

Central Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



**Central
Bedfordshire**

please ask for Sandra Hobbs
direct line 0300 300 5257
date 11 November 2010

NOTICE OF MEETING

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date & Time

Tuesday, 23 November 2010 10.00 a.m.

Venue at

**Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford,
SG17 5TQ**

Richard Carr
Chief Executive

To: The Chairman and Members of the CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Cllrs J Street (Chairman), Mrs D B Gurney (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A Barker, P A Blaine, D Bowater, N B Costin, Dr R Egan, P Hollick, K Janes and A Shadbolt

[Named Substitutes:

Cllrs: I Dalgarno, Mrs S A Goodchild, J G Jamieson, Mrs M Mustoe and A M Turner]

Co-optees: Ms Copley (Parent Governor), Ms Image (Roman Catholic Diocese), Mr Landman (Parent Governor), Mr Reynolds (Church of England Diocese) and Mr Sear (Parent Governor)

All other Members of the Council - on request

**MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS
MEETING**

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence and notification of substitute members.

2. **Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 October 2010.

3. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations and the **nature** in relation to:-

- (a) personal interests in any agenda item
- (b) personal and prejudicial interests in any agenda item
- (c) any political whip in relation to any agenda item.

4. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

To receive any announcements from the Chairman and any matters of communication.

5. **Petitions**

To receive petitions from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 2 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

6. **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

To receive any questions, statements or deputations from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 1 of part A4 of the Constitution.

7. **Call-In**

To consider any decision of the Executive referred to this Committee for review in accordance with Procedure Rule 10.10 of Part D2.

8. **Requested Items**

To consider any items referred to the Committee at the request of a Member under Procedure Rule 3.1 of Part D2 of the Constitution.

Reports

Item	Subject	Page Nos.
9	Portfolio Holder Update To receive a verbal update from the Portfolio Holder regarding current issues within Children's Services.	Verbal Update
10	Learning Transformation To receive a verbal update on progress.	Verbal Update
11	Future Provision of Bedfordshire Music Service The report proposes options with regard to future provision and management arrangements for the Music Service when the Service Level Agreement with Bedford Borough Council comes to an end in March 2011. This report does not include the Sensory Impairment Music Therapy Service which is covered in the Special Educational Needs report.	13 - 34
12	The Direction of the Youth Service The report outlines developing ideas on the proposal to change the delivery model of the Youth Service to targeted areas only and involving the voluntary, community and not for profit sector more through the "Big Society".	35 - 48
13	Commissioning the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) The report sets out options for the delivery of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) in Central Bedfordshire focused on the development of provision that can meet local needs in mainstream schools.	49 - 62
14	Future Delivery of Special Educational Needs (SEN) Services in Central Bedfordshire The report sets out the direction of travel for the delivery of provision for Special Education Needs in Central Bedfordshire.	63 - 80
15	Work Programme 2010 - 2011 & Executive Forward Plan To provide Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.	81 - 104

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CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held at Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford, SG17 5TQ on Tuesday, 19 October 2010

PRESENT

Cllr J Street (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs D B Gurney (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs A Barker
P A Blaine
P Hollick
A Shadbolt

Parental Co-optees: H Copley
D Landman

Church of England Co-optee: J Reynolds

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs D Bowater
N B Costin
Dr R Egan
K Janes

Roman Catholic Co-optee Mrs F Image

Parental Co-optee Mr B Sear

Substitutes: Cllrs Mrs S A Goodchild
Mrs M Mustoe

Members in Attendance: Cllrs Mrs A M Lewis
Mrs C Turner

Officers in Attendance: Ms R Baker Headteacher of Beecroft Lower School, Dunstable
Mr B Carter Overview & Scrutiny Manager
Ms C Cooper Temporary Democratic Services Officer
Mrs E Grant Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Mrs S Hobbs Democratic Services Officer
Mr B Pearson Head of Joint Strategic Commissioning
Ms K Peddie Head of Policy & Strategy - Children's Services

CS/10/37 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14 September 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CS/10/38 **Members' Interests**

(a) **Personal Interests:-**

Councillor Blaine advised that he was a Governor/ Board Member at Barnfield College

Councillor Mrs C Turner was a Governor at Central Bedfordshire College

Councillor Mrs Goodchild was a Governor at Tithe Farm Lower School

(b) **Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-**

None.

(c) **Any Political Whip in relation to items on the agenda:-**

None.

CS/10/39 **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman confirmed that a letter had been sent to the local MPs, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury seeking their support to maintain funding for the benefit of young people. A copy was circulated to the Members of this committee. Cllr Anita Lewis commented that she had reinforced this message with the local MPs at a recent meeting.

CS/10/40 **Petitions**

No petitions were received from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 2 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

CS/10/41 **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

No questions, statements or deputations from members of the public were received in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 1 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

CS/10/42 **Call-In**

No matters were referred to the Committee for a decision in relation to call-in of a decision.

CS/10/43 **Requested Items**

No items were referred to the Committee for consideration at the request of a Member under Procedure Rule 3.1 of Part D2 of the Constitution.

CS/10/44 **Portfolio Holder Update**

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services communicated to Members on the following current issues:

- the Council had an ongoing duty to refresh the Children and Young People's Plan and this was currently out for consultation;
- the Government had produced a White Paper which proposed changes to the National Health Service (NHS). Until a final report was produced by the Government the exact impact on the Council was not clear;
- the Steering Group reviewing the School Places in Dunstable and Houghton Regis was working hard and the results would be submitted to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 January 2011;
- the Looked After Children Awards ceremony had taken place and was attended by foster carers and young people in care, the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services. The event recognised the success of young people in care. The evening was a great success;
- Youth Participation Officers had been working with Young Carers to produce a DVD called 'Undercover Carers' to highlight and raise awareness to both pupils and teachers about young children who looked after their parents. This would be delivered via the PSHE lessons. In addition Look East had interviewed the Portfolio Holder and one of the young carers;
- two Governor meetings had taken place at Priory House and Dunstable, these were to recognise the work being carried out by school Governors. The Chairman attended one of these events and communicated his thanks.

CS/10/45 Child Poverty Strategy

Members considered the report of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and received a presentation from the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services about the development of a strategy to reduce child poverty and alleviate its effects in Central Bedfordshire. Members also watched a DVD produced by Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council about the impact of Child Poverty in this area.

The presentation introduced Members to child poverty and set out:

- the Child Poverty Act including the definitions of poverty
- the percentage of children in poverty in the UK
- why income matters and the poverty and life chances form an inter-generational cycle
- the need to end child poverty and how local authorities and partners can co-operate to reduce child poverty
- the percentage of children in relative poverty by upper-tier local authority
- a breakdown of the percentage of children living in poverty in the Central Bedfordshire Council wards.

The Committee welcomed Ms Baker, Headteacher of Beecroft Lower School, Dunstable to the meeting. Ms Baker communicated to the Members a brief summary of the services in place at Beecroft Lower School which had received an outstanding Ofsted result. She believed that the key to working with parents was to create a relationship and sometimes it was best practice to include informal events in order to meet parents in a less pressured environment.

Members were advised that a Sure Start Children's Centre was attached to Beecroft Lower School and that this meets some of the early intervention needs of some of the children to establish a common starting point for learning. However it was reiterated that there was no link between the school and the services provided at the Children's Centre. In addition, due to the current economic climate whilst some services such as Breakfast Clubs are valued, schools needed to be innovative in how they were funded.

Members were advised that the Government's White Paper proposed changes to the National Health Service (NHS) and recommended that a Health and Wellbeing Board be established. The Board would include the Director of Public Health, Director of Adult Social Care and the Director of Children's Services along with the Portfolio Holders for Children and Adult services.

The framework for the Draft Child Poverty Strategy would follow the four key national objectives with underpinning priorities specific to Central Bedfordshire. In particular, Members commented on Objective 3 'improving life chances of children and families by intervening early to prevent poor outcomes' and 4 'working with colleagues from all sectors and agencies to improve the environmental factors'.

Members were advised that the needs of gypsy and travellers fell under the Gypsy and Traveller Strategy. The child poverty data was provided from the HMRC. Officers would circulate the data to Members, but careful consideration would have to be given to the extent of information provided without identifying individuals in poverty. The data provided from HMRC was two years old and was realigned to reflect the wards in Central Bedfordshire.

Members agreed that the DVD was very good and recommended that all members of Central Bedfordshire Council have the opportunity to watch it.

RESOLVED

to agree the four key objectives that would set the framework for the Child Poverty Strategy as set out in the report.

NOTED

the request that all members of Central Bedfordshire Council have the opportunity to watch the Child Poverty DVD.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned from 11:55 am – 12:05 pm for a short break.

CS/10/46 Post 16 Transport Policy

Members considered the report of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services that proposed changes to the Post 16 Transport Policy, to take effect from September 2011. Members noted that the proposed policy changes were related to young people attending post 16 education and training in schools, colleges and work based learning providers and not part of the Home to School Transport Policy which had previously been agreed by the Executive in March 2010.

Members were presented with proposals and in particular debated the proposal for the mileage criteria and the fifteen miles radius between home and school or college. Members expressed concern that this should be reconsidered as students in the rural areas within Central Bedfordshire and those on the border would not be able to attend colleges in Bedford under the 15 mile criteria.

Members needed to be certain that students living anywhere in Central Bedfordshire had access to a collage within the 15 mile radius. Members were advised that any amendments to the mileage criteria would need to be costed. Members noted that extensive research had taken place regarding these proposed changes, and this could be shared. Members requested maps setting out what provision was available within Central Bedfordshire which led to recommending the 15 mile radius. The Director noted that travel to learn distances did not need to take account Council boundaries.

Members fully debated the low income criteria and agreed that this should reflect the Home to School Transport Policy.

A suggestion was put forward to amend the proposal on the assessment of Course Content to continue the last sentence 'and that the student has been accepted for a place at the school or college'.

Concerns were raised about the safety of cycle routes within Central Bedfordshire and that cycle routes being used by young people travelling to school or college should be given a higher priority.

Members noted that the consultation on the Policy would commence on 8 November 2010 and would run until 17 December 2010. The outcomes of the consultation would be fed back to the Committee on 25 January 2011 before being submitted to the Executive on 8 February 2011.

RESOLVED

- 1. that Officers reconsider the modal for the 15 miles radius under the proposal for the mileage criteria**
- 2. to suggest an amendment to the proposal on the assessment of Course Content to extend the last sentence 'and that the student has been accepted for a place at the school or college'.**

RECOMMENDED

to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee that they consider the safety of cycle routes being used by young people travelling to and from school or college within their work programme.

CS/10/47

Quarter One Performance Report

Members considered the report of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services which highlighted the quarter one performance for the Children's Services Directorate, including the relevant Corporate Health Indicators.

Members noted that the performance had been good within the Directorate. Members queried the amount of days in which an undisputed invoice had to be paid as this currently was within 30 days. Members felt that the turnaround of invoices was very quick especially compared to private industry. Officers agreed to raise this with the Finance team and come back to Members.

NOTED

the report.

CS/10/48

Work Programme 2010 - 2011 & Executive Forward Plan

Members considered the report of the Chief Executive which provided details of the current committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan. A revised work programme had been circulated to Members as there had been amendments to the November, December and January meetings.

NOTED

the revised Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 1.30 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated

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Meeting: Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 23 November 2010
Subject: Future Provision of Bedfordshire Music Service
Report of: Cllr Mrs Anita Lewis, Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services
Summary: The report proposes options with regard to future provision and management arrangements for the Music Service when the Service Level Agreement with Bedford Borough Council comes to an end in March 2011. This report does not include the Sensory Impairment Music Therapy Service which is covered in the Special Educational Needs report.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children’s Services
Contact Officer: Sylvia Gibson, Interim Assistant Director, Learning & Strategic Commissioning
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Executive

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Bedfordshire Music supports the following Council priority:

- Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people.

It also contributes to the Children and Young People’s Plan, the Key Stage 2 and 3 Curriculum strategies, the Music Manifesto and the Government’s aspirations for music education.

Service community outreach work aims to help people at all stages of life participate in and enjoy music, supporting individuals in reaching their full potential in developing their musical skills. Projects and programmes are targeted at particular areas of need within schools and the community.

Financial:

The Music Service is currently funded as follows:

Central Bedfordshire Council	£272,000.00
Bedford Borough Council	£346,000.00 * subject to review
Central Bedfordshire Council Standards Fund	£437,000.00
Bedford Borough Council Standards Fund	£285,000.00
Income from fees, charges & other activities	£1,105,000.00

The intention is that the new arrangements will deliver a cost neutral service in 2012/13.

Legal:

On 1 April 2009 the former Bedfordshire County Council's obligations for the provision of music services transferred to Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council. It was agreed that Central Bedfordshire Council would host the Music Service and maintain it as a shared service.

The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services has overall responsibility for the delivery of the service supported by a financial contribution from Bedford Borough Council.

Risk Management:

Developing a more sustainable option for the provision and management of the Music Service is expected to reduce the risk of service failure. At the time of writing the report an Audit Report for the Service is being drafted which is expected to contain some recommendations for improvement.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

In implementing new service arrangements, a consultation with schools will be required.

Changes to the staffing structure will be the subject of a separate full consultation with all staff at risk. Central Bedfordshire will fully consider the rights of staff in the Music Service including the TUPE rights of permanent staff in the Music Service.

Equalities/Human Rights:

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

Community Safety:

N/A

Sustainability:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the report and comments on the options to be presented to the Executive at its meeting on the 7 December 2010.

Background

1. Bedfordshire Music is a Music Education Support Service for the schools and communities of Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough councils. It is a shared service, hosted by Central Bedfordshire Council. Its present core activities focus upon the provision of instrumental teaching and learning opportunities for children, young people and families, and the provision of a range of additional enrichment activities, concerts, events and projects provided both in schools and in communities.
2. The Service Level Agreement with Bedford Borough Council comes to an end in March 2011. This has provided an opportunity for both Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council to review the existing arrangements.
3. Pressures on local government finances and the need to make savings from the Council's base budget require a consideration of the way the service is delivered, its current methods of operation and alternative methods of delivery, with a view to contributing to the Council's savings target.
4. An analysis of the cost of Bedfordshire's Music Service indicates that whilst the Service is well known for its high quality, this is at a significant cost when compared to our statistical group of Councils and near geographical neighbours.
5. The long-term sustainability of the Service is dependent upon having certainty with regard to its level of public subsidy.

