



Minutes

Name of meeting	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2011 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
	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) Emily Fletcher, Urszula Topp (Diocesan Representatives)
Cabinet Member	Cllr Dawn Cousins
Officers Present	Steve Beynon, Roger Edwardson, Chris Mathews, Ali Matthews, Janet Newton, Paul Thistlewood,

8. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [8 June 2011](#) be confirmed.

9. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Gary Taylor declared a personal interest in Minute 10 and 11 as he was a member of the AET stakeholder group.

Councillor Dave Stewart declared a personal interest in Minutes 10 and 11, 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 Minutes 10 and 11, as he had children at Gurnard Primary School and Cowes Enterprise College. His wife was a Governor at Northwood Primary School and he was a member of Cowes Community Partnership.

Councillor Paul Fuller declared a personal interest in Minutes 10 and 11 as he had children at Cowes High School and Solent Middle School, was an authority governor at Northwood Primary School and was on the management committee of Cowes Youth Centre.

Councillor John Howe declared a personal interest in Minutes 10 and 11 as he was a Governor of Weston Community School, St Saviours School, West Wight Nursery and a Committee Member of West Wight Youth Club.

Councillor George Cameron declared a personal interest in Minutes 10 and 11 as he was on the board of the Freshwater Early Years Service and the management committee of West Wight Youth Centre.

Mrs Sara Sheath declared a personal interest in Minutes 10 and 11 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, a Community Governor at Shanklin Community School and had children at Christ the King and Shanklin C of E Primary School.

10. School Reorganisation

The Project Director – Schools Capital Programme gave a [Power Point presentation](#) on key aspects of the school reorganisation project.

She advised the Panel that all the Phase 2 projects had been handed over on time. The works had been completed within the budget and were of a very high quality and 90% of the work had been undertaken by Island firms. The One School pathfinder at Cowes was also within its project timetable.

The Panel had requested details on the transfer of teaching and non teaching personnel at its last meeting. The total number of staff redeployed between 2009/10 and 2010/11 was 238 with 892 staff being TUPEd in 2010/11. There was also a total of 247 staff that had been the subject of voluntary or compulsory redundancy in 2010/2011. Out of these 72 were teaching staff and 175 support staff.

An outline was given of the phase 3 capital projects dealing with on-going works with the move to the two tier system. Additionally members noted the broadband timeline for schools which would enable benefits to be realised from collective buying.

The decant of buildings had been completed ahead of schedule and surplus resources were kept at Swanmore and West Wight. Two further open days would be held for Head Teachers to identify if there was any further furniture or equipment that could be utilised. It was proposed that any remaining stock would be offered to the voluntary sector.

The Panel praised the work of the team dealing with the school re-organisation project in dealing so successfully with all the logistics.

Officers indicated that they had not been made aware of problems with school transport arrangements. The consultation process in respect of Weston Primary School had closed and the large number of comments that had been received were being considered. The admission arrangements for 2012 were due to be despatched to parents the following week.

RESOLVED :

THAT the School Re-Organisation Team be congratulated on ensuring the successful delivery of all the changes on time and within budget.

11. School Attainment

The Head of Learning and Achievement gave a [Power Point presentation](#) outlining the unvalidated school attainment results for 2011. He stressed that the information provided was provisional and subject to change. The information however gave the Panel an initial opportunity to look at trends and issues.

For Key Stage 1 the Island's performance was in the top 10 of the country. There had however been a slight gradual decline in the past two years. Attainment was based upon teacher assessment and if there was too generous an assumption of a pupil's ability this could provide a false picture. If there was a more rigorous assessment in the future this could lead to a further decline in the level of attainment but this would probably be a fairer reflection of the actual ability level of pupils.

In respect of Key Stage 2 there had been a decline in the level compared with the previous year. This had also widened the gap with the national average. Whilst it was pleasing to note that the provisional results indicated that three schools had improved performance four had fallen below the 55% threshold. It was not believed that school re-organisation had impacted upon performance but this was being analysed in further detail. The deployment of resources within a school was the responsibility of the Governing Body and Head Teacher and there was a strong link between good leadership and good attainment. Based upon the island's deprivation and catchment it would be more appropriate for it to be in the top 25%.

The performance levels of boys compared to girls at Key Stage 2 was discussed. It was noted that only in two schools boys had out performed girls but this may be due to girls actually underperforming.

