



Minutes

Name of meeting	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2009 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs George Cameron (Chairman), John Howe, Roger Mazillius, Chris Welsford, William Wyatt-Millington
Co-opted Members (voting)	Mr David Miller – (Parent Governor Representative)
Officers Present	Jonathan Baker, Steve Beynon, Deborah Cameron, Nicholas Crick, Paul Thistlewood,
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Dawn Cousins, David Pugh
Apologies	Mrs Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representative)

1. **Minutes**

Members were advised that the Scrutiny Panel had been tasked by the previously established Policy Commission for Children and School Results to review the notes of evidence for the meeting held on [8 April](#) 2009.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the Policy Commission for Children and School Results meeting held on 8 April 2009 be confirmed.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Welsford declared a personal interest in item 5 as he was the Chairman of Standards Not Tiers and was still an interested party in the movement.

Mr Miller declared a personal interest in item 5 as he was a Parent Governor Representative of Solent Middle School and was associated with Cowes Community Pathfinder Partnership.

Cllr Howe declared a personal interest in item 5 as he was a Governor of Western School, St Saviours School, West Wight Middle School, West Wight Nursery and a Committee Member of West Wight Youth Club

Cllr Wyatt-Millington declared a personal interest in item 5 as he was a Governor of Chale and Niton school.

Cllr Mazillius declared a personal interest in item 5 as he was a Governor of Northwood Primary School, Love Lane Primary School and Cowes High School.

Cllr Mazillius declared a personal interest in Minute 6 as his son was a Director of ERMC Ltd who provided an Architectural related service to the Isle of Wight Council.

Cllr Cameron declared a personal interest in item 5 as he was a Committee Member of West Wight Youth Club.

3. **Terms of Reference**

The Panel was reminded of its terms of reference as agreed by full council in June 2009. The Council's corporate priorities that came within the panel's area of working were also outlined together with key indicators contained in the Local Area Agreement, projects in the strategic programme and Eco-Island actions.

RESOLVED:

THAT the terms of reference be noted.

4. **A Safeguarding Strategy for the Isle of Wight Council – Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of the Island's Children and Young People**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Social Care, Public Health and Housing presented to the panel the Safeguarding Strategy that would be taken to the meeting of the Cabinet on 13 October 2009 and invited members to make any amendments or further recommendations to the report.

The Cabinet Member advised that the Children and Disability Team was dealing with 280 social care cases on the Island, none of which were defined as unallocated. All cases were also encouraged to contact the duty worker at any time they needed to.

The panel was told that there were 80 Qualified social care posts on the Island with an average of 5.5 vacancies which was a large reduction on the previous year. The council were however committed to filling all posts and additional training and support plans would be developed to help achieve this.

The Assistant Director for Children and Young People on Safeguarding assured the panel that there were sufficient resources in place to effectively deal with safeguarding. The panel were also reminded that safeguarding was an issue that everyone should be concerned with. The views of families, who had been affected by safeguarding issues, were also being taken into account.

The Cabinet Member indicated that at present the council had no outstanding issues in relation to serious case reviews. The Assistant Director for Children

and Young People on Safeguarding stated that the council must however continue to engage with its partners to ensure effective service delivery. Regular reporting to the Local Safeguarding Childrens Board (LSCB) would be a key element in this process.

It was reported by the Assistant Director that there were some cases of injured babies which could have been dealt with more effectively had the incidents been reported early enough. The council therefore had work to do on earlier intervention.

Members of the panel were advised that the expected amount of cases per social worker was 15, although the national average was 25. However, this was dependant on the seriousness of cases and the experience of the worker. Newly qualified workers were not expected to have so many cases to manage and it was the aim to ensure that no member of staff would be overloaded with cases.

The Cabinet Member advised that whilst no complete guarantees could ever be given that there would not be a serious case on the Island all possible measures were being taken.

Members were also told that it was not just the duty of the council to ensure that an effective safeguarding strategy was in place but also that of its partners, including schools. The voluntary sector was also seen as an important element in the delivery of an effective strategy.

The panel noted that the previous scrutiny committee had requested that the Chair of the LCSB should be invited to a meeting to provide an update on the work of the board together with submitting its annual report. An outline was given of the role and accountability of both the Children's Trust and the Board.

The Cabinet Member advised that the newly appointed dedicated Safeguarding Officer, along with the Safeguarding Nurse, would provide ongoing training for all those that required it. It was also intended that all elected members would be briefed on their corporate parenting responsibilities.

Members agreed that it would be beneficial for the panel to have a presentation of a case study to a future informal panel meeting in order to gain a better understanding of the issues involved. This could also involve partner organisations.

In discussing the draft action plan several issues were identified by the panel where amendments were required before the cabinet considered this at its meeting on 13 October 2009.

The panel was assured that the deadlines that were provided within the draft action plan were seen as realistic and achievable and the arrival of the newly appointed permanent Director of Children and Young People in January 2010 would further help with this. Consideration was given as to the frequency that the panel should have a monitoring report on progress with delivery the relevant actions contained in the strategy.

RESOLVED

- (i) THAT Requirement / Outcome number 29 be deleted from the Action Plan (Appendix B of the report) as it was a repeat of that in number 28.
- (ii) THAT Appendix A, page C-9 (7.1 – IV) should be amended to read “to enhance Members and provide effective governance and scrutiny”
- (iii) THAT a Case Study be presented to an informal meeting of the panel and representatives of the PCT, Police and other relevant partners be invited to attend and contribute to discussions.
- (iv) THAT the Chair of the LSCB be invited to a Children and Young people Scrutiny Panel Meeting in order to discuss the LSCB annual report.
- (v) THAT the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Social Care, Public Health and Housing provide an update on the progress with the safeguarding action plan at each meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel.
- (vi) THAT the Strategy be endorsed subject to the above measures being agreed.

5. **Performance Management**

To Review the Relevant Performance Management Information as Submitted to Cabinet on 1 September 2009, for Quarter 1 to 30 June 2009 and Review the Relevant LAA2 Performance Management Information for Quarter 1 as Submitted to the Island Strategic Partnership Board on 10 September 2009

The panel were provided with an abridged version of the Quarter 1 Performance report, focussing purely on Children and Young People, which had been presented to the meeting of the Cabinet on 1 September 2009. In addition the panel had the relevant extracts from the Local Area Agreement summary performance report that was presented to the Island Strategic Partnership Board on 10 September 2009.

The Chief Executive advised the panel that with regards to the dip of 12% in performance in Key Stage 2 in English for both ages 5-7 and 7-11 was partly due to the substandard performance in boys writing in these age groups. Schools were putting in place various measures such as 1-1 tuition as well as small group tuition support to help raise the standard. Head Teachers would therefore be subjected to scrutiny by Inspectors to ensure that improvements were met.

On the matter of schools reorganisation, the Leader advised the panel that initial preparation for the change from a three tier to a two tier schools system had been made, subject to the decision on the statutory and competition notices for the Schools Organisation being agreed by the Cabinet on 1 October 2009 following consultation with Full Council on 30 September 2009.

The Leader assured Members that the One School Pathfinder element of the Schools Reorganisation Programme had funding in place.

RESOLVED:

- a. THAT the relevant Performance Management Information as Submitted to Cabinet on 1 September 2009, for Quarter 1 to 30 June 2009 be noted by the Panel.
- b. THAT the relevant LAA2 Performance Management Information for Quarter 1 as Submitted to the Island Strategic Partnership Board on 10 September 2009 be noted by the Panel.

CHAIRMAN