

Report To: Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 20th May 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Social Care, Adult and Children's Services

Report Author: Rhian Morrle, Service Manager Looked After Children

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 25th March 2015.

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 and 25th March 2015. At these meeting some progress against the action plan had been made but there were, at the most recent meeting, still outstanding actions mainly linked to advice sought from Collaborative Procurement Service.

Appendix 1 provides the latest update, which now shows that all actions have been completed following advice given by Collaborative Procurement Service. The service has been able to reduce its use of cash payments to young people worked with through their care leaver status or their 'Southwark' status (16 – 18 year olds who present as homeless). The use of bus passes has been particularly helpful in

achieving this and is to be used by other sections across Children and Family Services.

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?

It is important that the new processes are adhered to so as to continue to limit the risks highlighted in the original Internal Audit report. Adherence to the new process will be monitored through supervision and the monitoring of payment activity.

11. Power to make the Decision

Not applicable – information report only