Current Service Provision

6. The Service regularly engages some 10,000 children, young people and adults each week, and has an annual turnover in excess of £3 million. The cost of all opportunities currently provided by Bedfordshire Music is subsidised by local authority and/or Music Standards funding at levels between 50% and 100%. Additional Government funding streams over recent years have enabled the Service to provide a number of free learning and enrichment opportunities, particularly for primary aged children.
7. Service provision comprises:
 - Instrumental and vocal lessons in whole class, group and individual learning settings in schools and communities
 - A first access vocal learning programme to all lower schools
 - Curriculum support and enrichment projects in lower and middle schools
 - Special Schools Music IT projects
 - Instrumental day events and workshops
 - Master Classes
 - Concerts and celebration opportunities
 - Five Community Music Centres:
 - Mark Rutherford School, Bedford
 - Redborne Upper School, Ampthill
 - Holmemead Middle School, Biggleswade
 - Vandyke Upper School, Leighton Buzzard

- Manshead Upper School, Dunstable
 - Extended service ensemble opportunities
 - Youth Opera company
 - Rock Schools
 - School based ensemble delivery
 - Live music concerts in schools, residential care homes and day centres
 - Specialist professional development provision for school teachers
 - Local and regional vocal training and advocacy for school teachers and music leaders (until March 2011).
- 8 Youth music groups and ensembles meet on a course basis during school holiday periods. Each course ends with a concert performance. At present there are:
- 5 County Youth orchestras ranging from junior to advanced levels
 - 3 County Youth Wind Bands ranging from junior to advanced levels
 - A Youth Opera company
 - A series of chamber music courses
 - A percussion course
 - A jazz course.
- 9 Students from Luton and Milton Keynes are invited to participate in youth music course activities. At present these opportunities are projected to reach up to 600 children and young people during the current academic year.
- 10 Bedfordshire Music employs a team of up to 227 staff (86.97 full time equivalent staff), comprising leadership and management teams, an administration team and teaching teams.
- 11 The service is a trading business unit. The majority of charges are made directly to parents and carers. These charges and others shown later in the report will be subject to consultation in the fees and charges report to be presented to the Executive. This is shown in the Forward Plan to be in December 2010.
12. The Service manages a stock of musical instruments which are loaned free of charge to students receiving lessons from its teachers. At present all first access learners, and continued learners of string, brass and the majority of woodwind learners have access to service instruments. These instruments are also hired to community groups for a small fee. This area of work can be developed.
13. The Service operates an assisted purchase scheme enabling parents/carers to purchase instruments for their children free of V.A.T. The service is operated in line with current tax legislation and a small administration charge is made for this service.
- 14 The Service provides a comprehensive sheet music library, predominately orchestral, band and choral works, which is available to service staff and local authority schools at no charge. A hire charge is made to community groups and to other local authority groups who access the library.

Governance

15. The Bedfordshire Music Trust, a registered charity, was founded in 1999. A Music Partnership Board was established in 2003 with a view to full transfer to the Bedfordshire Music Trust. This did not occur and, as all of the risks and liabilities associated with the Service rest with Central Bedfordshire Council as the host authority; the arrangements with the Music Partnership Board have been ended. In the absence of a transfer to a full Trust, the Partnership Board which was essentially a meeting of Trustees from the Bedfordshire Music Trust and representatives from the Council, both Members and officers. This Partnership Board had no formal accountability. The accountability for the delivery of Children's Services remained with the Director of Children's Services as is required in statute.
16. It is therefore necessary to establish new governance arrangements that are representative of current accountabilities. It is appropriate, therefore, to consider the governance options in the context of any new model for future service delivery if any options other than a directly run service are finally proposed.

Service Options Appraisal

17. A Service options appraisal is attached at Appendix A where the following service management options are considered
 - Option 1 Discontinue the service
 - Option 2 Consider transferring the service to a trust.
 - Option 3 Reorganise and retain the Music Service as a shared service hosted by either Central Bedfordshire Council or Bedford Borough Council to achieve a cost neutral service whilst ensuring an appropriate offer is in place that meets local needs for music education.
 - Option 4 Reorganise and disaggregate the Music Service to achieve a cost neutral service for Central Bedfordshire whilst ensuring an appropriate offer is in place that meets local needs for music education.

Members are advised as follows:

18. Option 1: This is unlikely to be a strong option. The current provision of music services adds significantly to the learning and enrichment opportunities for children and young people and is unlikely to be an option that is responded to positively.
19. Option 2: This is unlikely to be a strong option. This option would take an estimated 18 to 24 months to implement and is likely to cost some tens of thousands of pounds of unbudgeted expenditure when the transfer rights of staff and possible liabilities are fully costed.

20. Options 3 and 4 are stronger options in the view of officers. However, Member's views are sought on all four options for further development.

Conclusion and Next Steps

21. The Executive will consider its position on the options at its meeting on the 7 December 2010. Comments from the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny committee on their preferred options for development are sought. These views will be incorporated into the development of the options in the Executive report that will be submitted to that meeting.

Appendices:

Appendix A - Service Option Appraisal

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

None.

Music Service Option Appraisal

There are four options that warrant consideration with regard to the future of the Music Service.	
Option 1	Discontinue the service.
Option 2	Transfer the service to a trust.
Option 3	Reorganise and retain the Music Service as a shared service (<i>hosted by either Central Bedfordshire Council or Bedford Borough Council</i>) to achieve a cost neutral service whilst ensuring an appropriate provision offer is in place that meets local needs for music education.
Option 4	Reorganise and disaggregate the Music Service to achieve a cost neutral service whilst ensuring an appropriate offer is in place that meets local needs for music education in Central Bedfordshire

Option One – Discontinue the Music Service

1.	Discontinue the Music Service	Impact:	Advantages:	Consequences:
<p>Discontinuing the music service would require each local authority to devolve the Music Standards Fund, any remaining/available local funding and the resource assets of the music service – instruments /music etc - to schools.</p> <p>Although individual schools may commission instrumental/vocal tuition the discontinuation of the service would not help support or address the national agenda, which fully supports strong and stable music services (music manifesto/Ofsted) and their role in developing extended services in communities, nor would it support the development of local cultural entitlements.</p>		Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negation of financial risk • Reduces need to source additional accommodation once the lease with Bedford College expires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major short term redundancy costs • Would not be in keeping with one of the Council’s top priorities of increasing opportunities for children and young people. • Ceasing the service exposes the Council to significant reputational risk and public challenge as the Music Service is regarded very highly by parents and stakeholders. • LAs retain responsibility for the music standards fund objectives but will be unable to effectively monitor the use and overall effectiveness of the fund • No strategic lead for music provision and/or entitlement • Impact upon standards in schools
		Vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No support available for those with special educational needs, who are in most need or who are vulnerable
		Individual children & young	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broad and diverse universal musical offer would not be available for all children.

1.	Discontinue the Music Service	Impact:	Advantages:	Consequences:
		people		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post code lottery for music provision is established
	<p>A market economy would exist where commercial agencies and/or private teachers would deliver selected tuition and services on a commercial, profit-making basis.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broad and diverse range of high quality consistent learning opportunities especially in specialist areas would not be available • Learning focused on 'popular' forms becomes prevalent • Learning pathways would not be effectively signposted • Free access to instrumental resources would rapidly deteriorate • Cost of any provision type may be restrictively high for many families
	<p>Some upper schools/clusters of schools may endeavour to coordinate and create provision for their catchment.</p>	Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools receive additional funding through the delegation of standards fund • Schools/Clusters gain autonomy in relation to music provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of quality teachers may become challenging • Quality matters/issues in instrumental/vocal learning may become prevalent • Schools / clusters may not have capacity/skill/desire or resources to organise a diverse range of progressive ensemble and enrichment opportunities such as instrumental workshop events and master classes
		Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor job security creates a high turnover of freelance providers impacting upon the quality of teaching & learning • Loss of a highly skilled workforce • Professional development opportunities for specialist instrumental teachers would be lost
		Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L.A's save current funding contributions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large redundancy costs incurred at the outset

1.	Discontinue the Music Service	Impact:	Advantages:	Consequences:
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer term savings in local funding is no longer directed at the music service.

Option Two – Transferring the service to a Trust

2.	Transferring the service to a Trust	Impact:	Advantages:	Consequences:
<p>Transferring the service to a trust may allow the service to continue to deliver and develop its current offer to schools and communities while removing from the local authorities any financial/business risk; however, this would be reliant upon continued public funding levels.</p> <p>Response to any reduction in level would be managed using many of the strategies identified throughout this options paper.</p>	Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All business/financial risks negated Withdrawal of support services from the local authority may impact on their cost to the remainder of Council services, whilst at the same time restricting access to vital services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transferring operational resources to Trust management is likely to incur additional costs which are beyond its resource base and would inevitably have to be sourced from the two local authorities. Once the service is outsourced to a charitable trust there are legal complications in reversing the process 	
	Vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent upon available funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent upon available funding 	
	Individual children & young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent upon available funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The priorities and finances of the Trust may lead to a more narrowly defined service focus and inhibit the service from providing a breadth of opportunities and contributing to cross-cutting themes. 	
	Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are dependent upon available funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash flow issues would determine that the service revert to a direct charging model to schools which may not be well received or managed by schools 	
	Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater potential to involve employees in decision making. Opportunities exist to reward exceptional performance by staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The trust may not be in a position to accept TUPE conditions Possible deterioration of teachers' terms and conditions of employment 	

2.	Transferring the service to a Trust	Impact:	Advantages:	Consequences:
	The aborted past attempt to transfer the service to trust - that of considerable costs – may well negate this option.	Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service would derive benefits from operating under charitable status and independent and flexible management. • A new Trust arrangement that dealt with music provision for the truly vulnerable and that was not dependent on staff transfer may be worthwhile pursuing as a possibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash flow may have significant impact upon business viability – operational practices such as fee collection and charging mechanisms would have to be revised
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater potential to work with private sponsors and secure grant funding. • Staff and Trustees are more motivated to generate efficiency savings which can be reinvested in business. • Greater ability to roll over operating surpluses • Financial savings to be made in relation to rate relief. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced levels of grant funding from the local authority. • Significant exposure to financial risk without the safety net of the local authority. Failure to balance the books may lead to the dissolution of the Trust. • Establishing independent HR, finance, IT and legal support may be restrictively costly

Option Three – Reorganise and retain the Music Service as a shared service to achieve a cost neutral service cost

3. Reorganise and retain the Music Service as a shared service to achieve a cost neutral service	Impact:	Advantages:	Consequences:
<p>The music service needs to develop and change to consider services delivered, current methods of operations and alternative methods of delivery, with a view to contributing to the Council's savings target.</p> <p>Local authority contributions would be significantly reduced and shrink to zero over a period of time.</p> <p>A strategic role with a core team of staff and instrument assets are retained as an arms length trading business unit</p> <p>Teaching staff would be sourced from a pool to meet the needs of the child, family and school.</p>	<p>Local Authorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategic approach to community music provision can continue to be facilitated • Maintaining a shared service would enable greater economies of scale and greater skill base of pupils for band and orchestral purposes. • It would help realise the objective of a cost neutral service • Opportunities for Children and Young People maintained at a level according to demand • Reduced levels of local public funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is the potential for Bedfordshire to lose national recognition as a centre of excellence for youth music provision • A shared arrangement could provide less flexibility for Central Bedfordshire to respond to local needs. • Local management of support for those with special educational needs, who are in most need or who are vulnerable may become inconsistent and lack a strategic and equitable approach • Early move to full cost recovery model.

3. Reorganise and retain the Music Service as a shared service to achieve a cost neutral service	Impact:	Advantages:	Consequences:
Instrument tuition fees are set at a full cost recovery level and are delivered by a casual hourly paid teaching team.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business risk is minimised due to down sizing and delivery at cost through casual hourly paid staffing in addition to a small core team of staff funded by the standards fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More complex management arrangements
Should the Standards Fund be retained by Central Government it would be positioned to ensure those who are in most need or are genuinely unable to meet the cost of continued learning at full cost recovery levels are not excluded from opportunities	Vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available public funding is strategically targeted to support vulnerable groups and those in most need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools may wish to have complete control regarding use of public funding • Local management of support for those with special educational needs, who are in most need or who are vulnerable may become inconsistent and lack a strategic and equitable approach
Targeted support for those who have special educational needs, are vulnerable or hard to reach should be provided through partnership working with appropriate agencies.	Individual children & young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A targeted range of quality assured safeguarded musical opportunities with clear learning pathways is available to all children, young people and families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to high quality centrally organised music groups such as band & orchestras would be limited by availability of funding
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of school, local area and wider musical ensembles would be established with the schools and available to all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free access to instrumental resources would deteriorate • A broad and diverse range of consistent learning opportunities particularly in specialist areas may not be available

3. Reorganise and retain the Music Service as a shared service to achieve a cost neutral service	Impact:	Advantages:	Consequences:
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remissions mechanisms would not be widely available unless the Standards Fund is retained
	Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic support for school improvement and professional development • Available learning resources are effectively and efficiently deployed and targeted to areas of need • If a school is regarded as outstanding , it is likely that a music service within the school will benefit from high quality management • A range of high quality enrichment opportunities may be developed to meet the needs of individual schools and communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools may be averse to the same or similar level of priority and provision of music thus the opportunities for children and young people will be reduced or lost • Schools or clusters may not have capacity/skill/desire or resources to organise a broad and diverse range of progressive ensemble and enrichment opportunities such as instrumental workshop events and master classes • A market economy would not promote the range of instruments required to support ensemble provision • Full cost recovery will limit access to those on lesser income than others and musical enrichment opportunities will be for the elite.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services within schools may be more effectively coordinated with a greater ability to influence participation rates • Schools are more likely to access external funding and sponsorship within a community where deprivation levels are less likely to be masked and community benefits are more obvious. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact upon standards in schools due to the casual nature of the majority of the workforce • The engagement and quality assurance of teaching staff would be burdensome and time consuming for most schools to manage • The management of charging mechanisms would be burdensome and time consuming and schools may be reluctant to undertake this function

