



Notes of evidence

Name of meeting	POLICY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOL RESULTS
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Commission	Cllrs Gill Kennett (Commissioner), George Cameron, Win McRobert, David Whittaker
Cabinet	Patrick Joyce, Melanie Swan
Other Councillors	Cllr Susan Scoccia
Officers Present	Keith Simmonds; Paul Thistlewood; George Weech
Apologies	Cllrs John Effemey, Muriel Miller

1. **Notes of Evidence**

The Notes of evidence arising at the meeting held on [25 July 2007](#) were agreed.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Gill Kennett declared a personal interest as a relative was employed in a Pupil Referral Unit.

3. **Youth Engagement Strategy**

The Commission reviewed the evidence compiled to date in relation to the enquiry. Besides the 5 formal meetings members had also been involved in 8 informal meetings/visits. A number of bodies and organisations had also been invited to submit written and this had resulted in 19 responses.

The Commissioner referred to a number of reports recently issued by the Government and related national youth organisations. In particular the ten year strategy, "Aiming High for Young People", had been published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and HM Treasury in July 2007 contained similar issues that had been identified by the Commission.

It was noted that there were some other key integrated policies being formulated within Children's Services which would have synergy with the draft youth engagement strategy.

The enquiry had highlighted many areas of good practice. The majority of young people gave a positive contribution to the community and this should be celebrated. The areas for more effective working between statutory and voluntary youth provision related to preventative and intervention work.

The Commission identified the need to meet with Connexions, Combined Cadet Force and the Chairmen of Youth Centre Management Committees. Following these it was anticipated that consideration could be given to a draft Blue Paper.