

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday 13 December 2022 by the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee.

Item No

7. FUTURE OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND THE LEARN SHEFFIELD COMMISSION

7.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Education and Skills which provided the committee with a summary of the Learn Sheffield commissioning arrangements and outlined potential recommendations for next steps following the commission end date.

7.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee:-

- (a) Note the work currently undertaken by Learn Sheffield, the changes in Government guidance and the decision taken by Schools Forum regarding funding for school improvement;
- (b) Endorse further work being undertaken to develop option 3, noting the risk areas and mitigations needed if the commission ceases or is significantly changed;
- (c) Note the circumstances that would require SCC to resign as the Supervising Authority of the school company; and
- (d) Agree to seek agreement from School Forum to de-delegate funds from school budgets to provide a service co-created with school leaders (such agreement to come into effect should option 3 ultimately be agreed by the Committee).

7.3 Reasons for Decision

7.3.1 Developing Option 3 will allow SCC to move towards delivering services directly to its maintained schools. This would enable SCC to:

- Make more effective use of a significantly reduced resource
- Know its schools better
- Allocate limited resources more appropriately
- Build stronger relationships with school leaders and governors
- Ensure support, challenge and intervention is better matched to need and provided in a more timely way
- Better coordinate and integrate school improvement services with other services provided by the council such as inclusion and SEND
- Have more confidence they are fulfilling their core school improvement

activities

7.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

7.4.1 The Council must make suitable arrangements to delivery statutory services to maintained schools following the end of the grant funding period, and the options are detailed in paragraphs 1.15 – 1.23 above.

8. **THE EARLY YEARS "START FOR LIFE IN SHEFFIELD" STRATEGY 2023-2**

8.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Integrated Commissioning requesting that the Education, Children and Families Committee note the intention to develop a new 5-year Early Years Strategy within Sheffield.

8.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee:-

- (a) endorse the proposal to develop a New Early Years Strategy for 2023 to 2028.
- (b) endorse the new title for the Strategy of 'Start for Life in Sheffield'. This new title is in line with national developments within the Family Hubs Programme and was supported by attendees at the Early Years Event in October 2022.

8.3 **Reasons for Decision**

The Current Early Years Strategy is ending in March 2023. It is vital that the city has a new Early Years strategy that considers not only the developments in Early Years outlined above but also has relevance in terms of the issues facing the families and children of Sheffield in the current economic climate.

8.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

8.4.1 The current Great Start in Life Strategy could be refreshed however the level of change locally both locally and nationally in terms of the issues facing families, the impact of the pandemic and the national developments around EYFS and Family Hubs present an opportunity to consult and co-produce a new Early Years Strategy that can positively impact on the lives of children and young people.

8.4.2 As such it is recommended that a new strategy be developed for 2023 to 2028.