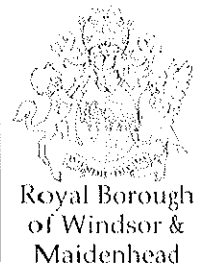


<b>Subject:</b>	Delivering Differently
<b>Reason for briefing note:</b>	Provide update on adults and children's partnership projects to the Access Advisory Forum
<b>Responsible officer(s):</b>	Nikki Craig, Senior Project Coordinator
<b>Senior leader sponsor:</b>	Alison Alexander, Managing Director and Strategic Director of Adult, Children and Health Services
<b>Date:</b>	24 March 2017

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## 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Royal Borough is committed being a modern, dynamic and successful council that provides the best services to its residents. As the needs of the residents change, the Royal Borough must change to continue to improve outcomes for residents and deliver high quality, effective services to all.
- 1.2 The Royal Borough has historically operated as a small-sized organisation delivering lots of different services. An adjustment the operational model to incorporate partnership working with other local authorities, private and voluntary sector companies will realise economies of scale and increase capacity, as well as build greater resilience within the services and create more opportunities for staff.
- 1.3 The Royal Borough's new delivery model includes a number of new partnerships with other local authorities and companies. Leisure, waste management, legal services, audit services and building services are already being delivered in partnership with others as part of this model.
- 1.4 Additional services due to be delivered in partnership include:
- Adults services will be delivered in partnership with Wokingham Borough Council through Optalis, a local authority trading company that Wokingham Borough council currently owns.
  - Children's services will be delivered in partnership with the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, through Achieving for Children, a community interest company.
- 1.5 The Royal Borough will be an owner in both Optalis and Achieving for Children. The Royal Borough's Elected Members will ensure that these companies deliver the services residents want as well as making sure council staff are supported across and after the transition.

## 2 DETAILS

### Adults services

- 2.1 The Royal Borough seeks to meet its adult residents' needs as early as possible to ensure they live independent, successful lives.

- 2.2 Cabinet approved a partnership arrangement for adult services with Wokingham Borough Council on 27 October 2016.
- 2.3 Wokingham Borough Council owns local authority trading company Optalis Ltd, which it established in 2011. Optalis currently deliver adults services within the Wokingham borough.
- 2.4 The Royal Borough is set to become co-owner and shareholder of Optalis 3 April 2017.
- 2.5 From 3 April 2017 the adults services the Royal Borough has historically provided will transfer to and be delivered by Optalis to residents of the Royal Borough.
- 2.6 Current adults services staff from within the Royal Borough will transfer into Optalis from 3 April 2017, where they will continue to work in their current roles.
- 2.7 Residents will receive the same level of care following 3 April 2017. The only change that will be visible to residents is a change of logos on staff ID badges, building signage, and documentation.

### **Children's services**

- 2.8 The Royal Borough seeks to meet children's and young people's needs as early as possible by highly skilled professionals so they are given every opportunity to succeed.
- 2.9 Cabinet approved the delivery of children's services in partnership with the Royal Borough of Kingston and the London Borough of Richmond on 29 September 2016.
- 2.10 Kingston and Richmond receive children's services from a community interest company called Achieving for Children, which they founded in 2014 and wholly own.
- 2.11 The Royal Borough is set to become co-owner and shareholder of Achieving for Children 1 August 2017.
- 2.12 All children's services that the Royal Borough has historically provided will transfer to Achieving for Children 1 August 2017, with the exception of:
  - Information, Advice and Support Service (former Parent Partnership).
  - Berkshire Sensory Consortium.
  - Adopt Thames Valley – this will move into a Regional Adoption Agency.
  - Local Safeguarding Children Board Business Unit.
  - Strategic commissioning.
- 2.13 Current children's services staff from within the Royal Borough will transfer into Achieving for Children from 1 August 2017, where they will continue to work in their current roles.
- 2.14 Residents will receive the same level of care following 1 August 2017. The only change that will be visible to residents is a change of logos on staff ID badges, building signage, and documentation.

## **3 NEXT STEPS**

### **Adults services**

- 3.1 Current adults services staff from within the Royal Borough will transfer into Optalis from 3 April 2017, where they will continue to work with our residents in their current roles.
- 3.2 Work will continue from 3 April 2017 to embed the new partnership in a number of areas including signage so that we ensure the joint branding, promoting the partnership is clear to all.

### **Children's services**

- 3.3 The formal decisions to enable the Royal Borough to join in partnership with Achieving for Children's founding councils, Richmond and Kingston are scheduled for 19 April in Kingston and 4 July in Richmond.
- 3.4 On the basis of these formal decisions being made at these meetings, the Royal Borough children's services and staff are due to transfer to Achieving for Children 1 August 2017.
- 3.5 April-July will be utilised by the Royal Borough, Achieving for Children and its founding councils to promote cooperative working methods across operational leadership teams and frontline staff, recruit for key vacant posts across the organisations and to address any key issues that might otherwise slow service delivery between now and 1 August.

