

Lead Member PDS Report 13/05/2024.

1. DFE confirmation regarding Alternative Provision School in B&NES.

The fact that this has now finally been confirmed means we have two major capital educational schemes in the B&NES area. The officers will supply details but the need to provide education on the Culverhay site means we will be promoting that location for both schools with the added advantage that joint facilities will probably be made available for the public. The cabinet will consider the in-principle decision on the 6th of June 2024. The site is still a corporate location, but this starts the opportunity for an exciting education based future. This decision is needed to progress design options moving forward.

2. Care experienced protected status.

The unanimous council support is being followed up in a number of ways. Within the authority, we are discussing moving from Band B to Band A on the housing waiting list for care experienced young people. We need to explore more regarding apprenticeships and work experience schemes within the council.

We are talking to Bath University about a memorandum of understanding which may include one or two scholarships, adopting the principle for all students, developing a mentoring scheme, possible accommodation support and apprenticeship schemes.

The RUH have agreed the status, and the Director of ops is raising the issue with the Future Ambitions Board. The vice chair raised the issue, and we welcome any positive ideas at this meeting, please?

3. School streets.

As promised, I met Councillor Wright for a briefing on this scheme and have raised the idea at senior level. The chair of the Sustainable Communities Committee have the scheme on their agenda and has agreed to work with CAHW committee moving forward. The scheme needs strong school support, so I have asked for an item to be placed on the next School's Standard Board (16th July 2024).

4. SACRE Annual Report is on the agenda.

It is important that multi faith teachings help children to understand each other at an early age as possible.

5. Regional Fostering Southwest Hub.

At a regional Lead Members meeting we were briefed about a new regional system that has just started. The aim is to simplify initial contacts with potential foster families and then our normal systems start.

It is a trial for one year so we will need to keep it under review to ensure it works effectively for us. In house foster care remains the most effective and cost-efficient solution for vulnerable young people in care.

6. Skills.

In addition to education as young people move into further education and skills, it is important to seek opportunities for developing higher level skills development linked into business opportunities. As a result, we have started discussions with the college around the SVEZ scheme to provide training during and after the construction phase.

7. Children's homes in Banes.

A feasibility study has been requested late summer to judge whether services can be brought back in house. It is a reflection of the cost of expensive out of area provision at the moment but is not clear whether it is suitable for the small number of complex needs of children in care?

8. St Johns/Early Years Update

Please find attached as an appendix 2 presentations shared at the Health and Wellbeing Board on 02/05/2024 detailing the joint work around the Language for Life Project .