

## **Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee**

**6 November 2017**

Present: Councillor S Graham (Chair)  
Councillors J Allan, S Cox, N Craven, S Day  
P Earley, Janet Hunter, A McMullen, T Mulvenna  
and M Rankin

Church Representatives  
Rev M Vine  
Mr G O'Hanlon

Parent Governor Representative  
Mrs M Ord

Also in attendance  
Cllr B Pickard – Deputy Mayor

### **OV21/11/17 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Austin, P Oliver, M Thirlaway and J Wallace.

### **OV22/11/17 Substitute Members**

There were no substitute Members appointed.

### **OV23/11/17 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

### **OV24/11/17 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **OV25/11/17 Creating a Brighter Future Programme 2017/18 Quarter 2 Progress**

The Committee received a report on the progress towards the delivery of the key projects and business cases of the Creating a Brighter Future (CBF) programme for 2017/18. The quarter one update had been provided on 3 July 2017 and the second quarter report was now presented to the Committee.

The Committee was reminded that as part of the 2017-20 financial planning process, an agreed Efficiency Plan set out a series of projects that would deliver the required savings whilst delivering the CBF outcomes. The progress of these projects formed the basis of

the information presented to the Committee and for a programme of its size and complexity the level of risk identified was to be expected at this point within the financial year.

The Authority continued to make progress in project delivery and achievement of savings and/or income and since the last report had converted 3 'in delivery' projects to completion and accelerated the progress of projects previously identified as 'amber'. There were two projects whose savings delivery targets still had significant risks and were identified as 'red' but this had reduced from four in the first quarter report.

The report detailed notable achievements during quarter two of the 2017/18 CBF programme, which included: opening the new Ready for School centre in North Shields; new accommodation for children and young people care leavers in Mitford Gardens, Wallsend; commissioning and opening a new extra care scheme at Crossgates in Hadrian Park; concluding the transfer of Howdon Community Centre to the Family Gateway Trust; and investing in, and progressing, the implementation of a new social care information system, Liquid Logic. Funding from the Department of Education had been secured for "staying close" provision at Elm House and the savings that the development would secure when completed would be fully realised next year.

In the presentation reference was made to the projects with a 'red' savings delivery status and an explanation provided as to why that was the case and what steps were being taken to get the projects back on track.

Members sought clarification on how the income target for the Profit from Property Development project would be realised. It was explained how the process of generating income from interest rates worked and that the whole scheme was a three year programme to deliver £3m. The project's savings delivery status had slipped to 'amber' due to the timing of income generated from interest rates.

A Member requested more information in relation to the new Model to Support Children project as it had only achieved 51% of its projected savings. It was explained that as the process was always child led with the needs of the child taking priority over the cost of the support it was a very difficult target to manage as any change could have a significant impact either way; the aim was to rebalance the provision to provide more specialised support in borough which reduced the overall cost. The decision on when to move a child back to in-borough support was always on a case by case basis. This principal was also applied to changes to the provision of home care support where the support was reviewed to ensure that assistive technology was being used where it brought benefit.

Reference was made to the Signs of Safety practice model being introduced to support more children and young people at home and what training and information would be provided to Councillors on the model. The presenting officer agreed to raise the issue of ensuring Members were fully informed of the principles and practice of the new model with the appropriate team and informed the Committee that 400 staff had been trained and all front line officers would also receive training on the model.

In response to a question on the success of the My Care and SIGN directory web pages the Committee was informed that it had been reported that the service had seen a reduction in calls and visits made.

Reassurance was sought and given that where minor savings gaps were being bridged by not recruiting to vacant positions that it was only a temporary measure and that work was continuing to ensure all savings expected for these projects would be met in the next year.

**Agreed** that (1) the Creating a Brighter Future Programme 2017/18 Quarter 2 Progress report be noted; and  
(2) Information/training on the new practice model Signs of Safety be made available to all Members of the Council.