



Minutes

Name of meeting	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 10 MARCH 2010 COMMENCING AT 6.05 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs George Cameron (Chairman) John Howe, Roger Mazillius, Chris Welsford, William Wyatt-Millington
Co-opted Members (voting)	David Miller (Parent Governor Representative) Urszula Topp (Diocesan Representative)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Dawn Cousins, David Pugh
Officers Present	Steve Beynon, Margaret Dennison, Roger Edwardson, Julie Martin, Janet Newton, Colin Peak, Paul Thistlewood, Roger Vandavelde
Apologies	Tony Blackshaw (Diocesan Representative) Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representative)
Also present (non voting)	Cllrs Julie Jones-Evans

18. Minutes

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [27 January 2010](#) be confirmed.

19. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Roger Mazillius declared a personal interest in Minute 14 – School Re-organisation - as his son was a Director of ERMC Ltd who provided an Architectural related service to the Isle of Wight Council.

Mr David Miller declared a personal interest in Minute 14 – School Re-organisation – as he was a Parent Governor Representative of Northwood Primary and Solent Middle Schools and was associated with Cowes Community Pathfinder Partnership.

Councillor Chris Welsford declared a personal interest in Minute 14 – School Re-organisation – as he was previously the Chairman of Standards Not Tiers and was still an interested party in the organisation.

Councillor John Howe declared a personal interest in Minute 14 – School Re-organisation – as was a Governor of Western Middle School, St Saviours School, West Wight Middle School, West Wight Nursery and a Committee Member of West Wight Youth Club.

20. Public Questions Time

Mr Alan Lock, Chair of Governors of Chale Primary School asked a question in relation to places available in other schools for children displaced by the closure of Chale Primary School.

Councillor Pugh, as the relevant cabinet member indicated that spaces were available in reception classes at the alternative schools but he would supply a full written response to Mr Lock.

21. Forward Plan

The Cabinet Members were given the opportunity to identify any issues contained within the current forward plan which might be of interest to the Panel.

The Panel noted that consideration of the School Transport Policy had been moved from the cabinet meeting on 30 March to the 13 April 2010. An initial report on Youth Re-organisation was due to be considered at the 30 March 2010 Cabinet meeting. This would lead into a consultation process aimed at delivering a more effective and efficient service, together with partner organisations, that also represented better value for money. Locality working would form a key element in the revised service delivery.

The Cabinet would also be receiving a report on improving performance in permanency planning and family finding on 30 March 2010.

RESOLVED :

THAT the issues on the Forward Plan be noted.

22. Safeguarding

Councillor Dawn Cousins reported that the current draft of the Safeguarding Action Plan, which had been approved by the Cabinet on 13 October 2009, was to be revised to form an integrated approach to Safeguarding better aligned to the activities of the Isle of Wight Local Safeguarding Children Board (LCSB). The revised plan was based on a recent audit of partnership activity as it related to the safeguarding of children and young people on the Isle of Wight. The audit was known as a 'Section 11 Audit' was a requirement of the LSCB. Its purpose was to act as a monitoring tool both locally and regionally, internally and externally to the Local Authority and its partner agencies.

Officers assured the Panel that the target dates for the completion of activities in the revised Action Plan would be achieved.

The Panel considered the information that it had requested in relation to the number of referrals being made to the Council's Intervention and Assessment Team. This highlighted the high number of referrals from the police, particularly when compared to other agencies, and the impact of this was outlined by officers. Mr Beynon, as acting Chairman of the LSCB, indicated that this matter was being discussed with the police. Pilots were being operated within the Portsmouth and Southampton areas of the Hampshire Constabulary to ascertain the most effective approach to this matter. The Panel was concerned that there was no specific timeline for this work.

In response to the request by the Panel for an update on the effectiveness of the data quality day that was introduced for children's services social work teams and initial assessment was provided. This was appearing to have a beneficial effect although due to the nature of their work the Assessment and Intervention Team was having to make alternative arrangements.

RESOLVED :

THAT the revised Safeguarding Action Plan be noted together with the information relating to the number of referrals and the initial assessment of the data quality day.

