

EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: Councillor Pat Hackett

KEY DECISION: NO

PORTFOLIO AREA: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: LEADER'S

WARDS AFFECTED: NONE

SUBJECT: A MEMBER'S ATTENDANCE AT NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE – 20 - 22 NOVEMBER 2019

1.0 RECOMMENDATION:

- 1.1. That Councillor Tom Usher's attendance at the National Children's Conference be declared an approved duty and consequently, the Council will pay his Conference fees plus the costs of his travel to Bournemouth and back and his overnight accommodation, in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme.

2.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 2.1. Councillor Usher has requested that he be allowed to attend the National Children's Conference that is being held at the Bournemouth International Centre from 20 – 22 November 2019. Councillor Usher has informed that it would be beneficial to him in his role as Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education to attend this Conference as it would provide him with information and knowledge that he would be able to share with colleagues afterwards. He has committed to reporting back on the proceedings and on any key findings to all spokespersons.
- 2.2. All Members of the Members' Development Steering Group have been consulted, by email, on the proposal that Councillor Usher be allowed to attend this event. The cost of the Conference is £475.
- 2.3. The Leader of the Council has been copied in on the email responses received from Members of the Members' Development Steering Group to this consultation exercise.
- 2.4. Councillor Usher has completed an Elected Member Training Pro-Forma which is **attached** to this report.

3.0 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

4.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

THERE ARE NO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Signed:  Executive Member: Date: 16 October 2019 Also present:	Signed:  Chief Officer: Date: 17 Oct 2019.
Date of Senior Policy Team Meeting(s):	

A list of background papers on this issue is held with:

Contact Officer: Shirley Hudspeth

Date: 16 October 2019

Date of Publication:

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period:

Elected Member Training Pro-Forma**SECTION ONE – To be completed in full by the Elected Member**

Name	Thomas Usher
Contact No.	07407702182
Title of event	National Children's Conference
Event dates	20-22 November 2019
Venue or location	Bournemouth International Centre
Duration of event	20-22 November 2019
Total cost	£475 + Hotel and Travel Costs

Please tick one the following to indicate which budget will be paying for the event

Request made by an individual (Members Training Budget)

Request made by a Committee (Please state which Committee)

The completion of this form does not guarantee that we will be able to support your request*. Please attach any relevant information in support of your request. Contact the Elected Member Development Officer if you are unsure of what information is required.

How was this training need identified?

Recommended that the lead member and director for children's services attends this event.

What alternatives are available for learning in this area?

There are no alternatives to this event, it is an annual conference.

The National Children and Adult Services Conference is a vital annual event for councillors, directors, senior officers, directors of public health, policy makers and service managers, and any individuals or organisations with responsibilities for children and adults services in the statutory, voluntary and private sector.

The conference is the annual opportunity for those with an interest in social care, children's services, education, health and related fields to network with peers and hear the very latest thinking on key policy and improvement agendas.

Please list below other training you have received in the last 12 months. Please state if any of these events are related to the event that you are requesting to attend.

No training requested from the member training budget

Please explain why you want to attend this event. What specific skills or knowledge are you expecting to improve as a result of your attendance? i.e what are your learning objectives.

Wirral is going through a major transformation of its children's services and this gives us an opportunity to transform services in line with the latest thinking and cutting edge research behind early help, statutory intervention and other areas that will benefit the lives of children and families.

How does your attendance to the event contribute to Wirral's priorities?

Wirral is committed to aiming for good and outstanding levels of care for its children's services.

We also need to keep the momentum up with the improvement journey in children's services to ensure we do not slip back into inadequacy and intervention from government. We had to invest £20 million to improve the service to this level. Clearly when we aren't making the most of every pound in children's services it can have an adverse effect on the financial stability of the entire organisation.

How are you going to transfer what you have learnt at the event to your role as an Elected Member?

Take findings back to the team at children's services and agree a number of actions points from the conference, if successful in attending.

Brief the council leadership on what we have learned and what we are now going to do on Wirral based on our attendance at the conference.

Your commitment

- To complete any pre-course work or reading prior to the event.
- To participate fully during the course and attend the session(s) in full.
- To disseminate information obtained at the event to other interested parties if appropriate.
- To participate in a post event evaluation report with the Elected Member Development Officer ready for review with Member Training Steering Group.

Elected Member's Signature:



Date:

15/10/19

SECTION TWO

Supported by Member Training Steering Group

Date:

Approval by Cabinet Member

Date:

SECTION THREE