



Minutes

Name of meeting	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2010 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs John Howe, Gary Taylor, Margaret Webster, Chris Welsford
Co-opted Members (voting)	David Miller, Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representatives)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Dawn Cousins, David Pugh
Officers Present	Margaret Dennison, Roger Edwardson, Julie Martin, Chris Mathews, Janet Newton, Colin Peak, Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Cllr George Cameron Tony Blackshaw, Urszula Topp (Diocesan Representatives)

8. [Election of Chairman for the Day](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT Councillor John Howe be elected chairman for the day.

9. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [14 July 2010](#) be confirmed.

10. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Margaret Webster declared a personal interest in Minute 13, as she had two daughters in the education system.

Councillor Chris Welsford declared a personal interest in Minute 13, as he 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.

Mrs Sara Sheath declared a personal interest in Minutes 12, 13 and 14 as she was a member of Children's Trust Board, chair of the Admissions Forum, a member of the Schools Forum, a Local Authority Governor at Christ the King and had children at Christ the King and Shanklin C of E Primary School.

Mr David Miller declared a personal interest in Minute 13, 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.

Councillor John Howe declared a personal interest in Minute 13, as was a Governor of Weston Community School, St Saviours School, West Wight Middle School, West Wight Nursery and a Committee Member of West Wight Youth Club.

11. **Public Questions Time**

Mrs J Wareham of Brighstone, asked why all pre-school's had received letters giving notice to quit with effect from April 2011.

Councillor David Pugh as the Cabinet Member responsible for School Re-Organisation (who declared a personal interest at this point as his girlfriend was a Chair of a pre-school) responded by indicating that this had been necessary as some pre-school arrangements were not currently formalised. The intention was to issue new three year leases with effect from 1 April 2011.

Mrs Wareham then asked for an assurance that it was not being undertaken to displace pre-schools. Councillor Pugh stated that the intention was not to displace pre-schools. The Council had to ensure however that appropriate facilities were available for children of statutory school age.

12. **Safeguarding**

(a) **Local Safeguarding Children Board**

The Independent Chair of the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Board, Mrs Pam Robinson, gave an outline of the work of the Board since her appointment in May 2010. A development day held in June 2010 had enabled the Business Plan to be reviewed and together with the identification of areas of performance requiring attention

The Board was required to produce an Annual Report by 1 April 2011. It had been hoped to have produced such a report by an earlier date but due to limited staffing resources this would not be possible. Members were made aware of the need for the Board to be fully supported by all the partners involved.

There was some discussion in relation to the announced OFSTED inspection that had taken place between 7 - 17 September 2010. It was anticipated that the final report from that would be published on 18 October 2010. Members asked that a copy of that report be circulated to them.

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT the priorities identified by the Board so far for the coming year be noted.

(ii) THAT a report on improvement actions, following safeguarding actions, be brought to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Panel.

(iii) THAT the Board's Annual report be submitted by April 2011.

(b) **Safeguarding Action Plan**

Members were advised that the Action Plan had been reformulated to reflect the legal requirements placed on the Council to ensure that arrangements were in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004.

All directors had a key role to play in the delivery of the Action Plan and staff throughout the Council should be aware of the relevant policies and procedures. This should also be reflected in any agency working alongside the Council. A variety of monitoring mechanisms had been introduced which would be reported on a quarterly basis.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Scrutiny Panel agree to a quarterly progress report from the Deputy Director on the implementation of the Action Plan.

13. **School Re-organisation**

The Scrutiny Panel was given an update on the progress of school re-organisation. To date all projects had been delivered to budget and on time.

Build profile	Phase 1 was now complete A new framework partner had been secured for Phases 2 and 3, which incorporated a commitment to use local labour and suppliers. A detailed list of projects and timescales would be made available at the next meeting.
Cowes Pathfinder	Planning application scheduled to go to the Planning Committee on 26 October 2010. If approved there was an anticipated start date of November 2010.
Personnel	Staff were being advised on a weekly basis with regard to redeployment. TUPE consultation had commenced. It was anticipated that the process would be complete by February 2011.
Performance	All key stages had improved and the challenge was to build on those foundations.
Resources Transfer	All furniture and equipment, where it was the Local Authority's responsibility, arrived on time.
Transport	Arrangements were now in place for children from Chale who were attending Niton or Brighstone Primary Schools.

There was still a problem with the supply of identity cards for 14 – 19 year olds, Southern Vectis would be resolving this matter.

Admissions To date there had been seven successful primary school appeals.
Parents of pupils in years 6 and 7 had been informed of their child's allocated secondary school place. Parents were being given the opportunity to submit two preferences for in-year transfer requests by the 29 October 2010.

There was some discussion in relation to the proposal to increase the post 16 contribution towards home to school transport from September 2011. After receiving representations from the Isle of Wight College, it was decided not to press ahead with the in-year increase. Members were also advised that consultation to review the discretionary travel subsidy for post 16 transport would take place with changes to the discretionary travel subsidy for denominational school transport also being proposed. This would bring the Island into line with the policies operated by other authorities.

It was also noted there had been problems with the new school transport contract and a range of issues had been taken up with the operator. Schools were being asked to submit any such issues directly to the Head of Learning and Achievement. The Panel believed that there was a need to ensure that parents were made aware of transport arrangements for the 2010/11 school year in July 2010.

Although the new secondary schools were responsible for organising their own information sessions on admission arrangements the timing of one of these had not been at a convenient time for parents and pupils to attend. Officers agreed to raise this with the school concerned.

With regard to school attainment the Panel were pleased to note the improvements at all levels. Further work was still required so that all individual pupils, as well as schools, reached their full potential and targets. The role of Governing Bodies in challenging performance in their schools was a vital element in driving up standards. The Panel would receive a fuller report on school attainment at its next meeting.

Members debated the effectiveness of the communications strategy which was considered by the Panel at its meeting on 10 March 2010. A number of issues were highlighted where better use of targeted information could be made.

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT the Strategic Director consider advising parents in July 2010 of the transport arrangements for the 2010/11 school year.
- (ii) THAT a progress report reviewing the implementation of the school re-organisation communications strategy be brought to the next meeting.

14. [Budget 2010/11 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011/14](#)

The Director of Children's Services gave an outline of the in-year budget position which included the savings required and the pressure areas. He advised that the planned savings had already been achieved. If a grant for a specific function was removed then it was unlikely that the function would continue.

Closer monitoring of mainland placements would be undertaken, with a possibility of group negotiations with both Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils. The feasibility of expanding service provision at Beaulieu House was also being explored.

It was anticipated there would be savings in relation with the proposed re-organisation of the youth service but these would not be until 2011/12. There was some discussion relating to providing schools with commissioning skills. Members stressed the need for any savings were not counter productive and lead to ineffective or inefficient service delivery.

RESOLVED :

THAT the current budget position for Children's Services be noted.

15. [Performance Management](#)

Members considered the performance report for Quarter 1 that went to 27 July 2010 Cabinet meeting. It was intended that the Action Plans relating to Not in Employment and Education Training (NEET) and Targeted Intervention would be the subject of a monitoring report at a future meeting. The Quarter 2 Performance Report would go to the December 2010 Panel meeting.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

16. **Forward Plan**

The Cabinet Members were given the opportunity to identify issues contained within the Forward Plan which may be of interest to the Panel. Members did not identify any particular areas of concern.

RESOLVED :

THAT the issues on the Forward Plan be noted.