

CABINET REPORT

COUNCILLOR	COMMITTEE	DATE
Peter Dowd	Cabinet Member for Children's Services	December 2009

Financial Services

Overall Budget Position – Children's Services (Approx £1.9m deficit)

Major overspend continues to be for LAC / agency / care packages for CWD, this is currently projected to overspend in 2009/10 by £2.33m but likely to increase next year due to pressures from the continuing trend in increased placements. Added to this is the additional costs attributed to Legal Services attached to child placements etc, projected to overspend by £194,000. Also the increased cost of additional Social Worker support as a result of the Fostering Services Inspection and the Lord Laming recommendations – the current employee costs for Children's Social Care is projected to overspend by £230,000.

South Sefton Sixth Form College – Now open

Planning & Building Services

Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

Partnerships for Schools (PfS) have confirmed this week that Sefton has been invited, along with 11 other authorities, to join the BSF programme and will be requested to attend a Remit meeting in London between January and the end of March 2010. This is a high level meeting between PfS, DCSF (BSF Team and Office of the Schools Commissioner) and the local authorities, which focuses on setting strategic objectives and targets as informed by the Readiness to Deliver (RtD) assessment and pre-engagement process. Additional information for the Readiness to Deliver document is required by PfS by 7 December 2009 following the meeting on 5 November, attended by Alan Moore, Peter Morgan and senior advisors from Capita. Advertisements have been placed this week in the Guardian and Sunday Times for Project Director and Project Manager and the appointment of Project Officer and Communications Lead will also be progressed. The selection of external advisors for Legal, Financial and ICT/Education will be finalised by 15 December for approval by Project Board on 16 December. Meetings are underway with all of the Workstream Teams to plan out preparation for the Strategy for Change documents for the Authority and schools, completion of which will be required in approximately 6 months after the Remit meeting has taken place. These are detailed documents which comprehensively set out the transformational, educational visions and strategies that provide the information needed to meet later requirements of the estate strategy, design brief and procurement

Sport & Recreation Section Briefing

Positive Futures Activities

During the October half term, Positive Futures worked in partnership with the Sport & Recreation department to provide a short break for children and young people with disabilities to the Berwyn Mountains in Wales to walk with Llamas around the mountains. The exclusive trip was the culmination of a week long range of activities that had been run by the team that included fishing, bowling, quasar and a family fun day.

Continuing to develop Positive Links with the community, Sefton Positive Futures celebrates its eight year of operation this year as it continues to go from strength to strength in providing sport & recreational activities for young people with partners, Leisure Services, to targeted groups and individuals.

Proving the most popular with young people, The Active Lifestyle programme has seen some fantastic results with very hard to reach young people and has seen an increase in these young people accessing clubs and continuing not only to attend but also perform in local leagues and competitions. Expanding the reach of the programmes offered by the team, Positive Futures links

children with disabilities, children in care systems and also targeted individuals you are on the verge of exclusion or are in the youth justice system with positive diversionary sessions and programmes seven days a week.

Gifted & Talented

Continuing the range of activities during the October half term, the Sefton Athletics Academy ran two gifted and talented camps at Litherland Sports Park continuing their successful run of camps after the pilot project in the summer. The exclusive camp was by invitation only with twenty-eight primary and fifteen secondary school aged students invited to attend as a result of previous performances or teacher recommendation. Providing an opportunity to enhance athletic ability the camps provided the athletes with high quality coaching from qualified and experienced coaches from Sefton Leisure Services, Southport Waterloo Athletics Club and top athletes in their field.