

**Report To:** Corporate Governance Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 5 November 2014

**Lead Member:** Julian Thompson-Hill, Leader Member for Finance & Assets

**Report Author:** Ivan Butler – Head of Internal Audit

**Title:** Financial Payments to Care Leavers Update

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**1. What is the report about?**

This report provides an update on progress with the action plan included in the Internal Audit report on Financial Payments to Care Leavers issued in March 2014.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

Corporate Governance Committee requested a progress report at its meeting of 15 April 2014.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

The Committee reviews and comments on the progress report, particularly the lack of progress with the main issue raised, deciding whether it needs any further information or further progress reports.

**4. Report details**

Internal Audit's report on Financial Payments to Care Leavers issued on March 2014 included an action plan with four Moderate Issues that had 14 actions agreed to address the issues. When the Head of Internal Audit presented the report to the Corporate Governance Committee on 15 April 2014, the Committee expressed some concerns that the current payment process was unsustainable and requested that the Internal Audit follow-up review be reported to the Committee once completed.

Appendix 1 provides a progress update on the action plan that shows that only five actions have been completed, with a further three in progress. Six actions have not been addressed, including the main issue raised (Issue 1), which required a complete review of the process for making payments to care leavers. From our discussions, there has been no liaison between Social Services and Revenues & Benefits to discuss a corporate approach. Lack of progress on this key issue has also impacted on other issues within the action plan.

A further Internal Audit follow up is scheduled for January 2015.

**5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

Not applicable – information report only

**6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

Not applicable – information report only

**7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.**

This report does not require a decision or proposal for change, so there is no impact on people who share protected characteristics.

**8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

Not applicable – information report only

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

There are no financial implications attached to this report.

**10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

If the Internal Audit action plan is not implemented, weaknesses will remain in the procedures for making payments to care leavers as outlined in the original Internal Audit report.

**11. Power to make the Decision**

Not applicable – information report only