

THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON FRIDAY, 10 APRIL 2015. MINUTE NOS 74 AND 77 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL-IN."

CABINET

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON THURSDAY 26TH MARCH, 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Dowd (in the Chair)
Councillors Cummins, Fairclough, Hardy, Maher,
Moncur and Tweed

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Robertson and Weavers

71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interest were received.

73. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Decision Made:

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26 February 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

74. PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The Cabinet considered the annual report of the Director of Public Health for 2014, which provided details of key health issues affecting the Sefton population.

The Chair referred to the improvements made in the life expectancy for both men and women across Sefton detailed within the report and the widening gap in life expectancy between different areas in Sefton which highlighted the inequalities in health within Sefton. A Member of the Cabinet also referred to the need for public health issues to be taken into account during the consideration of any development proposals and planning applications.

Cabinet Members also referred to the forthcoming retirement of the Director of Public Health, Dr. Janet Atherton and expressed appreciation for the work she had undertaken in Sefton during the last 13 years to improve the quality of health and extended best wishes to her for a happy and healthy retirement.

Decision Made:

That the report be received and be submitted to the Council for publication.

Reasons for Decision:

The report is the statutory independent report of the Director of Public Health.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

75. ADULT SUBSTANCE MISUSE CONTRACT EXTENSION

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Public Health which provided details of the key findings of the Adult Substance Misuse Contract review.

Decision Made:

The contract of Lifeline to provide Adult Substance Misuse services in Sefton be extended for an additional 12 months until 30 September 2016.

Reasons for Decision:

Since taking over the contract 18 months ago the provider had addressed underperformance. Further time was required to see the full benefits of changes in the service model.

The current contract expired at the end of September 2015. A decision must be made by the end of March 2015 at the latest on whether the contract should be extended or retendered. This would provide Lifeline with the minimum 6 months notice period.

The contract was originally awarded for 2 years with the option to extend annually up to 3 years. This was therefore an extension within the existing contract.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Extend contract for a longer time period. - A longer extension would require measurable improvements over the next 12 months.

Retender - The current provider had only been in place for 18 months and changing providers in such a short time was likely to cause disruption to the care of clients and confusion within the network of substance misuse partners, i.e. primary care, acute services, residential rehabilitation and detoxification agencies.

76. BETTER CARE FUND - SECTION 75 AGREEMENT

The Cabinet considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive which sought approval for the Council to enter into partnership arrangements under Section 75 of the National Health Act 2006 with each of the two Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) of Southport and Formby and South Sefton covering the population of Sefton, to enable pooled budgets to be established to support the delivery of the Sefton Better Care Fund Plan for 2015/16.

Decision Made:

That:

- 1) the work to date on the Sefton Better Care Fund Plan and Section 75 agreement for the pooled budget be noted;
- (2) the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT, Head of Vulnerable Adults and the Head of Corporate Legal Services be granted delegated powers to complete the Section 75 agreement with Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group and South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group to enable pooled funds to be established and to govern the delivery of the Sefton Better Care Fund Plan 2015/16; and
- (3) it be noted that the proposal was a Key Decision but had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions. Consequently, the Leader of the Council and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services) had been consulted under Rule 27 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution, to the decision being made by the Cabinet as a matter of urgency on the basis that it was impracticable to defer the decision until the commencement of the next Forward Plan because of the tight timescales involved in the submission of the Better Care Fund submission, and any delay in the submission could involve the loss of financial income for the Council.

Reasons for Decision:

Under the auspices of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Sefton Council had submitted its successful Better Care Fund Plan in November 2014. One of the conditions of the approval of the plan was a standard condition relating to the development of a Section 75 agreement for managing the budgets identified within the Better Care Fund Plan

This was reflected in the Care Act 2014 which required that funds allocated to local areas for the Better Care Fund must be put into pooled budgets established under Section 75 agreements. Authority was required from the Council's Cabinet and each CCG Governing Body to enable each organisation to enter into the Section 75 agreements.

These agreements needed to be in place by 1 April 2015 to allow the funds to be pooled and invested in line with the Sefton Better Care Fund plan.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

77. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION POST ROTHERHAM

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Young People and Families which provided an outline of the learning from Rotherham and other child sexual exploitation reviews which had taken place since the publication of the Professor Jay report. Information was provided as to the actions that had, and were still, taking place in Sefton to address the national lessons learned and to safeguard children and young people in Sefton from child sexual exploitation.

The report included the following appendices:

Appendix 1 - PAN Merseyside Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy 2014-2017

Appendix 2 - Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) CSE Strategy on a Page

Appendix 3 - LSCB Governance Structure

Appendix 4 - LSCB CSE Partnership Pathway

Members of the Cabinet raised questions on the following issues referred to in the report and the Director of Young People and Families responded to the issues as indicated below:

To what extent do we have a problem of child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Sefton and how do we compare in comparison to other local authorities?

