centres.

3.7 A timeline is proposed for decision making and consultation about the new model which Cabinet is asked to agree. This is set out in Appendix 3.

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| <b>Contact person</b>  | Debbie Forward                      Telephone 01225 395305   |
| <b>Background papers</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel: Call –in of decision relating to restructuring of the Early Years, Children’s Centre and Early Help (0-11 years) services 2014-2016. Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013</li> <li>2. Cabinet 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013: Restructuring of the Early Years, Children’s Centre and Early Help (0-11 years) Services 2014-2016.</li> <li>3. Early Years, Children &amp; Youth Policy Development &amp; Scrutiny Panel: Re-structuring of the Early Years, Children’s Centre and Early Help (0-11 years) Services 2014-2016.</li> </ol> |
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