

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Redesign Board of the Highland Council** held in Committee Room 1, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Tuesday, 25 September 2018 at 11.00 am.

Present:

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| Mr B Lobban (Chair) | Mr G MacKenzie |
| Mrs C Caddick | Mr C Smith |
| Dr I Cockburn | Mr J Gibson |
| Mr A Jarvie | Mr P MacPherson |

Also Present:

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| Mr D Louden | Mr J Gray |
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Officials in attendance:

Mr M MacLeod, Council Redesign Lead
Mr A Maguire, Head of Development and Regeneration
Ms E Johnston, Corporate Audit and Performance Manager
Ms S Campbell, Head of Children's Services
Ms R Cleland, Corporate Communications Manager
Miss J Maclennan, Principal Administrator

Business**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr G Adam, Mr R Bremner, Mr A Christie, Mrs M C Davidson, Mr L Fraser, Mr A Mackinnon, Mr M Reiss, Mr A Sinclair, Ms M Smith and Mrs C Wilson.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

3. Final Report on Commissioned Children's Services

There had been circulated separately Report No. RDB/5/18 dated 17 September 2018 by the Redesign Team – Children's Commissioned Services which focused on the potential benefits and saving that could be achieved for commissioned services, including the development of an in-house hub. The report also considered the opportunities and benefits that could be achieved by aligning this work to the already approved review of Children's Services but it was recognised that more work was needed with the Third Sector to achieve changes in service requirements to meet priorities and achieve identified savings targets.

Prior to discussion, Members were informed that the Third Sector had asked if they could forward an alternative proposal. However, it was suggested that the report be considered at full Council as it stood as it took into account the need for proper dialogue with them and an alternative proposal might delay the implementation of recommendations. There would nevertheless be a commitment to work with the Third Sector to deliver the best outcomes for young people.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- it was the general consensus that the report and its recommendations be considered at a meeting of the full Council. However, it was important that the Council continued working alongside and positively engaging with the Third Sector Interface (TSI);
- there were many Third Sector groups and therefore it would be better for officers, when looking at the format of the discussions, to deal directly with the TSI;
- this was a Council proposal with the resolute aim of ensuring better outcomes and consistency of provision for young people in Highland. If the proposal also achieved savings then this was a bi-product;
- it was important that the Council was prepared to explain the objectives of the proposal had young people at its centre; and
- the review team, including Elected Members, had had a productive meeting with relevant staff, stakeholders, Third Sector representatives .

Thereafter, the Board **NOTED** the findings as detailed in the report and attached appendices and **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that the Council:-

- i. take forward the proposals presented in section 11.3 of the report (In-house hub for the replacement and support services for children) and agree to integrate the proposed in-house hub for Placement and Support Services for Children into the overall agreed approach to the review of Children's Services delivery;
- ii. continue to have dialogue with Third Sector partners to ensure that proposed savings can be made with minimum impact to individual clients and families; and
- iii. agree savings a savings target of £779k over 2019/20 and 2020/21 with contract lead officers delegated the responsibility to develop proposals as outlined above to achieve the overall targets indicated (it was recognised that these targets and timescales might need to be reviewed in the context of the Council's future budget considerations).

The meeting ended at 11.10 am.