



Notes of evidence

Name of meeting	POLICY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOL RESULTS
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2008 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Commission	Cllrs Gill Kennett (Commissioner), George Cameron, John Effemey
Cabinet	Cllr Alan Wells
Officers Present	Steve Beynon, Kate Freeman, Julie Martin, Keith Simmonds, Paul Thistlewood
Apologies	Cllr Muriel Miller

1. **Notes of Evidence**

The Notes of evidence arising at the meeting held on [28 November 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 and a relative was employed in a Pupil Referral Unit.

3. **Report of the Director of Children's Services**

The Commission reviewed the updated Corporate Parenting Strategy and Operational Framework.

Consideration was given as to how to take this forward operationally and involve young people to enable their input into the strategy.

Members raised the following points :

- Outcomes should be identified within the strategy.
- Need for sufficient resources for the Fostering and Placement team to ensure there were enough carers available.
- Comparative data as to how many carers the Council previously had and how many it had now would be useful.

- The use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in the strategy.
- The ability of young people take their CAF through to when they became care leavers and how this would be updated?
- Evaluating practice – young people should particularly feel involved in decision making that affects their lives, was there a strategy how that was to happen?
- Consultation and feedback mechanism with young people to be strengthened.
- Details should be included on how the Children in Care Council worked.

The Director indicated that the Common Assessment Framework was involved at the outset of early intervention. A Core Assessment was completed and updated on a regular process through the Statutory Review.

The Integrated Children's System was to be implemented from October 2008, which was a pathway that followed a child through the care system. There was an Assessment Plan and review process that was updated on a regular basis and the young person's views would form a critical part of their Assessment Plan. Reviews had to be held on a regular basis by statute and young people would attend those reviews, although there was a mechanism for them to submit their views in writing rather than attend in person.

Young people could access their records and had the opportunity to meet an advocate.

The revised Strategy would be brought back to the Policy Commission at its next meeting following which it would then be taken to Cabinet.

A major issue was that of the role and responsibility of both members and Directors as Corporate Parents. All Group Leaders and their members would be encouraged to attend briefing sessions on this. It was suggested there should be a formal launch on this issue.

CHAIRMAN