

Branch Committee – October 2013

Wellbeing, Care and Learning

Children's Side – There are a few areas where reviews are taking place:

Safeguarding – Mick McCracken and Cathy Bull scoping this out at moment. They are looking at the areas of safeguarding within Adults, Children's Services and Schools. The review will look at whether areas of this can be integrated.

School Improvement Service – Martin Surtees and Jan Corlett are reviewing this area although there is a longer time scale for completing the review as Service Level Agreements are already in place for this academic year.

Commissioning and Procurement – Rachel Bailie intends to harmonise commissioning & procurement services. UNISON and staff will be consulted on this and it has been stated that it is not envisaged that this would result in any job loss/cuts as the review is looking at common functions, JD'S parity and alignment etc.

Business Management – Adam Fletcher reviewing, UNISON and staff being consulted. It is felt that there are too many direct reports at moment. The Complaints service which is split between Children's and Adults at the moment may be combined but an issue is the difference in grades.

Other Area's

Cheviot View – On-going meetings of Options Feasibility Group. There are 3 options being considered:

1. Combine extended education and short break offer at Cheviot View. This would effectively combine the extended educational offer currently provided at Thomas Bewick School from the Hadrian school site with the short break offer provided from Cheviot View.

Thomas Bewick are considering the proposal and a decision should have been made by end of September/ beginning of October.

2. Provide a residential home for high care needs children alongside a short break service.

This option is not thought to be financially viable

3. Transfer service to the voluntary sector.

A provider engagement event was held at Civic Centre on 16th September which I attended. No proposals have been received which would lead to full procurement exercise for Cheviot View. There were ideas raised around working together cooperatively.

Alongside this ideas to reduce running costs and seek income opportunities are being looked at and considered.

Schools

Academies and Foundation Trusts Proposals

Foundation Trust -Newcastle Special Schools – Hadrian, Bridges, Sir Charles Parsons and Thomas Bewick – implementation date September 2013.

Foundation Trust – 9 primary schools under Kenton Academy – Cheviot, Farne, Kenton Bar, Kingston Park, Mountfield, North Fawdon, Stocksfield Avenue, Thomas Walling and Wyndham – implementation date September 2013.

It should be noted that Thomas Walling decided not to go ahead as part of the trust but were instead actively moving towards Academy status. There has been a delay on the Academy Order for this –we are awaiting further information.

Gosforth Schools Trust – Archibald First, Brunton First, Broadway East First, Dinnington First, Gosforth Park First, Grange First, Regent Farm First, South Gosforth First, Archbishop Runcie First, Gosforth Central Middle, Gosforth East Middle. – Implementation date 1st April 2014.

Heaton Ouseburn learning trust – Benton Park Primary, Chillingham Road Primary, Craggside Primary, Heaton Manor Primary, Hotspur Primary, Ravenswood Primary and West Jesmond Primary in addition Christchurch Primary is expected to become an Associate Member. Implementation is proposed as January 2014.

Walkergate Federation – Walkergate Primary, Walkergate Early Years – implementation September 2013

Outer West Learning Trust – Beech Hill Primary, Lemington, Riverside, Milecastle, Newburn Manor, Simonside, Throckley, Walbottle Campus, Walbottle Village, Waverley, West Denton, Westerhope. Implementation due January 2014.

Lynda Hardie – Deputy Branch Secretary