Key Stage 4 had shown a good improvement and a narrowing of the gap with the national average for those achieving five A* - C including english and maths. The Panel discussed the trends for each school. The gap between boys and girls performance in achieving A* - C in english was an area of concern for the Panel. The individual results for each of the high schools did not correspond with what was expected given their demographics. A number of issues relating to performance over the previous three years were highlighted and only one had demonstrated a good continuing level of improvement

Members were made aware of the predictions for GCSE outcomes based upon assumptions from schools for 2012. There was a clause within the memorandum of understanding with the new providers for them to attend scrutiny meetings twice a year to report on exclusions and attainment. There were no such arrangements in place for Christ the King College or any of the primary schools

Key Stage 5 provisionally indicated an improvement in the overall pass rate and this had also narrowed the gap with the national average. There was a good improvement in the A* /A higher grades following a decline in the previous year.

RESOLVED :

- (a) THAT a report be submitted to a future meeting on attainment differences in boys and girls performance especially in English.
- (b) THAT a report be considered on the attainment of those on free school meals, special educational needs and looked after children.
- (c) THAT consideration be given to the strategy of the new providers to improve school attainment.

12. **Children's Social Care – Report on Ofsted Inspection**

Consideration was given to the action plan that had been agreed by the Cabinet and the progress being made with this. It was noted that the introduction of the new team work approach to social work was already having a positive impact upon service delivery. The Panel discussed the future approach to monitoring implementation of the action plan. The Cabinet would be receiving a report on the implementation of the recruitment and retention strategy for children's social care and the impact on performance at its February 2012 meeting. The Panel indicated that it would wish to comment on this report and also identified a number of specific issues connected with the actions that it wanted further information on.

The Deputy Director for Safeguarding indicated that there had recently been an Ofsted inspection of the adoption service. Although the Council had not yet received the formal letter setting out the findings it appeared Ofsted was satisfied with the plans in place, service provision was making a difference to children's lives and there were good features within the service.

RESOLVED :

- (a) THAT a report be submitted to the Panel at its March 2012 meeting detailing progress being made with the Action Plan and in particular the development of an "Issues Log" and a performance framework.
- (b) THAT the report due to be submitted to the February 2012 meeting of Cabinet in relation to the impact on performance of the implementation of the recruitment and retention strategy for children's social care be considered by the Panel.
- (c) THAT future reports on the action plan need not include issues where performance is rated as green.
- (d) THAT an informal briefing be arranged for the Panel on a case study showing the journey of a child through the safeguarding process.

13. [The Isle of Wight Council Adoption Strategy 2011-2014](#)

Members were advised that the Cabinet would be considering a revised Adoption Strategy at its meeting on 11 October 2011. The strategy would take into account the amended national minimum standards which came into effect on 1 April 2011. Additionally the draft may require some amendment following the recent Ofsted inspection referred to during the previous item.

The strategy would be supported by a service plan, action plan, equality impact assessment and statement of purpose.

The Panel believed that to assist members of the council in having a better understanding of the strategy a briefing should be arranged outlining the processes involved.

RESOLVED :

- (a) THAT the full report due to be considered by the Cabinet on 11 October 2011 be circulated to members of the Panel.
- (b) THAT a briefing on the Council's adoption processes be arranged for all members
- (c) THAT the Adoption Strategy 2011-2014 be supported.

14. [Performance and Budget](#)

The Panel discussed the quarterly performance reports for quarter 1 on the corporate priorities of Raising Educational Standards and Keeping Children Safe. A number of issues on both of these priorities had already been covered earlier in the meeting.

One issue that was raised was in relation to the number of foster carers on the Island. This had declined during the previous year and had resulted in a number of off Island placements having to be made. A recruitment campaign had been successful in identifying 15 potential new foster carers. These were now going through the assessment and training process.

There were no immediate budgetary issues that the Panel wished to raise.

RESOLVED :

THAT a report be submitted to the Panel outlining the number of foster carers in recent years and the reasons given why carers stop.

15. [Forward Plan](#)

The Panel was made aware of relevant items contained in the Forward Plan for September 2011 to December 2011.

The Cabinet Member advised that the proposed report on the implementation of the recruitment and retention strategy for children's social care and the impact on performance would be slipped from 11 October 2011 to February 2012.

The Panel was made aware of discussions being held with Southampton City Council on developing a joint school improvement service. This would be at an operational level and would not change the Council's own statutory responsibilities.

The Cabinet would be considering a report on actions being taken by schools to address persistent absence and exclusions. The Chief Executive advised that because of school re-organisation there may be improvements in performance without any actual problem being addressed. It was felt that this may be a topic which could benefit from some input from the Panel when the information had been submitted to the Cabinet.

RESOLVED :

THAT consideration be given to the establishment of a task and finish group dealing with school persistent absence and exclusions after Cabinet had considered its report on 11 October 2011.

16. **[Progress Report on Recommendations](#)**

Members were made aware of current progress with regard to the actions and recommendations arising from items considered at its previous meeting. This would be updated for each meeting.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

CHAIRMAN