



Notes of evidence

Name of meeting	POLICY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOL RESULTS
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2008 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Commission	Cllrs George Cameron (Commissioner), John Effemey, Gill Kennett, Roger Mazillius, Muriel Miller, David Whittaker
Cabinet	Cllr Alan Wells
Officers Present	Steve Beynon, Simon Dear, Alison Dempsey, Julie Martin, Clare Messenger, Paul Thistlewood

1. **Notes of Evidence**

The Notes of evidence arising at the meeting held on [27 February 2008](#) were agreed.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

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

Cllr Alan Wells declared a personal interest in minute 3 (a) – The Youth Engagement Strategy - as he had relatives working in the education system and the pre school sector.

Cllr Alan Wells declared a personal interest in minute 3 (b) – SEN Strategy 2008 – 2012 as he had relatives working in Challenge and Adventure.

3. **Reports of the Director of Children’s Services**

(a) The Youth Engagement Strategy

The Committee was given an outline of the proposed Integrated Support Service for young people and a summary of the implementation plan for April to September 2008.

It was anticipated that there would be more youth workers delivering integrated support services to young people when and where they were most needed. There was also a possibility of providing Connexion services in other Council premises such as

libraries and youth centres. Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 the Council had a duty to ensure that sufficient recreational activities were provided for young people.

The Commission was told that funding for specific schemes would be available through 'My Place'. Concern was expressed by members that details of this had only just been released and bids had to be submitted by September 2008.

There was some discussion relating to the purchase of modern multi function double decker buses, which could travel to where a need had been identified.

Members indicated that the costs of implementing the proposed Integrated Youth Engagement Strategy should be submitted to the Commission.

RESOLVED

THAT officers be instructed to develop a fully costed business case to implement the outlined plan.

(b) Special Educational Needs – Learners with Difficulties and Disabilities Strategy 2008 – 2012

Members were advised that the authority was required to have a Special Educational Needs Strategy. The council's strategy also included those with learning difficulties and disabilities which was a wider group than previously.

Services would be realigned to ensure that there would be more effective integration thereby enabling work to be undertaken in a holistic way.

It was anticipated that consultation would be undertaken with stakeholders with the documents being extensively available.

The Commission discussed the rise in the number of children requiring specific support. This was mainly due to better identification processes particularly at an earlier age. The Director indicated the work being undertaken to reduce the need for mainland placement by development of appropriate on Island provision.

Members asked that the final version of the Strategy, including budgetary costs, be brought back to the Policy Commission before being presented to the Cabinet in September 2008.

RESOLVED :

THAT the consultation process and timeline for the strategy be approved and the brought back to the Policy Commission meeting due to be held in August 2008.