3. Reorganise and retain the Music Service as a shared service to achieve a cost neutral service	Impact:	Advantages:	Consequences:
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools / clusters may not have capacity/skill/desire or resources to organise a diverse range of progressive ensemble and enrichment opportunities such as instrumental workshop events and master classes
	Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More flexible working opportunities • Potential for teaching staff to advance career within the school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reorganisation of management and/or staffing structures will result in large reduction in the workforce and/or terms and conditions of employment • Significant reduction in skilled workforce • Casual hourly paid or self-employed employment becomes the norm for many teachers • Professional development opportunities for specialist instrumental teachers may be lost impacting upon quality and standards
	Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy of scale savings through a shared service model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External funding is more difficult to secure in a local authority area that has relatively low levels of deprivation when compared to other English authorities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced risk of service failure due to economies of scale and scale of support available from other Council services. • Significant cost savings in L.A funding contributions • Parents may be less likely to refrain from paying for lessons when via a school than is currently experienced via the LA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant cost savings in L.A funding contributions

Option Four – To reorganise and disaggregate the Music Service

4.	To reorganise and disaggregate the Music Service	Impact:	Advantages:	Consequences:
	<p>The current SLA with Bedford Borough is due to expire in March 2011.</p> <p>Decision to disaggregate would mean we would commence exit meetings as part of the overarching review of the service.</p> <p>The suggested period for disaggregation would be end of the 2010/11 academic year.</p> <p>We would be required to split assets namely instruments and music library.</p> <p>Local authority contributions would be significantly reduced and shrink to zero over a period of time.</p> <p>A strategic role with a core team of staff and instrument assets are retained as an arms length trading business unit.</p>	<p>Local Authorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategic approach to community music provision can continue to be facilitated purely for Central Bedfordshire • Corporate support for Human Resources Management, Accountancy advice, Legal advice, Democratic involvement, Property Management, ICT support • It would enable Central Bedfordshire to concentrate on its need to reduce costs and help realise the objective of a cost neutral service • It is in line with the Central Bedfordshire Council's Education Vision • It is in line with Government direction for Schools and LA relationship • It is consistent with the Council's aim of achieving efficiencies • Opportunities for Children and Young People maintained at a level according to demand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The skill base of pupils for band and orchestral purposes could be reduced • Ability to develop a service that meets the needs of Central Bedfordshire children. • The supply and availability of specialist teachers could be reduced if they concentrate in one or other unitary area • The split of assets (instruments and music library) could restrict the access to musical opportunities especially for the limited numbers of some instruments

4.	To reorganise and disaggregate the Music Service	Impact:	Advantages:	Consequences:
	<p>Teaching staff would be sourced from a pool to meet the needs of the child, family and school.</p> <p>Instrument tuition fees are set at a full cost recovery level and are delivered by a casual hourly paid teaching team</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced levels of local public funding • Business risk is minimised due to down sizing and delivery at cost through casual hourly paid staffing in addition to a small core team of staff funded by the standards fund 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened and more targeted local management of support for those with special educational needs, who are in most need or who are vulnerable may become inconsistent and lack a strategic and equitable approach 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A core Central Bedfordshire strategic team, rather than shared team, would lead to a better co-ordinated local approach to music provision and would provide greater flexibility to respond to changing service opportunities and needs. 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should Standards Fund be retained it would be used and targeted to Central Bedfordshire provision 	

4.	To reorganise and disaggregate the Music Service	Impact:	Advantages:	Consequences:
	Should the Standards Fund be retained by Central Government it would be positioned to ensure those who are in most need or are genuinely unable to meet the cost of continued learning at full cost recovery levels are not excluded from opportunities.	Vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available public funding is strategically targeted to support vulnerable groups and those in most need in Central Bedfordshire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools may wish to have control over the use of funding
	Targeted support for those who have special educational needs, are vulnerable or hard to reach should be provided through partnership working with appropriate agencies.	Individual children & young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A targeted range of quality assured safeguarded musical opportunities with clear learning pathways is available to children, young people and families in Central Bedfordshire A range of school, local area and wider musical ensembles would be established with the schools and available to all, with free access to instrumental resources for those in most need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There may be a limitation in skills set to develop high quality centrally organised music groups such as band & orchestras The range of consistent learning opportunities especially in specialist areas may not be widely available

4.	To reorganise and disaggregate the Music Service	Impact:	Advantages:	Consequences:
	Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater autonomy for schools to decide on level of provision and partnership arrangement with other schools regarding ensembles, workshops and master classes and more easily make cross-curricula links bands and orchestral development • Strategic support for school improvement and professional development • Available learning resources are effectively and efficiently deployed and targeted to areas of need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools may be averse to the same or similar level of priority and provision of music thus the opportunities for children and young people will be reduced or lost • Schools or clusters may not have capacity/skill/desire or resources to organise a broad and diverse range of progressive ensemble and enrichment opportunities such as instrumental workshop events and master classes • Pupils may not have the range of skills to enable Schools / clusters to organise a broad and diverse range of progressive ensemble and enrichment opportunities such as instrumental workshop events and master classes 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services within Central Bedfordshire schools may be more effectively coordinated with a greater ability to influence participation rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full cost recovery could limit access to those on a lower income than others. • Impact upon standards in schools due to the casual nature of the majority of the workforce • The reduced number of schools could limit access to external funding and sponsorship within a community where deprivation levels are lower. 	
	Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More flexible working opportunities • Potential for teaching staff to advance career within the school 		

4.	To reorganise and disaggregate the Music Service	Impact:	Advantages:	Consequences:
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casual hourly paid or self-employed employment becomes the norm for many teachers
		Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant cost savings in L.A funding contributions • Parents may be less likely to refrain from paying for lessons when the service is offered via a school than is currently experienced via the local authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External funding is more difficult to secure in a local authority area that has relatively low levels of deprivation when compared to other English authorities • Past experience has highlighted benefits of greater numbers, wider areas and varying levels of need to access and secure external funding

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Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 23 November 2010
Subject: The Direction of the Youth Service
Report of: Cllr Mrs Anita Lewis, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services
Summary: The report outlines developing ideas on the proposal to change the delivery model of the Youth Service to targeted areas only and involving the voluntary, community and not for profit sector more through the "Big Society".

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Ketan Gandhi, Head of Integrated Youth Support
Public/Exempt: Public/ exempt
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Executive / Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

This reports to the key council priority of:

- Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people.

Financial:

As part of the Council's efficiency savings, currently subject to consultation, it has been proposed to save £1.89 million from services to young people over the next two years. The proposal is for a saving of £570k in 2011/12 and a further £1,328k in 2012/13.

The current Youth Service budget is £1,032,796 and there are additional budgets for services to young people across the directorate and subject to a service level agreement (SLA) with Bedford Borough in the case of the Youth offending team that aggregates to £633k.

The Government is developing proposals for national funding of preventative services for young people and it is possible that there will be grants to bid for or access to non ring fenced funding. In seeking views on such, the Government has specifically excluded funding for Connexions from its deliberations as the decision to remove the Area Based Grant funding for the Connexions service was made in the Coalition Government's emergency budget in the current financial year. It may be necessary to retain up to £125k to fund statutory guidance going forward.

Legal:

There is a legal framework of entitlement for a service of information to young people and the offer of some opportunities is enshrined in the Education Act 1996 as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The delivery model is a matter for Council discretion. This could be a signposting service to voluntary groups as well as/or instead of in-house provision. Legislation requires that the Local Authority must consult with young people about the activities and the provision of information and must publish information about activities.

Risk Management:

The Council will need to ensure that there is smooth transition from in-house delivery to any different model which could include a fully commissioned out model and/or signposting to voluntary groups

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

Consultation with staff and trade Unions will be undertaken in accordance with existing procedures.

Equalities/Human Rights:

An ongoing equality impact assessment is being developed.

Community Safety:

Possible implications for anti-social behaviour and youth offending.

Sustainability:

The development of provision to meet local need matched to an understanding of the changing demographic is the best way to ensure sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION:

Members of the Committee are asked for their views.

Background

1. Recent Government decisions have included the removal of funding for the Area Based Grant which was reported to the Executive in August 2010. Funding may yet be available in the future via an investment in early intervention services in the form of a non-ring fenced Early Intervention Grant (worth around £2bn nationally) by 2014/15. The details of how to bid and whether Central Bedfordshire would qualify have yet to be announced nationally.
2. The Department for Education has cut its non-school budget by 12% 'rationalising and ending' all centrally directed programmes for children, young people and families. Local authority cuts and the removal of ring fenced protection for youth services is likely to lead to the restructure of many services for young people nationally.

3. As part of its on-going statutory consultation on the restructuring of Children's Services, the Council has proposed to cease undertaking the functions of the Connexions Service by the end of the current financial year. This proposal is subject to statutory consultation which will end on 13 December 2010, after which the proposal or an amendment proposal will be implemented.
4. This report outlines proposals for re-designing services to young people, including the youth service towards less Council run provision and more volunteering. These proposals suggest that a commissioning approach with schools and volunteers will be adopted, focusing on the truly vulnerable and developing a strategy to use volunteers more.

Current position

5. Youth work can be described as the personal and social development of young people, provided through informal education and positive activities. Its distinctive characteristics include the voluntary engagement of young people, young people's active involvement in developing provision, the use of informal education as the primary method of youth engagement, and an approach to provision that is responsive to the needs of young people.
6. Detail of staffing will be arranged by the Head of Paid Service and will be subject to statutory consultation. However, the current Youth Service supports the direct delivery of both universal and targeted youth provision. The current provision is 7 youth centres, one youth information shop which is currently being developed as part of the 'under one roof' initiative in Dunstable town centre, and the following staff. The staff list excludes Area Based Grant funded staff referred to earlier in the report:
 - 1 Area Manager
 - 1 Business Support Manager who supports the wider Integrated Youth Support Service
 - 3 full time equivalent Senior Youth Workers
 - 11 full time equivalent Youth Workers
 - 16 part time (10 hours per week) Youth Support Worker Posts
 - 4 Administration posts 3 of which provide support across Integrated Youth Support Service and one specifically to support the work force development team and the coordination of accredited awards.
7. In addition, there is a Youth Participation Team. This area of work primarily concentrates on children's participation. The Youth Offending Service (a shared service managed by Bedford Borough) enacts the Council's responsibility for prevention of offending and re-offending via a Service Level Agreement and a governance board.
8. All of the above services contribute to the budget total shown in the financial section of this report.

Performance

- 9 The Youth Service has made year on year improvements in meeting performance targets. As part of the government’s reduction of targets and performance indicators, information will be not be available to compare nationally from 2009 onwards, however the service compares to benchmarks well. It is in the bottom quartile of funding nationally.

Youth Service BVPIs – Final figures April 09 – 31 March 2010

	National Benchmarks 2009/10	Actuals 1 April 09 to 31 March 2010
Contact with young people	5650	7106
Participant activities	3390	3540
Recorded Outcome	2034	2223
Accredited Outcome	1017	1103

Professional Practice

10. Good youth work begins with looking at young people’s situation and develops a response based on their needs. The relationship between a young person and the youth service is voluntary and as such activities have to be available when young people want them and are able to access them, often this is when other activities are closed. The aim is to give young people opportunities to make informed choices in a safe environment and gain qualifications through a personalised curriculum of activity.
11. Youth work plays an important role in helping to manage risk. Youth work builds emotional resilience, judgement and decision making in young people and places them firmly in control of their present and their future, supporting them to manage risk as they move in to adulthood.
12. The youth service provides young people with ‘things to do and places to go’, with a clear focus on addressing key social issues affecting young people as well as ensuring that our work contributes to the wider local and national agenda. The provision is known to Members as a result of their Task Force report from the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A brief summary is shown at Appendix A.
13. In addition to providing provision through 7 youth centres, the service makes a significant contribution to:
- Leading and enabling integrated youth support to develop across the authority
 - Enterprise programmes
 - Training programmes leading to accredited awards
 - Youth Leadership programmes

- Residential activity
- Reducing the number of young people not in education or employment, (NEET's)
- Being a first point of adult contact for support to young people
- Neighbourhood Improvement Planning
- Supporting the voluntary and not for profit sector – enabling them to provide services
- Reducing anti social behaviour, primarily through detached / street based interventions
- Supporting attainment in schools for those at risk of exclusion and or not achieving
- Reducing bullying
- Providing support to young people who are or at risk of becoming pregnant, taking drugs, binge drinking, self harming, being bullied or considering leaving home
- Developing positive activities on a Friday evening and at weekends
- Supporting council departments and partner agencies with youth involvement and “Young Inspector Reviews”
- Developing the Youth Parliament
- Young people led programmes including “Street Cred” which is a young people led grant giving committee, nationally funded up to this current financial year.

Changing the delivery model of youth provision to targeted areas and focus on the most vulnerable young people.

14. A future model would be developed to offer a targeted approach to those young people who need it most. The universal offer would reduce and for those young people who are not in targeted groups, there would be the development of the Big Society approach. It is set out below as a two phased approach.
15. A good response to young people and a service at reduced cost could be achieved by enabling (as part of the Big Society agenda) the voluntary sector, faith groups, community groups and youth led projects to run universal provision through youth centres, whilst ensuring that the skills of a small core team of professional staff are targeted at vulnerable young people and in areas of significant deprivation. A list of current partners is shown in Appendix B.
16. The creation of a lean but highly targeted youth support service would provide:
 - Opportunities to reach the most vulnerable young people and address the issues they face. In many cases the intervention would be planned to seek to prevent progression into specialist services,
 - Respond to hot-spot incidents of anti social behaviour,
 - Supporting NEETs back in to education, employment and training
 - Supporting vulnerable young people at key transition periods
 - Supporting and enabling the voluntary sector, faith groups, community groups and youth led projects to run universal services
 - Providing a web based information service

- Tracking vulnerable young people including NEETs
- Advising the commissioning team on services that require procurement or a search for volunteers by the Children's Trust
- Undertaking the statutory consultation responsibilities of the service.

Phase 1 - 2011/12

17. This work would begin to create a targeted Youth Service to meet the challenges identified above – moving towards delivering only in targeted areas and to vulnerable young people, enabling the community, voluntary, not for profit sector to run youth provision and establishing an infrastructure for a commissioned-out service. Detail of staffing will be arranged by the Head of Paid Service and will be subject to statutory consultation.

A targeted youth service would consist of:

A Business support manager working as part of the commissioning team
2 Senior Youth Workers
7 Targeted Youth Support Service Workers
11 Part time youth support workers
3 Administration staff

Phase 2 - 2012/13

18. This phase would be a more significant move to a reduced commissioned out service to targeted areas only whilst providing universal services in other areas through volunteers in line with the "Big Society" agenda.
19. To retain a small specialist team to work alongside the commissioning team to oversee the commissioning / procurement of services.

