

Cabinet

12 May 2014

Present: N Redfearn (Elected Mayor) (in the Chair)
Councillors CA Burdis, EN Darke, R Glendon, I Grayson,
JLL Harrison, F Lott, CB Pickard, L Spillard and JJ Stirling

In Attendance: M Almond (Voluntary and Community Sector)
C Botten (North Tyneside VODA)
M Cushlow (North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group)
R Layton (JTUC)
S Neill (Northumbria Police)
A Oghene (Young Mayor)

CAB229/05/14 Apologies

Apologies were received from A Caldwell (Age UK North Tyneside).

CAB230/05/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

CAB231/05/14 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CAB232/05/14 Report of the Young Mayor

The Young Mayor reported on the following activities in which he and/or Young Cabinet members had been involved:

- The bands and solo artists for The Event, to be held on 5 July 2014 at Segedunum, had been selected. The Event was for young people aged 11 to 18 and tickets were on sale now at £3 each,
- Young Cabinet Member Bethan had attended the Safer Communities Board meeting where she gave a presentation about the Recycled Teenager Project which aimed to change the negative perception of young people. It had been well received and would be repeated for locality police inspectors.
- Attendance at the intergenerational project at South Gate Court Sheltered housing scheme.
- Work continued on the Young Mayor's pledge to involve young people in sports and games. North Tyneside Summer Games had been created to involve students from all of the high schools and special schools in the Borough with year 9 and 10 students. It was planned to be held at Foxhunters Club. Letters had been sent to local businesses asking for sponsorship, and an application had been submitted for Community Games funding.
- Young Cabinet members from the Environment Group, the Young Mayor and some youth councillors had been involved in a beach clean up at Tynemouth Longsands as part of Big Spring Clean.
- In support of the Authority's 'Changing Our Thinking' initiative, aimed at encouraging people to recycle more and use less resources, the Young Cabinet had been involved in judging of a poster competition, with art work submitted from schools across the Borough. The two winning posters would be displayed on new recycle bins.

- Some of the Young Cabinet Members had assisted the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Officers in planning the Mayor's community conversations, with the aim of effectively engaging with young people.
- Meeting with researchers from Newcastle University who were conducting a study called Reellives.
- Attendance with the Young Cabinet Member Daniel Doran, at the Tyne & Wear Transport Users Working Group.
- Delivery of Mind Matters Training to young people interested in mental health.
- Some Youth Councillors and Residents Panel members had taken part in a Members Code of Conduct consultation. A second consultation was planned for June. Once complete the information would be shared with the Authority's Standards Committee.
- Attendance at the Duke of Edinburgh Awards celebrations.
- The Young Cabinet Member for Health and Well-being and Health Reference Group representatives had taken part in a re-accreditation of North Tyneside General Hospital's Children's Out Patients Department. The 'You're Welcome' Programme looked at how friendly services were for children and young people.
- Attendance at an inspection parade at TS Whitley Bay Sea Cadets.

The Young Mayor was thanked for his report and was commended on the work he was doing, especially in relation to the Recycled Teenager Project.

CAB233/05/14 Adult Skills Funding (All Wards)

Cabinet considered which requested approval to accept the annual funding and contracts offered by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA), the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and the sub-contract offered by Barnardo's for the provision and delivery by the Authority of post-16 education, training, apprenticeships and work experience. The funding would enable the Authority to deliver a programme of skills provision that targeted low-skilled, unemployed and disadvantaged young people and adults thus narrowing the gap in skills attainment and unemployment levels.

The funding offer was set by the SFA therefore no further negotiation was required. However, the funding offered from the EFA and Barnardo's that provided support for 16-18 year olds was considered low for the services to be delivered and therefore further negotiation was required to potentially increase this offer to deliver the increasing demand for this provision.

The contracts would be paid on a unitised outcome basis, i.e. the Authority would be paid up to 80% of the Maximum Contract Value (the "MCV") on the basis of the number of starts and retention in learning, the remaining 20% would be paid upon the learners' successful completion of the programme, qualification or progression into employment.

