

# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL</b>
Date and time	<b>12 MAY 2010 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs George Cameron (Chairman) John Howe, Roger Mazillius, Chris Welsford, William Wyatt-Millington
Co-opted Members (voting)	David Miller, Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representatives)
Cabinet Members	Cllr David Pugh
Officers Present	Margaret Dennison, Roger Edwardson, Julie Martin, Colin Peak, Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Cllr Dawn Cousins

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## 26. Minutes

### RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [10 March 2010](#) be confirmed subject to the following changes:

'23 pupils were refused their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> preference' be inserted after 'the Panel was advised' and 'of the current situation relating to parental preferences' being deleted from paragraph five of Minute 24.

Cllr Roger Mazillius declared a personal interest in Minute 24 as he was a governor of Northwood Primary School.

## 27. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Roger Mazillius declared a personal interest in Minute 30 as his son was a Director of ERMC Ltd who provided an Architectural related service to the Isle of Wight Council and he was a governor of Northwood Primary School.

Mr David Miller declared a personal interest in Minute 30 as he had children at Northwood Primary School where his wife was also a Governor. He was a parent governor of Solent Middle School, and a member of Cowes Community Partnership associated with the Cowes Pathfinder Partnership.

Mrs Sara Sheath declared a personal interest in Minutes 28, 29, 30 and 31 as she was a member of Children's Trust Board, chair of the Admissions Forum, a member of Schools Forum, Local Authority Governor at Christ the King and had children at Christ the King and Shanklin C of E Primary School.

Councillor William Wyatt-Millington declared a personal interest in Minute 30 as he was a Governor at Niton Primary School.

Councillor Chris Welsford declared a personal interest in Minute 30 as had had three children in the education system and 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 30 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.

## **28. Children's Trust**

A presentation was received from Mrs Sue Wadsworth the Independent Chair of the Children's Trust Board. She gave a general background to the Children's Trust advising that since the Children's Act 2004 came into force it encouraged everyone involved with children to work together in a co-ordinated approach.

Children had the right to integrated multi agency services and support to ensure that they could be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic wellbeing, which was ground breaking at that time. That led to guidance being issue to encourage local authorities and their partners to enter into children's trust arrangements.

The current plan for Children, Young People and their Families had been published in 2009 and was presently being refreshed. Outcomes and targets were regularly reported to the Island Strategic Partnership Board.

The Trust's vision was to work together to ensure high quality outcomes for children, young people and their families to enable them to access sustainable support and services. This involved the involvement and participation of a range of partners. There was an information sharing protocol to assist in the delivery of services.

Members were advised of the strategic aims of the Trust and a number of successes that had been achieved to date. This had involved consultation with children and young people on a wide range of levels and at every opportunity. There was now a real multi agency approach which involved all partners. A set of commissioning priorities had been agreed which covered children with disabilities, children in need of safeguarding, the child and adolescent mental health services and integrated locality working. A joint commissioning strategy was currently being developed and two annual conferences had been held to assess progress and refresh the Plan.

Work in progress was outlined, which clarified the arrangements between the Safeguarding Board and the Children's Trust Board, enhanced the involvement

of key partners, particularly young people, and improved targeted work with vulnerable groups and measured outcomes over the last year. The next step was to streamline the way the Trust did its business in order to put commissioning at its heart.

The Director indicated that the operation of the Children's Trust was fully funded. He outlined the proposed structure from March 2010 and advised that the Children's Trust relied upon governance from others. This would involve a Children's Trust Board made up of key spending players who met on a regular basis to ensure there was a close alignment of spend of activity and of purpose amongst the partners. The Local Authority had a lead responsibility for facilitation in that regard.

The Children's Trust Forum would be made up of wider stakeholders that met periodically to ensure the direction of travel was appropriate and to sign off the Children and Young People Plan.

There was also to be a Shadow Board for Children and Young People which was being developed from the Youth Council, which was made up of people representing youth. The Shadow Board had a dual role, to look at items coming up for discussion at the Children's Trust Board, respond to questions coming from the Board and be a conduit for any consultation activities. Members noted the important role that would be played by Locality Boards and suggested that a report on locality working should be included within the Panel's future workplan.

The link between the development of the Children's Trust and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board was explained.

The Panel was advised of the Trust's priorities over the coming year which were primarily aimed at attainment and safeguarding. The performance of the Trust would be monitored through the quarterly reports submitted to the Island Strategic Partnership and the Chairman invited when appropriate.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the report be noted and a report on locality working be included in the Panel's workplan.