A small specialist team would consist of:

A Business support manager
2 Senior Youth Workers
1 Administration Officer

20. If voluntary groups or town and parish councils or other agencies do not come forward to share provision the majority of the youth clubs will need to be considered for closure in this phase. However, if Government grants or other funding become available as referred to earlier in the report this may well be an opportunity to reshape these services and be much more responsive to local need.

Implementation

Phase 1

21. In consultation with Town and Parish Councils and in accordance with the Compact with the voluntary sector the Council will identify partners from the community, voluntary and not for profit sectors to run the provision either through volunteering or commissioned work. Discussions will also take place during the Central Bedfordshire Together Community meetings.
22. The least used Council youth centre in Toddington would close in the financial year 2011/ 12 or sooner and the saving made. Work would be done to encourage volunteers in the area to develop alternative delivery options along the lines of the Big Society.
23. Youth participation work outside the Youth Parliament and Young Inspectors programme will be significantly reduced or stop. The Youth Parliament will remain and will be supported by visits from elected Members and existing staff from Children's Services who have relevant skills to work with young people.
24. Youth work contribution in schools will end and schools will be able to buy in provision if required. A notice will be served of an intent to reduce the contribution to the Youth Offending Team whilst protecting the statutory obligation.
25. A transition strategy for youth work to move from local authority delivery to commissioning will be established in accordance with the Council's existing Commissioning Strategy for children's services.

Strategy:

- To begin developing the Government's "Big Society Agenda"
- The Council will focus its youth work on supporting the most vulnerable young people and work in geographical areas of most need
- Enable the community, voluntary and not for profit sectors to contribute more fully to any remaining work.
- To enable and support the community, voluntary and not for profit sector to secure national, regional and local funds enabling them to build a strong infrastructure for local delivery
- Opportunity to develop a specific needs based / outcome led model for commissioned delivery model for Central Bedfordshire

Summary of savings:

26. The development of a targeted youth service, the removal of youth participation activity and giving notice of a reduced contribution to the Youth Offending Team will achieve the proposed saving of £572k . This calculation excludes the cost of saving from the reduction of the Head of Service which is subject to the existing statutory consultation following the decision of the Executive in July 2010 to reduce Head of Service posts.
27. The reduction in phase 2 of most of the universal offer, including youth clubs, and a possible further reduction in the contribution to the Youth Offending Team, will contribute to the saving of £1,328,000 from services to young people. This will make a total saving of £1.89M over two years as projected within the Council's budget consultation.
28. Alongside this, every opportunity will be taken to seek Government grants as outlined above. Work will also be undertaken to establish whether any services to schools that may need to be commissioned to provide a small amount of statutory advice and guidance to replace the statutory duty that was previously enacted by the Connexions service can be funded by the Direct School Grant via a bid to the School Forum.
29. The savings for phase 1 will be developed before the commencement of the financial year 2011/12 and any savings made as soon as possible. The savings for phase two will need to be developed and plans for delivery drawn up before the commencement of the financial year 2012/13.

Conclusion and Next Steps

30. If Council budget pressures continue to allow the approach based on a two year phasing the work will proceed as outlined in the report subject to Executive agreement. In order to ensure there is clarity of purpose via a needs assessment and proper commissioning, the following actions will be measured against the Council's commissioning strategy:
 - Identification of targeted areas and vulnerable young people
 - Identification of need across all areas to establish the vulnerability of young people.
 - Identify what is meant by value for money in consultation with young people
 - Consultation with relevant young people about any proposed changes.
 - Maximise any bidding opportunities, particularly for access to any government funding.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Detail of current youth clubs

Appendix B – List of current voluntary sector partners

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

- Central Bedfordshire Commissioning Framework (Executive 13 October 2009)
- Report to Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Future of the Youth Service (14 September 2010)
- Task Force Review of the Provision of Facilities for Children & Young People in Central Bedfordshire (14 September 2010)

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands

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Appendix A

Centres	Notes
<p>Toddington Youth Centre The Old School Leighton Road Toddington</p>	<p>To close the facility as part of savings and work with Parish Council, village hall and local school to explore alternative delivery models of youth provision in Toddington. (This club would be considered for closure in 2011/12)</p>
<p>Bedford Square Youth and Community Centre</p>	<p>Same complex as the Library and health centre. Recently acquired and undergoing changes to turn it into a fit for purpose facility. On waiting list for ICT Connection Already popular and reasonably well used Growing list of groups wanting to use</p>
<p>Arlesey Youth Centre High Street Arlesey</p>	<p>Recently refurbished and in good condition</p>
<p>Barton Youth Centre Sharpenhoe Road Barton le Clay</p>	<p>Currently in discussion to hand over to property services. Parish Council may be interested in taking over the building. Not a priority area, however, a newly refurbished scout centre is available for use.</p>
<p>Biggleswade Youth Centre Mead End Biggleswade</p>	<p>Currently also used by Barnfield College for Special Needs clients. Reasonable condition</p>
<p>Leighton Buzzard Youth Centre Vandyke Road Leighton Buzzard</p>	<p>Recently refurbished and in excellent condition Very popular centre with very good usage during day and evening</p>
<p>Sandy Youth Centre Park Road Sandy</p>	<p>Currently also acts as an office base. The building is in good condition, however, in relation to need not a priority location although there are parts of the overall geographical area that would benefit from provision.</p>

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Appendix B

Current providers of Youth provision from the voluntary, community and not for profit sector

Name of organisation	Type of organisation	Type of provision
Aragon Housing	Housing association	Positive activities
Dunstable Town Council	Town Council	Positive activities (non outcome based)
LUBYA (Luton and Bedfordshire Youth Association)	Vol Org	Dunstable based provider of positive activities – Purpose built youth centre requires refurbishment
Dunstable Churches	Faith based	Positive activities
Prince's Trust	Charity	Personal development programmes Needs funding
YMCA Bedfordshire	Charity	Works as a delivery partner for the Prince's Trust
TACTIC	Leighton Buzzard Town Council	Information advice and guidance
X'ers KWS Educational Services Ltd	Not for profit	Targeted programmes re motorbike maintenance
Sport support	Not for profit	Outdoor education provider – tailored programmes
Eureka / Archimedes	Not for profit	tailored programmes – specialises in personal development of young people through – enterprise, marketing, presentation skills etc

Name of organisation	Type of organisation	Type of provision
Groundwork's	Not for profit	Tailored programmes for young people – specialising in environment and landscaping , gardening type initiatives
Girls guides, Scouts Boys Brigade	Uniformed – faith based	Personal development Positive activities
St. Johns Ambulance	Uniformed	First Aid
Cadets	Uniformed	Armed services related
Go Wild – Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity	Charity	Positive activities – outdoor based
Energize	Charity	Tailored programmes Personal development Positive activities
Greensands Trust	Charity	Outdoor / environment related programme e.g. young rangers
Wooden Hill	Vol org	Arts based provision
Top Dog	Social enterprise	Tailored programmes – dance, music, arts,
Bedfordshire Voluntary Organisations Consortium	Umbrella for vol orgs	Positive activities
Autism Bedfordshire	Specialist group	Positive activities and support for autistic young people
Sorted and Relate	Voluntary organisations	Specialist Counselling Services
YMCA Milton Keynes	Voluntary Organisation	Detached work

Meeting: Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date: 23 November 2010
Subject: Commissioning the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)
Report of: Cllr Mrs Anita Lewis, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services
Summary: The report sets out options for the delivery of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) in Central Bedfordshire focused on the development of provision that can meet local needs in mainstream schools.

Contact Officer Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services

Public/Exempt Public

Wards Affected All

Function of: Executive

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The proposal relates to the Council's Key Priority:

- Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people.

The proposal also relates to the provision of effective and efficient local services and is linked to programmes for early intervention and prevention and for transforming learning and the Council's relationship with schools.

Financial:

The most significant financial impact will be in reducing transport and staffing costs for Central Bedfordshire.

The current spend on the PRU is:

- Total Cost of provision £2.3million (2009-10 figures);
- the average cost of provision per pupil is £13.4k per annum;
- the average cost of travel per pupil is £11k per annum.

The projected costs for Central Bedfordshire Council for 2010-11 are: £1.6M. However negotiations are still taking place with the Borough to confirm final figures.

The charging for this service is on the basis of actual costs which vary from year to year, but which are normally apportioned 53% to Central Bedfordshire Council and 47% to Bedford Borough Council.

The intent is that every pound saved will be invested back into Early Intervention and Prevention for our truly vulnerable children.

As the PRU is funded out of the Direct School Grant (DSG), it will be necessary to put any financial proposals to the Schools Forum for the allocation of money currently allocated to the PRU.

Bedford Borough Council has signalled increased unit costs for 2010-2011 which would increase costs to an unsustainable level.

Legal:

Local authorities have a statutory duty to make arrangements for the provision of suitable education at school, (including pupil referral units), or otherwise than at school for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, will not receive a suitable education without those arrangements.

Any change to the statutory operation of the school requires formal consultation on published proposals.

Risk Management:

Vulnerable pupils are subject to personal and collective risk assessments by nature of being assessed for a provision that is different from that of their peers.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

There will be staffing implications resulting from any changes to the way provision is made available. Any necessary consultation will take place at the appropriate time.

Disaggregation of staff will be the subject of full consultation, including with Trade Unions, and this will be undertaken in accordance with Central Bedfordshire Council procedures and best practice.

Central Bedfordshire will consider the TUPE rights of permanent staff in PRU establishments.

Equalities/Human Rights:

An equality impact assessment is being carried out which will be submitted when the issue is considered by the Executive on the 8 February 2011.

Community Safety:

None specifically.

Sustainability:

The development of local provision to meet local needs matched to analysis and understanding of the needs of our truly vulnerable pupils is the best way to ensure sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers and comments on the proposals in this report for the future delivery of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) provision in Central Bedfordshire.

Background

- 1 Further to the report on 14 September 2010 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, this report provides an update on proposals for the provision for children excluded from school.

Members considered the following at their meeting of 14 September 2010.

Members considered the report of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services which summarised the present situation regarding the provision for children excluded from school. The Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council to provide via Greys Education Centre Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) for the provision of education for pupils of statutory school age unable to access education due to permanent exclusion, pregnancy or the difficulties of being a young mother, long term illnesses or other temporary difficulties which arrive in people's lives and make access to school very difficult was due to come to an end from March 2011.

The Council had agreed not to renew the SLA and had given notice to Bedford Borough Council. Officers were looking at alternative arrangements, as it was not appropriate for these children to be travelling to Bedford every day and the service was not providing value for money. On average it cost around £11,000 to transport a child to the PRU and then £12,000 to educate the young person. Members noted that alternative arrangements were being drawn up and would be discussed at the Schools Forum and by Headteachers. By bringing the service in-house it would allow also Members to hold the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services to account.

Members acknowledged the success of the PRU and the good Ofsted report, but concerns had been raised by this Council, in particular regarding the number of pupils being educated in libraries and this practice was still continuing.

A query was raised regarding the number of excluded children from the Academy. Members were advised that whilst initially the number of exclusions had been high, Officers were expecting the number to reduced. The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services agreed to write to the member concerned regarding her question on funding.

Members noted that a further report would be submitted to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 November 2010.

Members are asked to consider this report and identify their preferred option. The feedback from schools from the Workshop of 12 November 2010 will be given verbally at the meeting.

- 2 The Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), via Greys Education Centre, provides education for pupils of statutory school age unable to access education due to permanent exclusion, pregnancy, the difficulties of being a young mother, long term illnesses or other temporary difficulties which arrive in young people's lives and make access to school very difficult.
- 3 Current provision is through a shared agreement with Bedford Borough Council in which Bedford Borough Council is the provider. This arrangement ends in March 2011 and Central Bedfordshire Council will need to make its own arrangements to provide from 1 April 2011. When disaggregation was discussed between Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council, the Lead Members were looking to adopt a commissioning model. However, Bedford Borough Council have reviewed this and decided to continue to provide its own provision in house.
- 4 Currently pupils in Years 1 to 8 and Year 11 are supported in the Kempston Unit. Pupils in Years 9 and 10 are supported at Kingsland, Houghton Regis. Manor House in Kempston offers support to pregnant school aged girls and mothers.
- 5 Statistically, the highest need in Central Bedfordshire is in Dunstable and Houghton Regis for Years 7 to 11 and Sandy/Biggleswade for Years 1 to 6.

Permanent Exclusions

- 6 In 2008/2009 the number of permanent exclusions in Central Bedfordshire was in line with both statistical neighbours and the national average. There has been an improvement in performance compared to statistical neighbours from 2008/2009 to 2009/2010, with a reduction in the number of pupils excluded in all phases, and no children from special schools excluded.

Fixed Term Exclusions

- 7 In 2008/2009, the number of fixed term exclusions was above Central Bedfordshire's statistical neighbours and in line with the national average. There has been a reduction overall in the number of pupils excluded in 2009/2010.
- 8 Some of this improvement has been achieved through Local Authority challenge and support and through the funded Behaviour and Attendance partnerships across schools taking responsibility for making provision locally to meet the needs of their pupils.

Rationale For Change

- 9 Ofsted judged that provision in the PRU is good, but for some children the provision currently offered by the PRU is off site in Central Bedfordshire libraries. The number of young people who do not access the PRU site directly is not sustainable in the longer term as an appropriate response to the duties on the Council to set up suitable provision. This view is endorsed by Central Bedfordshire headteachers and officers who feel that, in the case of Central Bedfordshire pupils, the amount of off site provision is not appropriate.

- 10 The unit costs of the present provision are high. This is because of the number of pupils educated in libraries and the associated travel costs. Current arrangements are not an efficient use of resources nor do they allow for a direct line of accountability for some of our most vulnerable children.
- 11 The Children's Trust Commissioning Group considered the current arrangements at its meeting on 19 July 2010 and recommended that:
- The PRU should be de-commissioned in its current form and provision re-commissioned from April 2012.
 - Interim arrangements should be made with schools for PRU provision from April 2011 until March 2012.

