



Notes of evidence

Name of meeting	POLICY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOL RESULTS
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY 2007 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Commission	Cllrs Gill Kennett (Commissioner), George Cameron, Win McRobert, Muriel Miller
Cabinet Members	Melanie Swan
Officers Present	Julie Martin, Paul Thistlewood, Chris Vieler-Porter, George Weech
Stakeholders	Inspector Mark Bell (Community Safety Inspector for the Island Police), Simon Dennis (Interim Operations Manager for the Safer Neighbourhood Partnership), Heather Lovell (Interim Head of Service for the Safer Neighbourhood Partnership)
Apologies	John Effemey, David Whittaker

1. **Notes of Evidence**

The Notes of evidence arising at the meeting held on [13 June 2007](#) were agreed.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Gill Kennett declared a personal interest as her daughter was employed by the Isle of Wight Council as a teacher.

3. **Youth Engagement Strategy**

Members were told there were six main strands arising from the Respect Action Plan that impacted directly on the work of that Policy Commission was currently engaged in :-

(i) Supporting Families

There was an Early Intervention Team, referrals were also taken from partner agencies.

(ii) A New Approach to the most Challenging Families

Most of the problem families lived within 27 streets on the Isle of Wight.

(iii) Improving Behaviour and Attendance in Schools

Linked in with Children's Services. One of their targets for the Local Area Agreement was around truancy. Joint truancy sweeps were already being undertaken.

(iv) Activities for Children and Young People

Sport was seen as an important element in youth engagement and the provision of suitable role models.

(v) Strengthening Communities

Anti-Social Behaviour was a key area but it was not always young people that created such problems.

(vi) Effective Enforcement and Community Justice

Community payback and restorative justice.

Specific areas were targeted whereby graffiti would be removed and walls painted.

There were currently 17 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's) on the Isle of Wight. Only four of those were for young people under the age of 18, the rest were for 18 – 25 year olds.

There were also 41 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, the youngest being a 13 year old up to someone in their 50's.

ASBO's were extremely effective on the Island as they could be administered and monitored very effectively.

Problems associated with youngsters and alcohol was quite a problem on the Island. There had been 32 seizures of alcohol from under age youngsters on Friday, 27 July 2007 with 100 seizures across the Island since June 2007. Under age sales of alcohol were being tackled with 35 operations being carried out. Of those there had been five failures with one premise failing twice.

It was anticipated that a Police Link Worker was to be employed. That person would take on young people's issues and work along side the Extended Youth Agenda.

Members asked how early intervention was co-ordinated and were advised that a Panel was made up of a number of Partner Agencies who used a filtering process.

Pure Events had been held across the Island which had been very successful. It was hoped that they could be re-launched but with several venues across the Island being used at the same time instead of just one.

There was some discussion that young people wanted someone other than a Sports Champion as not everyone was into sports. It was thought that perhaps a Role Model Programme within schools could be set up. Role Models could be taken from across the community and able to relate to young people.

A mentoring programme for Looked After Children was to be set up and young adult mentors were being sought.

The Commissioner thanked the representatives from the Safer Neighbourhood Partnership for attending and providing evidence for the enquiry.