Annually the Authority's Adult Learning Alliance (the "ALA") team delivered training and learning to over 6500 part-time learners equating to between 450 and 500 full-time students. The vast majority of the learners were either unemployed or low skilled, i.e. did not possess qualifications at level 2 (GCSE equivalent), additionally 23% of learners lived in the most deprived areas of the Borough or had a learning difficulty or disability.

The Authority, via the Adult Learning Alliance, had been delivering these contracts for over 20 years. In recent years the funding had been offered with increasing focus on qualifications, formal skills development and performance. The Authority had responded well to the changes by improving the quality and range of formal qualifications offered, delivering to increasing numbers of residents.

The funding would enable the Authority to continue to provide a wide range of programmes to support residents to gain the skills and abilities to engage successfully in work, in their own self-development and learning, engage in their community through volunteering and work placements, and support their children's attainment and aspirations.

The focus of the Authority's programme was on low skilled, unemployed or disadvantaged young people and adults. A wide range of provision was offered including apprenticeships (at 16-18 and 19 plus), traineeships (pre employment support), family learning, first steps engagement to support disadvantaged adults and families, English, Maths and ICT basic skills, English for Speakers of a Second Language (ESOL), work experience, volunteering and provision for the unemployed and for adults with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The direct impact of this level of skills provision targeted to low skilled, unemployed or disadvantaged was that the Authority offered a route way or an alternative to more formal Further Education establishments, including colleges. Many learners progressed onto extended learning programmes with colleges or directly accessed work that they would not have been able to access prior to the learning provided.

The vast majority of the provision would be delivered by the Authority's direct delivery arm, the Adult Learning Alliance and a small proportion would be sub-contracted via the Authority's procurement processes to third party specialist providers to enable the Authority to widen the range of provision and level of support offered to residents.

Delivery would be provided by existing Authority employees who were fully funded from these funding streams and therefore it would not be a pressure on the Authority's Budget. Any changes in delivery would be met from the available funding.

The most recent Ofsted inspection (May 2013) had graded the Adult Learning Alliance as good with outstanding features and particular attention had been given to the impact of the work with unemployed adults and the achievements of adults whose prior attainment was very low.

The contract period was one year from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015 and the aggregate contact value was £2.57 million. The report provided details of each specific funding stream/theme.

This funding was an element of the funding provided to the Authority for skills provision and was included in the appropriate budgets published in the budget book. Whilst the funding from the SFA was a reduction on that provided for 2013/14 there had been an increase in the funding offered from Barnardo's and the EFA and the Authority was negotiating further growth with these funding agencies. This was in line with the published national and annual Department of Business, Innovation and Skills statement. Therefore the overall reduction was approximately 5%.

Annual business planning took place in the Spring/Summer term to plan staffing and delivery requirements for the Academic year 2014/15 that this funding related to. Any changes to resource requirements would be addressed prior to the commencement of the Academic year. The key resource was tutor costs. Tutors were employed on a flexible annualised hour's contract arrangement that offered a minimum level of teaching hours that was increased as required. This provided a flexible approach to changing demand from learners and proactively provided an approach that reacted to changing funding levels. Therefore the reduction in funding did not pose an issue for 2014/15 provision related to the anticipated expenditure.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning undertook to provide a response to Mr R Layton (JTUC) as to who would track people taking part in the learning programmes and to provide further details about the Partnership for Employment, Learning and Skills.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: either to agree the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively to disagree with the proposals and request that officers develop alternative options.

Resolved that (1) the offer of funding on terms and conditions accepted by the Head of Law and Governance and the Chief Executive, be approved;
(2) the Head of Children, Young People and Learning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning and the Chief Executive, be authorised to take all necessary steps to manage the associated funding and deliver the education and training programmes for residents; and
(3) the Head of Children, Young People and Learning be authorised to continue the negotiations with the Education Funding Agency and Barnardo's relating to the contracts available to the Authority.

(Reason for decision – the Authority will continue to access resources and deliver provision which supports young people and adults who are unemployed and/or low skilled to develop vocational, academic and key skills to support their transition to employment, their development and their ability to sustain themselves economically and contribute to their community.

