

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



please ask for Bernard Carter

direct line 0300 300 4175

date 5 January 2012

NOTICE OF MEETING

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date & Time

Tuesday, 17 January 2012 10.00 a.m.

Venue at

Room 15, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford

Richard Carr
Chief Executive

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

Cllrs Mrs D B Gurney (Chairman), N B Costin (Vice-Chairman), P N Aldis, D Bowater, Mrs S Clark, A L Dodwell, P Hollick, K Janes, I A MacKilligan and R B Pepworth

[Named Substitutes:

P A Duckett, Mrs S A Goodchild, Ms C Maudlin, A Shadbolt and N J Sheppard]

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

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 meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 15 December 2011 and to note actions taken since that meeting.

3. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations and the nature thereof 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	Children's Health To receive a presentation regarding children's health in Central Bedfordshire.	*
10	Executive Member Update To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.	*
11	Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring To consider performance monitoring information for the second quarter of 2011/12.	* 13 - 20
12	Alternative Future Provision of the Pupil Referral Unit To consider a report regarding alternative future provision of the Pupil Referral Unit.	* 21 - 30
13	Work Programme 2011 - 2012 & Executive Forward Plan The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.	* 31 - 52

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CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Room 15, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Thursday, 15 December 2011

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs D B Gurney (Chairman)
Cllr N B Costin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: P N Aldis
D Bowater
Mrs S Clark
A L Dodwell

Councillors: P Hollick
K Janes
I A MacKilligan
R B Pepworth

Parental Co-optees: S Beattie
H Copley
D Landman

Church of England Co-optee: J Reynolds

Apologies for Absence: Mrs F Image

Members in Attendance: Cllrs Mrs A Barker Deputy Executive Member for Children's Services
A D Brown Deputy Executive Member for Children's Services
Mrs S A Goodchild
D Jones
A Shadbolt Chairman of Development Management Committee
M A G Versallion Executive Member for Children's Services

Officers in Attendance: Mr B Carter Corporate Policy & Scrutiny Manager
Mrs E Grant Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services
Mrs D Hill Senior Finance Manager - Children's Services

CS/11/71 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 29 November 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CS/11/72 **Members' Interests**

(a) **Personal Interests:-**

Cllr N Costin
Cllr A Dodwell (Item 13)

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

None.

CS/11/73 **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman had no announcements however a Member of the Committee took the opportunity to raise the issue of receipt of verbal updates to each committee meeting from the Executive Member, a practice which had occurred in the previous municipal year. The Chairman agreed to consider the matter further.

CS/11/74 **Petitions**

No petitions were received from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Part D2 of the Constitution.

CS/11/75 **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

The Chairman confirmed that no questions, statements or deputations from members of the public had been received in accordance with Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 1 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

CS/11/76 **Call-In**

The Panel was advised that no decisions of the Executive had been referred to the Panel under the Call-in Procedures set out in Appendix "A" to Rule No. S18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

CS/11/77 **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/11/78 **Draft Budget 2012/13, Medium Term Financial Plan 2012 to 2016 and Capital Programme 2012/13 to 2015/16**

The Executive Member for Children's Services presented the Council's Draft Budget 2012/13 report, which also contained details of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2012 to 2016 and Capital Programme 2012/13 to 2015/16. In doing so, he drew the Committee's attention to the Council's formula grant, budget assumptions, reserves, pressures and efficiencies, and specifically, to

those budgets (both revenue and capital) pertaining to the Children's Services directorate. The Executive Member also wished to praise his officers for delivering a balanced budget in challenging economic circumstances.

Members of the Committee discussed the contents of the report in detail and raised a number of queries regarding the following issues, which were addressed by the Executive Member and officers in attendance:

- The impact the increasing prevalence of academy schools was having on the Council's funding streams (i.e. Revenue Support Grant and Direct Schools Grant). Also, the ability to continue to provide traded services to schools. The Executive Member confirmed that the Council's provision of traded services to schools was currently the subject of fundamental review and acknowledged that in many instances, such services could be provided more competitively in the private sector. He assured the Committee however that the provision of statutory (free) services would continue;
- The accountability of approved academy school partners. The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services confirmed that schools that wished to become academy were free to resolve to appoint any partner, which had been approved by the Secretary of State for Education.
- The impact efficiency savings identified within Special Educational Needs would have on those children requiring such assistance. The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services assured the Committee that outcomes for children would not be affected and confirmed that addressing children and young people's mental health was a priority for the Council and its partners;
- The prioritisation and adequacy of capital budgets to address health and safety issues at individual schools. The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services confirmed that health and safety assessments had been undertaken of all schools and bids for capital funds submitted to the Department for Education, which would allocate funding accordingly. Final notification of such funding was still awaited but once received, schools would be informed and work would commence in order of assessed priority. Schools had been informed of the timetable for notice. The Director also assured the Committee that a contingency fund existed for emergencies;
- The difficulty, particularly for newer Members, in understanding the complexities of local government finance and budget setting in particular. The Executive Member acknowledged the issue and agreed that a timely briefing/training session for Members (and co-optees) in future years would be sensible. Officers would ensure such a session was added to the Member training and development programme.
- The permission given to some schools to formally consult on changing their age range. The Executive Member confirmed that following such consultation and under delegated Executive authority, he would be making a decision regarding these requests in April 2012 in public session. He

also confirmed that relevant ward Members from the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area had been invited to a meeting beforehand (17 or 19 January 2012, to be confirmed), when the issue would be discussed in greater detail. The Executive Member also assured the Committee that any decision made in April would have regard to the impact on neighbouring schools.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Draft Budget 2012/13, Medium Term Financial Plan 2012-16 and the Capital Programme 2012/13 to 2015/16 be endorsed as set out.

CS/11/79 **Fees and Charges 2012/13**

The Executive Member for Children's Services presented the Council's Fees & Charges 2012/13 report and whilst doing so, drew the Committee's attention specifically to those fees and charges pertaining to the Children's Services directorate, detailed on Page 19.

Members of the Committee discussed the contents of the report in detail and raised a specific query regarding usage of the music service following the introduction of revised fees and charges in the current year. The Executive Member confirmed that although the current year would be challenging in terms of full cost recovery, the service continued to experience increasing usage and a business plan existed to ensure financial viability in 2012/13.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the proposed fees and charges relating to the Children's Services directorate for the financial year 2012/13 be endorsed for consideration by the Executive at its meeting on 14 February 2012.

CS/11/80 **Budget Management Report Quarter ended 30 September 2011**

The Executive Member for Children's Services presented his report, which set out the projected financial position of the Children's Services Directorate to the end of March 2012, based on the information available as at the end of September 2011 (being the second quarter of 2011/12).

