

## Establishing a strategic partnership with Torbay Council to deliver Children's Services

The committee advises council to consider, during its debate of the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017, the following –

1. That council should consider this a contract arrangement rather than a strategic partnership;
2. That council seeks assurance –
  - a. that there will be no impact upon service delivery for Children and Young People in Plymouth or be of detriment to staff working in frontline social care.;
  - b. that such an arrangement will in no way impact upon the improvement journey for Plymouth City Councils Children and Young People services;
  - c. that the resource requirements for the delivery of Children's Social Care in Torbay is borne entirely by Torbay Council for the duration of the agreement and that there will be no requirement for the pooling of budgets or cross subsidy which impacts upon the people of Plymouth;
  - d. that Torbay Council will provide access to their overall budget and financial planning process to ensure effective due diligence and that decisions made for the medium term should be assessed to ensure they do not cause any unintended consequences for the delivery of children's services in Plymouth and Torbay;
  - e. that required staffing structures will not impact negatively upon service delivery in Plymouth, clear controls are put in place for staffing arrangements across the two authorities and that the arrangements improves the recruitment of social workers.
3. That subject to agreement from all stakeholders for the contract arrangement –
  - a. the Department of Education will provide the required funding for the additional burdens that will be placed on both Torbay and Plymouth in setting up such a partnership and that the contract will be developed at no cost to Plymouth City Council;
  - b. a comprehensive risk register is developed and provided to all stakeholders, including the Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee before any final decision is made.
  - c. clear lines of both management and political accountability across both Local Authorities are established and Council is assured the reputational impact of serious incidents or negative judgements are contained to the relevant local authority;
  - d. Senior Management at Plymouth City Council have sufficient capacity given the breadth of the current remit.
4. All points as raised above are included in future reports to Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the due diligence process and such reports should also provide clarity on the improvement currently underway in Torbay Children's Services.