

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION OF:	Cabinet
DATE:	16th October 2019
SUBJECT:	Approval of a Management Arrangement between the Council and the Jewel Foundation
REPORT FROM:	Councillor Tamoor Tariq – Portfolio Holder – Children and Families
CONTACT OFFICER:	Karen Dolton – Executive Director – Children and Families
TYPE OF DECISION:	CABINET (NON KEY DECISION)
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain.
SUMMARY:	<p>The Council has a strategic intent to improve trust and connection with the large and growing Haredi community who predominately live in the south of the Borough.</p> <p>This report recommends a Memorandum of Understanding between the Jewel Foundation and Bury Council to run what is currently the Sedgley Children’s Centre.</p> <p>It is expected that the Jewel Foundation will provide new services alongside existing ones, which will increase those offered at the centre and increase the wider community use of the centre.</p>
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	<p>To approve that :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) A Memorandum of Understanding be entered into by the Council with the Jewel Foundation (from which there will be an associated lease and service level agreement), to take responsibility for the management of the Sedgley Children’s Centre

	and provision of services at this venue. 2) Delegated authority to finalise the details of the arrangements be granted to the Executive Director of Children and Families in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Council Solicitor.
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	Considered by the Section 151 Officer - This is an exception to the standard procedure re transfer of community assets but the reasons are clearly set out in the report and the financial aspect is not material.
Equality/Diversity implications:	The proposals will have a positive impact on supporting an important and growing community in this part of the Borough.
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes - please note the legal advice circulated to members. Legal support will be necessary to finalise the management arrangements.
Wards Affected:	Sedgley
Scrutiny Interest:	Overview and Scrutiny

MW

JH

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR:

Joint Executive Team	Cabinet Member/Chair Briefed	Ward Members (if necessary)	Partners
16/09/2019	Yes	Yes	
Scrutiny Committee	Other Committee	Council	Comms

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 It is recognised that there is a lack of connection and trust between the large and growing Haredi (Chareidi) community in the Sedgley area of the Borough and Bury Council specifically, and public services generally. To seek to address

this the Council is looking to proactively grow relationships and to use engagement with existing public services as a basis to extend relationships with this important community.

- 1.2 The Council is imminently reviewing the future arrangements for the management of all its Children's Centres. In this context, an opportunity has arisen through engagement with the Jewel Foundation for them to manage the Sedgley site. The Jewel Foundation is a well-established and trusted organisation with the local Jewish community.

2.0 PROPOSAL

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Jewel Foundation assume responsibility for the management of the Sedgley Park Children's Centre building, with the current core operating budget. All existing services provided by or run from the Centre will continue should the providers wish to do so and the facility will remain available for the whole local community. The Jewel Foundation will, however, deliver a specific objective to increase engagement between the local Jewish community and the Council by securing greater use of existing and future services by the Haredi community in particular.
- 2.2 By enabling dialogue between the Haredi community in the Sedgley Park area and the Council and other public services the proposed MoU will contribute to addressing the risk that children from the Haredi Jewish community are not being safeguarded effectively. This risk was highlighted in a recent Serious Case Review which referred to the importance of dialogue between statutory services in Bury and the local Haredi Jewish community and of efforts to build mutual trust, overcome barriers and enhance engagement.
- 2.3 A further objective is to support the "Prestwich Works" contract, a multi-functional employment support service, established to assist people of working age into sustained employment and/or training. The service is open to all residents of Whitefield and Prestwich but has a particular focus on members of the Orthodox Jewish Community.
- 2.4 This arrangement is designed to be of particular benefit to the Haredi community, enabling specific local needs to be met. To ensure that the centre continues to be inclusive of the wider community a stakeholder group will be established to have a role in decision making in relation to the operation of the Centre.
- 2.5 The Council's normal approach in this situation would be to pursue a Community Asset Transfer. An exception is being made in this case, however, to respond to a proposal from a well-respected existing community organisation specifically aimed at overcoming barriers and building trust with the Haredi community in Sedgley Park. Given the importance and urgency of strengthening safeguarding it is right to respond positively and quickly to this specific opportunity.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Cabinet are asked to approve the following recommendations:

To approve that :-

- 1) A Memorandum of Understanding (from which there will be an associated lease and service level agreement) be entered into by the Council with the Jewel Foundation, to take responsibility for the management of the Sedgley Children's Centre and provision of services at this venue.
- 2) Delegated authority to finalise the details of the arrangements be granted to the Executive Director of Children and Families in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Council Solicitor.

List of Background Papers:-

Equality Analysis

Contact Details:-

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