He further explained that the full year projected outturn position for 2011/12 was a relatively small £0.167M under spend against a £35.2M net budget and congratulated the Directorate on its good financial management, albeit recognising the very challenging financial environment in which the organisation still found itself.

Members of the Committee discussed the contents of the report in detail and raised a number of queries regarding the following issues, which were addressed by the Executive Member and officers in attendance:-

- The level of agency workers currently required to cover qualified social worker posts and the competitiveness of the Authority to attract permanent staff. The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services assured the Committee that workforce planning (a statutory requirement) was robust and had recently been rated highly in an independent external assessment. Workforce planning included a number of initiatives such as succession planning, strong training and development, market rate supplements and a rolling programme of recruitment. It was noted that agency staff were primarily used for supervisory posts because approximately 50% of the current workforce were newly qualified social workers in their first 2 years of work placement. This situation would however change over time as a result of the aforementioned robust workforce planning.
- The projected under spend within Early Intervention and Prevention. The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services confirmed that this under spend related to a less than anticipated number of parents stepping forward to utilise short breaks services and there was a need to examine this trend in more detail to identify the cause and address any issues arising.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report be noted.

CS/11/81

Children and Young People's Plan - 6 Month Report

The Executive Member for Children's Services presented his report, which set out the progress made in delivering the priorities and targets contained within the Children and Young People's Plan 2011 to 2014 in the first 6 months of 2011/12.

Members of the Committee discussed the contents of the report in detail and raised a number of concerns regarding the following issues, which were addressed by the Executive Member and officers in attendance:

- The fall in Key Stage 2 standards and the measures being taken to address this. The Executive Member acknowledged the issue and assured the Committee improvement was a priority for both him and the Director. Actions to improve performance for 2012 included a conference for middle schools to look at good practice in raising achievement, and a programme of targeted support. Next summer the Council would also support a broader conference for lower schools. Members of the Committee noted the improvement plan and requested that a progress report and presentation be submitted in the autumn of next year;
- The pockets of particularly poor school performance in Dunstable and Houghton Regis. The Executive Member confirmed that measures to improve this issue were currently underway and included: strong encouragement by the Council for the failing school to find a credible academy partner; greater Council appetite to intervene and be robust;

national government raising of the floor standard; governor training and school to school support;

RECOMMENDATION:

That the concerns expressed by the Committee and outlined above be submitted to the Children's Trust for consideration.

CS/11/82

Review of Children's Services to Disabled Children, Young People and their Families

The Executive Member for Children's Services presented his report, which provided the Committee with details of the outcome of the review of Children's Services to disabled children, young people and their families living in Central Bedfordshire, and associated recommendations about future delivery of these services. In doing so, the Executive Member also wished to record his thanks to the Members of the Committee's Task Force for their valuable input during the review and to his Deputy, Councillor Angela Barker, who led it.

Members of the Committee discussed the contents of the report in detail and raised a number of queries during the discussion, which were all addressed by the Executive Member and officers in attendance. There was general consensus that the conclusions reached within the report were valid and that the recommendations proposed regarding the adoption of a "hub and spoke" model of service delivery, together with the closure of the "Poppies" facility, were sensible. Members were also enthusiastic in their praise of the high standard of service currently provided and wished to thank the staff involved. In this respect, the Deputy Executive Member confirmed that she had written to all 3 centres involved in the review, thanking them for their commitment and input.

Of particular concern to a number of Members however was the need to ensure that there would be no diminution in the overall level of service offered as a result of the proposed implementation of the "hub and spoke" model. The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services was happy to provide such an assurance albeit acknowledging the need for flexibility with regard to individual elements of service provision. She reiterated that the overriding drivers for change were the need to ensure the service was better coordinated, more effective and offered better value for money and most importantly, improved provision for children, young people and their families. The Deputy Executive Member also confirmed that she would be happy to bring forward a report to a future meeting in approximately a year's time, assessing the impact of the implementation of the proposed "hub and spoke" model on service delivery.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the delivery of services to disabled children via the "hub and spoke" model, to include closure of the "Poppies" facility by March 2013 at the latest, be endorsed for consideration by the Executive at its meeting on 10 January 2012.

CS/11/83 **Work Programme 2011 - 2012 & Executive Forward Plan**

The Committee considered its current Work Programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

With regard to Minute CS/11/78 above, the Committee agreed that a verbal report from the Executive Member be received at its May meeting, which would provide Members with details of the outcome of his decision regarding schools' requests to change their age range.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Children's Services OSC Work Programme be noted.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 12.15 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated

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Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 17 January 2012
Subject: Quarter 2 Performance Report
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report highlights the Quarter Two performance for the Children's Services Directorate.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Karen Oellermann, Head of Partnerships, Performance and Workforce Development
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. The Quarterly Performance Report ensures that progress on the delivery of the Council's priorities is monitored.

Financial:

2. There are a number of performance indicators within the full corporate suite that have a financial link.
3. It will be important to consider any financial implications in addressing ongoing areas of under performance.

Legal:

4. Not applicable

Risk Management:

5. Areas of ongoing underperformance are a risk to both service delivery and the reputation of the Council.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

6. Not applicable.

Equalities/Human Rights:

7. This report highlights performance against a range of indicators which seek to measure how services impact across all communities in Central Bedfordshire, so that specific areas of underperformance can be highlighted for further analysis.

8. As such it does not include detailed performance information relating to the Council's stated intention to tackle inequalities and deliver services so that people whose circumstances make them vulnerable are not disadvantaged. The interrogation of performance data across vulnerable groups is a legal requirement and is an integral part of the Council's equalities and performance culture which seeks to ensure that, through a programme of ongoing impact assessments, underlying patterns and trends for different sections of the community identify areas where further action is required to improve outcomes for vulnerable groups.

Community Safety:

9. There are Children's Services indicators that relate to ensuring children and young people are kept safe.

Sustainability:

10. Not applicable.

Procurement:

11. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee notes and reviews Quarter Two performance.

Background

12. The Council's framework for performance management supports the delivery of the Council's priorities.
13. An overview of performance in Quarter 2 2011/12 and Director's summaries are set out below. This is supported by the detailed performance in Appendix A.

Performance Summary

14. The Council's performance in protecting vulnerable children and young people has remained good this quarter. Key indicators measuring social care assessment, timeliness and review remain on target to year end 2012. The demand on frontline teams continues to increase with high numbers of children subject to child protection plans. This multi-agency work is resource intensive but regular monitoring ensures that access to services and assessments for children in need and those in need of protection, is maintained, rather than solely pursuing targets.
15. Ofsted inspections show that 79% of schools are either good or outstanding. During this quarter there were two inspections. One school improved from satisfactory to become good and the second declined from good to satisfactory, so there is no net change from Quarter 1. More recent published inspections will be reported in the Quarter in which they took place i.e. next quarter.

