



Notice of key decision to be made under General Exception provisions

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Date of notice: 6 January 2015

To: Councillor Peter O'Neill
Chair of Scrutiny Board

From: Emma Bennett
Service Director, Children and Young People

An intention to make the following key decision, which is to be considered by the **Cabinet (Resources) Panel** on **20 January 2015**, was not publicised in advance as required by the Regulations.

Report title: Investing to Save: Improving the Quality of Early Intervention by Social Workers by the Reduction of Caseloads

Classification: PUBLIC

The reason(s) for the omission from the forward plan of key decisions and the reason(s) why this decision cannot be delayed until the requisite 28 days have elapsed are:

- On the 10 December 2014 agreement was given by The Leader, Councillor Lawrence; the Lead Member for Resources, Councillor Johnson and the Lead Member for Children and Families, Councillor Gibson for the recruitment of additional social work units within Children's social care.
- This 'invest to save' key recommendation was made in light of discussions regarding the increasing numbers of Looked After Children and the need for early intervention to stabilise and eventually reduce the numbers.
- In light of staffing issues, high caseloads and the red risk to the MTFs posed by the cost of Looked After Children (average £40,000 per child per year) it is imperative that this proposal is presented for approval urgently.

This notice must be provided to the Chair of the Scrutiny Board and to the appropriate democratic support officer at least five clear working days in advance of the relevant Executive meeting.