



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL</b>
Date and time	<b>WEDNESDAY, 8 JUNE 2011 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs George Cameron (Chairman) Paul Fuller, John Howe, David Stewart, Gary Taylor
Co-opted Members (voting)	David Miller (Parent Governor Representatives, Emily Fletcher, Urszula Topp (Diocesan Representatives)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Barry Abraham, Dawn Cousins
Officers Present	Ian Anderson, Steve Beynon, Astrid Davies, Roger Edwardson, Mark Howell, Ali Matthews, Janet Newton, Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representative)

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1. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [13 April 2011](#) be confirmed.

2. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Gary Taylor declared a personal interest in Minute 4 as he was a member of the AET stakeholder group.

Councillor Dave Stewart declared a personal interest in Minute 4, as a member of his family was employed at Carisbrooke High School, another at Sandown Bay primary and another at Sandown High School.

Mr David Miller declared a personal interest in Minute 4, as he had children at Northwood Primary School, where his wife was also a Governor, and at Solent Middle School. He was a parent governor of Solent Middle School, and a member of Cowes Community Partnership associated with the Cowes Pathfinder Partnership

Councillor Paul Fuller declared a personal interest in Minutes 3 and 4 as he had children at Cowes High School and Solent Middle School, was an authority governor at Cowes High School and Northwood Primary School and was on the management committee of Cowes Youth Centre.

Councillor John Howe declared a personal interest in Minutes 3 and 4 as he was a Governor of Weston Community School, St Saviours School, West Wight Middle School, West Wight Nursery and a Committee Member of West Wight Youth Club.

Councillor George Cameron declared a personal interest in Minutes 3 and 4 as he was on the board of the Freshwater Early Years Service and the management committee of West Wight Youth Centre.

### 3. Youth Service Proposals

The panel received a Power Point presentation from Mark Howell, Head of Commissioning for Community Support and Astrid Davies, Commissioning Manager, Building Community Capacity on proposals that were to be considered by the cabinet on 21 June 2011 relating to the future of the youth service. The background to the review was outlined including the council's statutory obligations. As the result of a reduction in government funding it was necessary for the council to look at how to reduce expenditure on the youth service whilst meeting its statutory obligations.

Figures had indicated that service usage was 16% and that expenditure was around £71 per young person compared with £52 in neighbouring authorities. It was essential that the Island service demonstrated value for money. It was therefore intended to concentrate the council's reduced resources on its statutory duty for 13-19 year olds and up to 24 for those with a learning disability. Service delivery would involve a move away from a focus on buildings to more outreach provision. A number of the existing youth centres had limitations due to their age and design and lacked facilities for those with disabilities.

This approach would enable local community groups to offer non statutory provision. The council could still retain an involvement in this through the use of its premises.

The current system of management committees would be replaced by an area based structure with the focus being on the needs of young people rather than the delivery of a service from a particular site. This approach would involve partnership structures already operating in that area, practitioners, community groups and young people. A single strategic plan would be formulated from the area plans.

A revised staffing structure would be introduced to take into account the new approach and different working arrangements. This would then enable the service to be commissioned and include both the statutory and non statutory elements.

The panel raised concerns as to the length of time taken to review youth service provision. This was primarily due to the review initially concentrating on the existing youth centre sites. The latest work had concentrated on delivering services where young people wanted it. This therefore did not have to link in with a specific building and there would be a greater emphasis on outreach work.

Representatives of the IW Youth Council, Ben Yates (Chair), Robbie Cooper, Lawrie Mason, Anthony Cooke, Alister Webb together with Daniel Clarke (Deputy Member Youth Parliament) had been invited by the chairman to provide an input into this item.

They indicated that the Youth Council was aware of changes to provision being discussed for the previous three years. Its involvement had to date been minimal and the Youth Council would welcome the ability to become more involved in the consultation process. The representatives queried how the success of any new provision would be measured.

The panel was reminded of the importance of school councils and that with six secondary schools these could provide an opportunity to gather the views of 13 to 19 year olds. Members also raised the importance of obtaining the comments of the wider community to help shape future service provision.

The consultation exercise would commence after the Cabinet on 21 June 2011 and be for a 12 week period. The cabinet member assured the panel that, after considering any comments received, he would be taking a delegated decision on this matter at the end of September/early October 2011.