16. Key Stage 2 standards have fallen this year and targets have not been met. Actions to improve performance for 2012 have included a conference for middle schools to focus on good practice and improvement in raising achievement, and a programme of support targeted at those pupils at risk of not achieving Level 4 in English and / or mathematics is ongoing in selected schools.
17. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the key stage 2 performance at their last meeting and received a verbal update on the action plan for the year. Scrutiny asked that the progress be reviewed at the November/December meeting in 2012 to consider the effect of the action plan.
18. Ashton Middle School was given a Notice to Improve on the 9 February 2011. The school received a monitoring visit on the 23 September 2011 and was judged to be making satisfactory progress in addressing the issues for improvement and in raising pupils' achievement.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Performance Indicators

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Executive 10 January 2012- (Quarter 2 Performance Report)

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands

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Performance Report Appendix A

Quarter 2 2011/12

Children's Services

Ref	Indicator	Performance Judgement	
CS 1	Percentage of initial assessments within ten working days of referral (NI 59)		A
CS 2	Percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year (NI 62)		A
CS 3	Percentage of child protection cases which should have been reviewed during the year that were reviewed (NI 67)		G
CS 4	The percentage of children in need that led to initial assessments (NI 68)	æ	G
CS 5	Achievement at level 4 and above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (NI 73) (Annual report)		R
CS 6	Achievement of 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (NI 75) (Annual report)	Annual Qu3	Annual Qu3
CS 7	Published Ofsted school and college classifications		G

Report comparison - Depends on the nature of the indicator		Performance Judgement			
		Direction of travel (DoT)		RAG score (Standard scoring rules unless the indicator specifies alternative scoring arrangements)	
Seasonal	Compared to the same time in the previous year		Performance is reducing	R	RED - target missed / off target - Performance at least 10% below the required level of improvement
Quarter on quarter	Compared to the previous quarter		Performance remains unchanged	A	AMBER - target missed / off target - Performance less than 10% below the required level of improvement

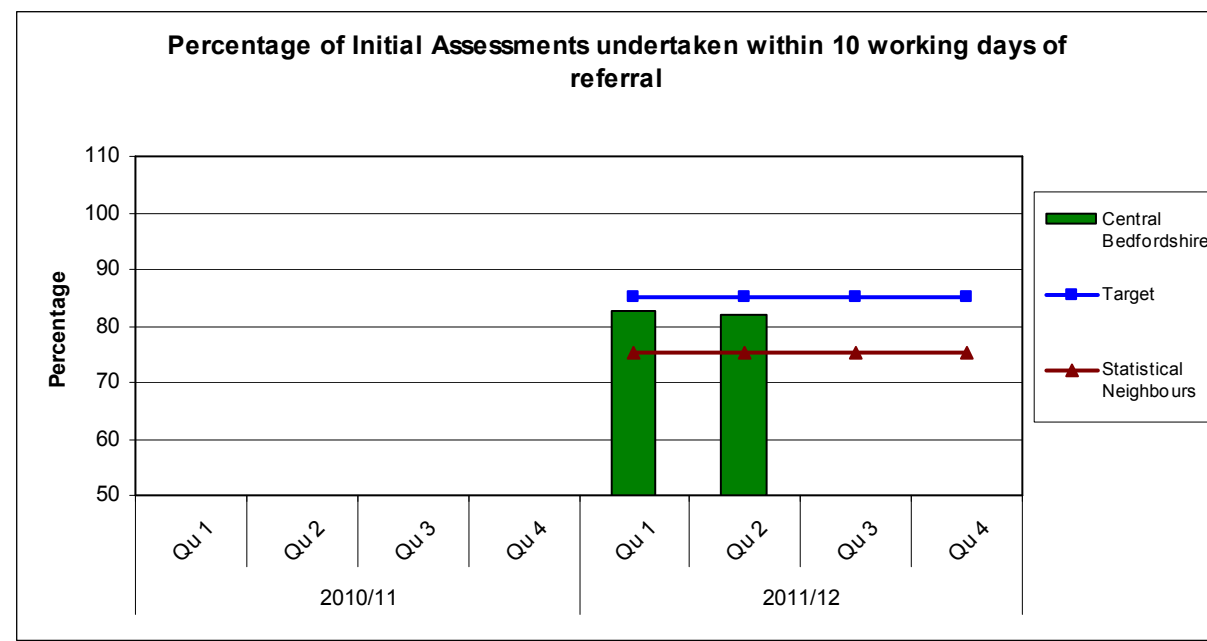
Children's Services

Director: Edwina Grant

Executive Member for Children's Services - Councillor Mark A G Versallion
Deputy Executive Member for Children's Services - Cllr Mrs Angela Barker
Deputy Executive Member for Children's Services - Cllr Anthony D Brown

Seasonal = Compared to the same time in the previous year
 Quarter on quarter = Compared to the previous quarter
 Annual = Compared to one fixed point in the previous year

CS 1		Percentage of initial assessments undertaken within ten working days of referral (NI 59 Revised) (Cumulative)																		
Unit	Good is	2009/10	2010/11						2011/12						Latest comparator group average	75.4 NFER (2010/11)	Report Comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement	A
		Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn						
%	High	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	85.0	82.7	81.3									
<p>Comment: Although performance for this measure has gone from green to amber, it is good compared to statistical neighbours and it is expected that the target of 85% will be achieved by the end of the year. Performance for the month of September alone shows a rise to 87.8%. Current performance reflects a national change in the way this indicator is measured.</p> <p>This change in practice means that 2011/12 data cannot be compared to previous performance.</p> <p>Initial assessments are a brief assessment of any child who has been referred to social services. They are an important indicator of how quickly services can respond when a child is thought to be at risk of serious harm. Assessments involve a range of local agencies so this indicator also shows how well multi-agency arrangements are working.</p>																				



CS 2		Percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year (NI 62)																		
Unit	Good is	2009/10	2010/11						2011/12						Latest comparator group average	11.7 NFER (2009/10)	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement	A
		Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn						
%	Low	9.2	10.0	1.1	2.3	4.1	5.7	6.3	10.0	2.2	6.2									
<p>Comment: Performance for this indicator has gone from green to amber and it is now probable the target will not be met. However performance is still good and is in line with statistical neighbours (6.2% compared to 11.7%). The indicator relates to a small cohort of adolescents, currently 12 out of 193, that are proving difficult to provide stable placements for. Key factors that have a bearing on this performance include the range of placement choices, the enhanced levels of social care support needed for the young person and the effectiveness of multi-agency working. These are currently being reviewed to assess what changes can be made to improve stability, but if a child or young person needs an alternative placement this action will be taken to improve outcomes for the child rather than meeting the target.</p> <p>Numbers for this indicator are so low that graphical comparison with statistical neighbours is not relevant.</p>																				

CS 3		Percentage of child protection cases which should have been reviewed during the year that were reviewed (NI 67)																			
Unit	Good is	2009/10	2010/11						2011/12						Latest comparator group average	95.9 NFER (2010/11)	Report comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement		G
		Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn							
%	High	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100										

Comment: Performance remains on target. Reviews are a key element in delivering Child Protection Plans and effective reviews should ensure the provision of good quality interventions to keep children safe and protected. This target should remain on 100% and graphical representation is not relevant.