Principles

- 12 Any revision of the provision for excluded pupils needs to take into account the Authority's statutory responsibilities for providing for children who are excluded from school.
- 13 The local authority retains statutory responsibility for ensuring that this provision is fit for purpose and offers good outcomes for children and young people. Quality assurance and progress monitoring will remain a local authority function.
- 14 Schools will take responsibility for the management of vulnerable students.
- 15 Emphasis will be placed on the "Think Family" approach, including support to parents and carers.
- 16 Children should wherever possible remain in their local community. This will support reintegration into mainstream education more effectively.

Objectives

17. The objectives for future PRU provision are to:
- reduce the numbers of permanently excluded pupils;
 - reduce the length of time that pupils are excluded;
 - support individual students to engage effectively with learning;
 - increase reintegration rates;
 - engage and support families;
 - work with schools to manage, and be responsible for, all vulnerable children and young people in their area.

Proposals

- 18 The proposal is to develop two units, one for Years 1 to 6 and one for Years 7 to 11. These would be based on a hub and spoke model, with one core base and outreach and peripatetic services as appropriate.

- 19 Schools and other educational establishments have been invited to tender for PRU provision during 2011-2012. The specification was sent to schools, academies and colleges on 21 October 2010 (see Appendix A attached). The possible options are given below and in Appendix B (attached).
- 20 Final arrangements for the provision will be determined following the bidding process by schools, academies and colleges.
- 21 **Option 1:** Local Partnership model based on the Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships and Trust and Academy status
1. Sandy/Biggleswade
 2. Leighton Buzzard/Linslade
 3. Chiltern – Dunstable and Houghton Regis
plus
 4. Harlington – Trust status
 5. BEST Trust – Trust status
 6. All Saints – Academy status
- 22 Behaviour Partnerships, Trusts and Academies are able to access resources to create their own local PRU. This offers a service for 4 to 16 year olds in a local area, potentially involving all schools.
- 23 **Option 2:** Invitation to tender from local schools and colleges with a Good or above Ofsted rating, particularly in behaviour and attendance, and work with vulnerable students
- 24 Those establishments wishing to tender must be able to provide evidence of good practice in working with vulnerable pupils. This approach allows practice to be developed across Central Bedfordshire. Schools and colleges would identify where the provision is offered.
- 25 **Option 3:** Invitation to tender from local schools and colleges with a Good or above Ofsted rating, particularly in behaviour and attendance, and work with vulnerable students
- 26 Those establishments wishing to tender must be able to provide evidence of good practice in working with vulnerable pupils. Central Bedfordshire Local Authority would provide help with the provision of accommodation using Hub and Spoke facilities linked to localities.

Governance

- 27 The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 requires PRUs to have a management committee. Subject to the views of the constitution advisory group and the Council it is proposed that this is made up of representatives of Headteachers and Governors from schools across Central Bedfordshire with the Director of Children's services and the Portfolio Holder ex officio. This body may then co-opt representation from other agencies as necessary e.g. Health.

Conclusion/Next Steps

- 28 Options 1, 2 or 3 would establish the PRU in Central Bedfordshire and secure the financial arrangements and appropriate transfer of relevant staff. However, option 2 b) would give the widest possible client base for bidding. Building on the lessons learned in 2010/11, further work will be required in consultation with Central Bedfordshire schools, the Schools Forum, and other partners to develop an evidenced based model for full commissioning in the open market for the academic year 2011/2012. The funding formula for vulnerable pupils via the pupil premium should be clearer by then.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Specification

Appendix B: SWOT Analysis PRU Options

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APPENDIX A

SPECIFICATION FOR DELIVERY OF THE PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT (PRU)

Introduction

Central Bedfordshire Council is seeking a partner school or schools to manage the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) across the Authority's area.

Single schools, partnerships of schools/providers, Academies and colleges are invited to give us notice of intention to propose to tender for this one year contract to start 1 April 2011.

Those giving notice of intention must be able to demonstrate previous experience of similar work and be recognised as Good or Outstanding in behaviour and attendance, leadership and engaging vulnerable students

Applications are welcome from single schools, partnerships of schools/providers, Academies and colleges.

Aim

To develop a robust delivery model for children and young people in Central Bedfordshire who are excluded from school. The model will be individually tailored to meet pupils' educational and developmental needs.

Objectives

- To reduce the numbers of permanently excluded pupils
- To reduce the length of time in exclusion
- To support individual students to engage effectively with learning
- To engage and support the families
- To work with schools to manage and be responsible for all vulnerable children and young people in their area
- Increase reintegration rates

Assessment of the needs of the child and family

- Disability awareness and understanding of impact of conditions
- Assessment of development phase both educationally and emotionally
- Full Common Assessment on need
- Robust assessment for learning and clear tracking against progress
- IEP's for pupils
- Assessment of family situation, including parenting skills
- SEN and Inclusion policy
- Risk assessment

Evidence of broad curriculum offer

The offer will be age and developmentally appropriate and based on assessed ability and need and will be individualised for each student.

- Curriculum delivery plans
- Alternative curriculum offer
- Self Evaluation forms
- School Development plan

Ability to support and develop vulnerable students

- Behaviour strategy, including use of restorative justice principles
- Effective IAG strategy, including the aims and aspiration of the pupils
- Use of lead professional status
- Appropriate environment to deliver the services required
- Equality of opportunity and diversity for hard to reach, hard to engage with, individuals and groups.

Partnership working

- Examples of working with parents/carers in partnership
- Good practice work with statutory partners including local authority education and children's social care departments, colleges, community health providers, police and other relevant services
- Examples of working effectively within the community, including work with Third Sector and social enterprise partners, particularly providers of alternative educational provision, work based learning providers, extended work experience and apprenticeship providers.

Capacity

- Recognised as Good or Outstanding in behaviour and attendance, leadership and engaging vulnerable pupils
- Lead response to change, demand/evidence of best practice
- Clear strategic operational and management vision and implementation
- Skilled and appropriate management
- Access to good quality facilities suitable to deliver learning and support

Timescale

- Workshop to discuss delivery model – 12 November 2010
- Closing Dates for expressions of interest: - 17 December 2010
- Interviews with approved applications to be held in January 2011
- Contract to be issued by the end of January 2011.

If you wish to express an interest in this contract and receive details on how to access the tender documents used to shortlist providers contact:

Alison Bray Head of School Support

Direct telephone 0300 300 76825

Email Alison.bray@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Option one

Local Partnership model

Based on the Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships and Trust and Academy status

1. Sandy/Biggleswade
2. Leighton Buzzard/Linslade
3. Chiltern – Dunstable and H.Regis
plus
4. Harlington – Trust status
5. BEST Trust – Trust status
6. All Saints – Academy status

Behaviour Partnerships, Trust, and Academies are able to access resource to create own local PRU. This offers a 4-16 service in a local area, potentially involving all schools.

SWOT

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds on an existing model • Schools take control of process • Staff report directly to school • Locally based services • All schools have access to specialist support • LA take long arm approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some BAP's more mature than others • Some Partnerships will need more support than others • Difficulties over TUPE staff allocation • Lack of incentive for schools • AGB funding for BAP's no longer available • Only two Good schools in secondary phase • No college input
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises schools profile • Incentive to manage challenging behaviour • Schools in Partnership hold each other accountable • Opportunity for Champions of best practice to be identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all schools may want to take this on • Use of poor or inadequate schools builds in potential inequality in provision • Loss of good staff through TUPE process as whole team split across Partnerships • Post code rivalry between students

Option 2

Option 2. (a and b)

Invite tenders from local schools and colleges with Good or above OfSTED rating: particularly in behaviour and attendance, and work with vulnerable students

Recognises work in schools and colleges who can evidence good practice for vulnerable pupils. Option allows this practice to be developed across Central Bedfordshire. Schools and colleges identify where the provision is offered.

Option

- a.) Schools and colleges in Central Bedfordshire
- b.) Schools and colleges in Central Bedfordshire and border authorities

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co location of services • Opportunity for consortium bids from school and colleges • Quality of providers can be identified at outset and monitored effectively against baseline data • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a wide range of quality provision in Central Bedfordshire (can mitigate against this by extended bid option to neighbouring LA's) • Lack of incentive for schools and colleges
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good potential to draw in extended curriculum providers, work based learning providers • TUPE transfer of staff to single management function • Provider becomes local champion for excluded students • TUPE transfer may lead to duplication of staff and competitive matching against job roles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No bids come forward • TUPE transfer may lead to duplication of staff and competitive matching against job roles • Risk of redundancy costs

Option 3

Option 3 (a and b)

Invite tenders from local schools and colleges with Good or above OfSTED rating: particularly in behaviour and attendance, and work with vulnerable students

Recognises work in schools and colleges who can evidence good practice for vulnerable pupils. Central Bedfordshire Local Authority support through the provision of accommodation using Hub and Spoke facilities linked to localities.

Option

- a.) Schools and colleges in Central Bedfordshire
- b.) Schools and colleges in Central Bedfordshire and border authorities

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co location of services • Opportunity for consortium bids from school and colleges • Quality of providers can be identified at outset and monitored effectively against baseline data • Close working relationship with Local Authority • Incentive of identified property from which to run services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a wide range of quality provision in Central Bedfordshire (can mitigate against this by extended bid option to neighbouring LA's) • Main administration centre in south of Central Bedfordshire • Local authority retains property and utilities costs
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good potential to draw in extended curriculum providers, work based learning providers • TUPE transfer of staff to single management function • Provider becomes local champion for excluded students • TUPE transfer may lead to duplication of staff and competitive matching against job roles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No bids come forward • TUPE transfer may lead to duplication of staff and competitive matching against job roles • Risk of redundancy costs

Fully Commissioned Model

Central Bedfordshire Council takes one year, interim, responsibility to support students/pupils who are unable to be managed within mainstream schools.

Central Bedfordshire LA works closely with schools to develop an evidenced based model for full commissioning in the open market in academic year 2011-12

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co location of services • Direct management for one year whilst full model developed • HR/TUPE working closely together • Statutory responsibility retained by Local Authority in short term • Identified property from which to run services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Against political climate of responsibility going to schools • Main administration centre in south of Central Bedfordshire • Local authority retains property and utilities costs • Sub contracts needed
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good potential to draw in extended curriculum providers, work based learning providers • TUPE transfer of staff to single management function • Can test the developing specification against QA and Monitoring process for full year • Develop staff skills set and reshape structure ready for full tender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of redundancy costs • Schools reaction to LA retaining PRU for interim year

Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 23 November 2010
Subject: Future Delivery of Special Educational Needs (SEN) Services in Central Bedfordshire

Report of: Cllr Mrs Anita Lewis, Portfolio Holder Children's Services

Summary: The report sets out the direction of travel for the delivery of provision for Special Education Needs in Central Bedfordshire. It focuses on the development of provision that will meet children and young people's needs in Special Schools and Special Educational Needs support services. It takes account of the direction of travel set out in the current Special Educational Needs Green Paper. It also gives early indication of two statutory consultations that will be the subject of a more detailed report to the Committee in December 2010.

Contact Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The provision of effective and efficient local services for Special Education Needs forms a key element in the Central Bedfordshire Children's Services. It aligns with priorities and programmes on Early Intervention and on transforming learning and transforming the Council's relationship with schools. It will support the cross cutting responsibilities for Health that will be determined by the anticipated new responsibilities for the Council in making arrangements for the new Health and Wellbeing Boards.

The proposal relates to the Council's Key Priority:

- Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people.

Financial:

The most significant financial impact will be in reduction of 'Out of Authority' and agency provision for Central Bedfordshire children. There is currently pressure on this budget which could increase significantly with the changing demographics if there is no change to the way the Council offers current provision.

Options 2 for the Special Schools could deliver savings of at first estimate £91,465. Option 3 could deliver savings at first estimate of £197,032. There will need to be an alteration of the lump sum of the delegated school formula via the School Forum. Subject to Members' views, more details on these options will be given in the December report. This change would be subject to statutory consultation.

Discontinuation of the current dyslexia provision as set out in the report could deliver a full year saving of £58,000. Subject to member's views, this change would be subject to statutory consultation.

The Executive is currently consulting upon a saving of £128k in 2011/12 and £272k in 2012/13 in the Special Educational Needs area. Any resultant changes to Special Educational Needs will be made when the Council has approved its budget in February 2011. Proposals other than those set out above are not statutory changes and therefore do not require Executive decisions and formal consultations. However they will require the views of schools in their development, particularly when it is expected that schools will take on services and separate statutory staffing consultations.

The direction of travel of these changes set out in the report are set out to give the Scrutiny Committee visibility on those services that will be realigned if the Council's budget proposals, currently out to consultation, are agreed. The budget reductions will be applied on a pro rata basis across the service in 2010/2011 and thresholds to access the service will be aligned accordingly within statutory obligations.

Any commissioning from schools will be made in accordance with the Council's Children's Services Commissioning Strategy. Some savings will be generated by the reduction in management costs though the restructuring and relocation of the management of SEN and disability peripatetic services into schools.

Legal:

Any change to the statutory operation of a school or designated provision within a school requires formal consultation on published proposals within due process. Additionally, parents may seek to challenge the position of the council on individual cases by application to the SEN and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST). Statutory consultation applies to the proposals relating to the special schools and to the dyslexia provision in Priory Middle School.

Risk Management:

The SEN "Improvement Test" which is a professionally based quality test, will be applied against any proposed changes. Critical, however, will be the continuation of the successful work to reduce the numbers of cases taken to the SEN and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST). The confidence of parents will need to be retained throughout the changes.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

Full consultation with existing staff and the Trade Unions will be undertaken in accordance with existing procedures and best practice.

Equalities/Human Rights:

An on going Equality Impact Assessment is being developed and will draw on the SEN Improvement Test.

