

Resolution of the Early Years, Children & 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

The Early Years, Children & Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel held a public meeting on Monday 25th November 2013 to debate this decision following the request of 21 Councillors for it to be reviewed (or called in). They raised concerns about how they felt the Cabinet had failed to respond adequately to either the recommendations of the EYCY PDS Panel or the recommendations contained in the Minority Report.

Specifically:

- The Cabinet had not answered the questions raised by the EYCY PDS Panel including which services would be provided under the proposed new model, who will run the various Children's Centres and to whom these services will be available;
- The Cabinet had not formulated any response either to the recommendations of the Early Years, Children and Youth PDS Panel or to the Minority Report
- The Cabinet had provided no timetable for formulating such a response; and
- The Cabinet had 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.

The Panel received verbal statements from Councillor Liz Hardman (Lead Call-In Councillor), Councillor Dine Romero (Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Youth), Councillor Tim Warren (Conservative Group Leader) and Councillor John Bull (Labour Group Leader).

Having considered the evidence, a majority of the Panel voted to uphold the Call-In for the reasons stated above and asked for the Cabinet decision to be reconsidered at its meeting on Wednesday December 4th 2013.