



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL</b>
Date and time	<b>WEDNESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2011 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs George Cameron (Chairman), Paul Fuller, John Howe, David Stewart, Gary Taylor
Statutory Co-opted Members (voting)	Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representative) Emily Fletcher, Urszula Topp (Diocesan Representatives)
Cabinet Member	Cllr Dawn Cousins
Officers Present	Ian Anderson, Steve Beynon, Chris Mathews, Ali Matthews, Janet Newton, Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Mr David Miller (Parent Governor Representative)

---

## 17. **Minutes**

Members were made aware of comments that had been received in respect of the minutes but considered that these were not intended to be a verbatim record of what was said and that a sound recording of the meeting was available on the Council's website.

### RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [14 September 2011](#) be confirmed.

## 18. **Declarations of Interest**

Mrs Sara Sheath declared a personal interest in Minutes 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 as she was a member of Children's Trust Board, chair of the Admissions Forum, a member of the Schools Forum, a Local Authority Governor 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.

Councillor Paul Fuller declared a personal interest in Minutes 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 as he had children at Cowes Enterprise College and Solent Middle School, was an authority governor at Northwood Primary School and was on the management committee of Cowes Youth Centre.

Councillor Gary Taylor declared a personal interest in Minutes 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 as he was a Local Authority Governor on Ryde Academy.

Councillor Dave Stewart declared a personal interest in Minutes 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 as a member of his family was employed at Carisbrooke High School, another at Sandown Bay primary and another at Sandown High School.

Councillor John Howe declared a personal interest in Minutes 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 as he was a Governor of Weston Community School, St Saviours School, West Wight Nursery and a Committee Member of West Wight Youth Club and West Wight Sports Centre.

Councillor George Cameron declared a personal interest in Minutes 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 as he was on the board of the Freshwater Early Years Service and the management committee of West Wight Youth Centre.

19. **Public Questions Time**

Mr N. Dominey, a governor of Lane End Primary School asked a question in relation to the costs of phase 3 works to Lane End Primary School and the completion date. The Cabinet Member, together with the Project Director for the Schools Capital Programme, responded to the issues and indicated that there was to be a meeting that week with the Head Teacher and governing body.

20. **Children in Care and Adoption Performance Tables**

Members requested an initial overview of the Council's performance as contained in the recently published national tables by the Department for Education. Prior to presenting this the Deputy Director for Safeguarding indicated that the Ofsted inspection report arising from its visit on 5 September 2011 had now been received. This would be the subject of a future agenda item together with a supporting action plan. The Ofsted report was broadly positive about the Council's adoption service and found it to be satisfactory. There were 9 recommendations compared with the 14 contained in the 2007 inspection report.

The Council had performed very well in respect of the percentage of looked after children who had been adopted within 12 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption. The Cabinet Member highlighted that there was shortly to be a recruitment campaign undertaken for prospective adopters. The Panel was advised that children were normally placed off Island so to avoid contact with their birth families. The council worked with a number of other councils in a consortium. In addition there was a need to make more effective use of alternative arrangements.

It was possible to take steps to mitigate against any time delay but in some cases the court process could take up to two years. Proposals to reduce this to six months were being looked at nationally.

Difficulties were being experienced with the percentage of children with three or more placements and this was an area where improvements were required. This was predominately due to the number of teenagers involved. Members

considered the importance of meeting the mental health needs of young people. It was indicated that this would be an appropriate item for the panel to have a report on at a future meeting.

The Panel raised some concerns over the percentage of looked after children cases which had not been reviewed within the specified time limits. A review of the administrative support required to undertake this work had led to additional staff resources being made available.

Members discussed the poor performance with regard to the number of former care leavers aged 19 who were not in education, employment or training. It was noted that in some authorities there had been specific grant provision available for initiatives. Due to the current jobs market on the Island it was estimated that there were 30 positions available for young people in the job market on the Island. Another area where the Council's performance required improvement was that for looked after children's absence.

The Council would always have difficulty with the performance measure for the number of looked after children placed more than 20 miles from the Council's boundary. No recognition was given to the separation by water.

The Deputy Director for Safeguarding outlined the range of improvements that were being introduced. This should result in an upward trend in performance.

**RESOLVED :**

- a. THAT consideration be given to the Ofsted inspection report on the Council's adoption service at the next meeting.
- b. THAT a review of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) be included within the Panel's workplan.
- c. THAT the Deputy Director for Safeguarding ascertain whether proposed changes to the benefits system would impact upon the ability of young people to find their own accommodation when leaving care.

21. **School Re-organisation**

The Project Director for the Schools Capital Programme gave a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on progress with elements of the school re-organisation project. She outlined the achievements for October 2011. The One School Pathfinder programme was on track and a topping out ceremony would take place on 5 December 2011. Members were made aware of the elements and costs contained in phases 2 and 3 of the capital programme. Surplus resources which were not required by schools were to be distributed to pre-schools, children's centres and voluntary organisations. Good progress was being made with the estates strategy dealing with planning permissions and marketing of surplus sites.

The schools capital programme for 2011-2013 would contain four elements. These were modernisation, planned maintenance, environmental sustainability and fencing/security.

The Cabinet Member indicated that the school re-organisation project was now almost completed. The Project Board would produce a final report on the delivery of the key aspects of the project. This would be submitted to the Panel. In future the Panel could then look at the schools capital programme on an annual basis. Members would also be able to scrutinise the impact of re-organisation on school attainment.

RESOLVED :

- a. THAT the final report of the School Re-organisation Project Board be considered by the Panel;
- b. THAT the regular monitoring report be replaced by an annual report on the schools capital programme.

**22. Budget and Performance**

(a) [Quarterly Performance Management Report – Quarter 2 2011/12](#)

The Panel noted that the Quarter 2 figures had not yet been published. Its ability to deal with school performance was discussed and it was noted that there was no statutory basis for the Panel to visit schools. Members were reminded however of the unique arrangements in place with the new secondary providers on performance measures.

Mention was made of the recent training provided for local authority appointed governors. It was hoped that arrangements could be made for the Panel either to attend another training session or given a short briefing prior to its next meeting.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Cabinet Member assist with appropriate arrangements for the Panel to be briefed on the role of local authority appointed governors.

(b) [Budget 2011/12 and 2012/13](#)

The Cabinet Member indicated that the budget for 2011/12 was on target. There were some elements where difficulties were being experienced but any overspend would be contained within the overall budget. The services required to be delivered would be done so within the financial constraints.

**23. [Forward Plan](#)**

The Panel sought confirmation that the delegated decision relating to the future of the youth service would be taken by the end of November 2011. The Strategic Director for Community Wellbeing and Social Care advised that a report had been drafted in preparation of the decision being taken by that date.

With regard to home to school transport members were informed that arrangements had been put in place for pupils attending after school activities to be issued with a special pass enabling them to use a service bus. Carisbrooke Academy was to provide activities in Freshwater for pupils living in that area.

RESOLVED :

THAT the matters be noted

24. Progress Report on Recommendations

Reference was made to the possibility of the Panel receiving projections for Key Stage 2 results. The Chief Executive indicated that he was aware that this information was available and this suggested that 2012 could see the biggest rise in Key Stage 2 performance on the Island.

The Panel had requested further training on Corporate Parenting and the Cabinet Member sought clarification on what was required. She stated that when a similar session had been held for all members of the Council attendance had been very poor.

RESOLVED :

- a. THAT the Panel receive details of the projections for Key Stage 2 outcomes for 2012.
- b. THAT a progress report on the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Strategy be submitted to the Panel.

CHAIRMAN