



## Public Accounts Select Committee

### **Report title: Comments of the Children and Young People Select Committee on budget cuts**

**Date:** 2 February 2021

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Assistant Chief Executive (Scrutiny Manager)

### **Outline and recommendation**

This report informs Public Accounts Select Committee of the views of the Children and Young People Select Committee arising from discussions held at its meeting on Thursday 21 January 2021 on proposed budget cuts.

- The Public Accounts Select Committee is recommended to note the views of the committee and include these in its referral to Mayor and Cabinet.

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. This report informs the Public Accounts Select Committee of the views of Children and Young People Select Committee arising from discussions held at its meeting on 21 January 2021 on the proposed budget cuts.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1. The Public Accounts Select Committee is recommended to note the views of the committee as set out in section four of this referral and include these in its referral to Mayor and Cabinet.

## **3. Policy Context**

- 3.1. Fully understanding the impact of the proposed cuts is vital to informed decision-making.

## **4. Children and Young People Select Committee views**

- 4.1. At its meeting on 21 January 2021, the Children and Young People Select Committee received a report on proposed budget cuts. Following discussion the committee resolved to refer its views to Mayor and Cabinet in the following terms:
- 4.2. The Committee, taking into account compelling evidence of the escalating and damaging effect of the Pandemic on children and young people's mental health, warnings expressed by specialist Health Professionals, Academics, Educators, Charities, Parents and Campaign groups, and the indefinite third national lockdown along with prolonged school closures (which were not anticipated when this proposal was initially drafted) recommend not to go ahead with Proposal C-22 (£250,000 cut in Council contribution to Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services) in the financial year 2021/22.
- 4.3. The Committee recommends that the proposal C-23 (that £350,000 of the Health Visitor budget transfers to other parts of the public health budget) is not made in the financial year 2021/22, considering the risk to families with children under 2 and our existing poor Healthy Child Programme (HCP) coverage. This would enable efforts to be made to improve contract management and recruit and retain health visitors. Failing this, Councillors can be presented with a clear plan for support which will be given to families with 0-2 year olds to achieve the goals of the HCP in terms of support and surveillance. The Committee feels strongly that a detailed comparison of the public health budget for 2020/21 and 2021/22 and understanding of prioritisation is necessary to fully understand the impact of the proposal before any decision is made.

## **5. Financial implications**

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

## **6. Legal implications**

- 6.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

## **7. Equalities implications**

- 7.1. Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and

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maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

7.2. The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

## **8. Climate change and environmental implications**

8.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

## **9. Crime and disorder implications**

9.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

## **10. Health and wellbeing implications**

10.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

## **11. Background papers**

11.1. [Item 4 - Budget Cuts report to CYP Select Committee, 21 January 2021](#)

## **12. Report contact**

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