Community Safety:

N/A

Sustainability:

The development of local provision to meet local need, matched to analysis and understanding of the changing demographic, is the best way to ensure sustainability.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. It is recommended that the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee comments on the proposals for the future delivery of Special Educational Needs in Central Bedfordshire as set out in the report and note that they relate to the ongoing budget consultation process and staffing consultations.**
- 2. Members are asked for their views in particular on the options outlined in the report regarding the Special Schools and the Dyslexia provision at Priory Middle School. These changes will be subject to an Executive report and statutory consultation. These proposals will be the subject of a further report to this Committee in December 2010 when detailed discussion meetings will have been undertaken with Governing Bodies of the relevant schools.**

Background and Context

1. On 6 June 2008, the Central Bedfordshire Transition Task Force considered and adopted the recommendations of the Review of Special Needs carried out by the former Bedfordshire County Council. This included the recommendation to develop 3 Area Special Schools in the Central Bedfordshire area. It was also recommended that specialist provision for pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD) should not form part of the Area Special School brief. A staged approach was recommended, giving consideration to basing Area Special School provision in the east, the south and the west of Central Bedfordshire.
2. In March 2009, the School Forum agreed the changes to the funding formula for special schools in order to target funding appropriately to the increasingly complex needs of the pupils. Pupils with moderate learning difficulties were by then being educated more successfully in mainstream settings, and an increasing number of parents were choosing mainstream education for their child, even when they met the admissions guidance criteria for a special school.
3. On 23 June 2009, the Executive agreed to initiate a consultation on the options for the future of special schooling in the East of Central Bedfordshire. On 8 December 2009 the Executive considered the responses to the consultation and supported the proposed merger of Hitchmead and Sunnyside schools to create an Area Special School. Statutory proposals led to the decision to cease to maintain Hitchmead Foundation Special School from 31 August 2010.
4. Related proposals to make a prescribed alteration to Sunnyside Community Special School to become an Area Special School for pupils with complex needs aged 3-19 across the two existing sites from 1 September 2010 were approved by the Executive on 8 April 2010.
5. On 1 September 2010 the new Ivel Valley Area Special School opened across the two sites.
6. On 1 September 2009 a specialist Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provision was opened at St Swithun's Lower School, as had been recommended in the SEN Review to make provision in the East of Central Bedfordshire. As a continuation of this, Holmemead Middle School opened the Middle School specialist ASD provision on 1 September 2010.
7. In March 2010, the Executive agreed the Education Vision for Central Bedfordshire, with specific reference to Inclusion and Special Needs. This included reducing out-of-authority specialist placements by re-allocating resources to make provision to meet needs locally; developing the concept of Area Special Schools with a broader role for delivering services to mainstream schools; championing the needs of all pupils (including underperforming and vulnerable groups); and supporting federations, trusts and partnerships in developing locally delivered targeted services to support prevention, early identification and effective interventions.

8. The Vision is currently being implemented through four area reviews, the first of which commenced in April 2010 in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area and on which the Committee have received verbal updates. As part of this work, a project group has been formed of Council officers and nominated representatives of schools in Dunstable and Houghton Regis. This group is undertaking the early work of analysis of inputs to the review, including data related to SEN and inclusion, of current provision and of the impact of service challenges and new policies developed by the coalition Government.
9. Headteachers of the special schools in this area are also being consulted to ensure their involvement in this process. Headteachers and officers are also working with Governors. This data analysis forms part of the report on Transforming Learning scheduled for this Committee in January 2011.
10. The proposals and recommendations in this report build on the aspirations set out in the Council's vision and reflect the changing role of the Council. The responsibility will increasingly be with schools to identify and commission the support and advice for pupils with SEN from other schools in their partnership, including special schools outreach services or other providers. The Council will broker this where appropriate and will maintain a focus on key statutory processes.
11. A review and mapping process of current services and provision has been undertaken, assessing provision against the recommendations, proposals and principles outlined in:
 - the Ofsted Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disability Review report (September 2010);
 - the Green Paper: Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, which is currently in consultation and due in November 2010;
 - Achieving Equity and Excellence for Children (Department of Health Sept 2010).
12. The key changes are outlined below.
13. The Ofsted Special Educational Needs and Disability Review report (September 2010) recommended that changes in the system focus on:
 - improving the quality of assessment;
 - ensuring that where additional support is provided, it is effective;
 - improving teaching and pastoral support early on so that additional provision is not needed later;
 - developing specialist provision and services strategically so that they are available to maintained and independent schools, academies and colleges;
 - simplifying legislation so that the system is clearer for parents, schools and other education and training providers;
 - ensuring that schools do not identify pupils as having special educational needs when they simply need better teaching; and

- ensuring that accountability for those providing services focuses on the outcomes for the children and young people concerned.
14. The expected principles of the Green Paper: Children and Young People With Special Educational Needs and Disabilities as set out in the consultation documentation are:
- greater transparency so that parents know how their child is to be supported, what provision is available including special and mainstream school, how decisions are made and how their child is progressing;
 - increased involvement of parents in decision-making;
 - more effective use of limited resources;
 - less bureaucracy to free professionals up to spend more time with children and families;
 - high expectations; and
 - more local solutions to enable localities to develop provision that makes the best use of staff and specialist resources.
15. The Green Paper will consider how the following will be best achieved:
- Better educational outcomes and life chances.
 - Better early intervention.
 - Greater choice for parents.
 - Public services centred on the needs of the family and child in the round, joining up support from education, social care and health.
 - Streamlining assessment systems
16. **Achieving Equity and Excellence for Children (Department of Health September 2010)**
17. This paper sets out the direction of travel for the NHS and makes specific reference to improving services and outcomes for children with SEN and disabilities. It supports the proposed principles of the SEN Green Paper, particularly in relation to listening to and involving children and families in decision making about services. It will provide a framework of responsibilities within which different professionals, agencies and organisations will work together to produce the best results for children and families.

Benchmarking data for Special Education Needs

18. Building on the future requirements as outlined above, good progress has been made in improving the statistical performance of Central Bedfordshire Council against similar authorities. High statement numbers is not considered good practice. The most recent benchmarking data shows that the statistical neighbour average performance has been achieved, with the overall number of statements in CBC schools reducing from 3.1% in 2007 to 2.6% in 2010.

19. 1043 children are currently supported through statements of Special Educational Need in Central Bedfordshire. A further 35 are currently within the statutory assessment process, with statements due for completion by 31 December 2010.

Exclusions

20. The work of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

Permanent Exclusions

21. Using Ofsted's methodology in its inspections of Children's Services, in 2008/2009 Central Bedfordshire would have been "in line" with both Statistical Neighbours and the national average. There has been an improvement in performance compared to statistical neighbours from 2008/2009 to 2009/2010, with a reduction in the number of pupils excluded in all phases, with none in special schools.

Fixed Term Exclusions

22. There has been a reduction overall in the number of pupils excluded in 2009/2010, with fixed term exclusions nearly halved in special schools (2008/09 - 173, 2009/10 - 98).
23. Some of this improvement has been achieved through Local Authority challenge and support and through the funded Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships across schools taking responsibility for making provision locally to meet the needs of their pupils. Schools will build on the work through their Trusts, Federations and Partnerships.

Out of Authority Specialist School Provision

24. 23 children and young people are currently placed in specialist residential schools out of Central Bedfordshire and 2 in non-residential specialist schools. 3 of the 23 pupils are due to finish their schooling in July (2011).
25. The cost of this external provision ranges from £31,000k to £187,000 for each child, although one particularly complex case costs £300,000 per annum. Some of these costs are shared between Children's Services and the PCT. More work is on-going to ensure that the arrangements between the two services are clear with full visibility on financial accountability.
26. 5 out of authority placements were directed by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST). 4 of those placed by Tribunal and 7 other children and young people have regular speech and language therapy and/or occupational therapy specified on their statement that is not currently provided or funded by local health services. Discussions with health providers are underway to resolve this.
27. Post school learners who access independent specialist colleges have become the responsibility of the Young People's Learning Agency and are funded via a regional planning group.

28. For the very small numbers of the most complex children and young people, those with very severe learning difficulties, Autism and extreme challenging behaviour, local provision may not be a cheaper option. However, in general, the outcomes for children and young people should be better if they are able to receive appropriate education and care locally to Central Bedfordshire as their families are able to remain involved.
29. For a very small number of children who require a very specialist environment that cannot be efficiently replicated locally, provision in a neighbouring Council may be identified, for example a school with a total sign language environment for those profoundly deaf children that require it. All statements of Special Educational Needs for pupils currently in “out of Authority placements” are reviewed annually. At the time of the annual review, consideration is given as to whether their needs can now be met within Central Bedfordshire.

Area Special Schools

30. Ivel Valley now provides the agreed model of special schooling in the East of Central Bedfordshire across two sites. Ivel Valley school is co-located with the Maythorn residential provision for children with disabilities, which has resulted in the Council being able to meet the needs of some very vulnerable learners who might otherwise have been placed out of Authority.
31. Exploration of whether the integrated approach to the most complex pupils with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD), ASD and very challenging behaviour currently available between Maythorn and Ivel Valley School could be replicated using the Kingfisher site adjacent to Hillcrest School is ongoing.
32. The area review of Dunstable and Houghton Regis involves Glenwood (Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) 3-11 years), Hillcrest (SLD/PMLD 11-19 years) and Weatherfield (Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) 7-16). As part of this, consideration is being given to the steps required to achieve the agreed model of area special schools for the South of Central Bedfordshire.
33. As of September 2010 the numbers in these schools are:

Glenwood:	75 (including 2 Luton and 1 Bedford Borough)
Hillcrest:	64 (including 9 Luton and 1 Bedford Borough)
Weatherfield:	88 (including 4 Luton, 1 Bucks, 1 Bedford Borough and 1 Herts)
Total:	227
34. 27 Central Bedfordshire pupils are currently attending Grange School (MLD) in Kempston, and 31 attending St John’s School (SLD/PMLD) in Kempston, most of whom live geographically closer to Kempston than to Central Bedfordshire special schools. There are 29 Central Bedfordshire pupils at Ridgeway School for children with physical disabilities in Kempston.

35. The Bedfordshire Special School Headteacher Group agreed, as a benchmark for the review carried out by Bedfordshire County Council, that an all-age special school needed a pupil population of a minimum of 90 to effectively and efficiently deliver the full curriculum to the full age range. This is a guide, not an absolute figure.
36. There is an expected increase in the pupil population in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area to 2031 (plan period) of approximately 48% per age group, based on the latest housing figures. As Area Special Schools will serve catchments beyond the immediate area, housing increases in other areas of Central Bedfordshire will need to be taken into account.
37. Currently 0.85% of pupils aged 3-19 attend special schools, both in and outside of Central Bedfordshire. If the raising of the participation age is implemented, this will have implications for the continued provision for learners who currently attend Oak Bank and Weatherfield schools and leave at 16. As the population increases, an increase will be required in the amount of local provision available in special schools.
38. As set out in the Education Vision, potential models of delivery for education 14-19 and up to 25 for learners who have learning difficulties and disabilities are being considered. Special Schools are now represented on the 14-19 Strategy Group and are working with colleges and Upper Schools to support transition and ensure the delivery of a range of appropriate courses that meet the needs and aspirations of the most vulnerable students. If this approach is successful, more post school learners will be maintained in local provision that meets their needs.

Proposed options for the delivery of Area Special Schooling in Dunstable/Houghton Regis

39. There are a number of early options being identified for Schools in this area. This will be the subject of a further report in December.

(a) Option 1:

To federate all three Special Schools under 1 Governing Body – this is broadly the maintenance of the status quo with some changes to leadership and governance.

The schools would still retain their DfE number, would have separate budgets and would be inspected separately. Federated schools can consider Academy status when DfE open up the route to Academy for non outstanding schools and special schools or if an Ofsted rated outstanding school is in the Federation.

Savings would be minimal.

Advantages:

- The governing body would be taking account of the interests of all of the schools and their pupils.
- This could provide some flexibility for school organisation and delivery of the curriculum.
- The governing body would be able to move money from one school to another to meet priorities.

Disadvantages:

- This may not achieve anything more than is already possible with the existing configuration.
- This would not deliver the proposed model of Area Special School.
- There would be no saving in the “lump sum” element of the delegated budget as set out in the School Funding Formula.
- Although there are no costs or efficiencies on this model, no change could lead to the Weatherfield School becoming non- viable in the future if more pupils with these needs are educated successfully in mainstream provision.

(b) Option 2:

To merge Glenwood and Hillcrest into an all age Area Special School through the closure of one school and the prescribed alteration of the other under one headteacher across the two sites **or** the closure of both and opening of a new school across both sites. Legislation requires that competition would be held to open a new school. This option retains Weatherfield as an MLD School.

Advantages

- As most pupils currently transition from Glenwood to Hillcrest it is anticipated that this might be welcomed by stakeholders.
- This would achieve an Area Special School in the South of Central Bedfordshire, providing for the mixture of very complex needs and equivalent to Ivel Valley School.
- Due to existing expertise at Glenwood and Hillcrest schools, this would provide the specialist ASD provision currently lacking for Central Bedfordshire pupils with MLD and complex ASD. Pupils with Special Educational Needs who are assessed as requiring this type of provision currently travel to a Bedford Borough School.

- This option could provide a first step towards one Area Special School in this geographical area that would make provision for the South and West of Central Bedfordshire.

Disadvantages

- Closing both schools and opening as one may invoke more opposition if the intent is misunderstood. A clear communication strategy that is led and supported by the affected schools would be required which means that these schools would need to support this option.
- This option is not designed to resolve the lack of post 16 provision for pupils with MLD, although they could transfer if appropriate to the newly merged school at 16.
- This option would not achieve the aim of moving away from separately designated schools for SLD and MLD to a model of Area Special Schools as in the case of Ivel Valley Area Special School.
- This option could create difficulties with admissions as some pupils could meet the admissions guidance for both an Area Special School and an MLD School. There is a risk that some parents from the east of Central Bedfordshire may opt for the MLD school instead of the local provision at Ivel Valley School. This could increase transport costs.
- The viability of a stand alone MLD schools would be an issue.
- This model would not provide an equitable model across Central Bedfordshire.

(c) Option 3:

To merge the 3 schools through the closure of two and the prescribed alteration of 1 across all 3 sites initially **or** the closure of all 3 schools and the opening of one new school across 3 or 2 sites. It would be necessary to undertake a competition to open a new school.

Advantages

- This would achieve the agreed model of Area Special School, and is likely to provide the best basis for long term sustainability and service provision.
- This would be consistent with the Members' decision regarding Ivel Valley Area Special School and provide an equivalent model to that in the east of Central Bedfordshire.
- Due to the existing expertise at Glenwood and Hillcrest schools, this would provide the specialist Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provision currently lacking for Central Bedfordshire pupils with MLD and complex ASD. Pupils with Special Educational Needs who are assessed as requiring this type of provision currently travel to a Bedford Borough School.

