



Minutes

Name of meeting	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 13 APRIL 2011 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs George Cameron (Chairman) Paul Fuller, John Howe, David Stewart, Gary Taylor
Co-opted Members (voting)	David Miller, Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representatives)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Dawn Cousins, David Pugh
Officers Present	Steve Beynon, Roger Edwardson, Chris Mathews, Ali Matthews, Janet Newton, Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Cllr Chris Welsford, Tony Blackshaw, Urszula Topp (Diocesan Representatives)

30. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [1 February 2011](#) be confirmed.

31. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Dave Stewart declared a personal interest in Minute 36, as a member of his family was employed at Carisbrooke High School, another at Sandown Bay primary and another at Sandown High School.

Mr David Miller declared a personal interest in Minute 36, as he had children at Northwood Primary School, where his wife was also a Governor, and at Solent Middle School. He was a parent governor of Solent Middle School, and a member of Cowes Community Partnership associated with the Cowes Pathfinder Partnership.

Councillor Paul Fuller declared a personal interest in Minute 36 as he had children at Cowes High School and Solent Middle School and was an authority governor at Cowes High School and Northwood Primary School and was on the management committee of Cowes Youth Centre

Councillor John Howe declared a personal interest in Minute 36 as he 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.

Councillor Gary Taylor declared a personal interest in Minute 36 as he was a member of the AET stakeholder group.

Councillor George Cameron declared a personal interest in Minute 36 as he was on the board of the Freshwater Early Years Service and the management committee of West Wight Youth Centre.

32. **Public Question Time**

Mr Chris Whitehouse submitted a question in relation to consultation being undertaken in regard to the proposed removal of financial support for concessionary fares for travel to faith schools (PQ11/11). An appropriate response was provided by the Leader and cabinet member for finance, governance and school improvement. Mr Whitehouse asked a supplementary question relating to implications for families on low income and a response was given indicating that support would continue to be provided to those who were eligible.

33. **Safeguarding**

(a) **Local Safeguarding Children's Board – Annual Report 2010/2011 and Business Plan 2011/2012.**

Mrs Pam Robinson, the chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, presented the draft annual report for 2010/11 together with the business plan for 2011/12.

Mrs Robinson indicated that there were still some details to be finalised with regard to the content of the final version of the annual report. She referred to difficulties that had been encountered in the year due to capacity issues. Reference was made to both the annual unannounced Ofsted inspection together with the announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children. These had identified a number of areas where action was required. In addition there was a serious case review and this had been evaluated by Ofsted as good.

The panel was advised that the Board was pleased with the actions taken by the council's new recruitment strategy aimed at reducing the high vacancy levels in front line social work staff.

Changes to the Board's governance arrangements were being introduced to make these more effective and this also included the appointment of two lay members.

As the result of unprecedented national change the Board's chair had written to the Chief Executives of the core agencies seeking an

assessment of the impact of these. The Board would be establishing its own risk register and this would be regularly reviewed.

The role of performance management in assisting to ascertain the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements was essential. Mrs Robinson advised that there were ongoing discussions about what data sets should be retained. The Board wished to continue to monitor all those measures that were not achieving the set targets. The Chief Executive advised that the cabinet in August 2011 would receive new outcome measures combining risk, finance and performance. These would be aligned to the council's key priorities and therefore the panel would be able to utilise the relevant information on school standards and safeguarding.

Amongst areas requiring the Board's future attention included looking at emergency admissions to hospital caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries and alcohol related admissions involving children and young people. It was important that the Board's priorities were also consistent with those of its partners.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Local Safeguarding Children's Board annual report 2010/11 and business plan 2011/12 be noted.

(b) [Protocol between the Isle of Wight Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the Isle of Wight Council's Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel.](#)

Members were reminded that within the action plan arising from the Ofsted inspection was the need to improve scrutiny arrangements on safeguarding. To assist in this process it was intended to recognise the working arrangements between the panel and the board by way of a protocol. This had been based upon that adopted by Stockport Council as well as the council's own external scrutiny protocol used for partners involved in the local area agreement.

Mrs Robinson indicated that it was intended that the Board would be considering the formal adoption of the protocol at its forthcoming meeting.

RESOLVED :

THAT the protocol between the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the Scrutiny Panel be adopted.

34. [Reclaiming Social Work: Reconfiguration of Social Work Practise.](#)

The cabinet had agreed the previous evening to the internal restructure of the council's children's social care workforce. The panel was advised of the background to this proposal which would be implemented by the end of the summer 2011. The cabinet member reminded the panel that the budget for

2011/12 had protected safeguarding as a priority and the restructuring proposals would have no significant financial implications.

The restructure was based upon an approach adopted by Hackney Borough Council. The evaluation of this had recently been completed and nationally recognised as being able to provide significant benefits in service delivery, efficiencies and effectiveness.

The Deputy Director for Safeguarding expanded on the working arrangements that would be adopted together with the roles and responsibilities within the teams.

RESOLVED :

THAT the restructuring of the children's social care workforce be supported.

35. **[Consultation Arrangements on the Review of Provision for Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and Disabilities.](#)**

The panel was informed of the council's proposals to undertake a review of the provision made for children with special education needs and disabilities. This was aligned to the government's recently published Green Paper on this topic.

The aim of the review was to ensure that resources were used more effectively and that appropriate provision was available at special and mainstream schools. Four additional units at mainstream schools would be created and outreach services extended. It would also assist with reducing the number of children requiring attendance at off island facilities. Resources would also be transferred from the centre to schools.

More effective use could be made of expertise within the special schools. Pupils with moderate learning difficulties could attend mainstream schools if support was provided and maintained for as long as appropriate.

RESOLVED :

THAT the proposed consultation arrangements be noted.

36. **[School Re-organisation Monitoring Report.](#)**

(Mrs Sara Sheath declared a personal interest in this item as she was a member of Children's Trust Board, chair of the Admissions Forum, a member of the Schools Forum, an authority governor at Christ the King, a Community Governor at Shanklin Community School and had children at Christ the King and Shanklin C of E Primary School)

Consideration was given to the progress made on a range of key workstrands on the school reorganisation project.

The background to proposed changes to both post 16 transport charges and the provision of discretionary transport to faith schools was outlined. It was

noted that the timetable contained within the report had changed and the consultation process would not now commence until after the Easter break. The provision of the services was discretionary and cost the council £642,010 per annum for post 16 and £289,040 for faith schools. Members discussed the options available.

A précis was given of a national review of education capital undertaken by Sebastian James together with the key recommendations. This could have implications in the longer term. The existing capital programme for phase 2 was for facilities to be in place by September 2011. Phase 3 work was to accommodate primary to middle transfers. Phase 4 included schools where no works had taken place, improvements required, replacement of temporary accommodation with permanent build and health and safety works including fencing of sites.

The panel discussed the outcome of the school admission arrangements for 2011-12. It was noted that there was an overcapacity at primary level and officers were looking at future projections and the implications of these.

RESOLVED :

- (a) THAT the details of the proposed consultation arrangements relating to the removal of discretionary transport be circulated to members of the panel.
- (b) THAT the report be noted.

37. **Performance and Budget.**

The Chairman indicated that as the three hour limit for the meeting had nearly been reached unless there were any specific matters that required highlighting then the report should be noted.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

CHAIRMAN