CS 4		Percentage of referrals of children in need that led to initial assessments (NI 68) (Cumulative)																			
Unit	Good is	2009/10	2010/11						2011/12						Latest comparator group average	75.1 NFER (2010/11)	Report comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement	æ	G
		Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn							
%	High	68.2	65	52.1	59.5	59.1	56.2	56.0	60	60.2	67.2										

Comment: Performance for this indicator continues to improve and is currently exceeding the target. This indicator gives a picture of the appropriateness of referrals coming into children's social care (which can show whether local agencies are working well together) and the thresholds which are being applied in Children's Social Care at a local level. The number of assessments has gone up by over 30% compared to last year. Performance is kept under review and the target will be reviewed for 2012/13 to take account of national guidance, our performance and the performance of statistical neighbours. As the levels of referrals across statistical neighbours are yet to stabilise nationally, graphical comparisons are not relevant.

CS 5		Achievement at Level 4 and above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (NI 73) (Annual report)											
Unit	Good is	2009	2010		2011		Latest comparator group average	76 (DfE) 2011	Report comparison	Annual	Performance Judgement		R
		Outturn	Target	Outturn	Target	Outturn							
%	High	73	82	73	82	70							

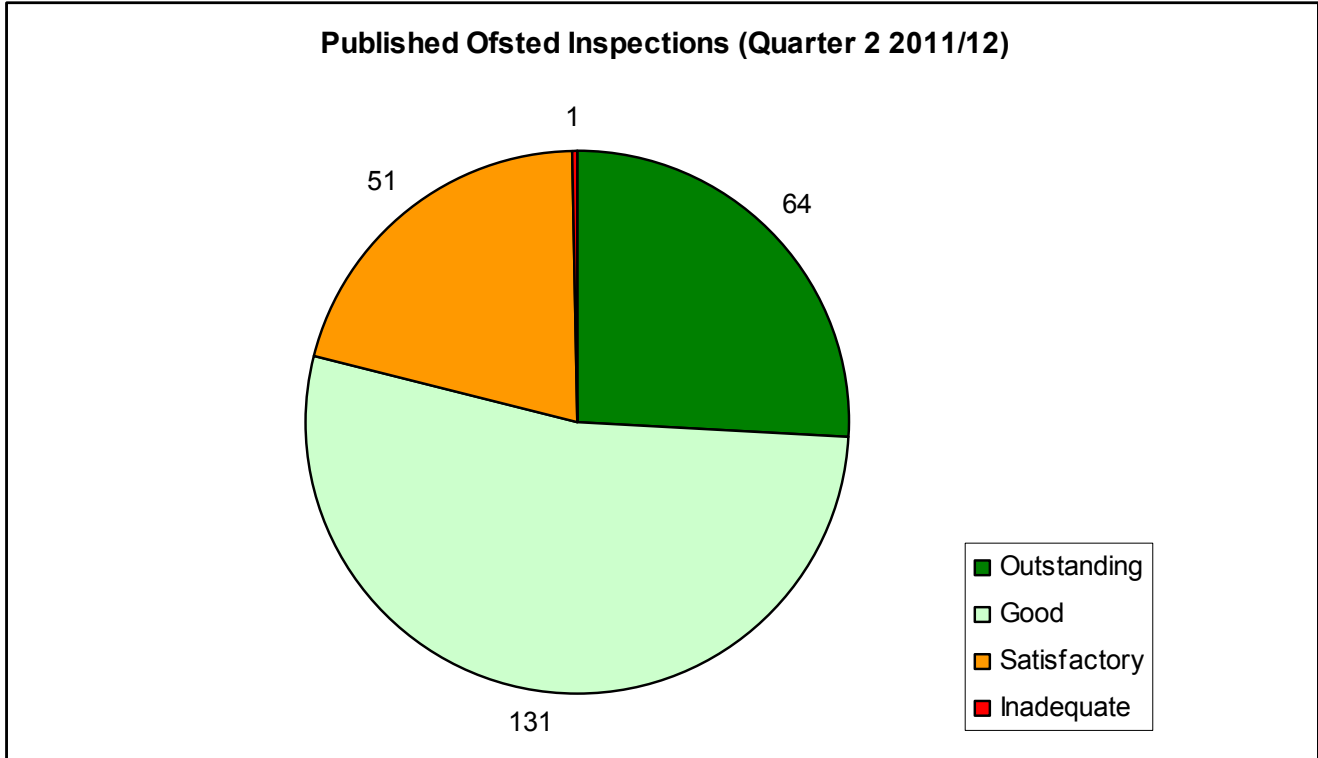
Comment: 2011 standards have fallen this year and the Council's target has not been met. It should be noted that schools were expected to set aspirational targets and the Council was required to set a target which did not fall below the aggregated schools' target. The requirement for the Council to set targets for Key Stage 2 has now been withdrawn as the School Improvement Partners that set targets have now been removed. Two schools are below the Government's floor standards compared with three in 2010.

The reasons for the drop in standards vary from school to school. Actions to improve performance for 2012 include a conference for middle schools to look at good practice in raising achievement, and a programme of support targeted at those pupils at risk of not achieving Level 4 in English and/or mathematics.

Year	Central Bedfordshire Council - Outturn	Central Bedfordshire Council - Target	Statistical Neighbours - Average	National - Average
2009	73	82	76	73
2010	73	82	76	73
2011	70	82	76	73

CS6 Achievement of 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (NI 75) This indicator is reported annually and will be included in the quarter 3 version of this report.

