



Minutes

Name of meeting	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2010 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
Co-opted Members (voting)	David Miller, Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representatives) Urszula Topp (Diocesan Representative)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Dawn Cousins, David Pugh
Officers Present	Steve Beynon, Margaret Dennison, Roger Edwardson, Julie Martin, Janet Newton, Colin Peak, Paul Thistlewood, Roger Vandavelde
Apologies	Tony Blackshaw, Cllr William Wyatt-Millington

11. Minutes

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [4 November 2009](#) be confirmed subject to the deletion of the 13th bullet point in minute 9

12. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Roger Mazillius declared a personal interest in Minute 14 – School Re-organisation - as his son was a Director of ERMCLtd who provided an Architectural related service to the Isle of Wight Council.

Councillor Chris Welsford declared a personal interest in Minute 14 – School Re-organisation – as he was previously the Chairman of Standards Not Tiers and was still an interested party in the organisation.

Mr David Miller declared a personal interest in Minute 14 – School Re-organisation – as he was a Parent Governor Representative of Solent Middle School and was associated with Cowes Community Pathfinder Partnership.

Councillor John Howe declared a personal interest in Minute 14 – School Re-organisation – as was a Governor of Western Middle School, St Saviours School, West Wight Middle School, West Wight Nursery and a Committee Member of West Wight Youth Club.

Mrs Sara Sheath declared a personal interest in Minutes 14 – 17 as she was a Member of the Children's Trust Board, Schools Forum, Chair of Admissions Forum, LEA Governor and parent of a child attending Christ the King College and a parent of a child at Shanklin CE Primary School.

13. **Public Question Time**

Mr Starke of Chale asked an oral question seeking clarification on an issue relating to school re-organisation. He indicated that Councillor Pugh had reported that the Office of Schools Adjudicator had intervened in the school reorganisation process which appeared to have stalled the reorganisation process, at least, until the Cabinet decision due to be made on 9 February 2010. How did the intervention of the Office of the Schools Adjudicator affect the deadline and what were the implications for Partnership for Schools caveat that authorities 'must in a position to make progress immediately with their Building Schools for the Future Project when they enter the programme'.

The Cabinet Member for Governance and School Improvement indicated that all middle and high school notices had been determined. The Partnership for Schools submission related to the Secondary sector. The decision in relation to those primary schools which had yet to be determined as statutory notices were to do with the Primary sector which came from the Primary Capital Programme and was an entirely different scheme to that for the Secondary sector.

14. **School Re-organisation Progress Report**

The Cabinet Member for Governance and School Improvement referred to a copy of a memo had been circulated prior to the meeting to members of the panel which updated and clarified the situation around the new rural school. The support from the Chairs of Governors of the three existing schools was noted. The proposed course of action was to be set out before Cabinet on 9 February 2010. It was hoped to rebuild in the Godshill area and retain the existing site at Wroxall.

The Schools Capital Programme Project Director advised the Panel that at present the overall project status was green and there was now an opportunity to revisit, revise and update the risk register which could then be reported back to the Panel at a future date.

- Academies – there was a need to meet with AET, the sponsor, and finalise the expression of interest. A meeting with the sponsor and their representative was due to take place in the first week of February 2010.
- Where Interim Governing Bodies were already in place advertisements for the appointment of Headteachers would be placed.
- Securing appropriate accommodation for Year 5 pupils, mobile classrooms would need to be in place.
- Need to take account of admissions, if extra accommodation needed would be in a position to do that.

- Discussion around staff transfer and TUPE. Schools had come forward with their structures. Would be writing to schools offering drop in sessions during February 2010 with further sessions to be held in March to discuss the budget situation.
- Resources transfer – all school been approached in order to ascertain an accurate picture of the assets and resources they had.
- Discussion with regard to school meals had taken place and it was anticipated a new contract would be in place by September 2011.
- A meeting with the Communications Team to work out a new communications strategy was to be held. A report could be brought to the Panel at a later date. It was anticipated a newsletter would be published and widely circulated to ensure everyone understood that their children's education would be secure.
- There was significant progress on the One School Pathfinder. In position to recommend two of the four bidders, it was anticipated that a selected bidder would be in place by the end of May beginning of June 2010 and at that stage a planning application could be submitted. It was envisaged should be in a position to get to financial close by the end of October 2010. Preparation of a readiness to deliver was available in draft form and it was anticipated that it would be completed and submitted to Partnership to Schools by Friday, 29 January 2010.