23. Every disabled child matters – Local Authority Charter

The Panel was made aware of the proposal by the Cabinet Member to make a delegated decision in relation to signing up to the Every Disabled Child Matters – Local Authority Charter. The Charter contained nine commitments which the Council undertook to deliver by 31 March 2011, in order to support disabled children and their families and carers. The commitments fed into the overall aspirations of Every Child Matters.

An outline was given of the work that would be involved in the Council delivering the commitments. Although this would not require any additional funding there would be a re-prioritisation of existing staff resources.

Out of the nine commitments officers believed that three of these would be the most challenging:-

- Number 4 – information and advice for parents and carers
- Number 6 – Involvement of disabled children in Disability Equality Schemes
- Number 9 – Involvement in delivery of specialist and universal services

Members noted that the Children's Trust was to look at seeking other agencies to sign up to the charter although there was no target date for this to be achieved. The Chairman indicated that there was a similar charter for Primary Care Trusts to adopt.

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT the Scrutiny Panel supports the Cabinet Member in approving that the Council signs up to the Every Disabled Child Matters – Local Authority Charter by way of a delegated decision and authorising the Director of Children and Young People to implement the commitments set out in the Charter by March 2011.
- (ii) THAT a progress report be brought back to the Scrutiny Panel in early 2011.

24. School re-organisation – Progress report

Members were updated on the progress of the school re-organisation project against the key workstrands.

On the last occasion that progress was reported to the Panel the project status was ranked green. This had now changed to amber to reflect that a new phase had begun.

With regard to the One School Pathfinder project involving the new build at Cowes it was anticipated that a preferred bidder, from the two companies involved, would be appointed on 14 June 2010. Construction was likely to start in October 2010. It was suggested that the Panel may wish to have a more detailed report on the project at either the July or October 2010 meeting. The provision of mobile classroom accommodation, which would be of an exceptionally high standard, was reported.

Members noted that the Council was not successful in its Building Schools for the Future bid. This would not however impact upon implementation of the overall school re-organisation project.

There was some discussion on admissions and the Panel was advised of the current situation relating to parental preferences. Mrs Urszula Topp advised the Panel of a difficulty that had been encountered by the Dioceses as the result processes required as part of reorganisation. These had now been overcome.

The Panel considered the draft School Reorganisation Communication Strategy 2010-13. This set out a range of actions and activities to ensure all major stakeholder groups were kept informed of key aspects at the appropriate time. A number of separate plans and policies would link in with the strategy. It was noted that changes would be made to elements of the draft document as the result of feedback from various sources including the Panel. The consultation on planning applications for school accommodation works would be subject to the normal planning requirements. The use of a Frequently Asked Questions element on the Council's website would be a useful tool. With regard to stakeholder groups it was felt that this should include Town and Parish Councils and Parent Associations.

On the matter of accommodation works it was suggested that a more detailed report on this could be brought to a future meeting.

A range of issues were raised by Parent Governor Representative, Mr David Miller, who wanted it minuted that he was dissatisfied with the report and the draft communications strategy.

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT the progress report be noted.
- (ii) THAT a specific item be included in the Panel's workplan relating to the One School pathfinder project and the proposed building programme.
- (iii) THAT the proposed format and content of the Communications Strategy be noted.

25. Performance Management

The Panel reviewed the performance management information as submitted to the Island Strategic Partnership Board on 23 February 2010.

The Chairman referred to NI 69, children who have experienced bullying, and discussions at a meeting of the Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel on aspects of this. Officers advised that the format of the TellUs survey was to change and this would therefore make future comparisons difficult. Additionally the survey did not actually define what bullying was.

With regard to the withdrawal of the Accident and Emergency Alcohol Nurse identified as a risk Councillor Cousins explained that that this matter had been raised by the Health and Wellbeing Board and it was ascertained that the service would continue to be delivered but in a different way.

There was discussion about NI 093 relating to the progression by two levels in English between key stage 1 and key stage 2. Officers reported on work that was being undertaken on this and highlighted that the assessment in respect of key stage 1 was undertaken by teachers whilst that for key stage 2 was against a national formal test. Transition was also seen as having an impact on the results.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

CHAIRMAN