



Minutes

Name of meeting	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2012 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs George Cameron (Chairman), Paul Fuller, Colin Richards, Ian Ward, Margaret Webster
Co-opted Members (voting)	David Miller, Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representatives)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Dawn Cousins, David Pugh, David Stewart
Officers Present	Ian Anderson, Steve Beynon, Stuart Capewell, Janet Giles, Mark Howell, Janet Newton, Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Cllr Julie Jones-Evans, Emily Fletcher, Urszula Topp (Diocesan Representatives)

8. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [11 July 2012](#) be confirmed.

9. **Declarations of Interest** ([Recording 1](#) and [2](#))

Councillor Paul Fuller declared a personal interest in minutes 11 and 15 as he had children at Cowes Enterprise College, was an authority governor at Northwood Primary School and was a Justice of the Peace and sat on the Domestic Abuse Panel.

Councillor Margaret Webster declared a personal interest in minutes 11 and 15 as she was a governor at Queensgate Primary School.

Mr David Miller declared a personal interest in minutes 11 and 15 as he had children at Cowes Enterprise College, his wife was a governor at Gurnard Primary School, he was a member of Cowes Community Partnership.

Mrs Sara Sheath declared a personal interest in minutes 11 and 15 as she was previously a member of the Schools Forum, a Local Authority Governor at Christ the King and Shanklin C of E Primary School and had children at Christ the King and Shanklin C of E Primary School.

Councillor Colin Richards declared a personal interest in minutes 11 and 15 as he was a governor at Newchurch Primary School.

Councillor George Cameron declared a personal interest in minute 14 as he was on management committee of West Wight Youth Centre.

10. **Public Question Time**

A written question had been submitted by Mr Matthew Martin in relation to the provision of activities and guidance for young people, particularly at weekends. A response was given by the chairman. ([PQ17/12](#))

11. **School attainment – headline news**

The Deputy Director for Schools and Education gave an overview of attainment for 2012 at key stage 2, GCSE and A level from the provisional data available. A full report based upon validated data would be submitted to a future meeting. Members were reminded that there would be a special meeting with all the secondary providers on 7 November 2012 and with six primary schools on 10 November 2012 which will deal with elements of attainment.

The panel was advised that overall 75% of pupils had achieved level 4+ in both english and maths at key stage 2. This was 13% above the performance in 2011 and was the first year that primary schools had the responsibility for the whole of this key stage. The national average was 80%. In addition the format for the writing assessment had changed. The range of achievement at this level in island schools ranged from 44% to 92%. An overall figure of 79% had predicted by schools in December 2011.

For level 4 in english 84% of pupils had achieved this and for maths 79%. The national average was 85% and 84% respectively.

84% of pupils had achieved 2 levels of progress. This compared with 89% nationally. In english the progress had been 54% whilst in maths was 44% and this remained a key focus for improvement.

In regard to GCSE and A levels one school had 77.1% of pupils achieving five A* to C, including english and maths. The performance of two schools was below the government's floor standards. One school had however shown a 10% improvement in the level of achievement from the previous year. The A level results showed a mixed picture with an improved performance at the higher end grades.

The panel noted that with regard to the teacher assessments for writing at key stage 2 these had been subjected to external validation. Although league tables were no longer produced by the government all the national data was available on the relevant web site. Members were advised that it was up to each school as to whether they included attainment on its own website. It was noted that unfortunately the timing of the availability of full validated information did not coincide with the date by which parents had to express their preference of which school they wished their child to attend.

Members discussed the attainment levels in previous years for key stage 1. It was likely that performance would drop but still mean that this would be in the upper quartile but give a more realistic reflection of the actual situation. The work being undertaken to assist improvements in the performance in maths was outlined. The planned introduction of new tests for grammar and spelling in 2013 would likely impact upon attainment.

The Chief Executive advised that the council had no powers of intervention in the cases of the secondary providers and therefore had no resources to support this phase. The providers had to commission advice and support themselves. The council prioritised where it allocated its limited resources for primary schools.

A briefing note would be circulated to the panel setting out the details provided at the meeting. This would also include statistics for neighbouring authorities for comparative purposes. A more detailed report would be submitted to the panel early in 2013 when validation had been completed.