CS 7		Published Ofsted school and college classifications (New inspections during the quarter are shown by the figure in brackets)							Latest comparator group average	N/A	Report comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement	G
Ofsted category	Unit	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12					Outturn					
		Outturn	Outturn	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4							
Total	Number of schools	248 (57)	247 (62)	247 (11)	247 (2)									
Outstanding	Number of schools	56 (10)	63 (11)	64 (1)	64 (0)									
Good	Number of schools	140 (32)	132 (35)	131 (7)	131 (1)									
Satisfactory	Number of schools	51 (14)	50 (14)	51 (3)	51 (1)									
Inadequate	Number of schools	1 (1)	2 (2)	1 (0)	1 (0)									
<p>Comment: During this quarter there have been two inspections. One school improved from satisfactory to become good and the second declined from good to satisfactory, so there is no net change from Quarter 1.</p> <p>Ashton Middle School was given a Notice to Improve on 9th February 2011. The school received a monitoring visit on 23 September 2011 and was judged to be making satisfactory progress in addressing the issues for improvement and in raising pupils' achievement.</p>														



Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 17 January 2012
Subject: Alternative Future Provision of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: Attached at Appendix A is a draft Executive Report (March 2012) which provides the decision making framework to secure the future provision of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). The Committee is asked to comment on the draft Executive report.

The implementation of the agreed options will take place between September 2012 and September 2013.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Pete Dudley
Assistant Director Learning, Commissioning and Partnerships
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

- | |
|--|
| <p>1. The provision of effective and efficient local services for Special Education Needs forms a key element in delivering the Central Bedfordshire Children's Services Education Vision.</p> |
|--|

<p>This report supports Priority 2 of Central Bedfordshire's Strategic Plan 2009-2011, Educating, Protecting and Providing Opportunities for Children and Young People. The information also supports the Children and Young People's Plan priorities, Priority 2 Protecting Children and keeping them safe and Priority 1, increased educational achievement.</p>
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Financial:

- | |
|---|
| <p>2. These proposals will not increase costs for the Council</p> |
| <p>3. The PRU is fully funded by Direct Schools Grant (DSG) and the transfer of the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) from schools if they exclude pupils.</p> |

4. The existing funding available for this provision will be utilised taking account of any new school funding regulations. Schools will be able to buy into additional support or programmes should they wish to.
5. Additionally, the current Pupil Referral Unit buildings will continue to be modernised using available capital monies. Should a partnership of schools be successful in a bid for an Alternative Provision Free School, this may bring additional refurbishment money that would not have been available directly to the Council.

Legal:

6. Legal advice will be sought in accordance with the current legislation at the time the provision is established.

Risk Management:

7. There will be no difference regarding risk to pupils as they will continue to receive appropriate provision. The risk of the Alternative Provision Free School bid not being successful is mitigated against by an alternative proposal to deliver a similar model via a commission. Any risks will be managed to ensure provision is not disrupted and statutory duties are met.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

8. Consultation with staff and unions will need to take place regarding any proposed changes to staffing structures required. TUPE regulations would apply to the transfer of existing staff. Staff will be kept up to date with developments and involved in informing any proposals.
9. Any commission from schools to provide the medical needs aspect of the service will be preceded by a consultation with all relevant staff and their Trade Unions through a TUPE consultation.

Equalities/Human Rights:

10. Public authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and to foster good relations in respect of the following protected characteristics; age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
11. This statutory duty includes requirements to:
 - Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
 - Take steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
 - Encourage people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.
12. The work being undertaken to make the Pupil Referral Unit provision ensures that pupils at risk of being out of school are able to access their entitlement to a full time appropriate education.

Community Safety:

13. Not applicable.

Sustainability:

14. The proposals outlined in the report will ensure that the Council fulfils its Statutory Duty to ensure education for pupils who are in alternative provision to schools

Procurement:

15. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is asked to:-

1. Comment on the draft Executive report.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Draft Executive Report – 27 March 2012 – Alternative Future Provision of the Pupil Referral Unit

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Meeting: Executive
Date: 27 March 2012
Subject: Alternative Future Provision of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report summarises the work completed to date regarding future provision of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and identifies proposals for alternative models of delivery of the provision.

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

Contact Officer: Pete Dudley, Assistant Director, Learning, Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Executive

Key Decision Yes

Reason for urgency/ exemption from call-in (if appropriate) Not applicable

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The provision of effective and efficient local services for Special Education Needs forms a key element in delivering the Central Bedfordshire Children's Services Education Vision.

This report supports Priority 2 of Central Bedfordshire's Strategic Plan 2009-2011, Educating, Protecting and Providing Opportunities for Children and Young People. The information also supports the Children and Young People's Plan priorities, Priority 2 Protecting Children and keeping them safe and Priority 1, increased educational achievement.

Financial:

1. These proposals will not increase costs for the Council.
2. The PRU is fully funded by Direct Schools Grant (DSG) and the transfer of the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) from schools if they exclude pupils.

3. The existing funding available for this provision will be utilised taking account of any new school funding regulations. Schools will be able to buy into additional support of programmes should they wish to.
4. Additionally, the current Pupil Referral Unit buildings will continue to be modernised using available capital monies. Should a partnership of schools be successful in a bid for an Alternative Provision Free School, this may bring additional refurbishment money that would not have been available directly to the Council.
5. The total budget for the PRU provision in 2012/13 is £1.3 million plus an age weighted transfer payment when a child transfers into the provision.

Legal:

6. Legal advice will be sought in accordance with the current legislation at the time the provision is established.

Risk Management:

7. There will be no difference regarding risk to pupils as they will continue to receive appropriate provision. The risk of the Alternative Provision Free School bid not being successful is mitigated against by an alternative proposal to deliver a similar model via a commission. Any risks will be managed to ensure provision is not disrupted and statutory duties are met.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

8. Consultation with staff and unions will need to take place regarding any proposed changes to staffing structures required. TUPE regulations would apply to the transfer of existing staff. Staff will be kept up to date with developments and involved in informing any proposals.
9. Any commission from schools to provide the medical needs aspect of the service will be preceded by a consultation with all relevant staff and their Trade Unions through a TUPE consultation.

Equalities/Human Rights:

10. Public authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and to foster good relations in respect of the following protected characteristics; age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
11. This statutory duty includes requirements to:
 - Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
 - Take steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
 - Encourage people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

12. The work being undertaken to make the Pupil Referral Unit provision ensures that pupils at risk of being out of school are able to access their entitlement to a full time appropriate education.

Community Safety:

13. Not Applicable.

Sustainability:

14. The proposals outlined in the report will ensure that the Council fulfils its Statutory Duty to ensure education for pupils who are in alternative provision to schools

Procurement:

15. Not applicable.

Overview and Scrutiny:

16. ***Comments to be added following O & S Meeting in January 2012***

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Executive is asked to:

1. **delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Children's Services, the support of schools in establishing a free school PRU, a commission for medical needs and any future commissions**
2. **agree the maintenance of the existing PRU arrangements until alternative arrangements are made.**

Reason for Recommendation: To secure appropriate delivery of provision for pupils who might otherwise be out of school.

