

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....17th March 2011

1. Title of Item/Report

Task & Finish Review of the Impact of the Introduction of the Early Intervention Grant

2. Record of the Decision

Members were informed in December 2010 the government announced the creation of a new Early Intervention Grant (EIG) to replace 23 existing ring-fenced grants, which were available to support services for children, young people and families. The key features of the new EIG grant were:

- The removal of the ring-fencing and greater local flexibility. It was very clear that ultimately it was for local authorities to determine what was appropriate locally.
- The guidance also made it clear that local authorities would have a stronger role in commissioning services and should only be providing services themselves as a last resort.
- There was also an explicit expectation that resources would be targeted carefully to ensure that those children, young people and families who needed it most receive extra support.
- The introduction of the EIG did not affect the statutory duties that local authorities were required to fulfill.
- The 2011/12 EIG for Stockton is £9.3million, this was £3.1million less than the grants which it replaced – a reduction in annual funding of 25%

It was clear then that the new EIG provided both an opportunity and a necessity to re-think the provision of support to children young people and families in the Borough. The opportunities brought about by the greater local freedom and the challenges arising from the 25% funding cut had led to the creation of this EIG review to ensure a comprehensive, co-ordinated and urgent response to the new funding arrangements.

The review had been established with 3 work-streams:

- Early Years
- Integrated Youth Services
- Other EIG related services and back office support

Members were provided with a draft scope for the review.

It was recommended that in the light of the cuts in PCT and EIG funding an immediate decision was taken to delete the post of Head of Children and Young People's Strategy ("CYPS") as the first part of a review of the functions currently within the CYPS Service. Other existing Services within CESC would take on responsibility for the rationalised functions once the review was complete.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The scope of the EIG review as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.
2. The post of Head of Service – Children and Young People's Strategy be deleted and delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director for Children, Education and Social Care to restructure the Children and Young People's Strategy Service.
3. The initial public consultation on the future of Early Years provision in the Borough be supported.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To produce efficiencies and improvements in the delivery of services to children, young people and families in order to address the reduction in funding from the PCT and the introduction of the EIG.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on 25 March 2011

Proper Officer  
21 March 2011