



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL</b>
Date and time	<b>5 FEBRUARY 2013 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs Barry Abraham, Paul Fuller, Roger Mazillius Colin Richards, Gary Taylor, Margaret Webster
Co-opted Members (voting)	David Miller, Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representatives)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Dawn Cousins, David Pugh
Officers Present	Ian Anderson, Steve Beynon, Chris Mathews, Paul Thistlewood
Other members present	Cllrs Vanessa Churchman, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Geoff Lumley, Dave Stewart, Chris Welsford
Apologies	Cllr George Cameron, Tony Blackshaw, Urszula Topp (Diocesan Representatives)

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31. **Election of Chairman for the meeting**

Members were advised due to illness the chairman of the panel had sent his apologies. It was therefore necessary to appoint a chairman for the meeting. The names of both councillor Gary Taylor and Paul Fuller were nominated and seconded and after a show of hands it was :-

**RESOLVED :**

THAT Councillor Gary Taylor be elected chairman for the meeting.

32. **Minutes**

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the Minutes of the meetings held on [7](#), [19](#) and [28](#) November 2012 be confirmed.

33. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Mrs Sara Sheath declared an interest as she was previously a member of the Schools Forum, a Local Authority Governor and an exam invigilator 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 an interest 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.

Councillor Paul Fuller declared an interest as he had children at Cowes Enterprise College, was a local authority governor at Northwood Primary School and knew the chair and clerk to the IW Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

34. [Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education \(SACRE\) annual report](#)

The chairman welcomed Mr Harry Kirby, Clerk to SACRE, to the meeting. Mr Kirby introduced the annual report for 2011-2012 and indicated that this was the first time that it had been formally submitted to the panel. He outlined the background to SACRE and how it operated. Key issues relating to the advisory council's work was highlighted. The absence of data was creating some difficulties in being able to collate Ofsted's views on the religious education in schools. Funding arrangements were explained together with the faiths that were represented.

Members discussed the way collective worship was undertaken in schools. The panel was appreciative of the work of the advisory council in ensuring that there was a greater awareness of the range of cultures in modern society.

RESOLVED :

THAT the annual report for 2011-2012 from the Isle of Wight Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education be received.

35. [Ofsted report on the inspection of local authority arrangements for the protection of children](#)

The panel had before it the report by Ofsted of its inspection of the council's arrangements for the protection of children arising from its visit between 26 November 2012 and 5 December 2012. It also had a copy of the response to the findings due to be considered by the cabinet at its meeting on 12 February 2013.

The Strategic Director for Community Wellbeing and Social Care updated members on a number of issues that had come to light since the preparation of the cabinet report. The actions being taken to address the areas of concern were outlined. A measured approach was required to addressing the

issues to enable improvements to become sustained. This would involve revising the senior officer structure and this was to be considered by the Employment Committee on 4 March 2013. The range of actions being taken in specific areas was highlighted and these would form part of a transformation programme. The delivery of the programme would be overseen by a multi agency improvement board headed by an independent chairman. The proposed budget for 2013/14 would include funding of £100,000 to fund the delivery of any actions required. A similar sum would be forthcoming from the NHS and there was the likelihood of additional financial support from the Children's Improvement Board. To provide additional staffing capacity a further sum of £275,000 would be available from savings within the community and wellbeing directorate together with an additional £100,000 for increased placement costs.

The panel discussed the statutory role of the Director of Children's Service, which had been debated at the previous meeting, and lead member for children's services. The council was also not alone in having difficulties in recruiting experienced social workers despite the market supplement being offered. Although the safeguarding service had been the subject of a peer review by the Local Government Association Improvement and Development Agency in the spring of 2012 Ofsted had introduced a new inspection framework in May 2012 which was more rigorous. The peer review did not have the ability to inspect case files and members were also made aware that the cabinet member, even in her role of statutory lead member, did not have access to these.

Members indicated that there should be an action plan produced detailing the improvements to be made, resource implications, timeframe and who was responsible for delivery. This would then enable the panel to challenge progress at each of its future meetings. Given the situation it was also believed that a special meeting of the panel should be held before the commencement of the pre-election period in March 2013 so that full consideration could be given to the implementation of robust safeguarding arrangements.

A query was raised by a member, not on the panel, which officers were unable to comment on.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT a special meeting of the panel be held before the commencement of the pre-election period to consider an update on progress with actions arising from the Ofsted inspection of the council's safeguarding arrangements for children.

**36. 2013/14 – 2014/15 Budget Strategy**

Consideration was given to the report to the cabinet on 12 February 2013 regarding the medium term budget strategy for 2013/14 to 2015/16. The elements of the budget for the key priorities of raising educational standards and keeping children safe were outlined. The areas proposed for revenue

savings within schools and learning was explained together with the wider implications of changes to the education services grant.

The panel was informed that a number of schools would be moving to academy status from September 2013. This would impact upon the budget for the provision of core functions.

The situation regarding significant capital works was reported and members noted that a date for educational occupation at the new Cowes Enterprise College was still to be agreed.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the budget strategy for services coming within the remit of the panel be accepted.

**37. Quarter 3 performance report**

The relevant elements of the performance report for quarter 3, which was being submitted to the cabinet on 12 February 2013, were circulated.

This identified the status of the corporate priorities of raising educational standards and keeping children safe. The situation regarding keeping children safe, given what had been discussed earlier in the meeting, was rated as red.

The rating for raising educational standards had changed from red in quarter 2 to amber. This was a reflection of work being done to reduce exclusions and improve attendance.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the quarter 3 performance report be noted.

**38. Forward Plan and consultations**

Clarification was given on the proposed delegated decisions relating to the schools capital programme and details of the allocation for 2013/14 and beyond was still awaited from the Department for Education.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the matters be noted.

**39. Members' Question Time**

An oral question from Mr David Miller was put to the chairman in relation to the possible establishment of a studio school: and a free school on the Island. The Chief Executive, at the request of the chairman, indicated the council's position in these matters and welcomed any move to improve attainments.

An oral question from Councillor Roger Mazillius was put to the chairman in relation to the appointment of a school improvement partner. The Chief Executive, at the request of the chairman, advised the panel that the council had still to identify a suitable authority.

CHAIRMAN