

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Children and Adult Services
Learning and School Effectiveness
Children and Families

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Children's and Adults' Services – Councillor David Elkin, the Lead Member for Children and Families – Councillor Colin Belsey and the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness – Councillor Nick Bennett on Monday 21 January 2013 at County Hall, Lewes

Councillor Bentley spoke on item 6 (see minute 33)

Councillor Field spoke on items 4, 5 and 6 (see minute 31, 32 and 33)

28. REPORTS

28.1 A copy of the reports referred to below are contained in the minute book.

29. MINUTES

29.1 Councillor Bennett approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 20 November 2012.

30. INTERESTS

30.1 Councillor Field declared a personal interest in item 4 as a family member is the business manager of an independent school providing for children with special educational needs.

31. LOW INCIDENCE HIGH NEEDS TOP UP BANDED FUNDING FRAMEWORK

31.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which set out a framework for low incidence high needs pupils top up banded funding in maintained schools, academies, college Central and FE colleges.

DECISION

31.2 **RESOLVED** to approve the framework as set out in the report.

Reasons

31.3 The framework is compliant with the Department for Education's requirements for 2013/14. The Schools Forum has been consulted on the proposals, and the Working Group have agreed to keep the Framework under review, in particular the issues of capacity in private and public provision of places, and operational practices to support that provision.

32. INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE (IAG) SUPPORT FOR 16-18 YEAR OLDS WHO ARE NOT IN, OR AT RISK OF NOT PROGRESSING INTO EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT WITH TRAINING OR TRAINING

32.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which sought approval for a means to provide the Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) service.

DECISION

32.2 RESOLVED to (1) approve the re-commissioning of the Information, Advice and Guidance Support Service for 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment with training or training; and

(2) approve the specification recommended in the Options Appraisal.

Reason

32.3 The findings of the Optional Appraisal are that the Information, Advice and Guidance service is crucial in delivering the Raising Participation Age agenda and in supporting the most vulnerable to progress. A professionally delivered service is vital in improving educational outcomes and in improving the social mobility and the health and well being of some of our most vulnerable residents.

33. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT: PROVISION FOR PUPILS LIVING IN JOINT COMMUNITY AREAS IN EAST SUSSEX

33.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which considered the application of the County Council's transport policy to children who live in joint rural community areas which were previously exempt.

DECISION

33.2 RESOLVED (1) not to make a change to the application of the County Council's transport policy to joint community areas during 2013/14; and

(2) to agree that the decision be reviewed in 2014/15 following further consultation, to include the Eastbourne joint area, and more detailed calculations of the projected savings based on preferences and on potential savings from the Eastbourne joint area.

Reason

33.3 Given the level of concern raised during the consultation and the relatively small estimated savings earmarked in the medium term financial plan, it is not recommended to agree a change to application of the policy. However, the situation will be kept under review in 2014/15, with the inclusion of the Eastbourne joint area and more detailed calculations of projected savings based on preferences.

34. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT: INTER BLOCK TRANSFERS

34.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which sought approval for transfers between blocks of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

DECISION

34.2 RESOLVED to approve the inter block transfer of funds within the Dedicated Schools Grant, as outlined in the report.

Reason

34.3 Overall grant funding has been reduced by a top slice to fund hospital schools and the withdrawal of an uplift related to Early Years places. The High Needs block and Early Years blocks are both fully committed and did not take into account these reductions when finalised. There are other identified pressures in the High Needs block, which are set out in the report. It is therefore necessary to transfer funds between the blocks.