**RESOLVED :**

- (i) THAT the cabinet member should ensure that the Isle of Wight Youth Council is involved in the consultation process.
- (ii) THAT the school councils in the six secondary schools should be specifically invited to comment on the proposals.

4. **School Re-organisation**

The panel considered a progress report on key work strands for the school re-organisation project.

The Schools Capital Programme Project Director indicated that works on the Cowes Enterprise College was progressing ahead of schedule. Instead of completion being March 2013 this was now due to be December 2012 and would enable pupils to start using the facility from September 2012. It was noted that not all pupils within the school were kept updated with information. Additionally there appeared to be better engagement between the existing and interim governing bodies.

Mention was made in the report of discussions being held with the Island Innovation Trust (IIT) and Academies Enterprise Trust (AET) regarding curriculum development. It was noted that the island was unique in having a

specific provision regarding the attendance by representatives of the two trusts at meetings of the scrutiny panel.

A brief update was given on personnel issues. With regard to furniture and equipment the requirements of all schools had been met. All surplus stock would be held for a short period and arrangements made for distribution to the voluntary sector in accordance with normal protocols.

Representatives of the Youth Council indicated that they would be interested to see if there was an improvement in the level of pupil attainment improved as the result of school re-organisation.

The panel discussed a range of issues connected with home to school transport. In particular the review being undertaken of the proposed changes to post 16 learners and those attending faith schools was raised. Clarification was given as to the regulations regarding free transport for primary and secondary aged pupils and the attendance of schools on religious grounds. Each admission authority was also responsible for setting its own entitlement areas.

**RESOLVED :**

- (i) THAT a more detailed report be submitted on the transfer of personnel, both teaching and non teaching, to the next meeting.
- (ii) THAT officers take steps to ensure that all pupils at Cowes High School are engaged in the development of the new Cowes Enterprise College and that there is an effective liaison between the governing bodies.
- (iii) THAT a report be submitted to the next meeting on the new curriculum on offer at Island secondary schools.

**5. Corporate Parenting Strategy 2011**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education and the Deputy Director for Children's Safeguarding and Family Services indicated that the Corporate Parenting Strategy would be submitted to the full council meeting on 15 June 2011. An opportunity was provided for the panel to comment on the content of the strategy and clarify any issues.

The background to the formulation of the strategy was explained and particular reference made to the pledge made to children in care by the full council in October 2010. An outline was provided of the new structure of the Corporate Parenting Board and the three Action Groups. The strategy also contained the standards against which progress with service delivery would be evaluated.

In discussing the content of the strategy the panel highlighted that in the action plan there were no target dates shown for pledges 4 and 5. The role of school governing bodies was explained and the council had no power to compel these to take action. The Chief Executive advised that early in the new academic year all local authority appointed governors would be invited to attend a training session on their role. The panel believed that this might afford a useful

opportunity for it to gain a better understanding of the role and responsibility of governing bodies.

Specific training was provided for all members upon election to the council on their own role and responsibility as corporate parents. It was felt that it would be useful for panel members to attend any induction training session on corporate training following the forthcoming Binstead and Fishbourne by-election.

**RESOLVED :**

- (i) THAT subject to target dates being inserted in the action plan in respect of pledges 4 and 5 the Corporate Parenting Strategy is supported.
- (ii) THAT arrangements be made for the panel to attend the training session for local authority appointed school governors.
- (iii) THAT arrangements be made for the panel to attend the member induction session on corporate parenting following the Binstead and Fishbourne by-election.

6. **Performance and Budget**

(a) **Quality Performance and Strategic Risk Management Report – Quarter 4 2010/11.**

The Chairman referred to the report considered by the cabinet on 10 May 2011. The cabinet had requested that both this panel and the health and community wellbeing scrutiny panel establish a joint working group to look at the issues regarding the rates of hospital admission per 100,000 for alcohol related harm.

Members of the panel had no other significant issues with regard to the performance information.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT a joint working group be established with the Health and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel on the rates of hospital admission on the Island for alcohol related harm.

(b) **Budget 2010/11 and 2011/12.**

The panel was made aware that an outline budget timetable indicating the key events and overview and scrutiny meetings had been produced and would be circulated.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the matter be noted.

7. **Forward Plan**

Members were advised of items contained in the Forward Plan for June to September 2011 of relevance.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the Forward Plan be noted.

CHAIRMAN