The programmes are high performing and judged by partners such as Northumbria Probation Service and Jobcentre Plus as essential to supporting disadvantaged communities. Employers such as Kier are closely aligned and supportive of our delivery and training to prepare young people for work in the construction sector.

A lack of basic qualifications is causally linked to poorer health and employment outcomes in later life; supporting the most vulnerable residents to address their key skills has positive benefits in terms of improving the health of unemployed and under skilled people and reducing out of work benefits costs.

It will ensure residents in North Tyneside are not disadvantaged in terms of the levels of support available in neighbouring local authority areas.)

CAB234/05/14 Cabinet Response to Overview and Scrutiny Report on Apprenticeships (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report which responded to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in its report to Cabinet on 10 March 2014, on Apprenticeships (Minute CAB192/03/14 refers). A proposed Action Plan which included responses to the recommendations, was detailed in the report.

An Apprenticeships Sub-Group had been established by the Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee in July 2013 to look at the issue of apprenticeships. The Sub-Group had identified the following 4 recommendations:

1. Cabinet ask officers to devise a North Tyneside Apprenticeship Standard to award to employers within the borough that demonstrate a commitment to working with apprentices.
2. Cabinet ask officers to review the marketing strategy currently in place in relation to employer engagement and devise an e-flyer that could reach as many employers as possible.

3. Cabinet ask officers to ensure that all opportunities are maximised to illustrate the benefits and rewards that be achieved through apprenticeships, both for the apprentice and employer.
4. Cabinet ask officers to ensure that mechanisms are in place to routinely capture information on the short and long term success of apprentices.

Activity was already planned for the implementation of recommendations 1, 2 and 3.

Recommendation 4 was considered more of a long term aim because currently information was provided direct to the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) which was not published under current data protection rules. In addition the Council had no recognised or accepted role in receiving this level of information from employers and training providers. However, the Council could collate this information from employers they directly supported through provision of local wage bursaries and apprenticeship training. This would provide a level of information but would not provide a North Tyneside wide picture. Further work would be undertaken with a greater number of employers to share relevant information.

The report explained that since the Sub-Group's work on the issue of apprenticeships, other work had commenced in relation to the Council as a direct employer of apprentices in addition to Cabinet agreeing a target for apprenticeships. An Action Plan had been developed in relation to this work and the recommendations from the Sub-Committee would be merged into this wider Action Plan for work in relation to apprenticeships.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1 –accept the 4 recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.5.5 of the report, note the suggested actions and suggest additional activity to support their implementation.

Option 2 – approve some of the recommendations, request officers to look at other options and suggest additional activity to support progress.

Option 3 – reject the recommendations and request that additional work be undertaken.

Resolved that the responses to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, detailed in the Action Plan appended to the report, be approved.

(Reason for decision – three of the recommendations are straightforward in terms of implementation and are considered appropriate to increase the numbers and quality of apprenticeships in North Tyneside. The fourth recommendation, although more challenging will provide valuable information for further consideration and will challenge and support improvements in current evidence gathering processes.)

CAB235/05/14 Appointment to Outside Bodies Exercising Executive Functions (All Wards)

Cabinet received a report regarding proposed arrangements for the appointment of representatives to serve on outside bodies that had executive decision-making powers for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

Appendix A to the report set out those outside bodies which had executive functions and required appointments to be made by Cabinet for 2014/15.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: either to agree the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively to disagree with the proposals.

Resolved that the Elected Mayor be authorised to determine (1) the appointment of representatives to serve on those executive outside bodies set out in Appendix A to the report for the 2014/15 Municipal Year;
(2) any changes to the appointment of representatives to serve on those executive bodies which might arise during 2014/15; and

(3) the appointment of representatives to serve on any new executive outside bodies that may arise during the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

(Reason for decision – this will ensure that the Authority is properly represented on external bodies that exercise executive functions.)