Response:

We do not know the level of CSE in any local authority area, but what we do know is that it was occurring in every area. We have increased the awareness of CSE in the Borough of Sefton and across the Merseyside area and the number of CSE referrals received by the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) had increased from 30 for the period 1 January to 19 October 2014, to 100 for the period from 20 October 2014 to 13 March 2015 and as of 13 March 2015, Sefton had 12 children and young people who were the subject of a Multi –Agency Child Sexual Exploitation Panel (MACSE) Plan.

What are we doing to inform agencies of the action been take on CSE? and do we have any joint working/liaison between the Sefton Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Sefton Adult Safeguarding Board?

Response:

A wide range of CSE awareness sessions have been held with Managers

of Children's Homes within Sefton; Taxi Companies; Public Health Commissioners; Sexual Health Service Strategic Leads; Neighbourhood, Anti - Social Behaviour and Domestic Abuse Service staff; and Adult Substance Misuse Services staff.

100,000 CSE awareness cards had been produced and distributed locally, 66 buses in Merseyside were displaying CSE awareness posters and the Director of Young People and Families represented Sefton Council on a debate on BBC Radio Merseyside during the National CSE Awareness Day on 18 March 2015.

A number of Independent Children's Homes in Sefton provide accommodation for children and young people who have been relocated from other local areas, and Sefton Council ensures that close liaison is maintained with them and Ofsted, which has resulted in the closure of 3 Homes following concerns raised by the Council about inadequate practices.

A single point of contact on CSE issues is maintained with all agencies on the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

The MASH deals with all CSE referrals both for children and young people, and young adults and Dr David Sanders is the Chair of the Sefton Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Sefton Adult Safeguarding Board.

Is there liaison between Sefton Council and other local authorities who place children and young people from their area in Children's Homes in Sefton?

The Director of Young People and Families had taken a lead nationally in changes made to procedures implemented by the Department for Education and Ofsted in 2014 to ensure local authorities placing 'looked after' children outside of their boundary notify the local authority within which they are placing the child. If a child is being placed in an area which is not a local geographically next to the responsible placing authority, the placing Director of Children's Services must discuss the placement with the Director of Children's Services for the area in which the child is being placed.

Are all local agencies represented at a senior level on the Sefton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)?

Response:

Yes – the Independent Chair of the LSCB had ensured that there is senior representation from all agencies.

What are the internal management arrangements and who reports to who on CSE issues?

The Independent Chair of the LSCB was appointed by the Chief Executive and a Children's Services Continuous Improvement Board had

been established to provide scrutiny of Children's Social Care and the LSCB. The Board was chaired by the Chief Executive and attended by a challenge partner, the Chief Executive of Halton Council, the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools, Families and Leisure, the Director of Young People and Families and the Independent Chair of the LSCB

What action has been taken to the request made by Government Ministers to ensure information is shared amongst key stakeholders?

A formal agreement on information sharing between Sefton Council, the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner, Health Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and other agencies would be signed on 27 March 2015

Decision Made:

That:

- (1) the work taking place in Sefton regarding Child Sexual Exploitation be noted;
- (2) the Director of Young People and Families submit a report to the Cabinet on a quarterly basis on the number of CSE referrals in Sefton and the action that had been taken; and
- (3) the report be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) for consideration.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure Members were aware of the partnership activity undertaken to safeguard children from child sexual exploitation in Sefton.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

78. PROCUREMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE ANNUAL SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE WORKS

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Built Environment which provided details of the proposed procurement of the Annual Service Contracts for Highway Maintenance Work to begin in July 2016.

Decision Made:

That:

- 1) the procurement of the Annual Service Contracts for Highway Maintenance Work be agreed based on the specifications referred to in paragraph 2.6 of the report;

- (2) the Director of Built Environment be authorised to approve the Short List of Tenderers for each Contract subject to the appropriate review of the Pre Qualification Questionnaire;
- (3) the tenders be evaluated using the evaluation criteria set out in paragraph 2.4 of the report; and
- (4) the Director of Built Environment be authorised to award the Contracts to the highest scoring Tenderer.

Reasons for Decision:

The existing Annual Service Contracts for Highway Maintenance Works are due to expire in July 2016.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

There were a number of alternative proposals for delivering the Maintenance Work. Consideration had been given to engaging one Contractor for all the works that forms the Highway Maintenance Programme or by reducing the number of Contracts to a smaller number by joining similar activities together.

However, it was acknowledged that there was a risk that should the works be undertaken by one, or a small number of contractors, any poor performance of a Contractor would have a much greater impact both on service delivery and staff resources. As such, as the previous 5 year arrangement proved effective, it was considered appropriate to use this as a model for the Contracts going forward.