

# Report of the Director of Finance & IT to the meeting of Children's Services Corporate Overview & Scrutiny to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022

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**Subject:**

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Establishing the Children's Trust

**Summary statement:**

The attached report was reported to the June Executive. The progress on establishing the Children's Trust is comprehensive and the report outlines key issues and progress to date.

**EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:**

There are no direct equality impact assessment from this report. The Commissioner's report of January 2022 concluded that operational control of some of the Council's children's services should be removed to an alternative delivery model to support an improvement in services and outcomes. In response, the Council agreed to voluntarily establish a Children's Trust to discharge its children's social care functions under a Service Contract between the Council and the Children's Trust. This has resulted in the issue by the Secretary of State for Education of a statutory Direction requiring the Council to take the necessary steps to establish the Children's Trust under the supervision of the Commissioner and the Department for Education. Equality of access to services will be an essential component of these new children's social care arrangements and will be a condition of the Service Contract.

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**Portfolio:**

**Corporate & Childrens**

**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

**Corporate & Childrens**

## **1. SUMMARY**

The report provides an update on the establishment of the Childrens Trust as reported to the 7 June Executive (paper appended).

## **2. BACKGROUND**

The Council has been rated as inadequate in the delivery of its responsibilities to children since 2018. The Secretary of State (SoS) of the Department for Education (DfE) appointed a Children's Commissioner to review the capacity and capability of the Council to improve services sufficiently and within a much accelerated timescale. His report was published in January 2022 and in light of his recommendations the SoS determined that a new model of service delivery was required, namely the establishment of a Children's Trust to manage and deliver children's social care. The Council has accepted this decision and has voluntarily agreed to support the establishment of a Children's Trust, which it is considered will offer greater agility and focus to drive the required rapid improvements and improve the ability to delivering excellent social work in an effective and sustainable way.

## **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The establishment of the trust needs to be in accord with the SoS direction. The detail and specifics will be subject to tri-partite discussion and agreement by the Council; The Trust and the DfE.

## **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

As outlined in the 7 June Executive report (appended).

## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

As outlined in the 7 June Executive report (appended).

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

As outlined in the 7 June Executive report (appended).

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

As outlined in the 7 June Executive report (appended).

### **7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

As outlined in the 7 June Executive report (appended).

### **7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

As outlined in the 7 June Executive report (appended).

### **7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

As outlined in the 7 June Executive report (appended).

### **7.5 TRADE UNION**

As outlined in the 7 June Executive report (appended).

### **7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

As outlined in the 7 June Executive report (appended).

### **7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

As outlined in the 7 June Executive report (appended).

### **7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

As outlined in the 7 June Executive report (appended).

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

Commercially Confidential material and provisions subject to further negotiations between the lawyers appointed to act for the Council and the Department for Environment and therefore legally privileged,

## **9. OPTIONS**

As outlined in the 7 June Executive report (appended).

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendations were made to the 7 June Executive (report appended).

Overview & Scrutiny may wish to refer to those recommendations and seek clarity or further information.

## **11. APPENDICES**

Report to 7 June Executive on establishment of Children's Trust.

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

As outlined in the June Executive report (appended).