Executive Summary

The report summarises the work completed to date, and advises on the steps that are being taken for the delivery of this provision from September 2013.

Background

17. At its meeting on 15 February 2011, the Executive agreed that the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (now Executive Member Children's Services) takes forward detailed work on the future delivery of PRU provision in Central Bedfordshire from 2012 onwards to take account of the commissioning strategy, any new and relevant legislation and any changes to school funding arrangements.

18. Since that delegation, the regulatory landscape has changed such that it is appropriate to renew that delegation in the light of prevailing circumstances.
19. On 31 March 2011, the Service Level Agreement with Bedford Borough Council regarding the operation of the Pupil Referral Unit as a shared service ended. On 1 April 2011 60% of the staff transferred to Central Bedfordshire.
20. During the Summer term the provision for pupils remained as consistent as possible, in cooperation with Bedford Borough Council. At the end of the Summer term, all Upper School Central Bedfordshire pupils and staff relocated to the Kingsland Site in Houghton Regis.
21. Provision for primary age pupils was successfully commissioned to a partnership of 3 Lower Schools in Dunstable and Houghton Regis, and this opened in September 2011. The secondary age aspect was retained by Central Bedfordshire while detailed work was carried out to plan future delivery of the provision.

National changes since February 2011

22. Regarding the national regulatory framework, a PRU was initially required to have a delegated budget in 2012/13, but this has now been deferred until 2013/14, pending the outcome of the consultation on School Finance Regulations which was completed in October 2011. The outcome of this national consultation is not yet known.
23. Section 3 of the Children, Schools and Families Act 2010 extended the duty in the Education Act 1996 to provide a full time education for all children who, for reasons related to illness, exclusion or otherwise, would not receive suitable education unless arrangements were made for them. At the time of the 2010 Schools White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' the provisions in section 3 had not been commenced. The Department for Education (DfE) has now made a Commencement Order which brought this duty into force from 1 September 2011.
24. For pupils with medical needs, access to a suitable education is provided on the basis of medical advice, and the service works with health professionals and schools to ensure pupils access as much education as they can and this is currently in excess of the regulatory minimum in Central Bedfordshire.
25. The Education Act 2011, which underpins these provisions, was published in November 2011

Summary of work carried out to date on behalf of the Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Children's Services

26. A consultation on a new staffing structure to meet Central Bedfordshire's needs was initiated and concluded in the Summer Term, and was fully implemented on 1 January 2012.
27. The new staffing structure was partially implemented from September 2011, and all pupils at Central Bedfordshire PRU who have been excluded from their schools now have an offer of full time education.

28. A Management Committee has been set up and operates according to national regulations and is meeting regularly to oversee the governance of the PRU.
29. Staff have been provided with high quality training on managing behaviour, and pupils are now set clear expectations regarding their behaviour.
30. The learning environment has been improved, and there is a detailed plan of further improvements.
31. Emergent guidance from the DfE suggests that increasingly, schools should be collectively responsible for providing for the needs of excluded pupils and the future financial framework is expected to support this aim.
32. The Upper Schools, working as a Consortium, came forward in June 2011 expressing a desire to take responsibility for provision for pupils through a bid for a Free School Alternative Provision. They have also shared their vision and proposals with middle school colleagues to gain their view and input, although these discussions are ongoing. Since then representative headteachers, alongside the headteacher of Oak Bank special school, the Teacher in Charge of the PRU and a Children's Services representative have been exploring national examples of good practice.
33. A second round of Free School bids was announced in November 2011, with bids required to be submitted for February 13th – 24th for implementation in September 2013. It is unclear as to when successful bidders will be notified. The Central Bedfordshire bid is expected to be judged as a strong bid as the provisions at the Kingsland site are already available.
34. An alternative model of delivery through a commission will be developed alongside the schools bid, in case this bid is not successful. Work with schools will be ongoing to support schools to develop a commission to deliver a high quality range of provision for pupils who are at risk of permanent exclusion or who require an alternative curriculum and support to address their needs.

Conclusion and Next Steps

35. In the light of the timescales for Free School bids and the delay in the new funding arrangements for PRUs and the School Funding Regulations, it is for the Council to retain responsibility for the management of the secondary PRU for excluded pupils until such time as the Council hears of the outcome of a bid. The current provision will continue to develop to support early intervention and prevention for challenging pupils. It will also support the priority of educating and protecting the most vulnerable and the Council's changing relationship with schools.
36. The Medical Needs Service is distinctively different from the rest of the services delivered by the PRU. Work has been initiated to commission this service to be run through schools, trusts or partnerships. This will provide the Medical Needs staff with the required curriculum links and resources to deliver the service as specified by the amendment to the 1996 Act regarding access to appropriate education.

37. In future, the PRU will be delivered by consortia of schools whilst the medical needs commission will be let and maintained as a smaller commission, in accordance with the Council's Children's Services commissioning policy as agreed by Executive in 2009.

Appendices:

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Executive Report – Commissioning the Pupil Referral Unit 8 February 2011

Executive Report – Strategic Commissioning Framework 13 October 2009

Location: Chicksands

Meeting: Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date: 17 January 2012
Subject: Work Programme 2011 – 2012 & 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, Corporate Policy & 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

RECOMMENDATION(S):

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 may also wish 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.

Work Programme for Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2011 - 2012

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
1.	17 January 2012	Children's Health Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring Alternative Future Provision of the Pupil Referral Unit	To receive a presentation regarding children's health To consider performance monitoring information for the second quarter of 2011/12 To consider a report regarding alternative future provision of the Pupil Referral Unit	
2.	28 February 2012	Educational Attainment: Key Stage 2 and 4 All Age Skills Strategy Implementation of the school organisation plan: New school places programme 2011/12-16/17	To receive a presentation providing details of Central Bedfordshire's place within national league tables and information about Ofsted Council inspection matrix. To consider the draft All Age Skills Strategy The report will set out each proposed new place project and outline the source of funding.	Invite extended to Members of Sustainable Communities OSC.

