



Minutes

Name of meeting	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs George Cameron (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Reg Barry, Paul Fuller, Gary Taylor, Margaret Webster
Co-opted Members (voting)	David Miller, Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representatives)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs George Brown, Dawn Cousins
Officers Present	Ian Anderson, Steve Beynon, Stuart Love, Chris Mathews, Ali Matthews, Joyce Milford, Paul Thistlewood
Other members present	Cllr Vanessa Churchman.
Apologies	Cllr Julie Jones-Evans; Tony Blackshaw, Urszula Topp (Diocesan Representatives)

23. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT subject to the date being changed from 10 November 2012 to 19 November 2012 in the first paragraph of minute 11 the minutes of the meeting held on [10 October 2012](#) be confirmed.

24. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Paul Fuller declared an interest as he had children at Cowes Enterprise College and was a local authority governor at Northwood Primary School.

Councillor Gary Taylor declared an interest as he was on the governing body at Ryde Academy.

Councillor Margaret Webster declared an interest as she had family members at Queensgate Primary School.

Mr David Miller declared an interest in as he had children at Cowes Enterprise College, his wife was a governor at Gurnard Primary School and he was a member of Cowes Community Partnership.

Mrs Sara Sheath declared an interest as she was previously a member of the Schools Forum, a Local Authority Governor at Christ the King and Shanklin C of E Primary School and had children at Christ the King and Shanklin C of E Primary School.

Councillor Barry Abraham declared an interest as he was on the governing body of Wootton Primary School.

25. **Public Question Time**

Mr Matthew Martin, a resident of Cowes, asked a question in relation to whether steps had been put in place to ensure that there were no unqualified teachers teaching at Medina House School.

The Chairman in conjunction with the cabinet member gave an assurance that safeguards had been taken to stop this happening in the future.

26. **Statutory role and responsibility of Director of Children's Services.**

The panel considered the report of the Deputy Director of Resources and Monitoring Officer regarding the statutory role and responsibility of the Director of Children's Services. In support of this the Strategic Director for Community Wellbeing and Social Care also gave a powerpoint presentation.

The statutory guidance, issued by the Department for Education, required that the council should satisfy itself that the arrangements chosen discharged the legal framework for this post. The council was able to combine the role of Director of Children's Services with those already carried out by the Strategic Director for Community Wellbeing and Social Care. The roles had partially been combined for a short while and it was now being proposed that Mr Anderson should have management and operational responsibility for education matters.

Consideration was given to the test of local assurance and the specific categories that were included within the statutory roles and responsibility. The management structure supporting the roles was outlined together with the regular meetings that were held with other partners and agencies. The Strategic Director advised on the key responsibilities connected with the role and the specific elements within these.

The cabinet member, as the lead member for children services with similar statutory responsibilities, was satisfied with the arrangements as contained in the report. The Chief Executive reminded members that the amalgamation of the two roles had been part of the senior management restructure approved

by Cabinet in December 2010. To fully accord with the guidance arrangements should be in place from April 2013.

There was a view by some members that the risks involved in combining the two roles of adult social care and children's services against the costs of individual posts should be taken into account. Given the conclusions of the review undertaken by the Deputy Director of Resources and Monitoring Officer and the information provided during the course of the meeting the arrangements proposed were acceptable to the majority of the panel. It was intended that a further test of local assurance would be carried out after the Strategic Director had taken on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services. This would then be the subject of a peer review.

RESOLVED :

THAT the panel has been assured that the proposed arrangements are broadly satisfactory and would like to see the outcomes from the peer review which is to be undertaken in quarter 1 of 2013/14.

27. **[Annual complaints report about children's services](#)**

The panel gave consideration to a report on complaints regarding children's social care that had been dealt with during 2011-12. The process and timescales involved in dealing with such complaints were outlined. Where possible attempts were made to achieve a resolution to complaints at the first stage and within the statutory timescale.

Out of the 42 complaints raised in 2011/12 31 were responded to within the statutory timescales. Seven were from young people and members were interested to note that all these were raised by girls or young women. Officers believed that the implementation of reclaiming social work appeared to have had a positive effect on complaints.

The nature of complaints was outlined and the steps being taken to have a solution focused approach to these.

RESOLVED :

THAT clarification be sought as to whether the lack of boy/young men engagement in the complaints process had been replicated elsewhere.

28. **[Quarterly performance and finance report – quarter 2](#)**

The panel was advised by the cabinet member that the forecast underspend of £343k in 2012/13 in the keeping children safe section of the report covered a range of activities and this would not affect safeguarding.

Members briefly discussed issues relating to child poverty, the establishment of the troubled family initiatives, school attendance and the link between child abuse and domestic abuse.

RESOLVED :

THAT a briefing paper be brought to a future meeting regarding child poverty.

29. **Schools capital programme**

The Chief Executive gave a powerpoint presentation on the latest position on the school re-organisation capital programme. The focus for the 2012/13 programme was outlined. The majority of project spend was with local companies. A breakdown was given of the moves by eight primary schools in 2011/12 and 2012/13 to previous middle school sites. In addition extensive remodelling works were carried out at four other primary schools. The progress with the four new build primary schools was reported. Two of these were design and build schemes with the other two being under the new standard design scheme introduced following the James review of the school capital system. The current position on the surplus sites for disposal was given. With regard to the future of the former Haylands site it was indicated that this would pass onto Ryde Academy as originally intended.

Members were advised of the recent announcement of four schools being included by the Education Funding Agency in its priority school building programme. The changes to future capital funding arrangements and the overall implications for the council were explained. There was need to ensure that redundant sites were disposed of as quickly as possible so to reduce the revenue costs associated with such sites.

The changes to future funding of the school capital programme and the associated implications were reported. It was likely that future allocations would only be sufficient to cover maintenance and basic need works.

The panel was then updated with the latest position regarding the Cowes One School Pathfinder programme and the delays that were being experienced with its completion. The Strategic Director for Economy and Environment had now been given the responsibility to oversee the school capital programme and he explained the steps that had already been put in place to assist in the completion of the Cowes scheme. Members discussed whether a task group should be established on this matter but given the ongoing investigations it would not be appropriate at this stage but would be reviewed at an appropriate time.

RESOLVED :

THAT the position regarding the schools re-organisation capital programme and associated matters be noted.

30. **Forward Plan and consultations**

The panel was advised by the cabinet member of a statement that she had issued about the proposed relocation of the services for alternative education provision to the former primary school site in Love Lane, Cowes. As the result of the consultation exercise this would be withdrawn and further options explored.

Clarification was provided on the decision making process for the disposal of the former West Wight Middle School site.

The final decision regarding the music service following the public consultation exercise would be taken by the cabinet on 8 January 2013.

RESOLVED :

THAT the issues be noted.

CHAIRMAN