

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

At a meeting of the **Cabinet** held at County Hall, Morpeth on Wednesday 25 August 2021 at 11.30 am.

PRESENT

Councillor G. Sanderson
(Leader of the Council, in the Chair)

CABINET MEMBERS

Horncastle, C.
Pattison, W.
Ploszaj, W.

Renner Thompson, G.
Watson, J.G.
Wearmouth, R.

OTHER MEMBERS

Dunbar, C.
Flux, B.

Seymour, C.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bridges, A.
Hadfield, K.

Lally, D.
Lancaster, H.
McEvoy-Carr, C.

Morgan, L.
O'Farrell, R.

Roll, J.

Willis, J.

Head of Communications
Democratic and Electoral Services
Manager
Chief Executive
Deputy Monitoring Officer
Executive Director of Children's
Services and Adult Social Care
Director of Public Health
Interim Executive Director of Local
Services and Regeneration
Head of Democratic and Electoral
Services
Interim Executive Director of
Finance and S151 Officer

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Riddle and Scott.

Ch.'s Initials.....

28. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Proposed Partnership Arrangement with Harrogate and District NHS FT

The report sought a decision about the proposal to enter into a partnership under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 with Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT), under which HDFT would deliver health visiting and school nursing services on the Council's behalf.

The report was introduced by Mrs McEvoy Carr who detailed the key points of the report regarding the consultation, staff and the draft partnership arrangement.

Councillor Pattison understood the staff concerns which were expressed in the report but felt that the proposals would ultimately be good for both residents and staff. She was supportive of them.

Councillor Renner Thompson added that he had met with the Board of the Trust and he was confident that they could deliver what was required. Users would see very little change day to day.

In response to a query from the Leader regarding a comment made in the consultation about local staff and local knowledge, Mrs McEvoy Carr advised that services would be delivered by the same people, locally based and managed by the same people.

Councillor Watson commented that the Authority had had no choice in this matter but he was satisfied with the arrangements which were being put in place and fully supported them.

In response to a query from the Leader regarding comments about a local provider, Ms Morgan replied that Harrogate provided a 0-19 service for a number of other authorities in the north east, so they were a north east provider. The same staff and management team would be delivering the same service and Harrogate would provide a locally recruited corporate support team.

Councillor Wearmouth commented that a lot of work had gone into this and it was clear that it wasn't a hasty decision. Regarding the concerns expressed in the report, he queried whether there were any areas the Authority needed to focus on as the year went on and how the arrangements would be monitored to make sure they were satisfactory.

Mrs McEvoy Carr advised that the Authority would be regularly engaged with the Trust and a Board had been set up to deal with both strategic and operational issues. The Trust had been through this process a number of times and were familiar with staff concerns. Detailed support arrangements would be in place for staff and she was able to say that as the process had gone on, staff concerns had diminished.

Councillor Wearmouth asked whether there was an opportunity for members to be involved in ongoing monitoring and was advised that Health and Wellbeing OSC had asked for six monthly updates, and there would be reports to Health and Wellbeing Board. The Leader asked for an update report to Cabinet in six months.

Councillor Wearmouth asked whether the costs associated with the proposals would be the same as they were now, and whether the one off start up costs would come back to members for approval or be delegated.

Mrs McEvoy Carr advised that this would be agreed between herself and Councillor Renner Thompson, as previously agreed.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the issues raised during the consultation about the proposed partnership with HDFT, and the discussion of those issues in the report, be noted;
- (b) the views on the proposal of the Director of Public Health, attached as Appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (c) Cabinet confirm its wish to proceed with the proposal;
- (d) the draft partnership agreement, attached as Appendix 2 to the report; be endorsed as the basis of the partnership arrangement and
- (e) the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services be authorised to agree with HDFT a final version of the partnership agreement, provided that any additions or modifications made to the draft version in Appendix 2 did not materially increase the risks or costs to the Council.

CHAIR.....

DATE.....