



Minutes

Name of meeting	POLICY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOL RESULTS
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 8 APRIL 2009 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Commission	Cllrs George Cameron (Commissioner), Roger Mazillius, Lady Pigot, David Whittaker
Officers Present	Alison Dempsey, Julie Martin, Paul Thistlewood, Keith Woods Jo Blake – CSC Consultants
Apologies	Cllrs Charles Hancock, John Effemey, Alan Wells

19. **Minutes**

The Minutes arising at the meeting held on [18 February 2009](#) were agreed

20. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor David Whittaker declared a personal interest as he had family within the social care structure.

21. **Public Question Time**

Mrs Jill Wareham of Brighstone asked a question relating to what measures had been put in place to improve Key Stage 2 results. A written response would be provided.

22. **Short Breaks for Children with Disability**

Members were given a summary of the progress made in the development of the programme and were reminded that the money was to be spent on children with highly complex needs. Since that last meeting the Together for Disabled Children organisation had made two visits to the Island, as a result of those visits and written correspondence the Council had now been informed that the necessary criteria had been met and the funding would now be available.

A varied programme had been arranged. An outline of the main areas where both the revenue and capital money was to be spent was given.

- A continuation to have regular workshops and events.
- Funding of a sessional worker to work with the children with most complex disabilities and to engage with them. Which would be a time limited post.
- Work with Council and independent providers to develop new schemes.
- Family Link Service.
- Summer holiday scheme – try and set up for this summer although that was quite ambitious because of the time constraints.
- Additional short breaks services for existing children.
- Pilot new schemes – bid for money to enable a child to take up an activity.
- Continue to work with the PCT Community based nursing service.
- Look at how services are commissioned.
- Appoint a temporary officer to run and monitor the programme.
- Training packages and developing skills in the workforce.
- Capital funding going on specialist equipment with the creation of a loan store.

An Action Plan had been developed and would be amended and updated on a regular basis as it was to be a work in progress.

It was anticipated that some young people would gain an immediate benefit with 180 extra nights being provided at Beaulieu House.

There was some discussion as to how the money had been allocated. Some had been put into direct things which could be offered straightaway whilst some had been put into building infrastructure. One of the main items that had been identified was the availability of the holiday scheme, quite a large amount of money had been reserved that.