

SAVING PROPOSALS

SERVICE RECONFIGURATION AND REDUCTIONS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Children's Services

CS4 - Special Education Needs – Service Reductions

Background

The Government has published a Green Paper on Special Education Needs. Building on this, the Council will be expected to target resource on the truly vulnerable pupils and families. The Council will focus on its statutory obligations and where services are not statutory, will arrange for decreased monitoring of schools and delegation of as many special needs services where possible.

Rationale for Service Change

The Council will retain a small core team to discharge statutory duties with schools taking greater responsibility for provision of services to pupils with special educational needs. With the support of the reduced core team, schools will be asked to deliver collaborative services through Trusts, Federations and Partnerships.

Financial Savings

This will bring a saving of £128K in 2011/12 with a further £272K in 2012/13. This can be achieved by service restructure and the deletion of 5 full time equivalent posts. The role of other staff may change and be refocused. In 2011/2012 there will be savings gains in individual pupil support packages and support packages for schools when they are not considered to be the truly vulnerable or in need of statutory provision.

Service Implications and Impact

Parents will need to be informed of the change and the revised arrangements will need to be clear.

The most vulnerable pupils will have statements of special educational need and this statutory requirement will remain.

CS5 – Remodelling of services to Young People including the Youth Service – Service Reduction

Background

The proposals will move the youth service and all other cross directorate services that support young people towards less Council run provision and more volunteering. A commissioning approach with schools and volunteers will be adopted, focusing on the truly vulnerable.

Rationale for Service Change

The Council will move to supporting young people through external partnership arrangements. To make provision for young people and to listen to their views is a statutory requirement. The Council has discretion over the way it delivers this provision. This change will involve the re-commissioning of youth clubs and other youth provision in consultation with the voluntary and third sector. Services to young people will be brought into a single point of contact within the Directorate with a focus on the truly vulnerable. A review of the cost of the Youth Offending Service will also be undertaken to maximise efficiency.

Financial Savings

This will bring a saving of £570K in 2011/12 and £1.328 in 2012/13. This can be achieved by the reduction of 13 full time equivalent posts and some refocusing of other posts. Some part time and temporary sessional posts may also be affected as the proposals are developed. The 2012/13 proposal is more challenging but will build on the capacity building with schools and the voluntary sector undertaken in 2011/12.

Service Implications and Impact

The reduction of posts will require application of the Council's Management of Change Policy.

The role of the Council will change towards partnerships and volunteering in line with the "Big Society" initiatives.

Members will notice that local services are delivered increasingly in partnership with the voluntary sector.

CS8 - Parenting Support – Service Reduction

Background

Parenting support is activity aimed at providing information, advice and support to parents and carers to help them in bringing up their children. The proposal is to raise the threshold for accessing all types of parenting support across the Directorate to include only those families that are considered truly vulnerable. The strategy for those who are not considered to be the truly vulnerable will be developed as part of the approach to use more volunteers.

Rationale for Service Change

Provision of support to Parents is a statutory requirement. The Council has discretion over the level and delivery of the provision. Work will be undertaken to encourage volunteering in local communities via Sure Start and Children's Centres. When the Government's early intervention strategy is announced, expected in January 2011, there may be some external financial support available for these initiatives. Parenting support across the Directorate will be brought into a single point of contact.

Financial Savings

This will bring a saving of £100K in 2011/12. This will be achieved by a mix of reduction of grant supported activity and the reduction of 2 full time equivalent

posts. There will be some rationalisation of the roles of other part time and sessional post holders.

Service Implications and Impact

Parents and families may note that they may be referred to volunteers for support.

Schools will notice provision focuses only on the truly vulnerable.

CS9 - Music Service – Service Reduction for the financial year 2012/2013

Background

The Music Service is a shared service providing support and tuition to pupils across the Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire. The Music Service is currently funded from both Council's budgets and the Standards Fund. This proposal removes Central Bedfordshire Council's contribution by 2012/2013.

Rationale for Service Change

In light of the review by Government of the Standards Fund and the Council's own savings targets, steps to reshape and refocus of the service is on-going. This proposal will remove the Council's contribution to the music service with a view to full cost recharge on all activity offered to schools or parents. The proposal and the consequential re-organisation will have a long lead time hence the proposal is for 2012/2013.

Financial Savings

This will bring a saving of £272K in 2012/13. A music service re-organisation will occur during 2011/2012 building on the 2010/2011 management re-organisation and the number of posts affected will be identified at that time. This review will be informed when the outcome of the national Henley Review on funding for music services is known. It closed the call for evidence in October but the publication date is unknown.

Service Implications and Impact

The reduction of posts will require application of the Council's Management of Change Policy.

Schools and Parents will be asked to buy back at full cost.