



PAPER A

Minutes

Name of meeting	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 14 JULY 2010 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs George Cameron (Chairman) John Howe, Chris Welsford, William Wyatt-Millington
Co-opted Members (voting)	David Miller, Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representatives), Urszula Topp (Diocesan Representatives)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Dawn Cousins, David Pugh
Officers Present	Steve Beynon, Margaret Dennison, Roger Edwardson, Janet Newton, Colin Peak, Paul Thistlewood, Roger Vandevelde, Simon Wiggins
Apologies	Cllr Gary Taylor, Mr Gary Blackshaw

1. **Minutes**

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [12 May 2010](#) be confirmed.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Mr David Miller declared a personal interest in Minutes 4 and 5 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 4 and 5 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.

Councillor William Wyatt-Millington declared a personal interest in Minutes 4 and 5 as he was a Governor at Niton Primary School.

Councillor Chris Welsford declared a personal interest in Minutes 4 and 5 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 Minutes 4 and 5 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.

Councillor George Cameron declared a personal interest in Minutes 4 and 5 as he was on the board of the Freshwater Early Years Service.

3. **Performance Management**

Members reviewed the performance management report submitted to Cabinet on 1 June 2010, which related to those areas that came within the panel's terms of reference. The Strategic Director for Children and Young People acknowledged that there were a range of areas displaying a red indicator, which included social care.

It was confirmed that the failure to meet the target figure by 13% for the number of core assessments being completed within 35 days for vulnerable young people was being addressed. Members were informed that improvements in this area would be supported by a report due at Cabinet on 27 July 2010. Furthermore, a paper was due for consideration in dealing with young people not in employment, education or training (NEET), which would update members on the key actions to ensure effective targeting and use of resources.

The Panel expressed concern about the projection that the percentage of half days missed due to total absence in primary schools and secondary schools would miss their targets by 5% and 5.5% respectively. It was stated by the Head of Learning Achievement that the information was provisional although they would be able to supply members with a complete break of reasons for absence at each school following the end of the current term. Members believed this would allow them to have a more holistic view of the absences and review any underlying reasons or trends.

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT the report be noted.
- (ii) THAT the Panel Members be provided with details of absence on a school by school basis.

4. **School Re-organisation**

Members were given a briefing on the progress against the key workstreams of the reorganisation project by the Head of Learning and Achievement and Project Director of the Schools Capital Programme. The status of the project and the progress that had been achieved had been assessed as green. In summary members were updated on the following:

- Good progress had been made on Primary and Secondary Commissioning, with regular meetings continuing to take place with the interim governing bodies discussing accommodation, staffing and curriculum.

- The appointment of the Principal Designate at Cowes One School Pathfinder had been concluded with Jonathan Russell being the successful appointee. The amalgamated school in Ventnor had been named as St. Francis Catholic and Church of England (Aided) Primary School, with the headteacher being the current headteacher of St. Wilfred's and St. Boniface.
- The new school in East Cowes had been named Queensgate Foundation Primary with Mrs Sam Sillito being appointed as the headteacher. The amalgamated school in Sandown had been named The Bay Church of England (controlled) Primary School, with Mrs Margaret Henshaw being appointed as the acting headteacher for a year.
- Work continued to progress on the terms of the new contract for the provision of Home to School Transport. Consultation was due to take place in the autumn on the withdrawal of subsidised discretionary transport for post 16 and those attending faith schools.
- The admission arrangements for 2011-12 had been revised. In essence the deadline for receipt of applications for primary admissions had been changed to 14 January 2011, with parents being notified of the results on 18 April 2011. In regard to secondary admissions, the deadline for pupils in year 8 at middle school applying for a place in year 9 at their preferred secondary school would be 29 October 2010. Parents would be notified of the results on 1 March 2011.
- In September 2010, parents of pupils in years 6 and 7 would be contacted to inform them that their child had been allocated a place at the designated secondary school for their area.
- The procurement process for the Cowes One School Pathfinder had now been completed. Two bidders had been shortlisted to participate in the dialogue process which had led to Pihl being appointed following a comprehensive evaluation. An exciting and innovative design had now been submitted to gain planning permission, with a view to consideration at the October 2010 meeting of the Planning Committee and the school being available by September 2012.

Members noted that six school admission appeals had been upheld during the summer 2010 which would have cost implications of exceeding the infant class size limit of 30. The Head of Learning and Achievement stated that extra resources were being offered to the affected schools for one year. Provision of accommodation would be a further issue and it was planned to provide paired teaching in a class, which would meet the requirements under infant class size legislation.

The Panel was told that it was expected that in 2011 following parent's notification of which secondary school had been allocated to their children, a number of appeals would be received. These would be scheduled to be heard after the closing date for the receipt of appeals and would be addressed on a

school by school basis. It was noted that Christ the King College was its own admission authority were outside of the secondary allocation arrangements, not having a further admissions round until 2012.

In addition the Panel was told that the process of notifying parents of their allocated secondary school would not preclude parents from expressing a preference and from submission of an in year transfer application at any time. Any application would then be dealt with through the normal process. It was expected however that most parents would accept that their child had been allocated their nearest secondary school.