CAB236/05/14 Update on Public Health Commissioning (Previous Minute CAB28/06/13 (All Wards))

Cabinet considered a report which provided an update on the key aspects of the Public Health Commissioning and Procurement Programme 2013-2015, approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 10 June 2013 and requested approval of the revised commissioning arrangements. Any commissioning of services would be undertaken in compliance with EU Procurement Regulations and the Authority's Contract Standing Orders.

The Public Health Commissioning and Procurement Programme 2013-2015 set out the strategic commissioning intentions of the Authority in relation to Public Health within the context of the Authority's Procurement Strategy 2013-2017.

At the Cabinet meeting on 10 June 2013 it had been proposed that the following health improvement services provided on behalf of the Authority by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, with a total value of £1.8m, would not be re-commissioned and would therefore end on 31 March 2014.

- Community Health Development
- Healthy Living Centres
- Adult Weight Management
- Tobacco Control
- Healthy4Life – childhood obesity dietetic service
- Healthy4Life – childhood obesity nursing service
- Oral Health Promotion
- Breastfeeding Support

During 2013-14 the Authority's Public Health Team had worked closely with North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group (NTCCG) to ensure that the proposed changes to services were understood and wherever possible aligned with NTCCG service development and commissioning plans going forward. While good progress had been made to re-commission services in two service areas the clinical, HR and estate issues had proven more complex than originally envisaged.

The outcome had been to extend some services into 2014-15. Since February 2014 the Public Health Team had been working closely with senior managers in the Trust and commissioners within NTCCG to reach an acceptable position in terms of the commissioned public health services to be retained and those which were no longer required.

At the end of March 2014 breastfeeding and oral health promotion contracts had been terminated. Provision had been made with regard to these services within the Children's Centre Health and Wellbeing offer.

Tier 3 Adult Weight Management and Healthy Living Centres services would be re-commissioned for 2014-15 only. Revised service specifications had been developed for both services and work had been carried out with NTCCG to ensure that the services were fit for purpose in relation to CCG rehabilitation plans.

Public Health Nurses and Healthy4Life Childhood Obesity Service services had been re-commissioned with the Trust for a period of two years, initially from 1 April 2014;

As previously approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 10 June 2013 the following services would be procured in 2014/15:

- Sexual Health Services;
- CVD Health Check Services;
- Laboratory Services; and
- School Nursing Services

Cabinet considered the following decision options: either to agree the recommendation as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively to disagree with the proposals.

Resolved that (1) the revised commissioning and funding arrangements with regard to specific public health contracts, be approved and the Director of Public Health be authorised to undertake appropriate procurements as necessary in accordance with EU Procurement Regulations and the Authority's Contract Standing Orders; (2) the approach being taken to allow partners to manage the risk of additional service costs to the Authority, be approved; and (3) the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Law and Governance and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, be authorised to agree the service specifications and funding arrangements with the Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

(Reason for decision – this will ensure continuity of service provision.)

CAB237/05/14 Operation Drake

Cabinet was given details of Operation Drake, an intelligence led initiative which aimed to minimise the impact of extreme right wing activity in the Northumbria Police Force area.

CAB238/05/14 Exclusion Resolution

Resolved that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test as defined in Part 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAB239/05/14 Corporate Risk Management Summary Report (Previous Minute CAB CAB127/11/13) (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report which detailed the corporate risks that had been identified for monitoring and management by the Authority's Senior Leadership Team and relevant Cabinet members. The report also provided detailed information on each risk and how it was being managed.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1 – endorse the outcome of the latest review by the Authority's Senior Leadership Team.

Option 2 – suggest changes to the corporate risks and their controls.

Resolved that the latest review of key corporate risks undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team, be endorsed.

Cabinet

(Reason for decision – Each of the corporate risks has undergone substantial review and challenge as part of the corporate risk management process. This is designed to provide assurance that corporate risks and opportunities are being identified and appropriately managed.)

CAB240/05/14 Date and Time of Next Meetings

6.00pm on Monday 9 June 2014.

Minutes published on Thursday 15 May 2014.

The decisions contained within these Minutes may be implemented (unless called in by 3 Non-Executive Members for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) immediately following the expiry of the call-in period; i.e. 5.00pm on 22 May 2014.