



Minutes

Name of meeting	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2012 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs George Cameron (Chairman), Paul Fuller, David Stewart, Gary Taylor
Co-opted Members (voting)	David Miller, Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representatives) Rosemary Olivier, Urszula Topp (Diocesan Representatives)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Dawn Cousins, David Pugh
Officers Present	Ian Anderson, Steve Beynon, Janet Newton, Paul Thistlewood
Youth Council	Alec Webb (Chair), Laura Duke (Vice Chair), Jack Philipsborn (Member Youth Parliament)
Apologies	Cllr John Howe

25. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT, subject to the deletion of Solent Middle School from the declarations of interest expressed by Councillor Paul Fuller in Minute 18, the Minutes of the meeting held on [9 November 2011](#) be confirmed.

26. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Mrs Sara Sheath declared a personal interest in Minutes 27, 28, 29 and 30 as she was a member of Children's Trust Board, a member of the Schools Forum, a Local Authority Governor at Christ the King, a Local Authority Governor at Shanklin C of E Primary School and had children at Christ the King and Shanklin C of E Primary School.

Mr David Miller declared a personal interest in Minutes 28 and 29 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 Gary Taylor declared a personal interest in Minutes 28 and 29 as he was a Local Authority Governor on Ryde Academy.

Councillor Dave Stewart declared a personal interest in Minutes 28 and 29 as a member of his family was employed at Carisbrooke High School, another at Sandown Bay Primary and another at Sandown High School.

Councillor Paul Fuller declared a personal interest in Minutes 28 and 29 as he had children at Cowes Enterprise College, was an authority governor at Northwood Primary School and was on the management committee of Cowes Youth Centre.

Councillor George Cameron declared a personal interest in Minutes 27, 28 and 29 as he was on the board of the Freshwater Early Years Service and the management committee of West Wight Youth Centre.

27. **[Ofsted's Annual Children's Services Assessment 2011](#)**

The Panel considered the annual children's services assessment for 2011 issued by Ofsted. This took account of inspection outcomes and regulatory visits. A number of strengths were highlighted by Ofsted together with several areas for further improvement. The services had been assessed as performing adequately. This had been the same as for 2009 and 2010.

The Strategic Director explained that in order to improve the assessment all areas were required to be performing well. At present the main area of weakness was in relation to school attainment. Ofsted recognised that steps were being taken on this and also with regard to the restructuring of children's social work.

Members noted that the new recruitment and retention strategy had led to an improved situation. This would be fully reported to the Cabinet in February 2012 and the Panel. They believed that the areas for further improvement provided a framework which enabled these to be clearly focussed on. The Panel was concerned about the wording within the assessment of the results for 11 year olds. The data that it had received at its meeting in September 2011 showed that a number of schools had made substantial improvements.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Ofsted annual assessment for Children's Services be noted.

28. **[Raising Educational Standards](#)**

In support of consideration of aspects connected with school attainment the Panel received a powerpoint presentation from the Head of Commissioning for Education Services.

Members were made aware of the attainment for children with special educational needs, free school meals and looked after children. With regard to looked after children the performance levels could dramatically fluctuate from one year to the next due to the small cohort. Attainment compared favourably

with the national average. The improved support for looked after children arose from the introduction of the reclaiming social work initiative, learning development advisors and the appointment of a virtual head. These all contributed towards the completion of a personal education plan rate of 96%.

The overall predicted key stage 2 results for 2011/12 for the Island in English and maths at level 4+ was 79%. This was above the national average of 74% and would be the best Island performance ever. Schools had been challenged in their individual predictions and areas where support was required would be identified.

Based upon information from each school the overall figure for the Island for pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C GCSE's, including English and maths, was predicted to be above the 2010 average at 56.0%. Members discussed the previously predicted school attainment outcomes and the national trends together with progress on actions contained within the annual review of achievement.

Members were reminded of the arrangements agreed with the new providers of secondary education for them to report to scrutiny on a number of issues including attainment. This was to be on a twice yearly basis and arrangements were being made for the first such meeting to take place. The Panel thought that it would be beneficial to identify a list of issues to be raised with the providers in advance of the meeting and also for appropriate data to be available so that lines of questioning could be compiled.

The Head of Commissioning reminded members that details of boys and girl's performance had been provided at their meeting on 14 September 2011. There were a range of on-going initiatives on this issue and this topic could be raised when meeting with the new secondary providers.

The impact of attendance and exclusions on attainment was discussed. This matter was to be the subject of a report to Cabinet and the most recent figures would be circulated to the Panel. This topic would also be on the list of items to be discussed with the new providers.

RESOLVED :

- (a) THAT a list of items to be discussed with the new providers of secondary education be drawn up and where possible relevant background information be supplied in advance of the meeting with them;
- (b) THAT the most up to date information regarding short and fixed term exclusions be circulated to the Panel;
- (c) THAT the content of the presentation be noted.

29. **Performance and Budget**

(a) [Quarterly Performance Management Report – Quarter 2 2011/12](#)

Consideration was given to the performance reports for quarter 2 as presented to the Cabinet on 13 December 2011. The Panel was informed of the latest initiative between the Council and the private sector to provide apprenticeships for young people. This was part of the Council's economic development delivery action plan. This would assist with reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET).

With regard to keeping children safe the Chairman indicated that the task group looking at hospital admissions for alcohol related harm had met once and was awaiting further information before progressing the matter.

RESOLVED :

THAT the reports be noted.

(b) [Budget Savings 2012/13](#)

The Leader of the Council outlined the background to the budget savings for 2012/13. These should however not be looked at in isolation and there would be service areas where additional investment would be made. Work was still being undertaken on the proposed list of savings.

Members were made aware of the joint working arrangements with Southampton City Council for statutory educational psychology and support services. These would be subject to a six monthly review and a Governance Board would be set up to monitor delivery. There was a two way benefit in this.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

30. [Forward Plan and Consultations](#)

(a) [Forward Plan](#)

The Panel was advised that the Forward Plan for February 2012 to May 2012 had been published that day. There were no other items of relevance to the Panel. It was noted that the cabinet member delegated decision on the youth service review had been taken.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Forward Plan be noted.

(b) Consultations

Members were made aware that there was one live consultation relating to the school admissions arrangements for 2013.

RESOLVED :

THAT the matter be noted.

31. Progress Report on Recommendations

An update was given on the progress with the actions and recommendation arising from previous meetings. As discussed earlier in the meeting a number of these related to the proposed meeting with the new secondary providers.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

32. Members Questions Time

A question ([MQ_01/12](#)) was put by Mr David Miller, Parent Governor Representative, on the data and information provided to the Panel, the Chairman provided a written response.

CHAIRMAN