The Head of Learning and Achievement confirmed that safe routes to school would be taken into account when considering provision of Home to School Transport for children who were within the two mile qualifying threshold. Work was currently underway to assess the financial impact of that provision although if a route was deemed unsafe, the authority had a duty to provide transport. It was further stated that any funding for improvements to identified routes would need to be found within the existing resources of the council. It was agreed that the cost implications, once finalised, would be shared with the Panel.

Members asked if the number of local authorities which still provided post 16 transport was known in comparison to those that did not. The Head of Learning and Achievement stated that in his experience the provision of post 16 transport was unusual and had been withdrawn by a number of authorities some years ago in order to achieve savings.

The Project Director of the Schools Capital Programme confirmed that there was a requirement to transfer the land and buildings to the trusts solely for the use for educational purposes. The terms of the transfer were covered by covenants within the commissioning documentation and the transfer would be similar as those for voluntary aided schools, allowing the land to be held for education.

The Panel questioned if all the accommodation requirements for schools had been met. It was confirmed that no instances had been identified where all year 5 pupils would not be accommodated, although the situation would continue to be monitored. As an aside it was stated that a number of temporary accommodation units had been handed over to schools and that these units met a high standard of specification, including the provision of air conditioning. It was noted that subject to future budget decisions a more permanent solution would be sought in some instances where appropriate. Through reorganisation however a number of primaries were due to move to middle school sites and this would remove the need to build a permanent solution in each primary site.

Members raised concern about the continued security of the extended school funding. The Strategic Director of Children and Young People confirmed that funding came from a range of sources which were currently under review by central government. The Director stated that a saving of £847k from the area based grant had been requested from the current in year provision. It was inevitable that future budgets would look for further savings to be made from the area based grant although this would be set against a transfer of funding through the pupil premium scheme, which provided funding for disadvantaged

children. This funding would be provided to the schools directly, who as commissioners would then be responsible for how they used the subsidy in the most effective way and could include extended school provision.

RESOLVED :

- i. THAT details of post 16 transport arrangements in other authorities be provided to the Panel.
- ii. THAT the monitoring report be noted.

5. School Transport Policy

The Strategic Director of Children's Services updated members on the latest position with regard to the School Transport Policy. It was noted that this would comprise of three parts. These were the discretionary provision of faith schools transport, a post 16 transport review and Home to School Transport.

The policy would be written to reflect the current financial situation and following an appropriate consultation process. This would preclude the need for any public consultation prior to the policies consideration by the Cabinet in September 2010.

It was noted that the third element of the policy covering a review of Home to School Transport may have to be considered singularly from the policy as a separate report. This would allow the review, which was performed by all local authorities to take into account any recent changes in legislation.

Members of the panel expressed concern regarding extended schools provision and the possible impact on pupils from rural areas ability to attend based on the availability of buses. The Leader clarified that pupils living in areas without secondary provision of transport would benefit from the flexibility being offered to those who qualified for home to school transport. It was stated that this would allow pupils to travel on any scheduled Southern Vectis service, thus allowing for attendance at after school clubs and activities.

It was confirmed that continued monitoring would be required to ensure that regular services were maintained to Island villages and that this issue would be borne in mind when any subsidy of routes was considered. It was highlighted that at present not all villages were served by a regular bus service and that the main bus routes would be focussed on.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

6. Safeguarding – Ofsted Inspection

The Strategic Director of Children's Services advised members of the outcome of the recent unannounced Ofsted inspection on safeguarding held in June 2010, and confirmed that they were pleased with the outcome. The inspection had highlighted a number of areas to be addressed and it had been accepted

that weaknesses did exist, although there was already a robust plan in place to deal with these. Members were asked to note that the inspection had not identified any priority areas of concern but did indicate several areas requiring further development.

The Interim Deputy Director for Safeguarding stated that whilst the context of the report was positive in tone, it was important to ensure that complacency didn't flourish. Satisfactory practise was identified by the inspection in a number of areas including the prioritisation of child protection work, which was being correctly resourced and targeted during difficult times brought about by high vacancy levels.

It was noted that this focus came at a cost, which had created areas for development. These included difficulties with staff recruitment. Assessments also contained insufficient information to make decisions, with some being closed prematurely leading to further contacts being made after the case had been closed. This was due mainly to the need to manage workloads and finances.

Members were of the view that the inspection results had provided a good indicator of the direction of travel for safeguarding and enquired if the development of an action plan was required. The Deputy Director stated that various action plans were already in place and that it was envisaged to roll all of the plans, including those regarding performance monitoring, into a single action plan. This would simplify monitoring and the Panel agreed to scrutinise progress against the areas of development as well as the action plans.

RESOLVED :

THAT progress against the areas identified in the Ofsted Inspection report continue to be monitored by the Panel.

7. **Forward Plan**

The Cabinet Members were given the opportunity to identify issues contained within the Forward Plan which might be of interest to the Panel. Members did not identify any particular areas of concern as a number of these has already been alluded to during the meeting.

RESOLVED :

THAT the issues on the forward plan be noted.

CHAIRMAN