



Minutes

Name of meeting	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2009 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, 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)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Dawn Cousins, David Pugh
Officers Present	Steve Beynon, Deborah Cameron, Brian Edwards, Julie Martin, Duncan Mills, Peter Newell, Keith Simmonds, Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Mrs Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representative)
Other members present (non-voting)	Cllrs Vanessa Churchman and Geoff Lumley

6. **Minutes**

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [23 September 2009](#) be confirmed.

7. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Roger Mazillius declared a personal interest in Minute 9 as his son was a Director of ERM Ltd who provided an Architectural related service to the Isle of Wight Council and also as he was a Governor of Northwood Primary School, Love Lane Primary School and Cowes High School.

Councillor Chris Welsford declared a personal interest in Minute 9 - School Re-organisation, as he was the Chairman of Standards Not Tiers and was still an interested party in the movement.

Mr David Miller declared a personal interest in Minute 9 - 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 9 - School Re-organisation, 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.

Councillor William Wyatt-Millington declared a personal interest in Minute 9 - School Re-organisation, as he was a Governor of Chale and Niton School.

Councillor George Cameron declared a personal interest in Minute 9 - School Re-organisation, as he was a Committee Member of West Wight Youth Club.

8. 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 delivering the Isle of Wight Council's Safeguarding Strategy. The Strategy had been approved by the Cabinet at its meeting on 13 October 2009 following consideration by the panel. It had been agreed that the panel would monitor the delivery of the actions. It was noted that it was intended that the Strategy would be delivered within available resources.

There was some discussion with regard to high rate of contacts referred to the Assessment and Intervention Team by other agencies, particularly the police. There was evidence of some inconsistent practices and an improved risk assessment tool for use in dealing with new contacts and referrals was being developed.

It was noted that the common assessment framework had increased referrals to over 100 in the past five months.

The panel was advised that the council had not experienced any delay with getting CRB checks undertaken for staff. The level of sickness absence was raised. This was showing an improvement when compared with the previous year despite the stressful nature of the work involved. There were some concerns however as to the rate for staff within the fostering team.

Officers advised of steps being taken to ensure that staff had sufficient time to undertake data quality activities. A pilot scheme had been introduced. The panel indicated that it would like to have a report on the effectiveness of the scheme.

In considering safeguarding aspects of Every Child Matters the Chairman indicated that the council had not yet adopted the Every Disabled Child Matters charter. He requested that this should be an agenda item for a future meeting.

The panel's views was sought on the format and content of future monitoring reports on the delivery of the safeguarding strategy.

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT the action taken so far on the delivery of the safeguarding strategy be endorsed.
- (ii) THAT any additional activity which may improve performance in this critical area be recommended to the lead member for Children for consideration.
- (iii) THAT the next monitoring report to include details on the increase in the number of referrals together with an initial assessment of the data quality days introduced for children's social work teams.
- (iv) THAT consideration be given at a future meeting to the Every Disabled Child Matters charter.

9. **School Re-organisation**

Members were updated by way of a powerpoint presentation as to where the Council was in relation to school re-organisation. The following key points were highlighted : -

- Higher engagement from local communities;
- Current A Level's did not provide for right combinations for electronic engineering;
- Moved from process stage to implementation – could not have slippage during implementation;
- Member Board – monthly meetings held;
- Project broken down into a number of work strands – each strand had a lead officer;
- Primary school governors in place by December 2009 - Leadership of the new secondary schools in place by March 2010;
- Detailed school booklet to be sent to every member of staff by week ending 13 November 2009;
- HR support specifically for work solely related to school transfers;
- Basic schools capital approximately £8m for 2010 – 2011;
- New formula in place from 2011;
- First round of meetings with providers of school meals held;
- Christ the King would not have an admissions round in 2010 – would be an 11 – 19 school by then, in year transfers only;
- By April 2010 of teachers of primary school age would have jobs in a primary school but would be loaned to middle schools for a year;
- Voluntary aided schools could apply a faith criteria to appoint staff which presently only applied to the appointment of the Head and Deputy Head;

There was some discussion as to when parents would be advised. The panel was told that there were three stages involved and a detailed booklet of information was being prepared and would be sent to every parent by the end of November 2009. The booklet would contain a description of what would be happening to each child.

With regard to accommodation and associated building works a key person from each school would work with Council colleagues. The Council's Communication Team would provide regular updates for the local media.

Members expressed some concern that the church diocesan representatives were again absent from the meeting.

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT the report be noted.
- (ii) THAT a progress report on the key work strands be submitted to the panel at future meetings.
- (iii) THAT the chairman contact the church diocesan representatives regarding their attendance at meetings of the panel.

10. Annual Review of Achievement

The panel considered the annual review of achievement for 2009. This was supported by a short presentation by the Interim Assistant Director (Schools) and the Acting Heads of Learning and Achievement.

The report brought together evidence from services delivery, school visits, monitoring activities, training and development, projects, Ofsted inspections and the annual performance indicators provided by central government.

The key findings were outlined. Whilst there had been improved outcomes across many key stages there was still an unacceptable gap between achievement and the national average at key stage 2 and 4. It was noted that the findings arising from Ofsted inspections did not correlate to academic achievement within schools.

An outline was given of the highlights, issues and challenges and planned outcomes for each key stage. In addition data for attendance, behaviour and exclusions; able gifted and talented; children in care; special educational needs; children educated other than at school; ethnic minority achievement and sport were outlined.

The opportunities afforded by school re-organisation to assist in the drive to improve achievement was stressed. The quality of leadership and management of schools was also a key element. Each school had to be challenged on their own individual performance by all partners and the role of governing bodies was instrumental in this process.

The panel congratulated officers on the comprehensive report produced.

RESOLVED :

THAT the annual review of achievement be noted.

CHAIRMAN