

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....10th November 2016

1. Title of Item/Report

Spark of Genius North East LLP: Joint Venture - Progress Update

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report that updated on the progress in implementing the Joint Venture arrangement with Spark of Genius. It provided information on the business model, the residential homes and the independent special school established as part of the Joint Venture and sought approval for further proposals to be taken forward.

Particular reference was made to:-

- The Council's external auditors, Mazars, undertook an assessment of the Spark of Genius NE Limited Liability Partnership as part of its audit of 2013/14 financial year. This assessment found evidence of a controlled and innovative process in procuring a new way of providing statutory services.
- The current Ofsted status of the three homes was rated good as was King Edwin School.
- King Edwin has appointed a new head teacher on 1st April 2016 and there is now increasing sign of stability.
- The need to ensure young people were protected from harm and risk posed by their current environment.
- Opportunities to consider additional elements of service provision which could be delivered through the joint venture, such as, additional residential children's homes or other specialist provision.

RESOLVED that

1. The update be noted;
2. The principle of locating the fourth home in a neighbouring authority area be endorsed;
3. Decisions on further developments be delegated to the Director of Finance and Business Services and the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To provide a report on progress with the joint venture, seek endorsement for the approach for the fourth home to be outside Stockton and to delegate future decisions on future developments.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

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

Midnight, 18th November 2016

Proper Officer  
14 November 2016