

Draft Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2018/19 – 2021/22

Recommendations of the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee following Budget Consultation

Summary of report

This report presents the comments and recommendations from the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee following consideration of the policy proposal ‘review of contracts for perpetrator and counselling services’ as contained within the draft revenue budget and capital programme for consultation 2018/19 to 2021/22 at the Committee’s meeting on 11th December 2018. This will enable consideration by Cabinet on 12 December 2018.

All overview and scrutiny committees have received the draft revenue budget options and capital programme for consultation in respect of the portfolio of services falling within their remit.

Any changes to these options, following consultation, will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, providing an opportunity to make further recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet are requested to consider the feedback contained within this report in formulating their draft budget proposals.

Response to the draft budget options

It was agreed at the Committee meeting on 8th November that the policy saving proposal relating to a ‘review of contracts for perpetrator and counselling services.’ would be considered at the Committee meeting scheduled for 11th December 2018.

The Committee challenged whether the capacity of the regional programme commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner could meet the future need if the contract was ceased. However, Officers described the lack of measurable impact relating to the safeguarding of children as a result of the programme and also that any reductions in the numbers of children coming into care could not be directly attributed to the programme.

Members agreed that there should be a robust transition period if the services were ceased, in particular for those children receiving counselling services. The provision of alternative services should be monitored to ensure the impact is mitigated.

The Panel Resolved:

1. That the policy proposal ‘review of contracts for perpetrator and counselling services’ be noted.
2. There should be a robust transition period, for children in particular, with prompt access to services without barriers.
3. The future service provided should be monitored to ensure that the impact of caseation is mitigated.

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Signed:



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