



Minutes

Name of meeting	POLICY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOL RESULTS
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2009 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Commission	Cllrs George Cameron (Commissioner), John Effemey Charles Hancock, David Whittaker
Cabinet	Cllr Alan Wells
Officers Present	Alison Dempsey, Clare Messenger; Julie Martin, Keith Simmonds, Paul Thistlewood, Keith Woods – Isle of Wight Council Rachael Hayes – PCT Jo Blake – CSC Consultants
Apologies	Cllrs Roger Mazillius, Lady Pigot

13. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on [25 June 2008](#), together with the notes of the inquorate meeting held on [25 September 2008](#) were agreed.

14. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made at this stage.

15. Short Breaks for Children with Disability

a. Scope of the Enquiry

The Commission was advised of the Government's guidance on short breaks for children with disability as contained in a joint initiative between the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Health as part of its strategy Aiming High for Disabled Children.

The Council has to demonstrate its readiness to implement a programme of new initiatives by March 2009. The Commission would therefore be involved in identifying the range and level of service provision required by users that should be included within the Council's proposed programme.

RESOLVED

THAT the scope of the enquiry be agreed.

b. **Briefing on Aiming Higher for Disabled Children**

To assist the Council in formulating its proposed programme it had appointed Jo Blake of CSC Consultants. She had been involved in a pilot project with North Tyneside Council.

Ms Blake gave an outline of the key features of the Aiming Higher programme and explained how this would impact on existing services. It was necessary to collate information on all the current provision made for short breaks to identify where there were gaps. The programme was aimed at children with highly complex needs. A short break could take the form of a day, evening, weekend, holiday or overnight activity or experience.

The Council would be allocated ring fenced revenue funding of £146,000 for 2009/10 and £473,000 for 2010/11 together with capital of £71,000 and £165,000 over the two year period. The Council had to demonstrate that this funding would be used for new and not existing initiatives. A sum of £40,000 had been made available for 2008/09 to assist in preparatory work. In addition to this funding the PCT would also receive new growth funding. This would not be ring fenced. From April 2011 short breaks would be a statutory to be provided by Councils and there would be a specific performance indicator introduced.

The intention of the programme was to help reduce the need for long term residential care and give parents, carers and clients a better quality and range of service provision designed to meet individual needs. This could be through a care package or by direct payment. Provision could be delivered by a partner organisation or individual if this fulfilled the criteria.

Members were advised of the actions that would be undertaken to ensure that a draft plan was completed by the end of March 2009

The Commission raised concerns about funding from the Government for this programme. There was no indication as to how any service provision was to be funded after the ring fenced grant ceased in 2012. Additionally the money available from the PCT would depend upon the priority it accorded to the programme given all the pressures within health care.

A workshop was to be held on 21 January 2009 at which there would be a range of key stakeholders, including parents. This would help identify what type of services could be included within the programme and how these could be developed. In addition to this a mapping exercise of existing provision and providers was being collated.

RESOLVED :

THAT members of the Commission attend the workshop to be held on 21 January 2009.

CHAIRMAN