The Cabinet Member for Governance and School Improvement gave an explanation of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding and what would be expected from each of the providers. He indicated that the Council would also be in a stronger position to hold schools to account. Due to the timescales involved if any member had a comment on this these should be forwarded to officers as soon as possible.

There was some discussion with regard to the Schools Adjudicator and a suggestion that there could be an issue with work already undertaken on the Notices to Close. The Cabinet Member for Governance and School Improvement, together with the Chief Executive, indicated that the role of the Schools Adjudicator was in relation to the primary sector not the secondary sector. Legal advice had been taken both internally and externally and it only affected the three schools directly mentioned.

Members asked how the Council would ensure the continuing good education for pupils with possible staff disruptions. It was recognised that 2010-11 was a key transition year which would be a challenge. The Head of Learning and Achievement advised the Panel that he had met with the Chair of Middle School Heads and they were willing to work with the Council on the re-organisation. It was anticipated that Middle School staff would be advised by the end of March 2010 if they had a position in either Year 5 or 6.

There was a possibility that High Schools may want to contract for the provision school meals for neighbouring schools, as some had their own kitchens and would be in a good position to do so.

A question arose with regard to keeping members of the public up to date, as there was no indication on the Council's Web Site as to what was happening. It was anticipated that a Communication Strategy would be produced and this would be brought to the Panel for consideration

The Panel was advised that the new schools providers had asked the Local Authority to have a presence in relation to the appointment of new posts. A number of Primary Schools Heads had been already been appointed, some of which were previously heads from Middle Schools. With regard to the retention of staff during the transition period members were advised that each case would be looked at on its merits.

The Panel suggested that additional information on key strands within the project should be contained in future progress reports. Additionally relevant details could also be sent to members in between formal meetings.

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT the Communications Strategy be brought to the next Scrutiny Panel meeting.
- (ii) THAT the progress report be noted.

15. Isle of Wight Safeguarding Strategy

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Social Care, Public Health and Housing gave an update on the progress of the delivery of the Action Plan as agreed by Cabinet on 13 October 2009. She indicated that the Plan was being reviewed in the light of latest advice and this would lead to some amendments being made to it.

Members noted that due to staff changes within Children's Services it had not been possible to bring a report on the areas requested at the last meeting. This would be incorporated in the report to the March meeting.

RESOLVED :

THAT a more comprehensive report be brought to the next Scrutiny Panel meeting.

16. Aiming High for Disabled Children Short Break Care Transformation Programme

The background to the provision of short breaks for disabled children under the national Aiming High programme was outlined. Members gave consideration to the progress made to date and were advised that future funding was not guaranteed after March 2011. The Cabinet Member and Director had written jointly to the Secretary of State urging the continuation of funding beyond this date.

The NHS/PCT would be invited to attend a future meeting of the Panel so that their role in the programme could be explained. Members were advised that the

government had allocated the Trust an amount for Aiming High which was not ring fenced. The PCT had agreed to allocate £61,000 to Aiming High locally. (unlike the specific grant received by the Council, PCT funds were not ring fenced).

Associated with this the Project Lead for Inclusion indicated that the adoption of the Every Disabled Child Matters Charter by the Council was shortly to be considered. A report on this and the implications would be brought to the Panel in March 2010.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted and the Isle of Wight NHS/PCT be invited to attend a future meeting of the Panel to report on its involvement in the Aiming High programme.

17. Local Area Agreement Summary Performance Report for the Children's Trust 1 July – 30 September 2009

The Panel reviewed the performance management information as submitted to the Island Strategic Partnership Board on 24 November 2009.

The Director for Children and Young People indicated he had attended the Children's Trust Board earlier in the week. There were some interesting contrasts in the way the information was written with regard to positive and areas of development to watch. It was anticipated that the way the information was presented would need to be revisited. There was a need to look at the context of some of the measures and describe the trend associated with each of those measures with a need to analyse the underlying features that were going to enable improvement where necessary. Several examples were given and Members discussed various aspects of the report indicating that some detail behind the indicators would need to be unravelled.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted and the proposals to look at amending the presentation of future performance information be supported.

CHAIRMAN