- This would provide a substantive centre for professionals from health and other services to support future provision for children with complex needs.
- The size of the school would provide a model for dispersed leadership that would provide for the growth of future leaders in SEN.
- This could provide an integrated model for coordinating specialist peripatetic services and outreach to support the most vulnerable children wherever they are receiving education as part of an extended role for special schools.
- This would provide focussed professional development for all staff working with the most vulnerable children 0-19 and post 19 that supports continuity and progression and aids transition into the next stage of their lives.
- Subject to the Council's Asset Management Policy, future consideration could be given to the disposal of one site and a possible future use of capital finance to extend the buildings on another site to create a two sited school (primary/secondary). That would reflect the model in the East Of the Council. It should be noted that should the Special Schools become an academy or form a Trust, then the schools would have ownership of the land.

Disadvantages

- More objections are possible from parent groups and governing bodies if one or more of the schools are not in agreement to this strategy, or if the intent of this option is misunderstood.

40. It is recognised that schools themselves could also consider options such as applications to be Trusts or Federations or an Academy. Between the November and December meetings, further soundings will need to be taken with Headteachers and Governing Bodies before a further report is brought to the Committee.

Special School Outreach

41. The model of special school outreach has been realigned in 2010/2011 following review of existing commissions under the Council's emerging policy for Children's Services. Outreach will now be located in 3 schools and sub commissioned where appropriate (Ivel Valley, Glenwood, and Oak Bank). This model has been agreed by participating schools for one year only due to it being subject to any changes recommended by the SEN Green Paper and the review of the Direct School Grant allocations.
42. If the overall strategy outlined in this paper is adopted, agreement will be sought from the schools forum that the resource to support outreach be incorporated into the formula for those special schools providing it, enabling them to develop the capacity to provide outreach.

Behavioural, Emotional and Social Development (BESD)

43. Oak Bank School buildings require significant capital investment to make them fit for purpose as a school for pupils with the most challenging social, emotional and behavioural needs. In order for the school to fulfil its potential to offer support to those pupils with emotional and behavioural needs alongside the new commissioned Pupil Referral Unit, (PRU) consideration may need to be given to the following:
- Whilst the provision in the school is judged to be good, consideration may need to be given in the medium or long term to the relocation of the provision currently at Oak Bank to a more central location and in a different building if one becomes available. There is unlikely to be further capital available in the near future to bring the buildings up to a higher standard. Oak Bank staff and Governors will be fully consulted.
 - Oak Bank school staff and governors will also be consulted on the future direction of the re-commissioned Pupil Referral Unit, particularly in the area of therapeutic provision.

Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships

44. Central Bedfordshire supports 3 Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships, which provide school to school support (in Dunstable/Houghton Regis, in Leighton/Linslade and in Sandy/Biggleswade based on levels of social deprivation). This has historically been Grant funded to enable partnerships of schools to address the needs of pupils locally, reducing exclusions and increasing attendance.
45. There has been a significant reduction in numbers and days lost to fixed term exclusions as a consequence of this and a reduction in permanent exclusions in some places. High numbers of permanent exclusions have been linked to particular schools and they are challenged accordingly.
46. This grant funding has supported the development of good practice but the funding has now ceased. This activity will now need to be absorbed within the activity of schools via Trusts, Federations or Partnerships or as part of the commission for the PRU if possible, subject to budgetary provision and the commissioning process.

Specialist provision for children with special educational needs in their early years

47. Early identification and intervention for children with SEN and disabilities at 0 to 5 is important to their development, particularly for those children with the most complex needs.

48. The current provision, which is shared with Bedford Borough Council via a Service Level Agreement, will come to an end in December 2011 as previously planned. Staff are being consulted on the proposal that two area teams of 1 specialist teacher and 2 specialist support staff who transfer to Central Bedfordshire Council under the disaggregation arrangements will continue to provide support in collaboration with families, and other services, including health services. This provision will be subject to further review if the budget saving is approved.
49. This is consistent with the proposed principles of the Government Green Paper and local priorities. This will also increase the capacity of early years settings to meet the needs of the children. It is proposed that these staff will be located within communities, probably based at children's centres, and managed professionally through the Ivel Valley and Glenwood special schools through a commission from the Council. Consultations with the staff have commenced regarding their transfer to Central Bedfordshire Council.

Visual Impairment Service

50. The proposal is to locate this service in a special school, providing the support as outreach to those pupils in mainstream schools with significant visual impairments. It is proposed that the teacher for visual impairment leads and coordinates the work of the specialist support staff who work directly with Braille and pre-Braille users in their local schools and settings. This team will also provide training for school staff to enable them to meet the needs of individual children. A commission will be circulated to determine which special school wishes to host this service.

Music Therapy

51. As this service is predominantly bought back by the special schools, the special schools have been asked to work together to consider how in the future they might wish to commission this work.

Education Psychology

52. The Education Psychology (EP) service in Central Bedfordshire has recently been refocused to target provision to :
- Early Years (0-5 years) – this involves contributing to the early identification and assessment of needs, including statutory assessment when appropriate to do so.
 - Children in vulnerable circumstances - this involves pupils who are at serious risk of permanent exclusion, those who are looked after, and those at School Action Plus of the SEN Code of Practice who may go on to need Statutory Assessment.
 - Statutory processes.
 - Critical Incident support.

53. A further review will be undertaken in the light of the SEN Green Paper to assess the extent to which EP services may be further refined while ensuring that critical and statutory services continue to be provided.

Advisory Support

54. It is proposed that the Advisory Support for Speech and Language and Autism are relocated to be managed through the Outreach Special Schools. Some commissioned work is already on going with Special Schools.

Statutory Assessment team

55. This team conducts the statutory assessments of pupils which remains part of the core work of the Council. The provision made by this team will be reviewed in the light of the outcomes of the SEN Green Paper in relation to early identification, streamlining assessment processes and reducing bureaucracy.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder

56. Central Bedfordshire Council has recently developed specialist provision in the East of the Council area in one Lower School and one Middle School.
57. In the future, there will be a need to develop an Upper School provision. This will be developed in consultation with the schools currently hosting these provisions and their Governing Bodies. There are currently Upper School provisions at Samuel Whitbread Upper School and Community College in Shefford and Manshead Upper School in Dunstable. Budgetary provision will need to be made available in consultation with the School Forum.

Dyslexia Provision

58. Central Bedfordshire currently has 1 middle school provision for Dyslexia at Priory Middle School. There are currently 3 pupils in the provision at Priory Middle School which is funded for 7 pupils.
59. When the pupils leave, this arrangement completes guarantees given by the legacy Council that pupils could continue in this provision. Provision will now be made across all schools and the Council has offered training to both teachers and teaching assistants in the accredited Dyslexia training course available through University of Northampton and delivered locally. This course is now funded by Central Government.
60. The Council has provided support and training in delivering proven models of literacy intervention. It is therefore proposed that statutory notices are published to formally discontinue this provision, which currently costs £57,960 per annum. It is also proposed that the school may wish to sell their expertise to Trusts, Federations and Partnerships. This would be for the governing body of the school to determine and would not be part of a commission from the Council.

Language Provision

61. The provision for language specialism at Heathwood Lower School is currently managed through the Council. It is proposed that further discussions are held with the school to devolve this responsibility to the school.

Hearing Impaired Provisions

62. Central Bedfordshire currently has 3 Provisions for those pupils whose hearing impairments are so severe they have a statement of SEN and require regular input from a qualified Teacher of the Deaf. The peripatetic service currently also provides the advice and support where appropriate for children 0-19 in their local school or setting.
63. Developing these provisions in Central Bedfordshire has led to a reduction in the number of pupils accessing specialist provision out of the Council area. As a result of improvements in treatment for hearing loss, this need may decrease in the future. It is proposed that a commissioning is offered to schools who may wish to offer this service.

Ensuring that schools develop expertise

64. The Council's relationship with its schools is changing in the light of national policy. Schools will be increasingly responsible for working through Trusts, Federations and Partnerships and commissioning their own support. The Council will maintain a small core team to offer statutory provisions. It will also retain its role to intervene where schools are notified by Ofsted or evaluated as a result of School Improvement partner visits to be of concern.
65. There is national advice for schools and other settings in identifying the special educational needs of children and young people, and intervening appropriately to meet these needs. The Guidance on the Graduated Response to SEN has recently been reissued. This sets out what should be provided by settings and schools for children and young people at each stage of the national SEN Code of Practice. This has contributed to the decrease in the number of requests for statutory assessments as schools gain expertise in fulfilling their role. Although the national Code of Practice may change as a consequence of the Green Paper, this tool provides a useful guide to settings and schools on what they can do to address the needs of the pupils for which they are responsible.

Conclusion/Next steps

66. The Overview and Scrutiny committee are requested to note and comment upon the provisions for special educational needs. With the exception of these proposals which require statutory consultation, the overall provision for Special Educational Needs will be implemented in accordance with a staffing review and in accordance with Children's Services Commissioning Strategy when the budget for the Council is known and approved in February 2011.

67. For those proposals which require statutory notice and an Executive decision, Members are asked to comment on the future direction of the three special schools in Dunstable and Houghton Regis and the provision for pupils with dyslexia at Priory Middle School. These two changes would then require Executive approval and the publication of statutory notices.
68. The report on the future configuration of the Area Special Schools and the Dyslexia provision will be part of a report for the Executive on 11 January 2011.

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Central Bedfordshire Transition Task Force Group on SEN, Children's Services 2008/2009.

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands

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Meeting: Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date: 23 November 2010
Subject: Work Programme 2010 – 2011 & Executive Forward Plan
Report of: Chief Executive
Summary: The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

Contact Officer: Bernard Carter, Overview & Scrutiny Manager
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The work programme of the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee will contribute indirectly to all 5 Council priorities.

Financial:

n/a

Legal:

n/a

Risk Management:

n/a

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

n/a

Equalities/Human Rights:

n/a

Community Safety:

n/a

Sustainability:

n/a

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **that the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee**
 - (a) **considers and approves the work programme attached, subject to any further amendments it may wish to make;**
 - (b) **considers the Executive Forward Plan; and**
 - (c) **considers whether it wishes to add any further items to the work programme and/or establish any Task Forces to assist it in reviewing specific items.**

Work Programme

1. Attached at Appendix A is the currently drafted work programme for the Committee.
2. Also attached at Appendix B is the latest version of the Executive's Forward Plan so that Overview & Scrutiny Members are fully aware of the key issues Executive Members will be taking decisions upon in the coming months. Those items relating specifically to this Committee's terms of reference are shaded in light grey.
3. The Committee is now requested to consider the work programme attached and amend or add to it as necessary. This will allow officers to plan accordingly but will not preclude further items being added during the course of the year if Members so wish and capacity exists.

Task Forces

4. In addition to consideration of the work programme, Members will also need to consider how each item will be reviewed i.e. by the Committee itself (over one or a number of Committee meetings) or by establishing a Member Task Force to review an item in greater depth and report back its findings.

Conclusion

5. Members are requested to consider and agree the attached work programme, subject to any further amendments/additions they may wish to make and highlight those items within it where they may wish to establish a Task Force to assist the Committee in its work.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2010 – 11

Appendix B: The Executive Forward Plan for the period Oct 2010 to Sept 2011

Work Programme for Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2010 - 2011

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
	23 November 2010	Portfolio Holder Update	To receive a verbal update from the Portfolio Holder regarding current issues within Children's Services	
		Learning Transformation	To receive a verbal update on progress.	
		Future Delivery of Music Service	To consider proposals regarding the future delivery of the Council's music service.	
		Future Delivery of the Youth Service	To consider proposals regarding the future delivery of the Council's youth service.	
		Commissioning of PRU/Exclusions	To consider options regarding the commissioning of the Council's PRU/Exclusions service.	
		Interim SEN update	To consider an interim update report regarding the future delivery of SEN	
	30 November 2010 (Special Meeting)	Corporate Budget Strategy – Savings Proposals	To consider the viability and suitability of savings proposals in the Children's Services Directorate.	
	21 December 2010 (R)	Portfolio Holder Update	To receive a verbal update from the Portfolio Holder regarding current issues within Children's Services	

NB: - **(R)** denotes a 'reserve' meeting

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
		<p>Base Budget 2011/12</p> <p>SEN Services</p> <p>Quarter 2 Budget Information</p> <p>Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring</p>	<p>To receive directorate proposals regarding the draft revenue budget 2011/12</p> <p>To consider the publication of statutory notices for the realignment of SEN services</p> <p>To receive the directorate's budget monitoring information for the second quarter of 2010/11.</p> <p>To receive performance monitoring information for the second quarter of 2010/11.</p>	
	25 January 2011	<p>Portfolio Holder Update</p> <p>Review of School Places in Dunstable & Houghton Regis</p> <p>Children and Young People's Plan: New Plan for 2011/12</p>	<p>To receive a verbal update from the Portfolio Holder regarding current issues within Children's Services</p> <p>To consider a long list of options in light of early consultation regarding the review of School Places in Dunstable & Houghton Regis</p> <p>To receive and consider an early report outlining draft priorities and consultation results regarding the new Children and Young People's Plan for 2011/12</p>	

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
		Child Poverty Strategy	To receive and consider the Council's draft Strategy following consideration of child poverty generally at the October 2010 meeting.	
		Revised 16-19 Transport Policy	To consider an updated report, consultation findings and a proposed policy (initial policy options were considered in October).	
	01 March 2011 (R)			
	29 March 2011	Portfolio Holder Update	To receive a verbal update from the Portfolio Holder regarding current issues within Children's Services	
		Children and Young People's Plan: New Plan for 2011/12	To receive and consider the new Children and Young People's Plan for 2011/12	
		Review of School Places in Dunstable & Houghton Regis	To consider options for informal (pre statutory) consultation regarding the review of School Places in Dunstable & Houghton Regis	
		Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring	To receive performance monitoring information for the third quarter of 2010/11.	
		Quarter 3 Budget Information	To receive the directorate's budget monitoring information for the third quarter of 2010/11.	