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
		Workforce Commissioning		Tentative, tbc
3.	17 April 2012	Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring	To consider the directorate's capital & revenue budget monitoring information for the third quarter of 2011/12	
		Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring	To consider performance monitoring information for the third quarter of 2011/12	
		Medium Term Objectives	To consider the Council's draft Medium Term Objectives relating to Children's Services.	
4.	22 May 2012			

**Central Bedfordshire Council
Forward Plan of Key Decisions
1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012**

- 1) During the period from **1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012**, 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:

Cllr James Jamieson	Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Executive
Cllr Maurice Jones	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources
Cllr Mark Versallion	Executive Member for Children’s Services
Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley	Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing
Cllr Ken Matthews	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development
Cllr Brian Spurr	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services
Cllr Mrs Tricia Turner MBE	Executive Member for Economic Partnerships
Cllr Richard Stay	Executive Member for External Affairs

- 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 Committee Services Manager, 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
15 March 2011	03 March 2011
05 April 2011	24 March 2011
31 May 2011	19 May 2011
12 July 2011	30 June 2011
23 August 2011	11 August 2011
4 October 2011	22 September 2011
15 November 2011	3 November 2011
6 December 2011	24 November 2011
10 January 2012	22 December 2011
14 February 2012	2 February 2012
27 March 2012	15 March 2012
15 May 2012	3 May 2012

Central Bedfordshire Council

Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012

Key Decisions

Date of Publication: 15 December 2012

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.	Harmonisation of the Housing Needs Service in Central Bedfordshire -	To approve the harmonisation of the Housing Needs Service in Central Bedfordshire.	10 January 2012		Report	Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing Comments by 09/12/11 to Contact Officer: Mary Goodson, Policy Advisor Email: mary.goodson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5515
2.	Fairer Charging - Phase 2 -	To receive an update on phase 2 fairer charging and to make a decision on the introduction of weekly charge for Telecare Services.	10 January 2012	Current Telecare users (individual letter and survey); Stakeholder Groups and Public (email and web-based survey) 15 August 2011 – 4 November 2011.	Report Consultation document containing proposals Analysis of consultation responses	Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing Comments by 09/12/11 to Contact Officer: Tim Hoyle, Head of Business Systems Email: tim.hoyle@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6065

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.	ICT Framework Document -	To approve the ICT Framework document.	10 January 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 09/12/2011 to Contact Officer: Clive Jones, Chief ICT Officer Email: clive.jones@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4168
4.	Outcome of the Review of Children's Centres -	To consider the outcome of the review of children's centres.	10 January 2012		Report	Executive Member for Children's Services Comments by 09/12/2011 to Contact Officer: Catherine Parry, Assistant Director (Acting), Children's Services Operations Email: catherine.parry@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6441
5.	Treasury Management Policy and the Treasury Management Strategy -	To recommend to Council the adoption of the Treasury Management Policy and Treasury Management Strategy.	10 January 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 09/12/11 to Contact Officer: Charles Warboys, Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer Email: charles.warboys@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)
6.	Budget 2012/13 -	To recommend to Council the proposed budget for 2012/13: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue Budget; • Capital Budget; and • Fees and Charges. 	14 February 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 13/01/12 to Contact Officer: Charles Warboys, Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer Email: charles.warboys@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
7.	Housing Revenue Account Budget 2012/13 -	To recommend to Council the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2012/13 for approval.	14 February 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources, Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing Comments by 13/01/12 to Contact Officer: Charles Warboys, Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer and/or Tony Keaveney, Assistant Director Housing Services Email: charles.warboys@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147 and/or tony.keaveney@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5213

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)
8.	Localism Bill -	To consider the Localism Bill and the delivery through the Community Strategy.	14 February 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 13/01/12 to Contact Officer: Peter Fraser, Head of Partnerships & Community Engagement Email: peter.fraser@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6740
9.	Corporate Asset Management Strategy -	To approve the Corporate Asset Management Strategy.	14 February 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 13/01/12 to Contact Officer: Ian Brown, Interim Chief Assets Officer Email: ian.brown@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5711

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)
10.	Central Bedfordshire Local Broadband Plan -	To approve the Central Bedfordshire Local Broadband Plan, setting out the vision for broadband in the area and approval to use Council funds to enter into the Broadband Delivery UK procurement framework to deliver necessary infrastructure to deliver superfast broadband for the area.	14 February 2012	A public consultation on the vision for the area will be undertaken prior to any procurement exercises.	The draft Local Broadband Plan	Deputy Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 13/01/2012 to Contact Officer: James Cushing, Head of Economic Policy Email: james.cushing@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4984
11.	Review of Central Bedfordshire Council Library Service -	Approval is sought to: A: agree the Central Bedfordshire vision for the Libraries Service; and B: agree a sustainable model of future Library Service provision.	27 March 2012	Throughout May - July 2011 a series of focus groups and workshops with service users and partners and stakeholders. From October 2011 – January 2012 a formal consultation on the vision and potential service delivery models.	Emerging vision, core service offer and aspiration Libraries Service Review Report Outcomes from consultation process Equality Impact Assessment	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Kate McFarlane, Head of Community Regeneration & Adult Skills Email: kate.mcfarlane@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5858

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.	Community Safety Partnership Priorities and the Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2012-2013 -	To adopt the Community Safety Partnership Priorities and the Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2012-2013.	27 March 2012	Strategic Assessment & Partnership Plan will be considered at the Community Safety Partnership Executive meeting in November/December, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Local Strategic Partnership.	Strategic Assessment Priorities & Community Safety Partnership Plan 2012-2013	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Jeanette Keyte, Community Safety Manager Email: jeanette.keyte@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5232
13.	Leighton Buzzard Town Centre Planning and Development Briefs -	To endorse the planning document for two sites as Interim Technical Guidance for Development Management Purposes.	27 March 2012	Statutory consultation procedure to be carried out in Autumn 2011.	Leighton Buzzard Town Centre sites Planning and Development Briefs	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Liz Wade, Assistant Director Economic Growth and Regeneration Email: liz.wade@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6288
14.	Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring -	To consider quarter 3 budget monitoring report.	27 March 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Charles Warboys, Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer Email: charles.warboys@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)
15.	Alternative Future Provision of the Pupil Referral Unit -	To consider an alternative provision free school - Pupil Referral Unit	27 March 2012		Report	Executive Member for Children's Services Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Pete Dudley, Assistant Director Children's Service Email: pete.dudley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4203
16.	Local Lettings Policy to Rural Exception Sites in Central Bedfordshire -	To agree the Local Lettings Policy to allocate affordable housing to Rural Exception Sites in Central Bedfordshire.	27 March 2012		Report Report	Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Hamid Khan, Head of Housing Needs Email: hamid.khan@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5369

