

**Notes of Education, Children and Young People O&S Committee Task and Finish Group Meeting**

**Implications of Savings**

**Wednesday, 15 July 2024 at 11.00 hrs**

**Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham**

Present:

Members:

Councillor Kerry Jenkins (Chair)

Councillors Debbie Clancy, Adam Higgs, and Zafar Iqbal

Other Representatives: Osamugi Ogbe - Parent Governor, and Rabia Shami - Parent Governor

Attendees:

Paul Durrant, Finance Business Partner

Dr Sue Harrison, Strategic Director of Children and Families

Lee Yale-Helms, Director, Finance & Resources, BCT on behalf of James Thomas, Chief Executive, BCT

Adrian Weissenbruch, AD, Children and Young Peoples Travel Service

Sarah Fradgley, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

Apologies: Cllr Morriam Jan, Cllr Shehla Moledina, and Sarah Smith - Church of England Diocese

Savings Number	Saving Description	Key Issue / Comments on Implications of Savings	Recommendations
150	Review of Non-Statutory Transport Packages Savings Target: 2024/25: 7.066 2025/26: 7.066	<p>The AD provided assurance that the 0-25 Travel Assistance Policy was legally compliant, as it was not a blanket policy, and the post-16 Transport (16-19 years) was a non-statutory service.</p> <p>Officers were undertaking more work with legal colleagues on the definition of exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>In response to questions regarding how the Directorate was ensuring voices were being heard, and how they were measuring and mitigating the impact on children and families. The Committee were informed that they were providing support – including support to schools, they have the appeals procedure, and they will be undertaking pulse surveys etc.</p> <p>The Committee could add value by gathering information about the impact of the changes via a Be-Heard consultation.</p>	<p>The Committee to undertake an engagement exercise to seek to understand the impact of this policy change.</p> <p>More information was required on the number of appeals and other legal actions, and the potential impact on delivery of savings.</p> <p>Officers to inform the Committee on the advice from legal colleagues on the definition of exceptional circumstances.</p>
146	Children's Travel Agency Passenger Assistants Re-procurement Savings Target: 2024/25: 0.148 2025/26: 0.148	Completed.	None.
148	Establishment of Permanent Children's Travel Service Structure	Completed.	None.

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	Savings Target: 2024/25: 1.066 2025/26: 1.066		
151	Changes to the Children and Young People Travel Service Savings Target: 2024/25: 1.050 2025/26: 1.050	The AD highlighted this has been delayed and they will start work in September 2024.	None.
186	Headcount Reductions in Children and Families Savings Target: 2024/25: 2.474 2025/26: 2.474	All the posts have been removed from the structure and staff were leaving.	None.
89	Review of Youth Services, NEET and Careers Service Savings Target: 2024/25: 1.263 2025/26: 1.987	Officers were currently working on this and may be in a position to share information the end of August prior to the discussion at the September committee meeting.  Details of the engagement programme to be shared in couple of weeks which will include briefings with all councillors.	The item is on the agenda for the September committee meeting, and the Committee to receive an update on the review, recommendations, and details of the engagement programme.
185	Reductions on Contact Sum for the Birmingham Children's Trust Savings Target: 2024/25: 9.000 2025/26: 10.000	Work was ongoing with partners regarding partners financial contributions, and there were issues with high cost provision, such as secure welfare.  The short breaks policy proposals consultation finished on 17 July 2024.	The Committee to be provided with the breakdown of the budget and areas of spend.  A briefing note to be provided to the Committee on the risk of legal challenge

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			and financial implications for the short breaks policy.
90	Reduced Spending on the Early Help Contacts for CYP&F Savings Target: 2024/25: 8.378 2025/26: 8.378	No further comments made.	None.
Other Issues	Local Authority Schools Deficits	There were potential impacts on the local authority's budget if a school with a budget deficit becomes an academy, and a request was made for a fuller picture to be provided.	The Strategic Director to report back.