RESOLVED :

THAT a briefing note setting out the initial key headlines of school attainment in 2012 be circulated to the panel.

12. **[Corporate parenting board annual report and wider member involvement](#)**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education presented the annual report of the Corporate Parenting Board. This would be considered by full council at its meeting the following week. She reminded members of the pledge made by the council to improve services for looked after children (LAC). The work of the Children in Care Council, the action groups established by the board, and chaired by elected members, and the fostering panel was praised.

The attainment and school attendance of LAC were areas where improvements were required and the report indicated the steps being taken to address these.

The recruitment of people to become foster carers was debated and the initial results arising from a recruitment campaign were noted. The use of residential care on the mainland was carefully monitored. It was difficult to state an average cost because such provision could range between £70k and £250k due to specific individual circumstances.

RESOLVED :

- (a) THAT a more detailed report on the outcome of Fostering Fortnight, when 22 potential carers requested information packs, be circulated to the panel.
- (b) THAT the corporate parenting board annual report be noted.

13. **Adoption service review implementation**

Earlier in 2012 there were national headlines about the length of time local authorities were taking in dealing with the adoption process. The panel had therefore requested a report on how the council was performing in this area.

The report showed that the council was performing within the current thresholds but there was still a drive to improve on this. To assist in the process all available options were assessed. The Strategic Director for Community Wellbeing and Social Care stressed the key factor was dealing with the needs of the child rather than adherence to timescales.

The majority of children were placed for adoption on the mainland as this enabled a complete fresh start. This was possible through the council being part of a consortium of local authorities which enabled resources to be shared. The factors involved in adoption, including age and siblings, were explained. The use of special guardianship orders was also a way forward and enabled members of a child's extended family, or a current foster carer, to adopt.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

14. **Update on youth service review implementation**

(During the course of the debate on this item Cllr Margaret Webster declared a personal interest as her daughter was a teacher at one of the schools involved)

The Head of Commissioning together with the Youth and Community Service Manager gave a powerpoint presentation on the progress with implementing the youth service review which had been agreed in January 2012.

The service had been restructured into three operational areas which reflected those for health and the police. The emphasis was now on the council's statutory responsibility of delivering services to those between the ages of 13 to 19. Links with appropriate voluntary bodies were being enhanced.

The service had five strategic outcomes and examples of how partnership working, both with other council services and related voluntary organisations, were given. In addition initiatives being planned were outlined. These included developing performance measures which not only looked at usage numbers but also demonstrated the impact of service delivery.

RESOLVED :

THAT the progress being made in the implementation of the youth service review be noted.

15. **Education funding reform**

The Principal Officer – Resources and Business Support gave a short powerpoint presentation outlining the latest position regarding changes to education funding. The options available had been the subject of consideration by the Schools Forum. It had however been unable to agree on an option at its most recent meeting. The Department for Education had to be advised of the finally agreed funding formula by the end of October 2012. The cabinet would be agreeing this at its meeting on 30 October 2012.

There was likely to be minimal impact on schools brought about by any of the amendments contained in the two options favoured by the Schools Forum. Further funding changes in 2015 could however lead to more substantial changes for schools.

Members were informed of the services which the Forum had decided that funding would not be dedelgated.

RESOLVED :

THAT the situation be noted.

16. **Quarterly performance management report – quarter 1 – 2012/13**

Consideration was given to the details reported to cabinet on 21 August 2012 on the quarter 1 performance report on the service areas coming within the panel's remit.

Clarification was given of the factors that would be taken into account in assessing the status of the delivery of the corporate plan priority of raising educational standards.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

17. **Forward Plan and consultations**

The panel was made aware of the relevant items contained within the latest forward plan. It was noted that the music service consultation had now closed and the comments were being analysed. The cabinet would be making a final decision at its meeting on 17 December 2012.

RESOLVED :

THAT the items be noted.

18. **Members' Question Time**

A written question had been submitted by Mr David Miller, parent governor representative in relation to the delay in the completion of the Cowes One School Pathfinder project. A response was given by the chairman. ([MQ 15/12](#))

CHAIRMAN