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)
17.	All Age Skills Strategy and the Skills Role of the Local Authority -	Approval is sought to agree the All Age Skills Strategy for Central Bedfordshire and to agree on the future role of the local authority in the skills agenda.	27 March 2012	<p>The draft All Age Skills Strategy was created following a series of workshops, focus groups and interviews with partners, stakeholders and individuals, during June and July 2011. From early August to late October 2011, a formal 13 week consultation on the draft strategy was held. A follow up stakeholder workshop was held in mid October.</p> <p>Across November and December 2011, a series of one to one meetings, structured interviews and workshops will be held internally to establish the existing skills role of the local authority and to seek views on the potential future role. In January 2012 external stakeholders will be consulted with, again through workshops and interviews to examine Central Bedfordshire wide skills governance arrangements.</p>	<p>All Age Skill Strategy All Age Skills Strategy Consultation Report Report on the future role of the local authority in the skills agenda, with options analysis and implementation plan for the preferred option Equality Impact Assessment</p>	<p>Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Comments by 26/02/11 to Contact Officer: Kate McFarlane, Head of Community Regeneration & Adult Skills Email: kate.mcfarlane@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5858</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)
18.	The Future of Special Schooling in the South of Central Bedfordshire -	To consider the responses to the statutory notices to merge Hillcrest Community Special School and Glenwood Community Special School to create a single area special school for pupils with complex educational needs (Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD), Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) and Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) with additional needs) ages 3-19, and make a recommendation as a consequence of this process having been completed.	27 March 2012		Report	Executive Member for Children's Services Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Pete Dudley, Assistant Director Children's Service Email: pete.dudley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4203

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)
19.	Medium Term Accommodation Plan - Capital Approval -	To approve the capital for the Medium Term Accommodation Plan.	27 March 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 26/02/2012 to Contact Officer: Gillian Dent, Project Manager Email: gillian.dent@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4656
20.	Award of the Housing Responsive Maintenance and Void Repairs Contract -	To award the housing responsive maintenance and void repairs contract.	27 March 2012		Report	Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Basil Quinn, Housing Asset Manager Performance Email: basil.quinn@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5118

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.	Implementation of the School Organisation Plan: New School places programme 2011/12 - 2016/17 -	The Council's statutory duty regarding sufficiency of school places and implementation of the identified need in the previously published school organisation plan. The report will set out each proposed new place project and outline the source of funding.	27 March 2012	Consultation with Governors and parents in areas where new schemes apply.	Report	Executive Member for Children's Services Comments by 26/02/2012 to Contact Officer: Pete Dudley, Assistant Director Children's Service Email: pete.dudley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4203
22.	Brewers Hill Road Sites, Dunstable Regeneration -	To adopt/endorse the plans for the Brewers Hill Road sites as a Supplementary Planning Document or endorsement as Interim Technical Guidance for Development Management Purposes.	15 May 2012	Statutory consultation procedure to be carried out in January/February 2012 using exhibitions, meetings, presentations and questionnaires.	Brewers Hill Road sites, Dunstable Planning and Development Brief	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources, Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Comments by 14/04/12 to Contact Officer: Andy Lewis, Major Projects Officer or Peter Burt, MRICS, Head of Property Assets Email: peter.burt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5281 or andy.lewis@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5526

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.	The Approach to Central Bedfordshire Council Parking -	To consider how Central Bedfordshire Council manage parking across the district, recognising the needs of shoppers businesses, residents and new developments.	15 May 2012	The Strategy has been through a full public consultation before coming back to the Executive for approval.	Report	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services Comments by 14/04/2011 to Contact Officer: Basil Jackson, Assistant Director Highways & Transport Email: basil.jackson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6171
24.	Development Strategy -	The Development Strategy will set out the broad approach to new development across Central Bedfordshire to 2031, including new housing and employment targets and new large-scale development sites. The Executive will be requested to consider and agree the Central Bedfordshire Development Strategy for the purposes of Publication and subsequent Submission to the Secretary of State.)	6 November 2012	Consultation expected in May/June 2012, Member consideration through Development Strategy Task Force/Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel.	Draft Development Strategy (Pre-Submission version) Sustainability Appraisal Report of consultation and other technical/evidence reports	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Comments by 05/10/12 to Contact Officer: Richard Fox, Head of Development Planning and Housing Strategy Email: richard.fox@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4105

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)
NON KEY DECISIONS						
25.	Outcome of the Disability Review Children's Services -	A review of the non schools provision for disabled children is on going during September to December 2011. There may be need for structural changes which would form the content of an Executive report.	10 January 2012		Report	Executive Member for Children's Services Comments by 09/12/11 to Contact Officer: Catherine Parry, Assistant Director (Acting), Children's Services Operations Email: catherine.parry@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6441
26.	Quarter 2 Performance Report -	To receive quarter 2 performance report.	10 January 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 09/12/11 to Contact Officer: Elaine Malarky, Head of Programmes & Performance Management Email: elaine.malarky@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5517

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.	Delegation of Powers to Provide and Operate the Markets in Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard -	To consider delegating powers for the operation of the markets in Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard to the respective Town Council.	10 January 2012	Consultation will be carried out with the Ward Members for both Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard/Leighton Linslade, Dunstable Town Council and Leighton-Linslade Town Council.	Report Specification for Market Management Letters from the Town Council's	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 15/12/2011 to Contact Officer: Peter Fraser, Head of Partnerships & Community Engagement or Mark Woolsey, Managing Solicitor Email: peter.fraser@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6740 or mark.woolsey@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4025
28.	Scrap Metal -	To draw attention to the Private Members Bill before Parliament in January 2012 and to seek member support for changes in legislation relating to Scrap Metal Dealers registration.	10 January 2012		Report	Deputy Executive Members for Sustainable Communities - Services Comments by 15/12/2011 to Contact Officer: Susan Childerhouse, Head of Public Protection (North) Email: susan.childerhouse@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4394

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.	Quarter 3 Performance Report -	To receive quarter 3 performance report.	27 March 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Elaine Malarky, Head of Programmes & Performance Management Email: elaine.malarky@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5517
30.	Quarter 4 Performance Report -	To receive quarter 4 performance report.	3 July 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 02/06/12 to Contact Officer: Elaine Malarky, Head of Programmes & Performance Management Email: elaine.malarky@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5517

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 2011/12 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 2012 when the plan will be published on the fourteenth day:

Date of Publication	Period of Plan
15.04.11	1 May 2011 – 30 April 2012
13.05.11	1 June 2011 – 31 May 2012
15.06.11	1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012
15.07.11	1 August 2011 – 31 July 2012
15.08.11	1 September 2011 – 31 August 2012
15.09.11	1 October 2011 – 30 September 2012
14.10.11	1 November 2011 – 31 October 2012
15.11.11	1 December 2011 – 30 November 2012
15.12.11	1 January 2012 – 31 December 2012
13.01.12	1 February 2012 – 31 January 2013
14.02.12	1 March 2012 – 28 February 2013
15.03.12	1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013