NB: - **(R)** denotes a 'reserve' meeting

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
	14 June 2011	Portfolio Holder Update	To receive a verbal update from the Portfolio Holder regarding current issues within Children's Services	
		Children and Young People's Plan: Achieve Economic Well-Being		New Municipal Year – this item to be confirmed
		Children's Trust Annual Report	To receive the annual report of the Children's Trust	As above
		Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report	To receive the annual report of the Corporate Parenting Panel	As above
		LSCB Annual Report	To receive the annual report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board	As above
		Quarter 4 Performance Monitoring	To receive performance monitoring information for the final quarter of 2010/11	As above
		Quarter 4 Budget Information	To receive the directorate's budget monitoring information for the final quarter of 2010/11	As above

**Central Bedfordshire Council
Forward Plan of Key Decisions
1 November 2010 to 31 October 2011**

- 1) During the period from **1 November 2010 to 31 October 2011**, Central Bedfordshire Council plans to make key decisions on the issues set out below. “Key decisions” relate to those decisions of the Executive which are likely:
- to result in the incurring of expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant (namely £200,000 or above per annum) having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
 - to be significant in terms of their effects on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards in the area of Central Bedfordshire.
- 2) The Forward Plan is a general guide to the key decisions to be determined by the Executive and will be updated on a monthly basis. Key decisions will be taken by the Executive as a whole. The Members of the Executive are:

Member	Portfolio
Cllr Mrs Tricia Turner MBE	Chairman of the Executive and Leader of the Council
Cllr Richard Stay	Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Policy and Performance
Cllr Mrs Rita Drinkwater	Portfolio Holder for Housing
Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley	Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health
Cllr Maurice Jones	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People
Cllr Mrs Anita Lewis	Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services
Cllr Steve Male	Portfolio Holder for Customers, Systems and Assets
Cllr Ken Matthews	Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Skills and Regeneration
Cllr David McVicar	Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles
Cllr Tom Nicols	Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development

- 3) Those items identified for decision more than one month in advance may change in forthcoming Plans. Each new Plan supersedes the previous Plan. Any person who wishes to make representations to the Executive about the matter in respect of which the decision is to be made should do so to the officer whose telephone number and e-mail address are shown in the Forward Plan. Any correspondence should be sent to the contact officer at the relevant address as shown below. General questions about the Plan such as specific dates, should be addressed to the Head of Democratic Services, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ.
- 4) The agendas for meetings of the Executive will be published as follows:

Meeting Date	Publication of Agenda
08 June 2010	27 May 2010
13 July 2010	24 June 2010
17 August 2010	05 August 2010
28 September 2010	16 September 2010
02 November 2010	21 October 2010
07 December 2010	25 November 2010
11 January 2011	23 December 2010
8 February 2011	27 January 2011
15 March 2011	3 March 2011
5 April 2011	24 March 2011
31 May 2011	19 May 2011

Central Bedfordshire Council

Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2011

Key Decisions

Date of Publication:

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
1.	First Quarter Review of the 2010/11 Capital Programme -	To review the first quarter of the 2010/11 Capital Programme.	2 November 2010		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 02/10/10 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Financial Services/Chief Finance Officer Email: matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
2.	Central Bedfordshire Empty Homes Strategy -	To consider a Empty Homes Strategy for Central Bedfordshire.	2 November 2010	Portfolio Holder for Housing Executive Consultees Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Report with proposed Empty Homes Strategy	Cllr Mrs Rita J Drinkwater Comments by 05/10/10 to Contact Officer: Nick Costin, Head Private Sector Housing Email: nick.costin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5219

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
3.	Award of the Gas Maintenance Contract to Council Housing Properties south of the District -	To award the contract	2 November 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Rita J Drinkwater Comments by 05/10/10 to Contact Officer: Basil Quinn, Housing Asset Manager Performance Email: basil.quinn@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5202
4.	Local Investment Plan -	To approve the Plan for submission to the Homes and Communities Agency.	2 November 2010		Report	Cllr Ken C Matthews Comments by 05/10/10 to Contact Officer: Jon Cliff, Head of Growth Programme Email: jon.cliff@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4373
5.	Central Bedfordshire Housing Strategy 2010 - Draft for Consultation -	The Executive are asked to approve the draft strategy and the detailed action plan as the basis for consultation.	2 November 2010	15 January 2010: Key Stakeholders and Partners 28 January 2010: members consultation event Web based consultation December 2009 - February 2010	The Central Bedfordshire Housing Strategy 2010	Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 02/10/10 to Contact Officer: Zoe Cox, Housing Research & Policy Officer Email: zoe.cox@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4479

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
6.	Carbon Management Plan -	Adoption of the Carbon Management Plan to set out how the Council will reduce it's carbon footprint, identify the opportunities and projects this will involve and strategy for funding this.	2 November 2010	Executive consulted at May meeting. Consultation with the Portfolio holder on-going.	Draft Carbon Management Plan and supporting documents. The Council's Climate Change Strategy	Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 02/10/10 to Contact Officer: Richard Fox, Head of Development Plan Email: richard.fox@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4105
7.	LuDun Industries -	To consider the report.	2 November 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley Comments by 02/10/10 Ed Thompson, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care Email: ed.thompson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5146
8.	Corporate Budget Strategy -	To consider the strategy.	2 November 2010		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 02/10/10 Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Financial Services/Chief Finance Officer Email: matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
9.	Budget Management Report - Quarter 2 -	To consider the Quarter 2 Budget Management report.	7 December 2010		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 07/11/10 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Financial Services/Chief Finance Officer Email: matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
10.	Future Delivery of Music Service -	To consider future delivery of the Music Service	7 December 2010	Schools, partners, stakeholders	Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 07/11/10 to Contact Officer: Sylvia Gibson, Interim Assistant Director, Policy, Planning and Commissioning Email: sylvia.gibson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5598
11.	Annual Performance Assessment for Adult Social Care -	To consider the Adult Social Care Performance Report.	7 December 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley Comments by 07/11/10 to Contact Officer: Ed Thompson, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care Email: ed.thompson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01582 818060

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
12.	GAF 3 Programme and LDV Funding -	To consider the programme and funding.	7 December 2010		Report	Cllr Ken C Matthews Comments by 06/11/10 Jon Cliff, Head of Growth Programme Email: jon.cliff@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 8644
13.	Local Bus Services and Community Transport Interim Support Strategy -	To receive the results of the consultation and definitive options.	7 December 2010	Public consultation – 1 October – 15 November 2010	Report	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 05/11/10 Basil Jackson, Assistant Director Highways & Transport Email: basil.jackson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6171
14.	Traffic speed management for communities in Central Bedfordshire -	To consider traffic speed management for communities in Central Bedfordshire	7 December 2010		Report	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 06/11/10 Basil Jackson, Assistant Director Highways & Transport Email: basil.jackson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6171

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
15.	CCTV Review -	To consider the way forward.	7 December 2010		Report	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 07/11/10 Jane Moakes, Assistant Director Community Safety & Public Protection Email: jane.moakes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5441
16.	Draft Budget 2011/12 -	To approve the draft 2011/12 Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme for consultation.	11 January 2011	Overview & Scrutiny Committees	Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 11/12/10 to Contact Office: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Financial Services/Chief Finance Officer Email: matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel 0300 300 6147
17.	Review of Fees and Charges -	To review Fees and Charges for 2011/12	11 January 2011		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 11/12/10 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Financial Services/Chief Finance Officer Email: matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
18.	Treasury Management Strategy -	To consider the Treasury Management Strategy	11 January 2011		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 15/12/10 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Financial Services/Chief Finance Officer Email: matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
19.	Future Delivery of Special Education Needs -	To consider future delivery of Special Educational Needs.	11 January 2011	Stakeholders, Schools, Partners, Parents	Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 11/12/10 Mark Wheeler, Interim Assistant Director Children's Services Contact details: Email: mark.wheeler@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6044
20.	Annual Assessment of Children's Services 2010 -	To report the outcome of Ofsted's Annual Assessment of Children's Services and action to be taken to improve future assessment outcomes.	11 January 2011		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 11/12/10 to Contact Officer: Sylvia Gibson, Interim Assistant Director, Policy, Planning and Commissioning Email: sylvia.gibson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5598

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
21.	Budget and Capital Programme for 2011/12 -	To recommend the Budget and Capital Programme to Council on 24 February 2011 for approval.	8 February 2011	Overview & Scrutiny Committees	Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 05/01/11 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Financial Services/Chief Finance Officer Email: matt.bowmer@centalbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
22.	Future Delivery of Pupil Referral Unit -	To consider future delivery.	8 February 2011		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 07/01/11 Alison Bray, Head of School Support Email: alision.bray@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6825

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
23.	Local Transport Plan 3 -	To consider the LTP3 for recommending onto Council for approval.	8 February 2011	<p>Members, Stakeholders & General Public (01 February 2010 – 31 October 2010).</p> <p>Channels of engagement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview & Scrutiny Cttee (18/01/2011) • Taskforce • Local member & district councillor workshops/meetings • Stakeholder workshops • Householder surveys • On-line presence (myjourney website) • Public exhibitions • Internal briefings • Cross border liaison meetings • Hard copy information distribution to hard to reach groups <p>Press releases</p>	Report	<p>Cllr Tom Nicols</p> <p>Comments by 05/01/11 to Contact Officer:</p> <p>Paul Cook, Head of Transport Strategy</p> <p>Email: paul.cook@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Tel: 0300 300 6999</p>

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24.	16 - 19 Transport Policy -	To agree the 16 -19 Transport Policy	8 February 2011	Schools, Colleges, work based learning providers, young people, parents	Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 08/01/11 Sylvia Gibson, Interim Assistant Director, Policy, Planning and Commissioning Contact Details: Email: sylvia.gibson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5598
25.	Budget Management Report - Quarter 3 -	To consider the Quarter 3 Budget Management Report.	15 March 2011		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 15/02/11 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Financial Services/Chief Finance Officer Email: matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
26.	Child Poverty Strategy -	To agree the strategy which sets out how the Local Authority and its partners intend to reduce child poverty by 2020. This includes 4 targets (relative low income, material deprivation, absolute poverty and persistent poverty). This also includes a needs assessment to describe the characteristics of child and family within Central Bedfordshire and a joint child poverty strategy which will outline the steps and accountability for the Local Authority and partners.	15 March 2011		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 05/02/11to Contact Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services Email: edwina.grantt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4229

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
27.	Biggleswade Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan -	To consider and formally adopt the Biggleswade town centre strategy and masterplan as a supplementary planning document.	15 March 2011	<p>Non statutory consultation – July 2009 comprising public exhibition</p> <p>Non statutory consultation – 3 July to 27 August 2010, 4 public exhibitions in addition to web and print consultation methods</p> <p>Formal statutory consultation – Early November 2010 for a period of four to six weeks</p>	Biggleswade town centre strategy and masterplan	<p>Cllr Ken C Matthews, Cllr Tom Nicols</p> <p>Comments to Contact Officer: Liz Wade, Assistant Director Economic Growth and Regeneration</p> <p>Email: liz.wade@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Tel: 0300 300 6288</p>
28.	Community Safety Partnership Priorities and the Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2011 - 2012 -	To agree and sign off the Community Safety Partnership Priorities and the Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2011- 12	15 March 2011	Strategic Assessment & Partnership Plan will be considered at the CSP Executive Meeting in November 2010, Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2011 and the Local Strategic Partnership in February 2011	Strategic Assessment Priorities & Community Safety Partnership Plan 2011 - 2012	<p>Cllr David McVicar</p> <p>Comments by 10/02/11</p> <p>Jeanette Keyte, Community Safety Manager Email: jeanette.keyte@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5232</p>

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
29.	Dunstable Town Centre Masterplan -	To approve the Dunstable Town Centre Masterplan as Interim Technical Guidance for Development Management Purposes.	15 March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non statutory consultation – April 2009 comprising dedicated website, public exhibition, stakeholder workshop and printed consultation methods. • Non statutory consultation – September 2009 comprising dedicated website, public exhibition, stakeholder workshop and printed consultation methods. • Formal 6 weeks statutory consultation – 18th September - 1st November 2010 comprising dedicated website, 3 public exhibitions, printed consultation methods, presentations to relevant stakeholders, CDs. 	Dunstable Town Centre Masterplan	Cllr Ken C Matthews, Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 15/02/11 Liz Wade, Assistant Director Economic Growth and Regeneration Email: liz.wade@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6288
30.	Children and Young People's Plan -	That the Executive endorse the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan and recommends the adoption of the Plan to Council.	15 March 2011	Children and young people, parents, carers and stakeholders through a variety of mechanisms such as workshops, information published on website and meetings with key partners.	Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 01/02/11 to Contact Officer: Sylvia Gibson, Interim Assistant Director, Policy, Planning and Commissioning Email: sylvia.gibson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5598

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
31.	Local Economic Plan -	To approve the Central Bedfordshire Local Economic Plan.	31 May 2011		Draft final Local Economic Plan	Cllr Ken C Matthews Comments by 16/11/10 to Contact Officer: James Cushing, Head of Economic Policy Email: james.cushing@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4984
NON KEY DECISIONS						
32.	Quarter 2 Performance Report -	To highlight the key Quarter 2 performance for Central Bedfordshire Council	7 December 2010		Report	Cllr Richard Stay Comments by 01/11/10 to Contact Officer: Peter Fraser, Head of Partnerships & Performance Email: peter.fraser@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6740
33.	Quarter 3 Performance Report -	To highlight the key Quarter 3 performance for Central Bedfordshire Council.	15 March 2011		Report	Cllr Richard Stay Comments by 01/02/11 to Contact Officer: Peter Fraser, Head of Partnerships & Performance Email: peter.fraser@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6740

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
34.	Quarter 4 Performance Report -	To highlight key Quarter 4 performance for Central Bedfordshire Council.	31 May 2011		Report	Cllr Richard Stay Comments by 01/05/11 to Contact Officer: Peter Fraser, Head of Partnerships & Performance Email: peter.fraser@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6740

Postal address for Contact Officers: Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ

**Central Bedfordshire Council
Forward Plan of Decisions on Key Issues**

For the Municipal Year 2010/11 the Forward Plan will be published on the fifteenth day of each month or, where the fifteenth day is not a working day, the working day immediately proceeding the fifteenth day, or in February 2011 when the plan will be published on the fourteenth day:

Date of Publication	Period of Plan
14.05.10	1 June 2010 – 31 May 2011
15.06.10	1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011
15.07.10	1 August 2010 – 31 July 2011
13.08.10	1 September 2010 – 31 August 2011
15.09.10	1 October 2010 – 30 September 2011
15.10.09	1 November 2010 – 31 October 2011
15.11.10	1 December 2010 – 30 November 2011
15.12.10	1 January 2011 – 31 December 2011
14.01.11	1 February 2011 – 31 January 2012
14.02.11	1 March 2011 – 29 February 2012
15.03.11	1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012
15.04.11	1 May 2011 – 30 April 2012