

Report To: Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 25 March 2015

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

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 5 November 2014.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- The Committee reviews and comments on the progress report.
- The Committee decides whether it is satisfied with progress to date.
- The Committee decides whether it requires any further follow up reports, who from and on what date.

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.

The Committee discussed the follow up report on 5 November 2014, which showed that only five actions had been completed, with a further three in progress. Six actions had not been addressed, including the main issue raised (Issue 1), which required a complete review of the process for making payments to care leavers. The Committee therefore requested a further follow up report.

Appendix 1 provides the latest update, which now shows that eight actions have been completed, with the remaining six in progress. Most of the remaining actions rely on advice requested from the Collaborative Procurement Service (previously the Strategic Procurement Unit) but, until this is received, the key issues arising from the

Internal Audit report cannot be addressed and are nearly one year overdue from the original action plan.

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