**29. Safeguarding**

The Deputy Director for Safeguarding thanked the Hampshire Police Authority for allowing her to share their paper on a safeguarding triage pilot in Southampton with the Committee. Members were reminded that concerns about the high number of referrals from the police, compared with those from other agencies, had been discussed at previous meetings of the panel. The Southampton pilot was aimed at identifying the issues involved and more effective methods of inter-agency working.

She reported on the number of monthly contacts received into the Assessment and Intervention Team at Southampton which included those from the Police. This provided an opportunity to share information on cases where the Police

had been in contact with any person under the age of 17, they had been present or lived at the place involved. It was noted that the Police collected the data and then fanned it out to all agencies. The purpose of the pilot was explained and would assist in ascertaining more effective and efficient ways of working together. A number of positives and negatives had been highlighted by the pilot. It was anticipated that a further pilot would be held in September 2010.

Initial discussions were to be held with agencies on the Island about a similar pilot. The Deputy Director believed it should become a Children's Trust activity rather than a social care activity as it would benefit the council's aspirations to have a one stop shop contact centre. If a pilot scheme went ahead various demands could be built into the pilot to produce key data. When fully completed and validated this could be reported back to the Scrutiny Panel for consideration.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the report be noted and the possibility of undertaking a pilot project for the Island be encouraged.

**30. School Re-organisation**

The Council was now in the implementation stage of the project and members were advised of the risks associated with implementation, which was now judged to be an amber rating. That was mainly to do with the transfer of staff.

A headteacher for East Cowes Primary school and a Chief Executive for Carisbrooke and Medina High schools had been appointed. No appointment had yet been made to the Cowes Pathfinder Trust, but it was anticipated someone would be in post by January 2011. AET remained committed and had seconded a head teacher from a London school.

With regard to accommodation, there was a need to enter into procurement with regard to additional accommodation around the primary schools that were extending.

There was a question with regard to the sites for the use of middle schools, Sandown High would be using Sandham, Ryde would be using Swanmore, Downside would be using Medina and Nodehill would be using Carisbrooke in the foreseeable future. Cowes would not be occupying any of the middle schools.

A question was raised around school transport and children's behaviour on school buses. The Director indicated that the Children's Trust was the body that needed to be responsible for doing something about the behaviour on school transport, by bringing together the various agencies that had a part to play.

In terms of governance, a new system had been instigated whereby officers from the Re-organisation Implementation Board had been assigned to attend Governing Body meetings across the Island. They would attend for a standing item at the beginning of each meeting giving an update on progress.

Members were advised that 71 teachers had been transferred to years 5 and 6, which was an ongoing process, as more teachers had expressed a preference to transfer than there were places. There were a further 15 posts which would shortly be recruited to, but there would still be a shortfall of around 10 – 15 middle school teachers who would not be placed. An analysis of the gaps would be undertaken in the second week of June 2010. The engagement of the middle school heads on the Island had been a key factor in making the process a success.

It was noted that there were a large number of support staff but only a limited number of vacancies. Negotiations were currently being held with the new secondary school providers in terms of their needs, but the number of staff that needed to transfer were far in excess of the vacancies.

The Cowes Pathfinder was at the final bid stage and there were two preferred suppliers and it was anticipated that a preferred bidder would be identified by 14 June 2010. The final handover for the new school would be Easter 2012 but the pupils would not move into the site until September 2012.

There was some discussion in relation to school transport arrangements. There had been a commitment that primary age children, where they were entitled to school transport, either through issues of distance or unsafe route for age 4 – 11. There would be additional costs associated with the provision of that dedicated service. The Panel was advised that the current home to college transport arrangement, amongst others would be looked at, as it was believed there should be equitable transport arrangements for both school and college. A copy of the draft Transport Policy would be brought to the July 2010 meeting of the Scrutiny Panel.

A question was asked relating to the expected improvements year on year for each key stage. There were targets associated with all aspects of the national performance indicator framework. The latest predicted data for Key Stage 2 was an uplift of approximately 4%. The Key Stage 4 prediction was for a 10% lift which did not include either english or maths.

**RESOLVED :**

- (i) THAT the report be noted.
- (ii) THAT the draft Transport Policy be brought to the July 2010 meeting.

**31. Performance Management**

The Director of Children's Services indicated that there was a time lag when looking at the different quarters of information contained within the report.

A question was raised regarding the number of bus journey's using a student rider and the significance of that. The Director advised it ensured staying within terms of the contract, although it did not take into account the nature of the journey taken. The performance data was currently being reviewed.

There was some discussion in relation to the provisional absence figures, it was noted that the statistics did not separate out the difference between truancy and ill health absence.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

32. **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.

RESOLVED :

THAT the issues on the Forward Plan be noted.

CHAIRMAN